

Urban Food Production

A "science-meets-practice" workshop for SA's urban horticultural industry



Wednesday, 11 October, 2017

Goyder Mezzanine
Adelaide Showground
Goodwood SA

This is a special workshop for urban horticultural and sustainability managers, industry and government policy makers, horticultural, rural, and science communicators, community and school garden educators.

- Can we feed the world with urban food production?
- Why do people choose to grow their own food?
- Will we grow our own food in a hotter and water-constrained Adelaide?
- Is organic production the only safe way to produce food at home?

Top national and local experts

Dr Richard Stirzaker, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Agriculture and Food

Prof Mark Howden, Director, Climate Change Institute, Australian National University

Tim Marshall, TM Organics, Organic Farming Consultant

Prof Mike Keller, Dean, School of Agriculture Food and Wine, Uni of Adelaide, Director Waite Research Institute

Dr Peter Hayman, Principal Scientist Climate Applications, PIRSA-SARDI Sustainable Systems

Jon Lamb, JLC, Gardening Communicator

Georgia Pollard, Urban Agriculture Scientist, University of SA

Sandy Pitcher, Chief Executive, Dept of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Christy Spier, Urban Sustainability Officer, Natural Resources Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges

Aaron Harrison, Education Coordinator, Botanic Gardens of South Australia

Registration is essential

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban-food-production-workshop-adelaide-tickets-35930265391>

Organised by Ag Institute Australia SA Division with thanks to our sponsors



Waite Research Institute
AGRICULTURE FOOD WINE



Government of South Australia
Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources



Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Program

9.15 am	Registration open
9:30 am	Morning tea
10:00am	Welcome and Introduction: Taking a science approach to key themes in the examination of urban food production <i>Dr Peter Hayman Principal Scientist Climate Applications PIRSA-SARDI</i>
10.10 am	Can urban food production feed the world and save the planet? <i>Dr Richard Stirzaker CSIRO Agriculture and Food, author 'From the Scientist's Garden'</i>
11.00 am	Why do people choose to grow their own food? <i>Georgia Pollard Edible Gardens researcher, University of SA</i>
11:50 am	Panel discussion <i>Keynote presenters joined by Sandy Pitcher DEWNR, Christy Spier, AMLR NRM, Aaron Harrison, Adelaide Botanic Gardens</i>
12.20 pm	Lunch <i>Optional roof top tour of RA&HS beehives, water capture and solar initiatives*</i>
1.20 pm	Will we keep growing food in a hotter and water-constrained Adelaide? <i>Prof Mark Howden Director, Climate Change Institute, ANU</i>
2:10 pm	Is organic production the only way to produce safe food at home? <i>Tim Marshall TM Organics and Prof Mike Keller Dean AFW, University of Adelaide</i>
3.00 pm	Hypothetical - Mr Jon Lamb Rural Media icon, ABC Adelaide's Talkback Gardening guru <i>Keynote presenters and panel members</i>
3.30-4:00 pm	Afternoon Tea and networking <i>Sponsored by the Waite Research Institute</i>

Registration is essential: via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/urban-food-production-workshop-adelaide-tickets-35930265391>

AIA, APEN and HMA members:	Early bird (by 15 September) \$50	Late registration (by 1 October) \$70
Non-members:	Early bird (by 15 September) \$80	Late registration (by 1 October) \$100
Students:	Early bird (by 15 September) \$50	Late registration (by 1 October) \$50

***RA&HS roof top tour:** Come with us on a Rooftop Tour. View one of the largest solar panel installations in Australia while taking a bird's-eye view of the Adelaide Showground. And while you're here, why not take a look at our beehives, maintained by Adelaide Bee Sanctuary.



Workshop Context

Less than 4 percent of the South Australian workforce is directly involved in agriculture, but 60 percent of households report growing their own food. Urban food production absorbs considerable time and money and is seldom more efficient than commercial agriculture. This poses questions about what motivates so many busy urban people to grow their own food - the benefits to the environment? learning about food production? producing healthier and tastier food? simply enjoying gardening with families and communities?

