



Annual Report 2024 - 2025



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Northey Street City Farm is located: the Yuggera and Turrbal peoples. We respect the continuing connection to land, waters, cultures, and family that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples uphold. We pay respect to Elders past and present.



About Us

Our ethics: Caring for Earth, Caring for People, and Fair Share.

Our vision is a world of abundance, connection and harmony.

Our purpose is to be an inspirational working model of a community-based urban permaculture farm, which promotes and educates for an ecologically and socially sustainable society.

Our belief is by practicing permaculture we can contribute to an environmentally, socially and economically just world.



Management Committee Update

The Management Committee (MC) is responsible for:

- Financial and legal accountability for the organisation
- Supporting Group Managers
- Adherence to permaculture ethics and principles
- Organisational development and policies
- Northey Street City Farm (NSCF) vision and goals



The 2024-25 MC has comprised of seven members. We had two new members this year, Elizabeth and Jenni. Darby resigned during the year and we thank him for his support over some time. At the next AGM, several will automatically continue while others will be able to nominate again.



All members have contributed to the team, but I give special thanks to Josh Rischin who is resigning from his position as Treasurer.



The MC is deeply grateful to Josh for his commitment to work with NSCF staff, Adnan and Andy over the years in managing the finances, changes to the manner of documentation, and communicating responsibly and clearly to the MC about the issues and joys of the budget.



2025 has been an eventful year! Cyclone Alfred caused some mayhem and lots of work for the team and volunteers, but on the positive side, the long-awaited updated toilet block was completed in time for the Winter Solstice.



Awards have also been granted for Community Gardens Australia Permaculture Champion of the Year and the Nursery received a Queensland Community Achievement Award.

The structure with two managers, Emma and Simon, has continued to work well and staff changes and handovers have happened smoothly.

All staff at NSCF are passionate about their role and the MC thanks all for their commitment and willingness to work over and beyond the call of duty when needed. The MC is also deeply grateful for all the volunteers who add to the daily rhythm and regular activity at the Farm.

NSCF is a precious space not only for promoting permaculture, but also education, respite, fun, nourishment and much else. We look forward to this continuing well into the future.

Wendy Webster
Coordinator, NSCF Management Committee

First Nations Collaborative Work

First Nations presenters featured in our workshop program for the year, including Murri Tukka with Bruce Phillips and Goori Christmas with Chris Jordan. We also had a First Nations person take up a part-scholarship place on the first PDC of 2025. Additionally, some Earth Kids programs had First Nations knowledge and culture integrated throughout, with thanks to guidance from Yuggera staff member, Dameila Thompson. Through our Pay-It-Forward plant program, we contributed \$200 worth of plants and nursery items to Hymba Yumba School.

A group of staff and volunteers worked through the excellent Growing on Country resource, developed by the team at Yuruwan. This has helped us deepen our understandings of what it means to grow on Country and grapple with the challenges this brings.



First Nations performers, presenters, and chefs shared traditional and contemporary knowledge and culture through our events program. Our 30th Anniversary Long Table Dinner was masterfully catered by Tanika Orr, of Nooks & Cooks, and featured bush tukka and local ingredients. Our Winter Solstice Festival welcomed first-time contributors: DJ Angel, The Eatles, Jamiesha, and Uncle Russell Dawson alongside returning First Nations workshop presenters including Bruce Phillips, Chris Jordan, and Jacob Birch.



Many thanks to members of our First Nations Advisory Group for their contributions throughout the year, with deep thanks to Dominique Chen and Derek Sandy who moved on after a number of years providing significant input into the Farm's work.

Earth Arts



Earth Arts has regenerated this year to levels enjoyed pre Covid and flood due to solid participation by new volunteers and multicultural public support for playgroups and market



Parents and children have engaged in animal rescue with possums chickens and turkeys.



Youth Education

In 2024–25, we worked alongside families, schools, and community leaders to support children and young people in reconnecting with nature and practising permaculture through Earth Kids, Bush Kindy, outreach sessions, tours and group experiences. Young learners explored real-world topics like biodiversity, soil health and food security, gaining knowledge and skills that benefit both our local environment and the planet.

This year also marked two milestones for Earth Kids: delivering the program for the first time to international children, and gaining national exposure through a feature in *PIP Magazine*.



Highlights from 2024-2025:

- Nearly 1,200 school students visited the Farm.
- Over 100 children participated in Earth Kids programs.
- 94 kindergarten children planted Native gardens through our outreach programs.
- 20 young children attended Bush Kindy sessions on-site.
- 3 international groups (from Japan and China) visited to learn about regenerative agriculture and sustainable living.



"Thank you for the magical three days our kids had with you and the Earth Kids team. It filled this city mum's heart to see kids being kids, loving and learning on the city farm."

Venetia, Earth Kids parent

Adult Education



Adult Education was both challenging and rewarding in 2024-25. We have been working extra hard to promote the program and create new offerings.



We cancelled our flagship Permaculture Design Course for August 2024 due to low bookings, then bounced back after a big marketing push with 23 attendees for the March 2025 course.



Despite some cancelled offerings, mostly in late 2024, we had 336 attendees from 28 workshops and short courses.

Adult Education Coordinator Gavin started developing an Outreach program in late 2024 and facilitated some successful community planning and garden coaching sessions with groups in Sandgate and Zillmere.

City Farm Nursery

City Farm Nursery had an exceptional year and was honoured to win the Queensland Community Achievement Award for excellence in Customer Service. This recognised our commitment to permaculture, organic gardening principles, and community education.

