

July 2016 – June 2017  
**Annual Report**



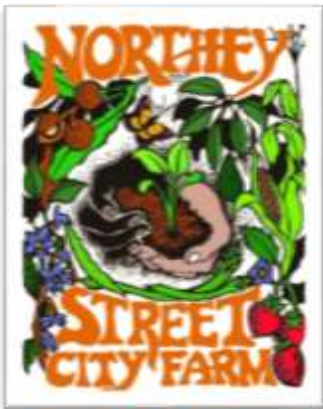
## NSCF Supporters

*We thank the following for their support of our programs this year*

- Our members
- Brisbane City Council
- Minter Ellison Lawyers
- Bretts Hardware
- OzHarvest
- MAX Solutions
- TURSA Employment and Training
- Help Enterprises



**We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we work, and we pay our respects to the elders past and present.**



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## 2017 Management Committee Coordinator's report

In this coordinator's report I will present a short overview of the farm's achievements for the year. In this comprehensive report by our Education and Support Manager, Ronni Martin, the range of activities at the Farm are described in detail and the report demonstrates the energy and hard work of the staff and volunteers and their determination to achieve the Farm's goals.

I would particularly like to thank the Farm staff and colleagues on the Management Committee for their efforts during this year. I know that all the staff work far beyond their paid hours in a voluntary capacity and their energy, commitment and enthusiasm is a special feature of NSCF. I also thank the staff for their flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances. In particular I am impressed by staff maintenance of budget integrity in these tight times. Northey Street City Farm's 3 divisions, Farming, Enterprise & Events, and Education & Support have all had success during the year.

Volunteers continue to be integral to the success of the Farm. I would like to formally thank all the volunteers for their support, creativity and the time they invest. I ask the Farm membership to particularly recognise long-term volunteers who have developed knowledge and skills unique to this context as well as holding important historical perspectives that will help guide us.

I would like to highlight the work of the Decolonisation Working Group to build partnerships with First Nations' people and organisations. A highlight of this group was the Aboriginal Flag Raising ceremony during Reconciliation Week.

A special mention should be given to the Winter Solstice Festival. In terms of attendance, feedback and financial outcome it was a success. Importantly, though, it achieved the Farm's goal that this festival reaches out to the community and gives people knowledge and skills about permaculture and sustainability.

The Organisation Development Group has been active with membership surveys, workshops and meetings to ensure the Farm's ongoing improvement and achieve its aims and vision.

Early in the year the Farm's enterprise agreement was registered with the Fair Work Commission and I would like to thank Minter Ellison Lawyers for their advice and guidance provided on a pro bono basis. I would particularly like to thank the Support Team for their hard work and persistence with the development of this agreement.