This Workshop will focus on four key questions which are aimed to open up thinking and discussion rather than to develop and promote definitive answers. Rather than a “how to” workshop, we are aiming at a series of conversations on how science meets practice.

1. Can urban food production help feed the world and save the planet?

In his recent book “*The Coming Famine*”¹ Julian Cribb points out ongoing urbanization concentrates people, energy and waste in cities. He joins many voices pointing to urban food production as a means of reducing food miles and improving the use of resources. However, home gardening is rarely economical and can involve significant embedded energy and water use. While food miles are reduced, there is the cost and energy of repeated trips to the garden supply centre.

2. Why do people choose to grow their own food - better food, saving money or mental well-being?

Most people who are growing their own food are not thinking about food security or food miles. Reasons included food that was healthier (71%), tastier (61%), cheaper (62%), that home food production was enjoyable (61%) and good for the mind and the soul (51%)². What are the psychological and sociological benefits of urban food production? What is the place of community gardens in schools and also for an ageing population?

3. Will we keep growing food in a hotter and water-constrained Adelaide?

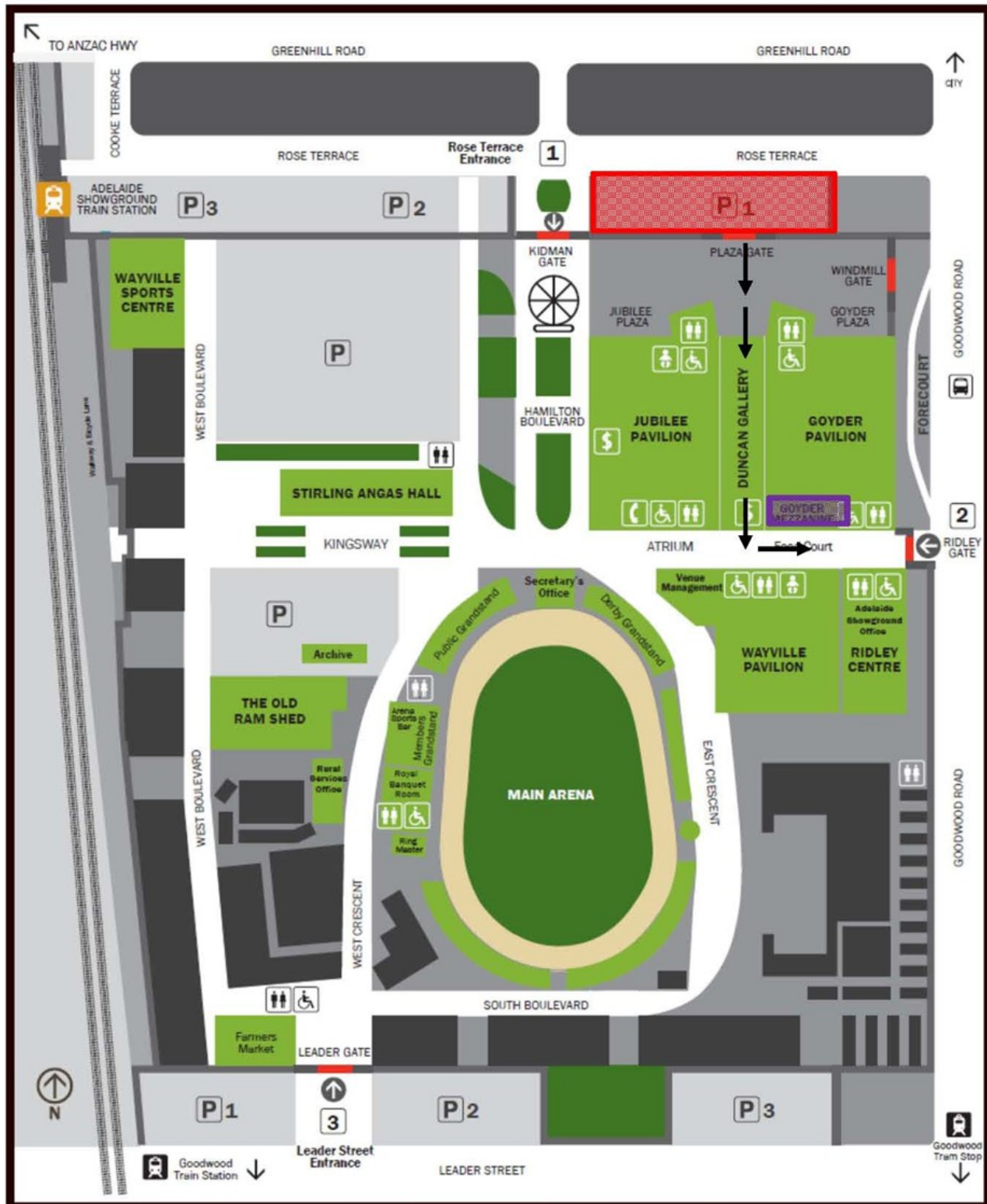
What challenges will come from more heatwaves and water restrictions in the future? Recent seasons have shown that urban food production is sensitive and exposed to extremes of climate. At the same time, recent heatwaves and water restrictions have revealed just how adaptive home and community gardeners can be when faced with challenges. How can we learn from recent events? What are the likely future impacts? In addition to extra heat and less water, what changes might we expect to pests and diseases?

