

Annual Report



Northey Street City Farm

16 Victoria St. Windsor 4030

07-38578775

info@nscf.org.au

www.nscf.org.au

ABN 16494 592 971

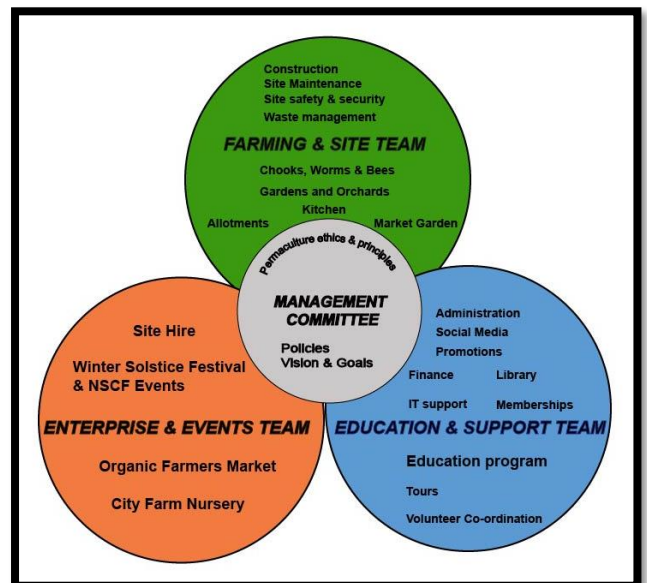
July 2018
to
June 2019

We acknowledge the First Nations custodians of the land on which we work, and we pay our respects to the elders past, present and emerging.



Our Goals

- To provide a demonstration urban permaculture site
- To provide permaculture and sustainability education programs and learning opportunities
- To promote biodiversity and responsible use of natural resources.
- To model effective participatory and inclusive processes and organisational structures
- To provide services to the community through financially responsible enterprises
- To enhance community involvement
- To foster the growth of the Permaculture movement



NSCF Supporters

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

- Our members
- Brisbane City Council
- OzHarvest
- MAX Solutions
- TURSA Employment & Training



Management Committee



2019 Management Committee Coordinator's Report

This year at Northey Street City Farm marks our 25th year of operation. That a small community organisation can survive and thrive for so long, is a testament to the enduring strength of this community. Northey Street is founded on the ideas of permaculture and sustainability, and throughout it's time has been a beacon for demonstrating the need to harmonise human activity with the planet's ecosystems.

So many generous and kind hearted souls make Northey Street what it is today. The tireless work of the volunteers and staff who run the farm is essential to its success. On behalf of the Management Committee, I sincerely thank all those who have contributed. Thanks also to all of the farm members, contractors, educators, stall holders, patrons, and sponsors, who provide crucial support, and bring their creativity and energy to the farm.

Since joining the Management Committee last year, I've seen a continual improvement in many aspects of the operations and functioning of the farm. At all levels, the staff and volunteers are collaborating effectively to pursue the Farm's mission. While sometimes slow-going, the consensus decision-making processes that we follow enables the "Whole-of-farm" to get behind the plans and strategies that emerge. There have been staff changes in several key positions, and while it is always sad to see great colleagues depart, the Farm's culture continues to attract high-quality candidates who are driven by a desire to bring about a better world.

As a not-for-profit organisation, Northey Street is fortunate to have several successful ventures that support our operational expenses, and enable us to function largely independent of government support. The Sunday Organic Market continues to excel, and provides a gorgeous space and platform for the dedicated organic produce farmers and stall holders to bring their goods to the community. The Nursery has undergone quite the transformation, and goes from strength to strength, with an exceptional range of unique and hard to find subtropical plants. The Education programs are innovative and world-class, and offer all manner of people a chance to learn the theory, and practice skills in permaculture, art and healthy living.

Again this year the Winter Solstice Festival was a resounding success, with a sell-out crowd in attendance. It is amazing to see the community band together to put on such a lively celebration, and it continues to be a highlight of the year. We also hosted a fantastic Summer Solstice Festival, and will be looking to build on the successes of these events in the coming months.

Thanks again to the farm members for your support and efforts, we look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, at the Farm on Saturday the 26th of October at 10.30am.

Nicholas Hansen, Management Committee interim Co-ordinator

Decolonisation Action Group



Activities during the year:

- Libby Connors gave a talk on her book 'Warrior'.
- We hosted a visit by Yolgnu elders from the Northern Territory.
- Some DAG members attended the Myall Creek massacre commemoration ceremony.
- The NSCF First Nations Advisory Group met quarterly.
- The group held a workshop on Decolonising Food at the Winter Solstice Festival.

