

Cheap, but good eating

The quest to reconcile a meagre income and a growlingly hungry stomach, forced *Utimes* writers ANNA KOSMANOVSKI, DANIELLE GALVIN and BILL CALDER to hit the streets in search of good value cheap eats



Lounge

243 Swanston Street, Melbourne \$6+

Now read this carefully because if you don't and just see 'Lounge' and barge in there, armed with a few coins and mean (in the literal sense) expectations then you, my friend are mistaken. Let me continue... On a Monday night after 6pm you only pay the price for your meal on what time you ordered it. So yes, an early bird will get the worm, or rather a \$6 bowl of pasta. And let's take the example of 'Cool Cat,' a tardy feline-ish character who stumbles in late, say 9pm. Cool Cat will have to fork out nine big ones for his parmi. Admittedly, still cheap. And the meals are big.



Grill'd

Restaurants throughout Melbourne \$7+

Hamburger joints are back baby. Since when have they been passé anyway? Who could forget the much loved hamburger diners in Grease, and also epitomised in other nostalgic American films? I sure can't. But obviously I'm not the only one because the kids at Grill'd, one of Melbourne's finest hamburger joints (actually chain now) stun me time and time again with their delicious, extra-terrestrially good burger offerings.



Bimbos

376 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy \$4+

All thee who hunger for cheap pizza in a dark, funky pub, decorated by creepy bimbo dolls, come to the front door and enter. Then prepare to fight, beg, steal and wait politely as a table becomes available amongst the bustling chaos that is Bimbos. Sunday to Thursday night pizzas almost prostitute themselves (in the nicest possible way) for a honking \$4.



Shanghai Dumpling House

25 Tattersalls Lane \$6+

Stroll down one of those clandestine little laneways in Melbourne city, somewhere around China Town, and you'll soon see a basic looking two storey building. Doesn't look too remarkable does it? Then you enter and wham bam, it's as busy as the real Shanghai itself. Enjoy a great mound of dumplings, some laden with soy, others fresh chilli.



Papa Gino's

221 Lygon Street Carlton 10+

In the heart of Carlton, small pizzas are around the ten dollar mark. Pizza places around Melbourne do not compare to the rare Italian delicacy that is Papa Gino's. The pizzas are non-greasy, well made and there's a great choice for all food lovers.



Barclays Café

196 Canterbury Road, Heathmont \$9+

Despite it being in suburbia, it's always busy and welcoming. Lunch is reasonably priced, with my favourite the egg sombrero hitting the \$9.50 mark. The best thing about the B café is that you can get a great lunch meal of good quality, and expect to pay around ten or twelve dollars.



Taco Bill

Visit www.tacobill.com.au \$5+

The Taco Bill franchise has done wonders for introducing the Mexican culture to Australia. Taco Bill has a lot of options on the menu, but if you're after a taco,

you'll only have to fork out \$5. If you wanted something bigger, and enchilada is a bit more filling and that will cost you \$7.95. Well worth the money.



Derby Thai

4 Derby Road Caulfield \$10+

Close to Monash Caulfield offering main meals for under \$15. A bit more expensive, but worthy of mention. The meals are generous and keep you going, all through your boring uni lectures.



China Bar

Visit www.chinabar.com.au \$8+

Popular and offering great value for money, China Bar can take your taste buds on a trip throughout Asia. Tom Yum Soup, Curry Laksa, Roti Chani Chicken and Curry Puffs are favourites because they're just so delicious! Whether you feel like soup, noodles or stir-fry, China Bar is great dining value under \$10.



Curry Bazaar Café

361 Burwood Road Hawthorn \$8+

Great choice of curries with rice and pappadams as set menu from just \$8. Big generous servings.



The Hawthorn Hotel

481 Burwood Road, Hawthorn \$10+

Monday to Wednesday Parma and Pot special just \$10.



Urban Burger

Visit www.urbanburger.com.au \$6+

Have your burger in an urban environment with funky music & a warm inviting feel.



Red Rooster

Visit www.redrooster.com.au \$5+

Buy one Rippa Sub, receive another for just \$2 - until the end of the year.