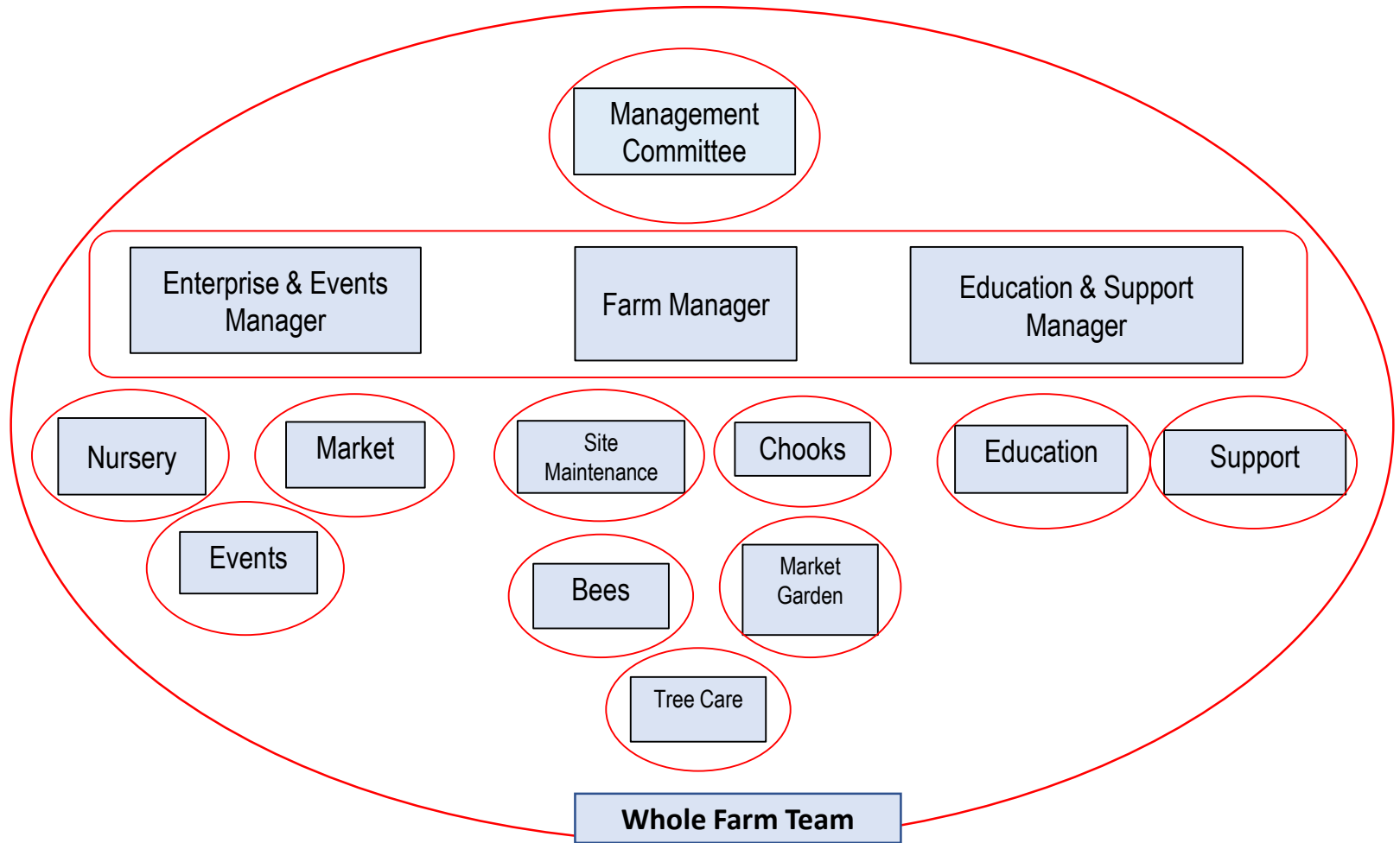
I congratulate the Farm on the overall development of the Farm environment. It is truly a delightful place to be and benefits all those who are members and occasional visitors as well as very bright spot for the whole of Brisbane.

On a personal note I am finishing as Coordinator and MC member. It has been a privilege and I have personally developed through the experience of being a committee member. I will continue to be a volunteer and you will see me on Saturday mornings either feeding the chooks or in the nursery. Who knows, if my day job eases up I may be back on the committee one day.

Finally, I think the farm is in a good place and staff are working well together. I would like to highlight that the Farm is secure and agile and has the skills, commitment and membership support to forge ahead with its goals.

*Ray Quinn, Management Committee Co-ordinator*

# NSCF Teams





The Farming Team includes many dedicated long-term volunteers like the Bee Group, the Chook Group and the Tree Care Group. There were also two Work for the Dole Group projects assisting with farming activities. Ko Oishi started as Farm Manager in August 2016. Since 30 June 2017, the Site Team has amalgamated with the Farm Team so the activities of both are included in this section.

## Projects completed in 2016 - 17

- A shed designated for bee-keeping
- A shade house for the market garden
- A new irrigation system for the market garden
- A farm tool storage shed near the market garden
- Orchards being converted to food forests
- Waste management improved – bin storage area fenced and 4 waste stations built
- Brisbane City Council compost hub created to accept green waste from local residents
- Large-scale worm farm constructed by Gavin Anderson and his WEX team
- Soldier fly larvae breeding unit installed
- Green Roof trail of media and plant combinations for the subtropics started
- Secure fencing installed around the workshop area
- Many trees named with timber signs
- Riverine rainforest weeded, understorey planted, and creek banks stabilized.



