

urban
agriculture
forum



COMMUNITY
GARDENS
AUSTRALIA

Feeding the Future, Nourishing Country +

National Gathering

17th – 19th November, 2023

National Centre of Indigenous Excellence
Redfern, Sydney NSW (and ONLINE)





CITY OF SYDNEY



MCLEOD FAMILY
FOUNDATION

WaterUps
Wicking our World

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Welcome to the 2023 national Urban Agriculture Forum - the fourth that SUSTAIN has coordinated since 2016. This year we are thrilled to be curating this unique event in collaboration with Community Gardens Australia and their 2023 CGA National Gathering.

We are proud to hold the UAF for the first time on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. In hosting at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern (Sydney), we are reminded that Australian cities and towns have always been, and always will be, Country. Redfern's rich legacy as a centre of Aboriginal intellectual culture, political leadership and activism provides a fertile ground for exploring how urban agriculture can honour Country and support Indigenous self-determination.

The most dignified and empowering way to access healthy food is by growing it yourself, as millions of us already do. But edible gardening provides so many more benefits: it enhances mental health and wellbeing, it builds community and neighbourhood resilience, it greens urban spaces, and it turns food waste into rich compost. It provides endless educational opportunities for people of all ages, children especially, and helps them develop and maintain healthy eating habits. It creates jobs and business opportunities for many, especially those who experience discrimination and disadvantage in the labour market.

That's why we are committed to doing everything we can to celebrate everyone in Australia and around the world doing this work in all its wonderful diversity. It's why we will never stop advocating at every level of government for policy and planning changes to expand access to vacant land and for resourcing to massively expand this sector.

We wish you a fabulous Urban Agriculture Forum and Community Gardens National Gathering. We know you will leave here buzzing with ideas and inspiration, and enriched with dozens of conversations and new friends. We celebrate your work and thank you for being part of this vital national and global movement.



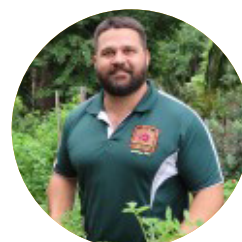
Linda Appel Lipsuis
CEO, Denver Urban Gardens



Costa Georgiadis
Host, Gardening Australia, ABC



Hannah Moloney
ABC TV Host, Gardening Australia



Brenden Moore
Aboriginal education, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney



Tim Sansom
CEO, Diggers Foundation (The Diggers Club)



Rabekha Siebert
Urban Agriculture Coordinator, City of Dallas



Sharon Windsor
Founder, Indigiearth



Friday 17th November 2023 | 9:10am - 9:55am

Urban Agriculture and First Nations

Community Greening is a non-profit program that aims to connect people with new skills, environmental sustainability, and each other. It's a partnership between the Botanic Gardens of Sydney and Department of Communities and Justice with support from other corporates, industry and grant funding and has been operating since 2000. The project has supported over 669 gardens in Social Housing areas and 487 youth projects with over 200 000 participants all across NSW.



Friday 17th November 2023 | 10:15am - 11:15am

Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plans

In 2022, The City of Dallas began implementing the Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP). External stakeholder engagement included interviews, public surveys, and 3500 impressions on the Draft Plan before the plan's unanimous adoption by City Council on March 8, 2023. The City of Dallas and stakeholders completed their first action, which increased access to farmers' markets in residentially zoned neighborhoods by reduction of permitting standards. CUAP will continue to be implemented into 2024. Staff look forward to rolling out an Urban Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program and growing the Growers Education and Workforce Development pilot.



Saturday 18th November 2023 | 9:15am - 9:55am

Denver Urban Gardens

Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) started as a grassroots movement in the late 1970s, when gardeners in Denver's Northside neighborhood came together to create a space for a group of local Hmong women to grow their own food. Working collaboratively, they transformed a vacant parking lot into what is now the Pecos Community Garden. Over the past 45 years, our network spans seven metro Denver counties with 200 community gardens and 20 food forests. In addition to garden and food forest support through land use agreements, garden leader support and volunteer coordination, we offer youth and adult education and events, volunteer workdays, pay-what-you-can seeds and seedlings, and compost training.