4. Is organic production the only safe way to produce food at home?

The home gardener controls the natural and synthetic chemicals used in production. For many, it is an opportunity for organic farming. Given that healthy food is the most common reason for home production, is organic production the only safe path? Are there opportunities to learn from organic production and from new technology and chemicals? How can chemicals be used as part of integrated pest management (IPM)?

¹ Cribb, J 2010 *The Coming Famine—The Global Food Crisis and What We Can Do to Avoid It* CSIRO Publishing ISBN: 9780643100404
<http://www.publish.csiro.au/book/6447>

² Poppy Wise 2014 *Grow Your Own. The potential value and impacts of residential and community food production.* [http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/PB 59 Grow Your Own.pdf](http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/PB%2059%20Grow%20Your%20Own.pdf)



Guest Parking Rose Tce Car Park 1

Event in Goyder Mezzanine

Symbol Key

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Toilets | Car Park |
| Disabled Toilets | ATM |
| Telephone (Cash Only) | Baby Change |
| Bus Stop | Showground Train Station |



Speakers and Facilitators



Mr Jon Lamb
Rural Media icon, ABC
Adelaide's Talkback
Gardening, Jon Lamb
Communications

Jon draws on a wealth of practical experience gathered during a career interwoven with horticulture and journalism. A graduate from Burnley Horticultural College in Melbourne, he has run for 25 years his own agricultural and horticultural communications business. He spends much of his time talking to agricultural researchers and presenting their information in "farmer" and "gardener" language.

As a strategic communicator Jon has worked with the Grains, Wine, Dairy, Pig and Meat Research Corporations and in 2008 was awarded the grain industry's prestigious 'Seed of Light' award for outstanding research communication.

During his career as a journalist, he ran his own rural radio program, presented ABC TV weather, received numerous awards for rural and horticultural journalism and interviewed one US President. He presents ABC's Saturday Talkback Gardening, has been The Advertiser's garden writer for 30 years and currently co-publishes "Good Gardening", a free, web-based weekly gardening newsletter.

Jon is a Fellow of the AIAST (now Ag Institute Australia) and an official SA Rural Media 'icon'.



Dr Peter Hayman
Principal Scientist and
Leader - Climate
Applications
PIRSA-SARDI Sustainable
Systems

Peter is the Principal Scientist in Climate Applications at the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) based at the Waite Institute, a position he has held since May 2004. Prior to moving to Adelaide he was coordinator of climate applications for NSW Agriculture.

Peter is an agricultural scientist with an interest in applying climate information to dryland and irrigated farming systems with a recent focus on impacts and adaptation to climate change in the irrigated wine grape industry and low rainfall grains industry.

