

"For me Carriageworks is the ultimate space in Sydney.

Already an architectural dream, a world renowned Arts Centre, and soon to be an epicentre for great, local and sustainable food.

My goal is to put the Carriageworks Farmers Market (one of Sydney's absolute treasures) on the world stage, promoting local produce and creating an internationally acclaimed food and arts precinct in Sydney's Redfern. I am passionate about produce and have always supported and promoted the local and smaller producers in my work. We're aspiring to grow the Carriageworks Farmers Markets to the same international acclaim as London's Borough Markets.

The vision is to propel the existing, already excellent, markets at Carriageworks upwards and outwards to be Australia's best - and on equal standing to the Carriageworks acclaimed Artistic Program.

After cooking for 25 years, it has become very clear to me that the most evocative and fundamental part has always been the produce. The simple snap of a fresh bean, the crispy bite of an apple straight from the tree and, of course, the smell of sizzling bacon in its purest form are my fondest experiences with food.

Many people would argue that Australia doesn't have seasons. Perhaps compared to our European counterparts our seasons are not quite as diverse. However, we most certainly do grow food on this continent according to the varying temperature and humidity. I want to reacquaint people with the idea of seasons. To look at produce as having limited availability. To understand that a peach eaten in the depths of winter is pretty ordinary compared to a peach eaten warm and soft and ripe in the summer. Take what Australia is offering us naturally, don't force her to produce food at the wrong times. Some foods only come around once a year. We should cherish the moments when they do, and celebrate them and then move on to the next delicious thing coming.

It is of paramount importance to me that local producers and the community are supported and begin to build relationships. The market is a meeting place. You stop and chat to the suppliers, you find yourselves asking questions about food. Hopefully you are inspired. With a list and a few suggestions, the market could be your weekly shopping destination. Grab a fresh coffee, sit in the sun with friends or cuddle a warm bowl of steaming freshly made porridge on those winter mornings. Listen to live music, feast your eyes on the abundance of colour and variety, (maybe even immerse your senses in contemporary art), taste, touch and smell all the glorious produce."

MIKE MCENEARNEY
CREATIVE DIRECTOR