Day 1

Friday November 17th 2023

Friday 17th November 2023 | 8:45am - 9:00am

Welcome and Welcome to Country

Friday 17th November 2023 | 9:00am - 9:10am

Welcome

Welcome by Nick Rose of Sustain and MC Costa Georgiadis.



Nick Rose,
Executive Director,
Sustain



Costa Georgiadis,
Host, Gardening
Australia, ABC

Friday 17th November 2023 | 9:10am - 9:55am

KEYNOTE

Urban Agriculture and First Nations horticulture

Brenden Moore will be sharing his experiences with Community Greening: creating edible, native sensory, cultural learning spaces.

FEATURING:



Brenden Moore,
Aboriginal education,
Royal Botanic Garden
Sydney



Sharon Windsor,
Founder, Indigiearth

Friday 17th November 2023 | 9:55am - 10:15am

Morning tea

Friday 17th November 2023 | 10:15am - 11:15am

KEYNOTE

Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plans

Rabekah will share how the City of Dallas is leading the way in becoming more sustainable through urban agriculture, and Ashley Atkinson will share her experiences of urban farming in Detroit, and Keep Growing Detroit's progress towards cultivating a food sovereign city

(This will be an online presentation). There will be a Q and A session at the end of the two presentations.

FEATURING:



Ashley Atkinson,
Co-Director,
Fundraising + Farm
& Market Operations,
Keep Growing Detroit



Rabekha Siebert,
Urban Agriculture
Coordinator, City of
Dallas

Friday 17th November 2023 | 11:15am - 12:00pm

PARALLEL A1

International Urban Agriculture Perspectives

Arun Kafle asks the question, "Can Urban Agriculture be Optimised? Exploring Trade-offs between Economic, Social and Environmental Outcomes under the Divergent Development Contexts", focusing on the cases from Adelaide, South Australia and Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Pablo shares his experience in Argentina.

FEATURING:



Arun Kafle,
PhD Candidate,
University of South
Australia / Government
of Nepal



Pablo Valentin Ermini,
National Institute for
Agriculture Technology

Friday 17th November 2023 | 11:15am - 12:00pm

PARALLEL A2

Urban Agriculture in local and regional Australia

Three presentations about urban agriculture and local government.

FEATURING:



Belinda Thackeray,
Program Manager –
Community Greening,
City of Sydney



Julian Lee,
Sustainability
Educator, Randwick
City Council



Fiona Berry,
Research Principal,
Institute for
Sustainable Futures,
University of
Technology, Sydney



Lauren Flaherty,
Strategy Advisor, Social,
City of Sydney

Friday 17th November 2023 | 11:15am - 12:00pm

PARALLEL A3

Community Food

Bridget will share the journey of Grow Cook Share Food Hub, an agreed vision with Bendigo Foodshare and the Bendigo Community. Georgina will share the story of taking a 1 hectare urban cluttered community garden and transforming into to Smith St Community Farm.

FEATURING:



Bridget Bentley,
Community
Engagement Manager,
Bendigo Foodshare



Georgina Stanley,
Farm Manager,
Smith St Community
Farm

Friday 17th November 2023 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

PARALLEL B1

International Urban Agriculture

Three speakers presenting on urban agriculture in an international context.

FEATURING:



Bjorn Low,
Executive Director,
Edible Garden City



Nadya Hutagalung,
Change Maker,
We the Good



Firdaus Sani,
Founder, Orang Laut
SG

Friday 17th November 2023 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

PARALLEL B2

Planning - Enablers and Barriers

Three speakers share their knowledge about planning - enablers and barriers.

