

urban
agriculture
forum

UAF 2021 : April 22 - 24, 2021

Care Farming & Gardening in the Climate Emergency

Urban
Agriculture
Month

April 2021



SUSTAIN
the Australian food network



About

Urban Agriculture Forum 2021

Sustain: The Australian Food Network held the 2021 Urban Agriculture Forum on the 22nd to 24th of April, streamed online to a local and international audience.

The third UAF emphasised the positive role urban agriculture can play in community health and wellbeing, and as a force of resilience in the face of the climate emergency.

Keynote speakers included Chris Blythe (Director, Social Farms & Gardens UK), Walter Jehne (Co-Founder, Regenerate Earth) and Clarence Slockee (Founder, Jiwah), with daily wrap-ups by Gardening Australia host, Costa Georgiadis.

Over 50 speakers joined the three day line-up covering key topics including therapeutic horticulture, the role of local governments, education approaches, practical lessons in minimising our footprint and engaging with indigenous plant foods.

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to the team behind the Forum, our steering committee and sponsors.

Sustain Team

Nick Rose (Director), Julia Pecoraro (UAF/UAM Coordinator), Georgia Karavis (Events Coordinator), Arianna Lim (Communications), Reanna Willis (Volunteer), Madeline Tolson (Intern), Carlotta Pischedda (Intern).

Steering Committee

Sev Darwell & Conor Hickey, Collingwood Children's Farm, Naomi Lacey, Community Gardens Australia. Clarence Slockee, Jiwah, Emma Bowen, Pocket City Farms. Josephene Duffy, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation. Sharron Pfueller & Richard Rowe, Sustainable Gardening Australia. Carlos Semmens, Urban Agriculture Facilitator & Sustainability Educator. Daniel Tatton, 3000acres

Forum Sponsors

Major Sponsors:

McLeod Family Foundation, Darebin City Council, City of Sydney

Supporting Sponsors:

Bank Australia, City of Yarra, City West Water, Water Ups

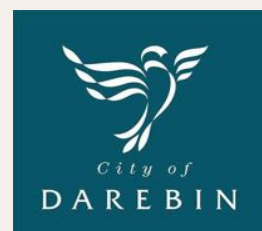
In-Kind Partners: City of Moreland, Diggers Foundations, Grow It Local, Pip Magazine, Sydney Edible Garden Trail

Designed by

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Front cover photo credit

Lachlan McKenzie





Key Themes

Resilience in the face of climate change

- Care Farming & Gardening in Practice
- Urban Agriculture & Education: On the Ground Local Approaches
- Urban Farming: Practice & Business Models
- Community Gardens & the Pandemic
- Farming Incubation & Next Generation Farmers
- Urban Agriculture around the Globe: Seoul
- Community Food Growing in Practice
- Urban Agriculture & Education
- Growing Indigenous Plant Foods as an Act of Reclaiming Sovereignty
- Barriers & Enablers in Planning Urban Agriculture & Sustainable Food Systems
- Empowering Indigenous Communities with Urban Agriculture
- Case Study: City of Moreland Minimising Our Footprint while Growing Food
- Therapeutic Horticulture: Healing in Nature
- Urban Agriculture & the Climate Emergency
- Local Government & Urban Agriculture Care Farming & Gardening in the UK

Overview

An overview of the 2021 Urban Agriculture Forum



3 days & **19** sessions



4.7 ★★★★★ out of 5 stars

Attendees rated the Forum



51 Engaging speakers

policy makers, practitioners, innovators, & institutions joined our panels



235 Attendees

tuning in from Australia and beyond



134 Organisations represented by attendees

- 19 local governments (14%)
- 18 universities & schools (13%)
- 45 non profits & social enterprises (34%)
- 14 individuals (10%)
- 12 community gardens & farms (9%)
- 17 businesses / consultancies (13%)
- 9 networks & advocacy groups & indigenous councils (7%)



92% would attend the next Forum

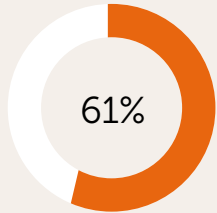


80% of attendees felt it was a valuable network building event

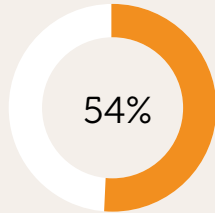
despite the Forum being online

Why attend the Forum?