Organisational Development Group



Activities during the year:

- Completed consultation and redrafting of the NSCF Decision making policy.
- Updated the NSCF Planning Cycle & the Whole Farm Meeting topics schedule.

Design Group



Activities during the year:

- Gave advice on the Night Market proposal and Stage design and location.
- Developed an Access and Movement Strategy for the site.
- Made a submission to BCC Enoggera Creek Precinct Plan.
- Provided feedback on the Draft Windsor Sport and Community Park plan.
- Started the toilet block extension design process.

Biodiversity at the Farm



Foam bark
Jagera pseudorhus



Bush Stone Curlews



Star Fruit
Averrhoa carambola

The Farm is a haven for wildlife, an essential part of our ecosystem. A bush care group meets on the first Sunday of every month to maintain the riparian rainforest along Enoggera Creek beside the Farm. They always welcome more people who want to help us meet our goal of promoting biodiversity.

We were excited to see some unusual birds at the Farm this year – Sacred Kingfisher, Boobook Owl, and Striated Pardalote. A White-bellied Sea Eagle flew over the Farm and Bush Stone Curlews nested and hatched chicks on site. The distinctive call of the Australasian Darter (aka. the snakebird) can often be heard around the farm.

A carpet python came to visit the office building, while brush and ring tailed possums and brush turkeys were their usual troublesome selves. Insects included the Indigo flash butterfly, Speckled Line-blue butterfly, Bee-killer assassin bug, and a Tree-running mantid. During our school holiday program, Earth Kids, kids spotted lots of spiders, including a possibly unidentified species. Perhaps it was a response to the drought, but many of the native and exotic fruit trees flowered heavily this year, including the Grumichama, Star Fruit, Hummingbird tree, Candlenut, Native Finger Lime, and Lilly Pilly.



Granadilla vine
Passiflora ligularis



Araneidae anepson



Australasian Darter



Candlenut
Aleurites moluccana



Multiple spider webs



Fig bird



Magenta Lilly Pilly
Syzygium paniculatum



Carpet Python

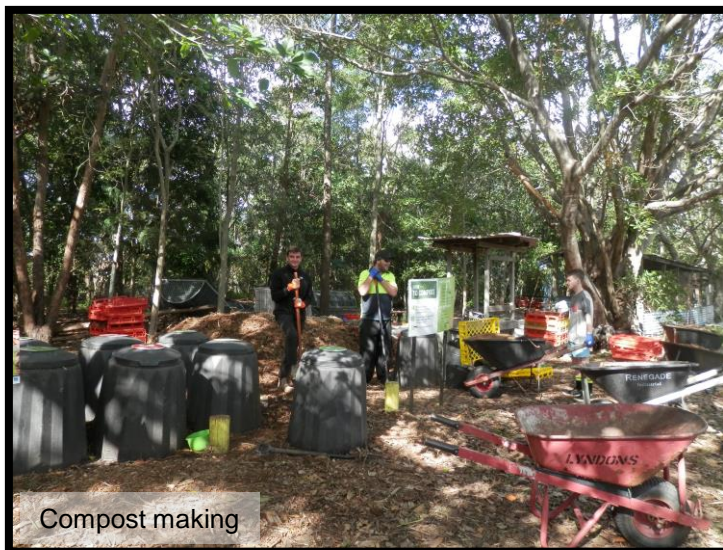


Earth Kid with
nature name



Farming & Site maintenance

- Created an entrance archway and signage for the allotments area.
- Created covers for the market garden and kitchen garden beds.
- Increased intake of food scraps for composting from FareShare.
- Collaborated with a QUT PhD student from Brazil to improve our composting operation.
- Expanded the forest gardens along Northey Street and beside the allotments.
- Created a deep litter chicken run with an improved chicken house.
- Hatched chicks to increase the diversity of our flock.
- Installed 2 drinking water fountains and garden hose storage boxes near taps.
- Built fixed seating as garden edging near the City Farm Nursery and Chai Café.
- Repaired and extended the Backyard Garden pergola to support grape vines.
- Replaced the Backyard Garden picket fence using recycled pickets.



