

## **“Just the beginning”**

Sydney weather was wild, wet, windy and cold after three weeks of rain and flash flooding during the Sydney Centenary public conference on the weekend of 11 & 12 May – a stark contrast to the palpable living warmth of community inside Rudolf Steiner House. During the breaks between lectures, it was hard to stop the conviviality of friendship and networking to ensure the commencement of the next sessions, but ringing the Swiss cowbell helped!

Warming coffee and savoury croissants preceded Ueli Hurter’s first of three lectures. He had responded to Biodynamics Sydney’s invitation in August 2022 to visit Australia and be the keynote speaker, and was supported by international, national and local speakers. (Full program details and other centenary events can be seen at [www.biodynamicssydney.org](http://www.biodynamicssydney.org)).

There was a warm welcome on the preceding night from the Sydney Branch of the Society in Australia, Biodynamics Sydney and the School of Spiritual Science. This followed a productive meeting on Ueli’s arrival with Cr Hy William Chan of the City of Sydney and BD Sydney at Sydney Town Hall, with a working proposal for re-hydration of their parks.

Saturday’s lectures were inspiring, professional and alive, and were followed by an evening concert of music, speech, eurythmy, and an amusing play on composting.

Sunday’s lectures included a business model for Sekem given by Helmy Abouleish and an invigorating Earth Forum on climate change with Helmy, Ueli and conference participants. Many proposals for future work were canvassed, including a BD Project Development plan for local areas. A screening of “A Winter’s Tale”, an early film about Alex Podolinsky of the Bio Dynamic Research Institute, led to a fitting conclusion to the public conference.

A “Climate Change Summit”, crisply chaired by former NSW Greens MP Jamie Parker, for government representatives, scientists and environment stakeholders, took place on Monday 13 May, and was hailed by an environment manager from Inner West Council as “well organised with a fabulous program”. Featuring Ueli Hurter and Philip Mulvey, an eminent soil scientist, the Summit provided much in the way of presentations, motions and suggestions for future co-working.

At Ueli’s request “I haven’t had a free day since I got here!” we took him to see Sydney Harbour and the Opera House from Mrs Macquarie’s Chair for a wind-and-water experience of the “lungs of this big city”, and then on to the famous and beautiful Bondi Beach. As he stood at the edge of the Pacific Ocean, we heard him exclaim “This is great!”

### **Diane Watkin and the Sydney BD100 team**

*Lecture recordings are available, please email [biodynamicssydney@gmail.com](mailto:biodynamicssydney@gmail.com)*

*A film of the conference will be available from August*

*“A Winter’s Tale” on sale at Rudolf Steiner Book Centre*

*Images provided by Monika Bebb, Daniel Piason, Deborah Saffir*