- **500 bunches of fresh produce** sold to Windsor Food Collective.
- **10 chicks** hatched
- **41 allotment plots** are full
- **Nearly 8000 communal meals** served from the Farm Kitchen



# Farming Team



Stabilising creek bank and revegetating with native plants.



Bush regeneration along Breakfast Creek



Renewing the Food Forest



Market Garden



Market Garden seedling shade house



Market Garden with bamboo trellises



# Work for the Dole and other construction projects



Waste station



Bin storage bay & waste sorting area



Workshop fencing



BCC Composting Hub



New City Farm Nursery entrance & sign



Nursery shade covers



Bee Shed



Farm Storage Shed



Worm Farm





## City Farm Nursery

The City Farm Nursery has seen some big changes throughout the last year. The entire space, including the propagation area, has been refurbished, with the addition of retractable shade sails, a new bagged soil shed and more shelving and display space in the retail area.

The nursery continues to seek out local and ethical suppliers of interesting and rare plants for the urban edible gardener. In-house production is continuing to grow and there has been a continuous supply of rare and hard to find herbs as well as native plants and bush tucker from the propagation team. The City Farm Nursery strives to be a one-off destination where both amateur and expert gardeners can come for one-on-one advice and guidance, where learning and knowledge is valued and shared.

### RETAIL

- \$4.50 pots of herbs and veggies were the biggest sellers, making up 11% of total sales for the year
- \$4 herb and vegetable punnets were close behind making up 10% of total sales for the year
- 314 bags of Kick Along potting mix were sold
- Lavender & Rosemary were two of our best selling plants.
- Avocados, Papayas and Grafted finger limes were the most popular fruit trees
- 42 Australian Native bee books were sold, our best-selling book!

### PROPAGATION

- 480 Brazilian spinach cuttings propagated over Summer
- Over 500 various mints propagated from seeds and cuttings
- Over 200 edible native plants grown on
- Currently have over 80 varieties of rare herbs under propagation





# Organic Farmers Market & Upcycle Market

The Organic Farmers Market was held every Sunday morning throughout the year. The number of stalls is steadily growing and is now over 100 most weeks.

This year we initiated the Upcycle Market on the first Sunday of every month. This section of the Market showcases the work of low impact makers, crafters, artists and clothing designers committed to using ecologically friendly practices and re-purposed items and materials.

We also started the series of talks and demonstrations, Food for Thought, which encourage people to try cooking and preserving a wider range of foods. For example, the first session in June featured renowned chef, Glen Barratt of Wild Canary, on using bizarre foods.



At 30 June 2017 we had a total of 105 stalls:

- 27 Growers
- 9 Resellers
- 16 Food & drink stalls
- 7 Makers
- 13 Upcycle stalls
- 6 Wellness services



# Winter Solstice Festival

The Festival was on 17 June 2017. It was the first time we aimed for a zero waste festival by supplying reusable cutlery and crockery. Thanks to all our supporters who donated crockery and to the group of dedicated dish washers who made it all possible.

Other innovations this year included a special program of workshops for teens, the Kids Kingdom, and an extended program of workshops. The workshops were themed around the Permaculture Ethics of Care for Earth, Care for People and Fair Share.

The stage show ran all day and into the evening and included Spankinhide, Mr. Darren Percival, Wild Marmalade and lots of great local acts. The traditional Ceremony, Lantern Parade and Bonfire encouraged everyone to celebrate that it was Midwinter.

The Winter Solstice Festival was sponsored by Brisbane City Council this year.



- 21 Workshops
- 12 Performances
- 1800 participants





## Adult Education

Michael Wardle joined us as the Adult Education Co-ordinator in January 2017. His focus has been on working with Permaculture Design Course teachers to review the course curriculum, and developing new short courses. We ran the first Lockyer Valley PDC, aiming to build better connections with our catchment, the Brisbane River Valley.

Mushroom growing and Native Beekeeping were popular workshops, while the Permaculture Basics and Intro to Permaculture weekend courses are always booked out. Dick Copeman and Michael Wardle developed and delivered a Forest Gardening specialised course in May.