Peter is interested in what agricultural science can learn from urban food production and what urban food production can learn from agricultural science.

In 2015 Peter was made a Fellow of the Ag Institute Australia and is a member of the SA committee. He sees the Ag Institute as an effective way to engage with cross cutting issues in agriculture.

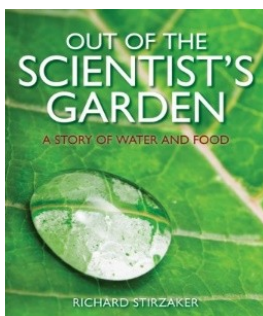
Speakers and Facilitators



Dr Richard Stirzaker
Principal Research
Scientist, CSIRO
Agriculture and Food

Richard is a soil and water scientist based at CSIRO in Canberra. He has worked widely in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly with small-scale irrigation farmers. He has developed techniques to measure water, salt and nitrate by colour, in order to build a 'common language' and a conversation about turning water into food that can be shared by farmers, scientists and government. This is brought together through an on-line learning platform called the Virtual Irrigation Academy <https://via.farm/>.

In 2010 Stirzaker wrote 'Out of the Scientist's Garden', a book that looked at how the world uses water to grow food. He used his own backyard as the lens through which he made global resource issues understandable at the local level. His research and writing are especially relevant to those wondering how we might feed a growing population in a crowded, competitive world with fewer resources.



Prof Mark Howden
Director, Climate Change
Institute, ANU; Hon Prof
at Melbourne University,
School of Land and Food

Mark has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 27 years in partnership with farmers, farmer groups, catchment groups, industry bodies, agribusiness, urban utilities and various policy agencies in research and science-policy roles.

He has also developed the national and international (IPCC/OECD) greenhouse gas inventories for the agricultural sector and assessed sustainable methods of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

He has been a major contributor to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1991, sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC participants and Al Gore. Recently Mark sat on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment, is a member of the National Climate Science Advisory Committee and he participates in several other international science and policy advisory bodies.

He applies what he has learnt to food production in his home garden.

Speakers and Facilitators



Ms Georgia Pollard
*Urban agriculture
scientist, science
communicator,
University of South
Australia*

Georgia is a PhD candidate and leads the Edible Gardens project – one of several Adelaide Citizen Science initiatives at UniSA.

The Edible Gardens project addresses the existing lack of information on urban food production; from how much food people are growing, to the amount of resources (such as time, money and water) required to grow that food. Interested food gardeners in SA are currently engaged in collecting data on their own food gardens, allowing us to discover more about the social value and productive capabilities of our home, community and school gardens.

Georgia also writes about science communication, as she strongly believes that for science to be meaningful, relevant and useful, it must be effectively communicated.

In her spare time, Georgia runs hands-on composting workshops and makes plans to one day have a giant productive garden.



Mr Tim Marshall
*TM Organics. Author
and leader in organic
agriculture and
certification in SA*

Tim is a geographer by training but is best known as an educator in organic agriculture. He was a co-founder and first Chairperson of Australia's first organic certification body (NASAA) and the first certification co-ordinator for the international organic peak body (IFOAM). In 2006, he founded TM Organics, the main consulting and training company for organic farming in the Asia-Pacific region. He has visited at least 4,500 organic farms in 33 countries, including viticulture, annual and perennial horticulture, animal and grain enterprises.

He believes Australia has an important role to play in future food supply, particularly as demand for organic produce soars in response to the growth of Asia's middle classes and the increasing scrutiny on the safety and quality of food.

Tim has authored certification standards, guidebooks and comprehensive reference books (*The New Organic Gardener, Bug, Weed*).

Speakers and Facilitators



Prof Mike Keller
Dean, School of
Agriculture, Food and
Wine, Uni of Adelaide
Director, Waite
Research Institute

Mike has contributed extensively to teaching and research at the University of Adelaide for nearly 30 years. He has been in Faculty leadership positions for over 10 years covering undergraduate entry and international issues in addition to agricultural faculty management.