- Approx. 65 cu m of food scraps from local residents and a commercial soup kitchen converted to compost
- Approx. 80 cu m of compost made
- 5000 meals served
- 1100 bunches of produce sold to Windsor Food Collective and Turnstyle Bulk Buyers
- Approx. 140 kg honey harvested
- 9 Native bee hives harvested and split
- 38 allotments in use by members

Farming & Site Team



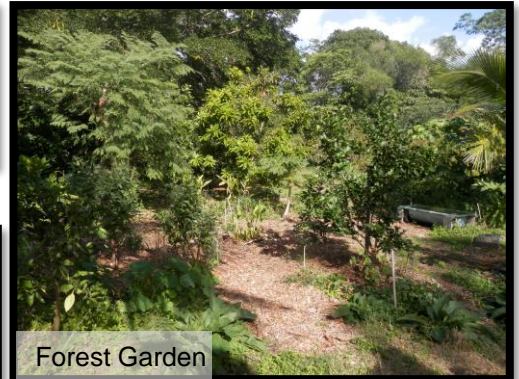
Market Garden covers



Market Garden produce



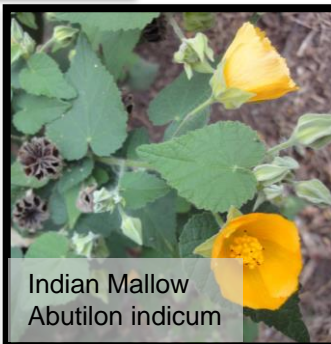
Allotments bamboo entry arch



Forest Garden



Aibika
Abelmoschus manihot



Indian Mallow
Abutilon indicum



Forest garden groundcovers



Honey harvest



Native Bee hive

Farming & Site Team



Fixed seating garden edges



Rebuilding the picket fence



Grapevine Pergola



Painting the picket fence



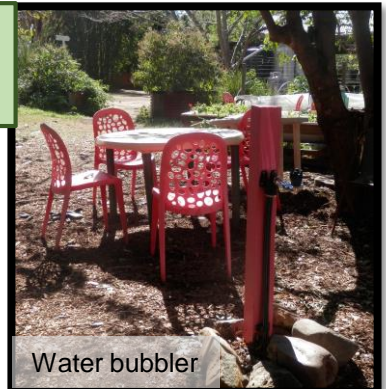
Hose box

Work Experience programs

- 6 Individual Projects
- 60 Places allocated

In the financial year ahead, we look forward to:

- Building a new stage
- Expanding the toilet block
- Creating a dye and fibre plants garden



Water bubbler



Chicks hatched at the Farm



Deep litter chicken run & chicken house



Adult Education

We have had a busy year with a variety of workshops showcasing the various aspects of permaculture from gardening to sustainable housing to social permaculture

Beck Lowe ran a weekend long workshop introducing Brisbane people to the content of David Holmgren's Retrosuburbia book. This was followed by a day-long Retrosuburbia facilitators workshop.

Sustainable Living Workshops included Holistic Decision Making with Dan Palmer, Mushrooms with Heath Reid, Beekeeping, Nature play design, Introduction to Permaculture, as well as Vegan cheese making with Elisabeth Fekonia.



- 43 Sustainable Living Workshops & courses held
- 307 workshop participants
- 40 people graduated from the Permaculture Design Courses





Youth Education

Tours and Activities

Throughout the year we had a steady stream of primary and high schools coming to visit the Farm, as well as other groups. Our most popular programs for school students were the 'Biomes and Food Security' activity for year 9 Geography students and the 'Feeding the World's people' activity for 11 and 12 Geography students. All the groups that visit get a tour of the Farm, and some participate in hands-on activities like composting and propagation. Others harvest items from the garden for salads or cook the pizzas in our cob ovens, and harvest toppings from our gardens.

We have had a lot of international students visit the Farm, as well as a few adult international groups, and these have primarily been from China. We also had several other adult groups and a number of out of school hours care groups in the school holidays visit the farm.

We always get great feedback from our tours and activities. This is thanks to our team of casual tutors which in 2018 – 2019 included Desi, Richard, Stacey, Jenny, Gavin, Rachel and Christel, who worked alongside youth education coordinator Emma Brindal, as well as all the farm staff and volunteers who tend the gardens so well.



- 60 groups of people visited with 2186 participants in total (made up of 13 International study tours, 31 schools, 7 out of school hours care groups and 6 other groups).
- 1427 participants were from local schools; 187 were from out of school hours care groups; 434 were international students or other international guests; 52 were tertiary students and 86 were other adults.



Earth Arts

Bob Mud continues to provide free Earth Arts activities on three days a week, including during the Sunday Organic Farmers Market. Bob provides activities around Earth, Air, Fire and Water to encourage toddlers and their carers to experience contact with nature. The informal playgroups gather at the Farm on Tuesday and Friday mornings.



