



## Sydney City Farm 2008 Annual General Meeting President's Speech

**President Andrew Jackson** - All of the activities of Sydney City Farm in its inaugural year could be summed up as attempting to convince as many people as possible that the city farm is a good idea.

Luckily, that was a fairly easy job.

The following was achieved in 2008 in the effort to make the city farm at Callan Park a reality.

### 2007 – A group of people with a good idea get together and the Sydney City Farm is launched

#### June

- First meetings held
- The Sydney City Farm organisation was incorporated and set-up as a legal not-for-profit organization.

#### September

- Website was launched

#### October

- Article published in the Sydney Morning Herald

### 2008 – The local community get on board

#### February

- Sydney City Farm lodged a document outlining their objections to the Draft Land Use Plan

#### March

- Meeting held with SHFA (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority)

#### April

- Three members of the city farm team met with the key cross bench parliamentarians

#### June

- Membership drives began

#### July

- Overwhelmingly successful community meeting held about the vision for Sydney City Farm. Over 250 people came.
- Number of subscribers reached 800.
- Minister Firth called a meeting with Sydney City Farm.
- July 25th - City Farm committee members Rod Simpson, Brandon Saul and Carolin Wenzel met with Verity Firth.

#### August

- Thursday August 14, Rod and Carolin met with both Frank Sartor and Verity Firth.
- Sydney City Farm were also invited to present our concept to Chairman of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA) Michael Collins
- Sunday 17th August, SCF had a stall at the great Live Green Festival in Victoria Park. As always, the positive response to the City Farm and Eco-education Centre proposal was overwhelming and we signed up 250 new members.

#### September

- Continued membership drive at various local markets and events where we receive almost 100% positive response:
  - Norton St Festa, Leichhardt
  - SMH Grower's Markets
  - SCC Live Green Festival
  - Rozelle Markets
  - Orange Grove Markets
  - Balmain and Norton St Plaza
- 1500 members signed up to the subscription list and 270 financial members.

Sydney City Farm & Sustainable Living Centre is a project by a non-profit incorporated community association of local inner western Sydney residents, environmental and community development experts who believe in the potential of Callan Park City Farm to inspire a green and sustainable future for urban Sydney.

# Sydney City Farm

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## and sustainable living centre



### October

- Second article published in the Sydney Morning Herald
- State Government handover announced
- Michael Beaumont began drafting a Business Plan for Sydney City Farm

### November

- Tax deductible status approved.
- Leichhardt Council Meeting on Callan Park.
- Mayor Jamie Parker invited us to give him a presentation about the Sydney City Farm proposal.

### Thank you to all those that have contributed to the development of City Farm during 2008

Thank you to all those who have volunteered time and donated money towards the realisation of Sydney City Farm. Thank you in particular to Carla Thackrah, our outgoing Manager.

Thank you to all the volunteers. Finally, thank you to all of you for supporting Sydney City Farm throughout the year.

### The year to come, 2009

We are excited that a large portion of Callan park will be handed over to Leichhardt council but there is still a lot of work to be done.

There were two major failings with the process that resulted in the 2006 Draft Land Use Plan written by SHFA. First was that the State Government was already committed to Sydney University taking over the site. This impacted on the whole process and put an end to any possibility of meaningful community consultation. It is imperative that the Leichhardt Council now conducts a proper open and inclusive master planning process. This planning process must be free of preconditions and prior commitments. It is likely it will take at least two years.

The challenge for Sydney City Farm now is to maintain the current energy and enthusiasm for the project throughout this period of master planning. It will require us, as a committee, to strongly engage with Leichhardt Council in the planning process, while continuing to build our membership and communicate effectively with them.

To better engage you, our members, we are currently investigating possible activities and events that involve SCF members and the community while we all continue working on the main goal of establishing a city farm in Callan Park.

We are ever closer to making the Sydney City Farm vision a reality.

*Andrew Jackson*  
*President, Sydney City Farm*