We sold over 23,000 plants and sustainable gardening products and welcomed a wide-ranging audience of visitors through education workshops, volunteer and membership enquiries, the Sunday café at the organic markets, and the Winter Solstice Festival with inspiring presenters on the Nursery Stage.



This year saw a front entrance redesign aligned with the NSCF brand, a security upgrade funded by the Lord Mayor's Safer Suburbs Grant, and the rescue of thousands of plants during the 1.5m flood from Cyclone Alfred.

A heartfelt thanks to our staff – Lizzie, Roberta, AJ, India & Gary – and our dedicated long-term volunteers. We also deeply appreciate the support of all NSCF teams.



"The seedlings you supplied were a massive hit, so many people and staff were thrilled at the quality and variety. We were entered into a competition against dozens of other societies and clubs across the university for the most interactive and passionate stall and we won!"

QUT Landscape Architecture Student (recipient of donated stock for an Open Day Stall)

Farming



In the 2024-25 financial year we have had a fantastic group of staff and volunteers involved in the farming team, helping the gardens to be abundant and thriving, our chooks, bees and worms well-looked after and the community compost hub humming and producing excellent compost.



We're grateful for everyone's contributions, with special thanks to Jenny, Ronni, Richard, Dick, Gavin, Andy, Jenni, AJ, Gary, and Manuel for leading different farming team activities and supporting our volunteers in these areas.



We worked on developing our food forests and orchards management plan to improve how we look after these areas, which we'll implement going forward. A highlight for the year was having a huge harvest from the garden and cook up in December, and we also plan to do more of this in future.



The March flood brought some challenges, but luckily this time around, the flood waters didn't contaminate the soils, so we were able to get the allotments and other raised gardens back in action relatively soon after the flood.

Site Maintenance and Development

It was another big year for the site team with the toilet block renovation, greasetrap installation and other projects being completed. Ongoing work continued with a site clean-up, particularly the compound to clear extraneous waste, exacerbated by the flood in March. We have also added better security through extra cameras and a monitoring service to our Nursery.

The office water tanks, including a new pump and water lines, have been laid to minimise town water usage and provide better irrigation services to the farm.

The site team has always been a dynamic bunch of people working to keep the farm operational and flowing. The kitchen crew provides a huge support to our staff and volunteers in fostering a community spirit.



In early March, the farm experienced a flood which reached 1.5-1.8m across the site. Due to better preparedness than the 2022 flood, we managed to minimise the damage done.

With thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, we managed to get the farm looking clean and vibrant again within a couple of months of the flood. We will continue to work to improve our flood preparedness and recovery for future flood events.



Organic Farmers Market



Our humble Market not only survived, but thrived through the devastating impacts of extreme weather and a cost-of-living crisis.



Attendance is strong; our ever-loyal customer base continues to grow, with a host of fresh new faces. It's a testament to the resilience of our community, and a credit to every single person who attends - all of our stallholders, the early birds ducking in and out for their shopping, and the hangers-on who stay late into the afternoon to connect.



This resilience also speaks to the strength of our niche. As the only Certified Organic Market in Brisbane, we attract a health-conscious, environmentally-aware crowd - one that will pay for fresh, high quality organic produce. Our customers come from far and wide for an experience found nowhere else.



We aim to build upon these strengths in the coming year, with new signage for our Farmers, a greater diversity of stalls, and the return of the Pie Stall and ATM!

Events

In February, we hosted a film screening of Takayna – The Heart of Lutruwita/Tasmania. The film was a visually stunning insight into the wilderness of Tasmania, and a call to action to support the work Bob Brown Foundation is doing to save it.

We celebrated 30 years of Northey Street City Farm with a Spring Harvest Long Table Dinner and a Summer Harvest Celebration. Both events were well-attended, and we're looking forward to repeating these in the future.

In April, we supported The Bloomin' Youth to run their inaugural Youth Fest - with an incredible line-up of local up-and-coming bands.



The theme of this year's Winter Solstice Festival was Seeds for the Future. 95 volunteers, 41 artists and entertainers, 21 stallholders, and over 1,200 guests came together to celebrate longest night of the year and the turning of the seasons.

All efforts were made to reduce the environmental impact of the event; no single-use food and drink packaging was permitted, and reduced price tickets were offered to guests arriving by active travel or public transport.



Thank You

We couldn't deliver on our purpose without the support of countless individuals and organisations. We would especially like to acknowledge the following:

- Our members
- Our volunteers
- Our kitchen crew
- Our donors
- Our allotment holders
- Our stallholders
- Market and Nursery customers
- The Queensland Government
- OzHarvest
- Derek Sandy
- Dominique Chen
- Dameila Thompson
- Tessa Bobir
- Bruce Phillips
- The team at Hurley Architects
- The team at H Design
- Dave and the team at Birubi Co.
- Stone & Wood Brewing Co.

Northey Street City Farm is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council through the Environment Grants program



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Lifetime Members

- Dick Copeman (1995)
- Richard Nielsen (1995)
- Fiona Black
- George O'Farrell
- John Shannon
- Nicole Schilling
- Brit Stephensen
- John Scimone (2012)
- Peter Kuestler (2013)
- Simon Calcinai (2018)
- Martin Burke (2024)
- Barbara Nielsen (2024)
- Alexander Jamieson (2025)
- Cameron McLintock (2025)

**Thank you for your generosity
and support**