FEATURING:



Cathy Sherry,
Professor, School
of Law, Macquarie
University, Sydney



Linda Martin-Chew, Director,
The Rural Planner



Evelyn Ivinson,
Masters student,
Macquarie University,
Sydney

Friday 17th November 2023 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm

PARALLEL B3 – PANEL DISCUSSION

Agriculture Careers and Education

A panel discussion on how agricultural education can lead to careers in the agriculture sector.

FEATURING:



Angela Schumacher,
Education consultant,
AISNSW



Isaac Mayer,
Founder,
Bush Bees



Indiana Rhind,
Co-Founder and CTO,
Farmwall



Jenny Hughes,
Education Manager,
Cotton Australia

Friday 17th November 2023 | 1:00pm - 1:45pm

Lunch

Lunch is provided and included in the Friday ticket price.

Friday 17th November 2023 | 1:45pm - 2:45pm

PARALLEL C1

Multi-Functional Urban Agriculture

Two sessions on multi-functional urban urban agriculture, with food forest exemplars.

FEATURING:



Chelsea McNab,
Executive Officer,
Yarra Valley ECOS



Leigh McGaghey,
Consultant
landscape architect,
Wired for Nature



Kate Neale,
Founder, Digability



Meg Foots,
Events Committee,
Therapeutic
Horticulture Australia

Friday 17th November 2023 | 1:45pm - 2:45pm

PARALLEL C2

Urban Food and the Circular Economy

FEATURING:



David Sivyier,
Owner / Director,
Feedback Organic
Recovery



Ramon Atayde,
Managing Director,
ARC Ento Tech Ltd



Liane Colwell,
Permaculture
Designer, University of
Technology, Sydney

Friday 17th November 2023 | 1:45pm - 2:45pm

PARALLEL C3

Urban Agriculture - Documenting the Impacts

Two sessions discussing documenting the impacts of urban agriculture.

FEATURING:



Eric Brymer,
Chartered
Psychologist, Southern
Cross University



Rosie Welch,
Senior Lecturer,
Monash University

Friday 17th November 2023 | 2:45pm - 3:30pm

PARALLEL D1

Education and Learning

Research suggests children learn vital capabilities from school-based food gardening through engaging in a range of positive human and non-human relationships.

FEATURING:



Ann Hill,
Senior Lecturer,
University of Canberra



Dr Cathy Wilkinson, CEO,
Stephanie Alexander
Kitchen Garden
Foundation



Bethaney Turner,
Associate Professor,
Centre for Creative
and Cultural Research,
Faculty of Arts and
Design, University of
Canberra



Rachael Walshe,
PhD Candidate, James
Cook University

Friday 17th November 2023 | 2:45pm - 3:30pm

PARALLEL D2

Community Composting

Three sessions on community composting. Myra Mow will be presenting her session online.

FEATURING:



Clytie Binder,
Waste Educator,
Brisbane City Council



Myra Mow,
Environmental Science
Graduate, University of
Queensland



Jacquelyn Evans,
PhD Candidate, La
Trobe University

Friday 17th November 2023 | 2:45pm - 3:30pm
PARALLEL D3

Wicking Masterclass with Water Ups

A 45 minute wicking masterclass with Eric Sturman from our UAF event sponsor Water Ups.

FEATURING:



Eric Sturman,
Head of Sales, Water Ups

Friday 17th November 2023 | 3:30pm - 3:50pm
Afternoon Tea

Friday 17th November 2023 | 3:50pm - 4:50pm
PARALLEL E1

First Nations Perspectives

Tarunna Sebastian will present on First Nations Perspective- Caring for Country in Food Production; Norah Ansey will be presenting on First Nation's Youth and food security [working with youth in community gardens and Donia Bon, a Torres Strait Islander woman is presenting "Torres Strait Islander Peoples Food Practices on Country [Sea, Land and Sky]".