Earth Kids

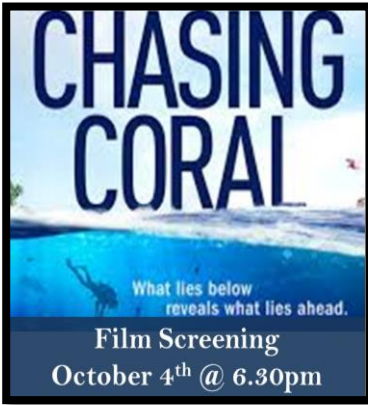
We ran four Earth Kids school holiday programs and one homeschool program in 2018-2019, with 64 participants over the five programs. Rachel and Tali were wonderful staff who joined our Youth Education Coordinator, Emma Brindal, to run these programs. We also had a range of parent and student volunteers who joined in the fun and helped Earth Kids to run smoothly. We had several guest presenters through the year: Robert Whyte who inspired the Earth Kids to find spiders at the farm; Richard Nielsen who split a native bee hive with the children; and Andy Currey from Sun and Stars Bushcraft who did some knife work with the older Earth Kids.

In each program, each child chooses a native animal or plant 'nature name' that can be found at the farm and is likely to be encountered while at the farm. The children usually develop a special connection with their chosen nature name. In 2018 - 2019 we themed our nature names for some of the programs. Participants (including the adult staff and volunteers) in the spring homeschool program were all birds. In perfect timing, our resident pair of bush stone curlews had two chicks before the final session, which delighted the children. On our autumn school holidays program, participants all had tree nature names, and the children created a beautiful ephemeral nature mosaic from leaves, seeds and pods from their nature names.

Our Earth Kids also learnt about seasonal gardening and composting, did lots of Earth Arts, learnt to build and tend fires safely, experienced a range of earth connection practices and games, and witnessed our second bat rescue thanks to one of the Earth Kids spotting the injured bat on her way to Earth Kids.



Education & Support Team



Support Activities

We were fortunate to have continued support from our dedicated volunteers in all aspects of the Farm's activities. 85 new volunteers registered at the volunteer inductions this year. We offered free educational sessions featuring a wide range of topics from internal and external facilitators for our volunteers each Wednesday. Thanks to all the people who gave presentations.

Our social media platforms were very active, sharing upcoming educational activities as well as news from the Markets and Nursery and occasional film and discussion nights.

We created a website for the Australasian Permaculture Convergence which the Farm is hosting in April 2020. The NSCF website was updated regularly. Many new recipes were added to the Markets page and NSCF Plant Lists were added to the Farm page.

Other promotions included a monthly information stall at the Organic Farmers Market, stalls at the Exhibition and Green Heart Fair, updating the monthly Enews layout, and improved signage around the Farm.

People

At 30 June 2019 we had:

- 208 members
- 118 days/month on average donated by volunteers
- 11 Part-time staff

Social Media

- 28670 NSCF Facebook fans
- 7701 Instagram followers
- 4322 E News subscribers
- 364881 website visits/year



NSCF stall at the Exhibition



Wednesday Talk on Trees at the Farm



NSCF - @northeastcityfarm
Markets - @northeastorganicmarket
Nursery - @cityfarmnursery



NSCF - northeastcityfarm
Markets - northeastorganicmarket
Nursery - cityfarmnursery



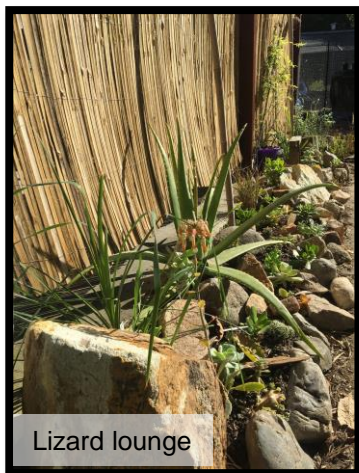
<http://twitter.com/northeaststreet>

Finance

- 326 Payslips
- 2522 Invoices
- 887 Payments

City Farm Nursery

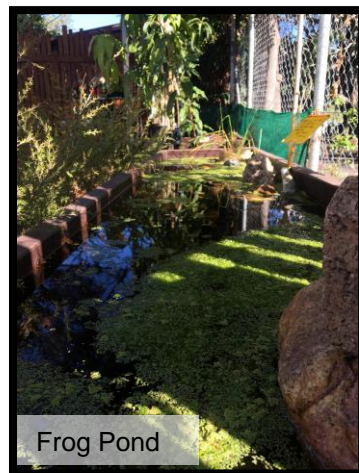
City Farm Nursery welcomed some big changes this year which allowed the space to evolve organically and open it up for more retail and propagation space. We've created a warm and colourful oasis to meet new friends, connect and engage in conversation to share gardening tips and tales, successes and fails on this journey to grow our own food while nourishing the environment that surrounds and supports us.