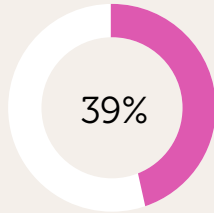
People joined the Forum to be part of building an Australian urban agriculture movement, learning from and being inspired by best practice initiatives at home and abroad.



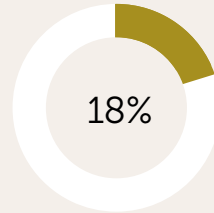
To hear about or be inspired by urban agriculture initiatives in Australia



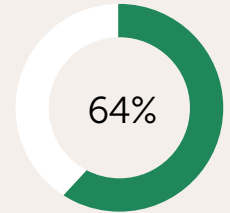
To learn about urban agriculture best practice in Australia and overseas



To meet like-minded colleagues and build networks



To present / share my work / the work of my organisation



To be part of building an urban agriculture movement in Australia

“ I joined for connection. I’ve have been feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of what we need to do to reverse climate change and improve global health. It was just the reinvigoration and grounding that I needed ”



“Thought-provoking, gob-smacking, funny, serious and brave, but most of all collegial are the words that spring to mind when I think about the Urban Agriculture Forum. There are so many people doing such great work in the field, often unrecognised. The Forum is the perfect vehicle for sharing practice and knowledge, connecting and collaborating, and celebrating the growing force of urban agriculture and food education in Australia and across the globe. We’re very proud to be part of it.”

Feedback from UAF 2021



What's next?

What would you like to action after attending the Forum?



50%

Stay in contact with those who attended the Forum



69%

Develop a city-wide / state-wide / national urban agriculture network / coalition



54%

Build an advocacy platform to state & local governments for greater recognition of & support for urban agriculture



54%

Build mass support for the Edible Garden Fund

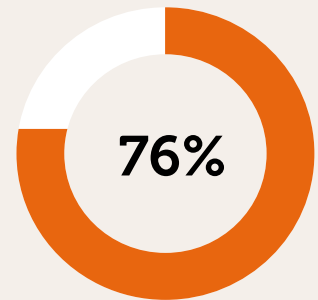
Urban Agriculture Month

From 1 to 30 April, 2021 Australia saw its very first national Urban Agriculture Month (UAM). The intensive burst of activity generated by the UAM threw the spotlight on the innovative, diverse, & ever-evolving urban agriculture movement in Australia. The UAM aimed to strengthen our existing networks and grow powerful connections, increasing support to those who need it through sharing and connecting.



Top 3 reasons people signed up:

1. To attract new participants
2. To increase engagement & local supporters
3. To strengthen existing networks & grow powerful connections



of event hosts would love to be part of the next UAM!



What happened during Urban Agriculture Month 2021

“

We ran a juicing session with freshly picked carrots and organic apples and the kids involved said the juiced apples tasted “weird” like “apples”.... which was an eye opener. We also had kids and adults alike picking eggplant and making and eating a pasta using the eggplant, who would not normally be fans of that food -but they loved it!

One of our open gardens, “Urban Farming on a Quarter Acre Block in Bulli” attracted over 120 visitors, which was well above the expected.

A new participant said “I have never heard of you before but this seems like just what I’ve been looking for!”

It’s been fascinating to hear how much there is to learn about the bees. We’ll be back to get more involved next time you’re open!

We had an enthusiastic group who enjoyed the chance to connect with others and improve their plant identification and seed saving skills. One participant commented she really enjoyed the workshop and didn’t know anyone else interested in this stuff.

We loved welcoming new visitors to our Coburg Farmers’ Market through our free Farmers’ Market Walking Tour. It was wonderful to introduce Victorian farmers and small scale producers to the community - and vice versa!

”



Adelaide Edible Garden Trail

Our Growers Collective wanted to host an event to join in on Urban Agriculture Month celebrations. As a result, the very first Adelaide Edible Garden Trail was born. The trail celebrates the many ways Kurna Land residents are creating food sovereignty while saving money and the environment — and enjoying the health benefits of homegrown fruit and veggies.

Six backyard growers opened their gardens to the public via informative online video tours, sharing their knowledge & inspiring folks to get growing at their place.

The tours showcased sustainable garden practices for South Australia's local growing conditions, including water conservation, composting, increasing soil fertility, planting to encourage beneficial insects, home food production and organic growing techniques.