FEATURING:

Ben Harry, **Donia Bon,**

Friday 17th November 2023 | 3:50pm - 4:50pm
PARALLEL E2

Perspectives on food security

TWO SESSIONS. FEATURING:



Lucy Payne,
Head of Partnerships,
Food Ladder



Prue Bauer,
Co-Founder, CEO,
Airgarden

Friday 17th November 2023 | 4:50pm - 5:10pm
End of day plenary

FEATURING:



Costa Georgiadis,
Host, Gardening Australia, ABC

Day 2

Saturday November 18th 2023

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 9:00am - 9:15am

Welcome

FEATURING:



Costa Georgiadis,
Host, Gardening Australia, ABC



Naomi Lacey,
President, Community Gardens Australia

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 9:15am - 9:55am
KEYNOTE

Denver Urban Gardens

DUG was formally incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1985; now our network spans seven metro Denver counties with 200 community gardens and 20 food forests. Q and A session.

FEATURING:



Linda Appel Lipsuis,
CEO, Denver Urban Gardens

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 9:55am - 10:20am
PANEL DISCUSSION

Is growing food just for the privileged middle class?

We ask our panellists to share whether they think growing food is just for the middle class and privileged few, whether they think this is a problem, and what change they would like to see.

PANEL DISCUSSION FACILITATED BY:



Costa Georgiadis,
Host, Gardening Australia, ABC



Anna Jane Linke,
Program Manager,
Illawarra Edible Garden Trail



Linda Appel Lipsuis,
CEO, Denver Urban Gardens



Morag Gamble,
Founder, Permaculture Education Institute



Carol Perdigão,
President, Just Food Collective

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 10:20am - 10:40am
Morning Tea

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 10:40am - 11:30am

Urban Agriculture is for Everyone

Whether you have a sprawling backyard, a small urban block or a tiny apartment with no direct sunlight there is a way you can grow some of your food.

FEATURING:



Hannah Moloney,
ABC TV Host, Gardening Australia

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 11:30am - 12:15pm
PARALLEL A1

Community Food Growing in Practice

Sessions on community growing in practice.

FEATURING:



Alison Lewis-Nicholson,
Committee Member,
Barwon Oil Barons



Fiona Buining,
Owner, Ainslie Urban Farm. Also Churchill Fellow



Brendan Bolton,
Garden Organics Business Development & Education, City of Greater Geelong

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 11:30am - 12:15pm
PARALLEL A2

Gardens as Nourishing Terrains

FEATURING:



Bridget O'Brien,
Co-Director, Garden Juju Collective



Tim Sansom, CEO,
Diggers Foundation (The Diggers Club)



Dr Charlie Brennan,
Co-Director,
Garden Juju Collective

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 11:30am - 12:15pm
PARALLEL A3

Gardens and food in schools

Two sessions on food in schools. Ben Shaw will be sharing his experience with Farm My School. De Chantal will be sharing the recent Reservoir East Primary School Poultry Trial.

FEATURING:



Ben Shaw,
Co-Founder,
Farm My School



De Chantal Hillis,
Business Owner,
Little Raptors

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 12:15pm - 1:15pm

Lunch Day 2

Saturday's lunch is a fundraiser BBQ to raise money for the NCIE's Young Fit and Deadly youth program. Sustain will be donating \$15 per person to this cause. If you wish to participate in the fundraiser you are welcome to make an additional contribution on the day.

WATER UPS WILL BE PRESENTING A 30 MINUTE WICKING WORKSHOP DURING THE LUNCH BREAK.

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 1:15pm - 2:00pm
PARALLEL B1

Restorative Possibilities

Two presenters share their perspectives and answer the question, how can permaculture inform making space, holding diversity and feeding the future?

FEATURING:



Jacqui Besgrove,
CEO, Pocket City Farms



Morag Gamble,
Founder, Permaculture Education Institute

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 1:15pm - 2:00pm
PARALLEL B2

Learning and connecting in the community garden

Two sessions. Jo Dean will be delivering her session online.