- 39 Sustainable Living Workshops and courses held
- 401 workshop participants
- 43 people graduated from the four Permaculture Design Certificate courses.



Lockyer PDC site visit to 9dorf farm



PDC design presentation



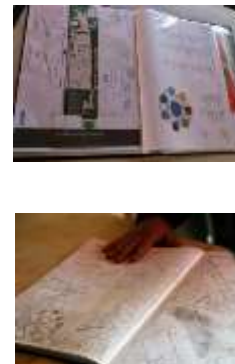
Lockyer PDC developing their 'whole under management'



Mushroom workshop



Propagation workshop



Cheese making workshop

## Youth Education

### School Activities

The schools program offers teachers options based on the age and subject area of the students. School groups have been preps all the way through to Year 12s and have joined us for a range of activities.

Our most popular school activity is the 'Feeding the World's People' activity which is often Year 9 or Senior Geography students, and sometimes Home Economics students.

For the first time we had an international study tour visit the farm - 121 Chinese students who each spent a full day at the farm - having a tour, doing Earth Arts and making Compost.

We also offered one Professional Development Day for teachers.

- **25 groups of young people** visited -1 International study tour, 21 schools, 3 after school care groups (OSHC).
- **953 young people** participated in these visits
- **5 adult groups** with a total of **57 participants** visited.



School Visit



School Visit



School Visit



Chinese students visit

### Earth Arts



Earth Arts with Bob Mud continues to provide activities on three days a week. The cob ovens received a makeover in time for the Winter Solstice Festival.



## Earth Kids

The first Earth Kids Holiday program ran during the Easter school holidays in 2017. There were 23 participants in this program, which has continued to run each school holiday since then.

NSCF Earth Kids programs are about supporting kids to become 'nature smart' – to have the knowledge, understandings and skills to engage in creating a more sustainable world – in a fun and interactive way. It is an experiential program of outdoor discovery, in which kids learn about the animals and plants at the Farm through observation and supported questioning; explore Indigenous knowledge; experiment with Earth Arts and bushcraft skills; and put permaculture into practice.



## Support Activities

The NSCF Enterprise Agreement was registered by the Fair Work Commission. Thanks to Minter Ellison Lawyers who assisted with drafting and advice, all pro bono.

Our revamped website was launched in Feb.2017 after a big effort from the Marketing Working Group and our website volunteer Christa Louw.

We started the migration of our operations to online platforms after rebuilding our computer network. Thanks to Albert and Dean our IT Volunteers who kept the systems running.

We set up a secure online donation facility through GiveNow to accept one-off and regular tax-deductible donations to our Environment Fund.



### Social Media

At 30 June 2017 we had:

- 16,822 Facebook fans
- 25,507 website visitors per month
- 4219 ENews subscribers

### People

At 30 June 2017 we had:

- 261 members
- 95 days per month on average donated by volunteers
- 12 Part-time staff

### Finance

- 458 Pay slips issued
- 2985 Invoices issued
- 989 Payments made





## WEX Programs

We continued our Work For The Dole (WEX) projects during 2016 – 17 . The WEX group projects worked on specific projects and the resulting market garden beds, bush regeneration activities and storage areas have made a big difference to the Farm's activities. We have also had individual WEX participants helping in the kitchen and in other areas around the Farm. We partnered with TURSA, Max Employment and Help Industries to deliver these programs.

### Group Projects

**Active Waste** – 8 x fixed waste stations, waste sorting facility

**Re-zoning** – Demolition of end-of-life farm shed, establishing & building a work zone boundary fence, preparation for playground re-location

**Urban Farming** – Propagation shade house, 4 x 6m garden beds, Bee shed

**Sustainable Farming** – Black soldier fly farm, bio-char processing plant, landscaping, preparation of disabled access pathways, woodlot regeneration, NE Corner preparation and regeneration