Lizard lounge

Highlights from the past year include:

- Landscaping areas of the nursery.
- Creating habitats for wildlife including a lizard lounge and frog pond.
- Regular volunteers propagating from seeds.
- An espresso coffee machine from our friends at Byron Bay Coffee creating a vibrant space to chat and relax.
- Talks and workshops during the Winter Solstice Festival.
- Bee split demos by the Farm's Bee Group.
- Children's book readings and kids gardening demo by local author Megan Forward.
- A donated piano from 'Play me I'm yours' as part of Qld Music Month.



Frog Pond



Looking ahead we hope to strengthen the connection between the community and the Farm and Nursery and welcome everyone to join us. We intend to reach out to wider Brisbane to share the knowledge of permaculture and share ideas about how to reduce our waste, increase diversity and productivity within our homes to create an abundance of food and health. We continue to support the handful of small, ethical, family-run suppliers who are in line with the ethics and principles of our Farm.

- \$4.50 pots of herbs and veggies were the biggest sellers, making up 22% of total sales for the year
- We sold 1713 Flying Fox ice blox making up 9% of total sales
- 1705 organic seedling punnets were sold
- 1023 packets of seeds were sold
- Lavender, Rosemary and Grevilleas were other top sellers
- BCC Free Trees were very popular this year
- Coffee machine has been a great addition to the nursery with 541 coffees made in 5 months
- Blueberries, citrus and Midyim berries were top selling fruit trees
- 18 Copies of Retrosuburbia were sold.





Organic Farmers Market



The Organic Farmers Market has run every Sunday this year and continues to be well attended by loyal customers as well as new ones. The proportion of regular vs casual stallholders has increased, and the weekly stallholder attendance is slightly up.

We celebrated National Bee Day in May with honey tasting and information on bee attracting plants.

Market customers were entertained by a range of buskers as well as a visit from a pop-up choir, Cheap Trills.



At 30 June 2019 we had a total of 91 stalls:

- 9 Coffee and Hot Food stallholders
- 21 Farmers
- 6 Farmer-Resellers
- 15 Resellers
- 11 Food Makers
- 13 Makers
- 6 Upcycle stallholders
- 10 Wellness stallholders

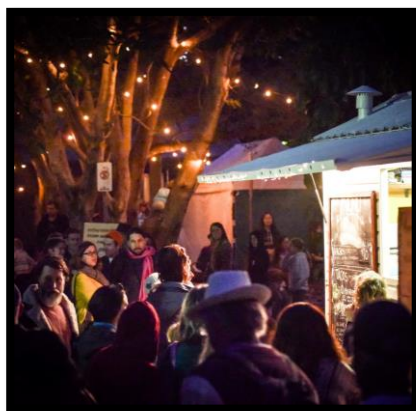




Winter Solstice Festival



- 26 Workshops
- 10 Performances
- 2000 participants



Looking back over 25 years – 1994 to 2019



1994



2019



2015



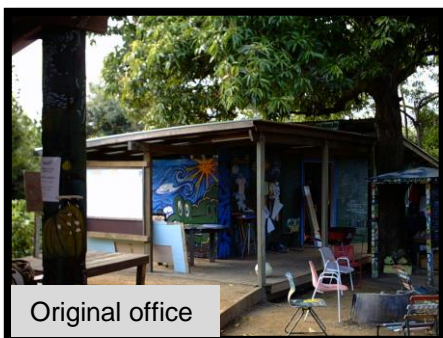
Lunch under the mango tree



2003 AGM



2013 NSCF Band

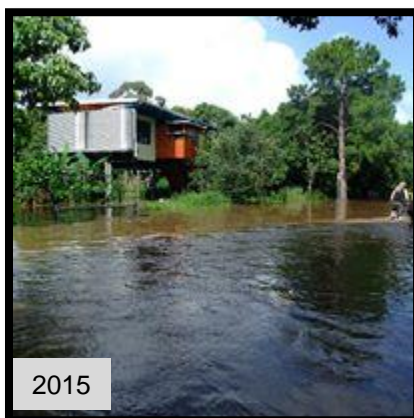


Original office





Winter Solstice Festivals



FLOODS