Mike gained his PhD in Entomology and Biomathematics at North Carolina State University, having previously studied in Florida and Delaware.

Following research with the USDA in Georgia, Mike moved to a lectureship at Waite Campus and was nominated for the Stephen Cole the elder Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 1999. Mike has contributed significantly to entomological curriculum development both locally and nationally and held several Masters and undergraduate teaching convenor positions.

Mike has taken an active interest in industry development via board memberships including the Eyre Peninsula Agricultural Research Foundation (EPARF), Barley Breeding Australia and Pulse Breeding Australia



Sandy Pitcher
Chief Executive; Dept
Environment, Water
and Natural Resources

Sandy commenced as the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) in January 2015. She has focused on developing a vibrant, nature-based tourism strategy for South Australia, connecting people to parks and delivering on the state's ambitious Climate Change agenda.

Sandy was the Deputy Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for 5 years. She was responsible for many areas, including the South Australian Cabinet Office, the Economic Analysis Division and the Strategic Engagement and Communications division.

In 2012 Sandy was awarded the South Australian Telstra Business Woman of the year for the Community and Public sector category, and went on to win the national title in November 2012.

Sandy has worked in London, primarily as the head of Corporate and Parliamentary Affairs in the UK's Commission for Racial Equality, and has previously worked in Commonwealth public sector roles in Canberra and Sydney.

Educated at the University of Adelaide, Sandy has degrees in law and the humanities. She was raised in Mannum.

Speakers and Facilitators



Christy Spier
*Urban Sustainability
Officer, Natural
Resources Adelaide and
Mount Lofty Ranges*

Christy's story began in the Pitjanjatjara community of Ernabella so she is comfortable in creek beds, where she went on to organise camps as a young person and then after studying professional writing and communications at the University of SA developed as a project manager of the Schoolies Festival SA and then Director of the non-profit organisation Encounter Youth.

Having three children sparked her interest in homemaking and sustainable neighbourhoods which led her to study permaculture at the Food Forest, dig in her local community garden and become the SA representative for the Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network. In short she loves conversations and action that come out of creek beds, camps, parties, homes and neighbourhoods.

She is currently an Urban Sustainability Officer with Natural Resources Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges. The team works with you to connect communities which value, act and advocate for our natural environment. Last year the team coordinated an event dubbed "Edible Adelaide" where participants learnt from international guests and mapped a vision for a more edible Adelaide. The findings can be found here: <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidemtloftyranges/get-involved/urban-sustainability/edible-adelaide>



Aaron Harrison
*Education Coordinator,
Botanic Gardens of
South Australia*

Aaron's career in education, health and well-being has spanned almost 20 years. At the Botanic Gardens of South Australia, Aaron is the Education Coordinator overseeing all the education programs (including the Kitchen Garden program). Initially, as the Kitchen Garden Coordinator, Aaron was responsible for the design, development and implementation of the Little Sprouts Kitchen Garden Learning Program. This program inspires young children (and their teachers, parents and care givers) to explore the wonders of a kitchen garden environment. Specifically they connect with nature to learn where food comes from, the seasonality of food, the health benefits of fresh produce and the home garden and environmental benefits of practices like worm farms and composting.

When not at work, Aaron enjoys spending time with his two children, staying active and tending to his home veggie patch!



About the Agriculture Institute of Australia

The Agriculture Institute of Australia represents professionals working in Agricultural Science and Natural Resource Management. Its members are engaged in a wide range of activities including research, education, government, agribusiness and private consulting.

The Institute sees its contract with the community as one that demands it maintains expertise and pays heed to the implications of its activities in relation to the wider environment in which the Australian people live.

To this end, the Agriculture Institute of Australia is taking the lead in maintenance of professional standards, accreditation processes, ethical responsibilities for members and the recognition in professional work of the broader environmental, social and industry context in which we work.

It is also taking the lead in promoting the importance of research and development in agri-industry, and in improved training of the agri-industry workforce to ensure a globally competitive Australian agri-industry.

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