### Individual Projects

**Admin** – Marketing, assist with website creation, general administration, filing, data entry, customer service

**Helpers** – General assistance with kitchen and farm duties

**All Rounders** – General assistance with kitchen and farm duties

**Events** – Admin support, signage and event preparation

**Green Thumbs** – Propagation, irrigation, weeding, stock control, display of plants etc.

**Hospitality** – Preparation of staff and volunteer meals

**Supporters Group** - General assistance with kitchen and farm duties



- 4 Group Projects
- 7 Individuals Projects
- 145 Places allocated
- 222 participants



## Decolonisation and First Nations Engagement at the Farm

In October 2016 a Decolonisation Working Group was formed at the Farm. The group identified our purpose to be: to build partnerships with First Nations peoples and organisations; to build respect for First Nations culture and understanding of the history of colonisation; and to provide opportunities for First Nations people to learn from our education programs, to be facilitators/ teachers on our education programs, and to gain employment at NSCF.

We also created a new Education Discounts policy and this includes providing a half price place for First Nations people in each of our Permaculture Design Courses and other short courses.

Our Decolonisation Working Group has decided to use the term 'First Nations' rather than 'Indigenous' because this is the preferred terminology used by the current National Advocacy Group, the First Nations Congress.

### Activities during the year:

- A screening of the amazing film 'Putuparri and the Rainmakers' for staff and volunteers.
- Thursday talks by Michael Williams exploring First Nations culture, knowledge & perspectives.
- In May, group trip to Cherbourg to visit the Ration Shed Museum, led by Michael Williams, was followed by a camp at the Bunya Mountains.
- Aboriginal Flag raising ceremony held during Reconciliation Week in May.
- Action Plan for NSCF developed.



Bunya Mountains Camp



Cherbourg Ration Shed Museum



Maroochy Baramba,  
Turrbal Traditional Owner



Aboriginal Flag raising ceremony



# Organisational Development Group

The OD group aims to guide ongoing improvement of the way NSCF operates to achieve its vision and purpose. The role of the OD group is to ensure that the foundation aspects (belief, purpose, vision & values) of the organisation are in place and strategic alignment is achieved; identify areas of improvement in both culture & climate (practices & tools); develop & ensure implementation of improvement strategies; ensure decision-making structures are effective and all enablers are in place; create & monitor organisational success measures; monitor any material risks to the organization.

The OD group organized a series of meetings and workshops aimed at hearing from members, volunteers and staff about what they believe the values and goals for the Farm should be. The results are shown below.

The meetings identified other issues for the Farm to address over the next year, such as improved communication and clarifying decision making processes. A meeting in June confirmed the structure and roles of various groups at the Farm and confirmed the topics for monthly meetings to ensure we track our progress against our goals.

## Our Belief

The dominant way of life is unsustainable but by practicing Permaculture we can create an environmentally, socially and economically just world.

## Our Vision

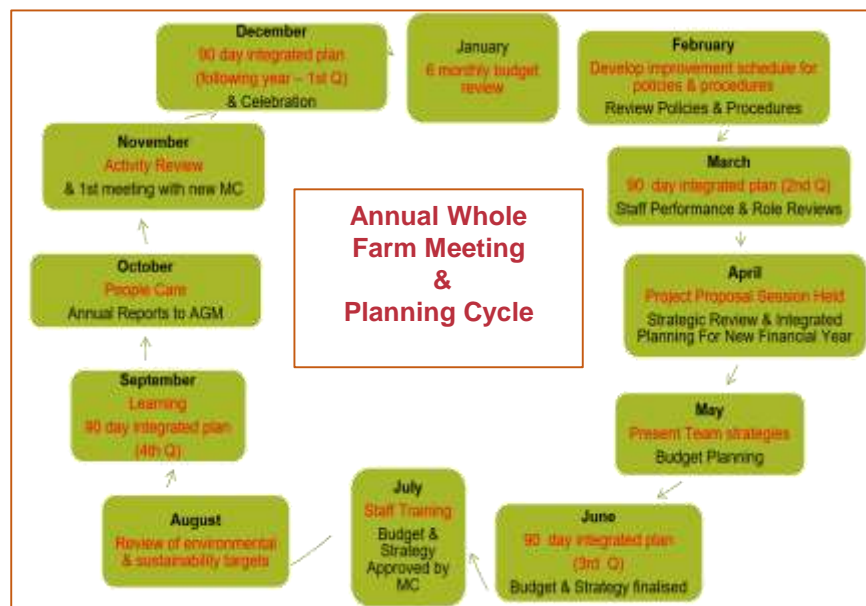
"All living sustainably"

## Our Purpose

Our purpose is to be an inspirational working model of a community-based urban permaculture farm which promotes and educates for sustainability.

