

Chocolate Fountain Update

As part of the SWB Action Group campaign against child trafficking in the chocolate industry, we organised a Fair Trade chocolate fountain on Bush Court. The WA Fair Trade Collective asked us to repeat the event at their Fair Trade Fiesta at City Farm in East Perth.

Why?

After discovering that more than half of the world's chocolate is made using cocoa beans from Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire, where children are known to be used as slave labour, we decided to focus this semester on ending child trafficking in the chocolate industry. We signed up to the [Stop The Traffik](#) campaign and decided that even though their world's largest fondue party was over, we would have a chocolate fountain on campus to let people know about the issue.

How?

We knew we would need a fountain and that we could fundraise to afford it, but how much chocolate would we need and where can you buy that much Fair Trade (FT) produce?? We started by contacting the WA Fair Trade Collective to ask for ideas of who provides FT products in WA. They asked us if we would be willing to run the fountain at the Fair Trade Fiesta in return for help with funding the event and we jumped at the chance.

10kg of FT dark chocolate was donated for the Fair Trade Fiesta by [Cocolo](#), and 5kg of FT milk chocolate was generously donated by [Oxfam](#) for the Bush Court event. All FT products come with a guarantee that the workers involved in the production line receive fair wages and minimum conditions. This ensures that the farms the chocolate companies source their cocoa beans from cannot use trafficked or slave labour.

For the Fair Trade Fiesta, Absolute Organics provided us with several kilos of apples and pears to dip into the chocolate. Along with the fruit, we had marshmallows, bananas and doughnuts for dipping. We also had information about the issue of child trafficking in the chocolate industry, and letters to manufacturers, supermarkets and the Prime Minister for people to sign.

How did it go?

At both events, the chocolate fountain was a success. We covered our costs for the event and raised over \$100, which the Action Group will put towards future campaigns and/or events. More than 50 copies of the letters were signed and are on their way to Cadbury (AU), Nestlé, Mars, Coles, Woolworths, IGA, and Kevin Rudd. We are asking the manufacturers to guarantee that their ingredients are all sourced from Traffik-free farms; the supermarkets are being asked to stock FT chocolate and to display it prominently in their stores; and we are calling on the Prime Minister to ensure that all government vending machines include FT products.

If you'd like to sign the letters, you can download them from the campaign page and send them on to the companies involved. To learn more about the issue of human trafficking, visit www.stophetraffik.org