FEATURING:



Amy Tacey,
Food Hub Coordinator,
Common Ground Project



Jo Dean,
Tasmanian Coordinator,
Community Gardens Australia



Carol Perdigão,
President, Just Food Collective

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
PARALLEL C1

Cultivating food growing culture

FEATURING:



Anna Jane Linke,
Program Manager,
Illawarra Edible Garden Trail



Bethaney Turner,
Associate Professor,
Centre for Creative and Cultural Research,
Faculty of Arts and Design, University of Canberra

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
PARALLEL C2

Food Forests, Urban Orchards and Nature Strip Trees

Two speaker sessions on the topic of food forests.

FEATURING:



Anastasia Gramatakos, PhD
Candidate, University of Melbourne



Jorge Cantellano,
Coordinator,
EdibleScapes Gardens

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm
PARALLEL C3

Community Garden Governance

A workshop for community gardeners.

FEATURING:



Emma Daniell, NSW Representative, Community Gardens Australia

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 3:00pm - 3:20pm

Afternoon Tea

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 3:20pm - 4:20pm
PARALLEL D1

First Nations Stories

Tarunna Sebastian and her colleagues will be sharing knowledge.

FEATURING:



Deborah Lennis

Terry Lennis
Wadiya Wirinya

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 3:20pm - 4:20pm
PARALLEL D2

Working Where It Counts

Manu Prigioni will be sharing more about Farm It Forward, a social enterprise farming on unused private land in suburban and peri-urban areas with her talk "The enablers and benefits for accessing and utilising unused private land for social enterprise market gardening". Robin will be sharing more about gardening and growing your group's organizational structure, nurturing yourself as part of a thriving, interconnected guild. Leonie will discuss her realization that the main obstacle to gr...

FEATURING:



Leonie
Norrington,
Writer



Robin Clayfield



Manu Prigioni,
Co-Founder, Farm It
Forward

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 3:20pm - 4:20pm
PARALLEL D3

Successful Community Food Projects Workshop

45 minute workshop on Food Forests.

As the number of community food projects internationally and locally explode, people are exploring a variety of growing methods, food distribution models, funding arrangements, governance and operation systems.

FEATURING:



Gavin Hardy,
Queensland coordinator, Community Gardens Australia

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 4:20pm - 4:45pm

Community Gardens Australia Awards 2023

Annual Community Gardens Australia Awards presentation.

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 4:45pm - 5:00pm

End of Forum Plenary

Wrapping up the two-day Forum for 2023.

FEATURING:



Costa Georgiadis,
Host, Gardening Australia, ABC

Saturday 18th November 2023 | 5:00pm - 5:15pm

AGM

Community Gardens Australia Annual General Meeting 2023.

FEATURING:



Naomi Lacey,
President, Community Gardens Australia

Day 3

Sunday November 19th 2023

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 8:00am - 5:45pm
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Illawarra Tour

Come on a journey to the Illawarra and some fabulous urban agriculture sites. Starting at Dapto Community Farm for a tour with their volunteers then on to Green Connect, a social enterprise supporting young people and refugees. We will have lunch here before heading to Pope's Produce, an excellent example of small scale urban agriculture.

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided.



National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
166-180 George St, Refern, NSW 2016 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 9:00am - 3:30am
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

City Farms Cycling Tour

Get fit and active with this fabulous cycling tour we have created for you!

Arriving at NCIE you will collect your courtesy Lime bike* and get an induction on how to operate them.

Then, starting with Sydney City Farm, we will head off on a tour that will highlight modern urban agricultural practise in the heart of one of the world's great cities. From Sydney City Farm we cycle to Pocket City Farms for a tour, followed by lunch, and then on to Camdonville Paddock Community Garden.

Your cycling tour guides will also ride by other gardens and spaces of interest throughout the tour and talk to you about sustainability in our cities and how cycling can benefit not just yourself but also the planet.

Lunch and snacks included.