## Our Values

Caring for Earth, Caring for People, & Learning



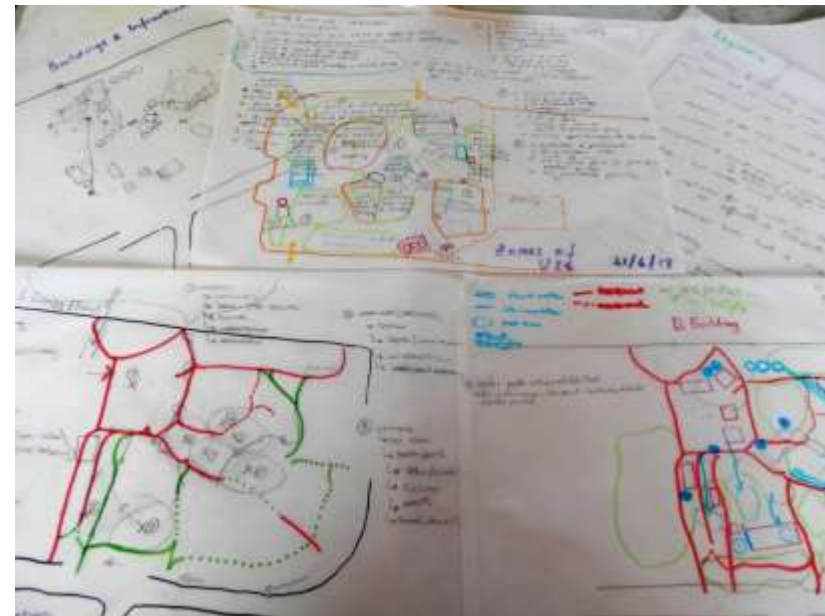
# Design Working Group

The Design Working Group is made up of representatives from each team who have permaculture design experience.

The role and responsibilities of the group is:

- Developing & monitoring implementation of a full Farm design
- Approving or declining requests to change the Farm design
- Reviewing the applicability of the current Farm design in the light of new ideas and thinking in Permaculture

The group has been meeting to do a site analysis of the whole Farm and have identified all relevant overlays using David Jacke's Scale of Permanence as a framework. This provides the basis for making design decisions, such as the location of proposed activities, in future.





# 2017

## January

- 150 Chinese study tour students visit.
- Market Garden shade house completed.

## February

- Farmers Market Stallholders Lunch
- PDC 1 /17 Starts
- New website launched.
- Garden Shed completed

## March

- Harmony Day meal
- Organisational Development Day assessed our strengths & weaknesses.

## April

- First Earth Kids program runs
- NSCF Group visit to Cherbourg & Bunya Mountains Camp.

## May

- Nursery refurbishment starts.
- Flag raising ceremony
- Green Roof railing built and student project starts.
- Minor Flooding from Cyclone Debbie.

## June

- Ecological Literacy workshop PD for educators.
- First Lockyer Valley PDC starts.
- Winter Solstice Festival celebrates nature with music, food and learning.

# 2016

## July

- Member Survey sent to all members.
- City Farm Nursery has a stall at the Qld. Garden Show.

## August

- Ko starts as Farm Manager
- Farm stall at Bris. Organic Growers Fair

## September

- Waste stations built
- Brewery waste trialled in compost and Black Soldier Fly larvae breeding stats

## October

- Power upgrade in Farmers Market area
- Organisational Development workshop developed our Belief, Values and Purpose statements

## November

- Enterprise Agreement registered
- Bush Regeneration planting day

## December

- Volunteer lunch
- First Upcycle Market held