Our main aim is to get people growing by sharing local resources and information. We encourage people to watch the videos and share them far and wide:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPyvtMQYuBkA8hpc6P2V14g>

Photo: Alex Miller from North Brighton Community Garden, one of the featured gardeners.

Mandurah Community Garden

We had around 50 people come through the community garden which was quite good. We covered the costs of a free sausage sizzle lunch and thanks to the Mandurah Lions they did all the hard work cooking. Signs at each end of our road drew a few more visitors, so we will continue to put them out when we open on a Saturday morning. We were supported by our local council too. The City of Mandurah provided a marquee just in case the weather was wet and some games, giant jenga and giant checkers.

We had children's activities like painting a wooden bird and constructing a beneficial insect motel.

We did have one family of three generations enjoy their day - our only child visitor sadly but lots of adults.

It was lovely weather and a lot of fun was shared with likeminded people in the beautiful setting of the community garden.



Events presented by Sustain

Sustain regularly coordinates several major conferences, forums and summits. In this way we shape and lead the sustainable and healthy food systems conversation in Australia. In addition to the Urban Agriculture Forums held in 2016, 2018 and 2021 highlights in our events calendar include:

- **2016 Australian Community Food Hubs Conference**

Australia's first national community food hubs speaking tour. This tour encompassed 13 separate events in every state and territory bar SA and the NT. These events were the result of a wonderful collective national effort that involved no fewer than five universities, five local councils, four TAFEs, agencies of the state governments of NSW and WA, and numerous not-for-profits and community organisations.

- **2016 21st Symposium of Australian Gastronomy**

The 21st Symposium of Australian Gastronomy, held over four days across Melbourne, featured dozens of artisanal agriculture and premium food producers, chefs and food businesses from around Australia and internationally.

- **2017 Cardinia Food Forum**

Cardinia Food Forum was both a celebration and a call to action: a celebration of the wonderful things happening in food and farming across Cardinia Shire, and an opportunity to together build a response to the challenges we face. This jam-packed day featured international and local speakers, workshops and round table discussions.

- **2018 New Economy Network Australia Conference**

NENA's third annual conference "Strengthening the New Economy for the Common Good", held in Melbourne, invited people to come together to share stories of success, address challenges and join the broader movement, to appreciate our shared purpose and create transformative approaches to a fairer and ecologically sustainable economy and society.

- **2020 The Future of Food Systems: Transition and Recovery Webinar Series**

In the face of extraordinary challenges and hardships, Australia's food systems organisations rallied in 2020. We have always said that so much of how we manage our landscapes and feed our communities is unjust and unsustainable. The major challenge we face going forward is how to keep the momentum up, grab the increased interest in sustainable and resilient food systems with both hands and transition in such an unstable context. The 'Transition & Recovery' Series brought together food systems experts to discuss how we can work collaboratively to achieve these goals.

- **2020 Vermont Farm to Plate Plan Webinar Series**

In this three-part webinar series, Vermont Farm to Plate Plan Program Director Jake Claro and Network Manager Sarah Danly shared the stories of the decade-old program: How it has successfully increased employment, business creation and food security through collaborative, whole-of-system actions and networking, aligned to a shared agenda of a better food and farming system for Vermont.

Learn more about events presented by Sustain:

<https://sustain.org.au/events/presented-by-sustain/>



Memberships

Be a part of the transition to a food system that sustains healthy & flourishing communities & ecosystems

Value of Sustain membership:

- Collaborate as part of a community of practice, sharing lessons and learning from research, policy and project work.
- Invitations and discounts to events and conferences organised by Sustain.
- Discounted access to research and consultancy and event services.
- Connect to emerging research collaborations in food security, and food law, policy and governance.
- Receive a highlighted listing on the online Australian Food Systems Directory.

<https://sustain.org.au/directory/>

- Work with students and interns as part of a community-engaged learning program.
- Be named and have a profile on the Sustain website, showcasing existing policies, strategies, programs, initiatives and achievements.
- Link to affiliated national and international alliances and coalitions, such as the Right to Food Coalition.
- Access to our social media and e-newsletter followers through featured content.
- Access to member-only Local Government Association networking events.

Memberships available for:

Individuals

Businesses

Not for Profits

Governments

Join us at:

<https://www.sustain.org.au/membership/>