National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
166-180 George St, Refern, NSW 2016 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 9:30am - 3:30pm
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Sydney Permaculture Gardens Bus Tour

This tour will take in three fabulous community gardens in Sydney. After departing from NCIE in Redfern, we will first visit Randwick Community Organic Garden, then on to Permabee Community Gardening Program for a tour of this amazing educational garden.

There's a lunch break before making our way to Rose Bay Community Garden for afternoon tea.

Tour departs from and returns to NCIE in Redfern. Lunch and afternoon tea included.



National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
166-180 George St, Refern, NSW 2016 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 10:00am - 11:00am
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Sydney City Farm Tour

Come on a tour of Sydney City Farm - a place to learn about urban agriculture and sustainable food production.

Sydney City Farm grows fresh seasonal produce, and minimises waste, while using organic growing principles. This one hour tour will show you all the highlights.



Sydney City Farm,
52 Barwon Park Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 10:00am - 3:00pm
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Inner West Community Garden Bus Tour

This tour will take in three fabulous community gardens in Inner West of Sydney. After departing from NCIE in Redfern our first stop is at Wilkins Green Community Garden; then on to Whites Valley Creek Park for lunch with its food forest, community garden, nursery and wetlands; before making our way to Mort Bay Community Garden.

Tour departs from and returns to NCIE in Redfern. Lunch and snacks included.



National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
166-180 George St, Refern, NSW 2016 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 10:00am - 2:00pm
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Walking Tour of Redfern Gardens

A Walking tour from NCIE to Poets Corner, Redfern.

Led by Brenden Moore, First Nations Community Greening Education Officer, you will visit the informal supported Mens and Womens Garden, the Poets Corner Community Garden and the Solander Community Garden.

We will also attend a seed saving and sowing workshop so bring along some seeds to share and grow with other community gardeners.

Lunch provided. Please wear suitable footwear for the walk.



National Centre of Indigenous Excellence,
166-180 George St, Refern, NSW 2016 Australia

Sunday, 19th November 2023 | 11:30am - 12:30pm
SYDNEY UAF TOURS:

Pocket City Farms Tour

Come and enjoy a tour of this productive urban farm in the heart of Sydney. Pocket City Farm is an educational space that shares their philosophy of connecting people with regenerated environments and fair food. Learn about the benefits of urban farming whilst looking into the daily operations of the farm and their farming methods.



Pocket City Farms,
31A Mallett St, Camperdown, NSW 2050 Australia

SUSTAIN has a mission to:

Create an edible Australia that nourishes people and nurtures the planet.

We know that transitioning to a healthier, more sustainable and equitable food system (**the interconnected systems and processes connecting nutrition, food, health, community development and agriculture**) requires good policy and practice, underpinned by a strong evidence base and inspiring examples that empower communities and governments to work collectively towards a better food future for all.

As **connectors**, we facilitate events and grow networks for sharing knowledge and encouraging collaboration amongst growers, producers, planners, landowners and communities.

As **researchers**, we translate and share our food systems knowledge to build an evidence base for effective food policy and action.

As **policy experts**, we understand the critical issues facing all levels of government, and communities across Australia. Our holistic approach aims to cut across the institutional and departmental silos that hinder cohesive and integrated food policy implementation.

As **practitioners**, we design and deliver community food projects (including our two urban farms) that experiment with new approaches to food system transformation and model the change we want to see. Our projects aim to demonstrate in the here and now that, yes, a better future is within our grasp.

SUSTAIN is led by qualified and experienced practitioner-consultants with an outstanding track record in food system research, governance and practice, and specialist knowledge of the urban agriculture, food security and local government sectors in Australia.

Our dedicated team includes qualified public health and food system professionals, bringing a diverse mix of research and policy expertise in health and nutrition, housing and food security to every project, along with a deep, practice-based commitment to a rights-to-food approach to food security and social justice.

SUSTAIN.ORG.AU  



SUSTAIN
the Australian food network