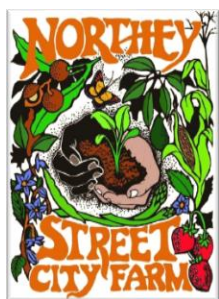


Northey Street City Farm
ANNUAL REPORT

July 2019 to June 2020

NORTHEY STREET CITY FARM



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NSCF - @northeystreetcityfarm
Markets - @northeystorganicmarket
Nursery - @cityfarmnursery



NSCF - northeystreetcityfarm
Markets - northeystorganicmarket
Nursery - cityfarmnursery



<http://twitter.com/northeystreet>

We acknowledge the First Nations custodians of the land on which we work, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and Elders past, present and future.

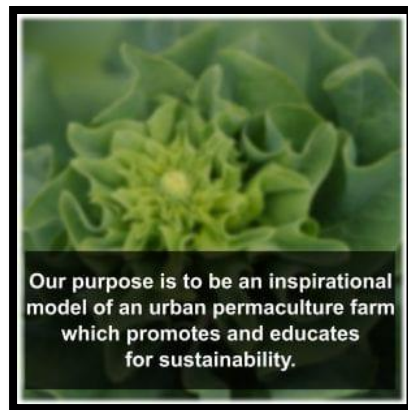
NSCF Supporters

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

- Our members
- Brisbane City Council
- Bank Australia
- Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- OzHarvest
- MAX Solutions
- TURSA Employment & Training

NSCF Goals

1. To provide a demonstration urban permaculture site.
2. To provide permaculture and sustainability education programs and learning opportunities.
3. To promote biodiversity and responsible use of natural resources.
4. To model effective participatory and inclusive processes and organisational structures.
5. To provide services to the community through environmentally, socially and financially responsible enterprises.
6. To encourage community involvement in our activities.
7. To foster the growth of the Permaculture movement.
8. To include First Nations culture & knowledge in collaboration with First Nations people.



2019-20 Management Committee COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Looking back over the past year, the pandemic has been a major challenge for us, as for everyone. The closure of the Farm at the height of the lockdown brought a terrible sense of 'déjà vu' as we recalled the previous lockdown due to soil contamination some years ago, but on this occasion, our dedicated staff and a small group of experienced volunteers have been able to keep the organisation ticking over and to maintain a safe and functioning site.

The Organic Farmers' Market and the City Farm Nursery have been able to keep operating safely under Covid rules and responded well to the demand for organic food, plants and gardening supplies. The decline in our revenue due to the pandemic has been mostly compensated for by Jobseeker payments from the federal government and two small grants from Brisbane City Council, for which we are very grateful. So it is pleasing to report that we have weathered the storm in good shape, thus far.

One sad effect of the pandemic was the complete cessation for a period of our popular education programs, but they are up and running again, with healthy booking numbers already. Another was the postponement or cancellation of a number of events, including the Australian Permaculture Convergence and the Winter Solstice celebration, but we are planning to stage both events next year.

Our staff and key volunteers rose to the challenge of the pandemic magnificently and our broader community of members, volunteers, supporters, students and customers has also stood with us throughout. The Management Committee and I are very grateful for all your efforts and support, and I personally am also grateful for the work and support of all members of the Management Committee.

We conducted a major review and re-write of our Strategic Plan over the past year, with the result being a commitment to re-focus our efforts in several key areas over the next three years. They include making our site more attractive, sustainable and readable, increasing its biodiversity, aiming to be a zero-waste site and improving our water and energy efficiency. We also aim to provide more opportunities for volunteers and more support for our staff and to increase our understanding of and engagement with First Nations people and issues.

Our commitment to the Permaculture Ethics of Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share have stood us in good stead in these challenging times and will, I am sure, continue to do so as we navigate the inevitable further disruptions that are likely in the years ahead from the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and social stress. Our simple founding aim of demonstrating 'how to live sustainably in the city' will be needed more than ever.

Dick Copeman



BIODIVERSITY AT THE FARM



Common Crow butterfly



Orchard Swallowtail butterfly



Blue Tiger butterfly

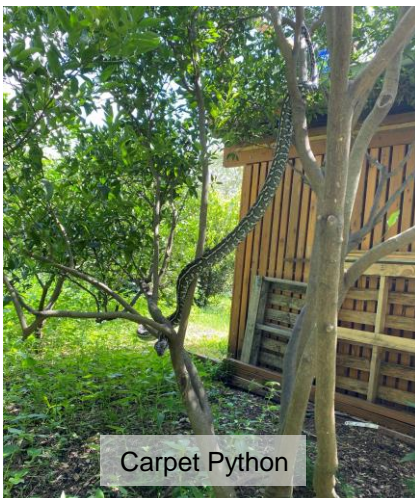
In late Summer 2019 Brisbane, and the Farm, was treated to unusually large flocks of butterflies of many different types. Some of them are shown above.

Amongst many other birds at the farm, some more unusual ones that were spotted include golden whistlers, silvereyes, and a lone fairy wren. Our resident southern boobook often has its presence given away by a mob of noisy miners. As we are encouraging predator birds like the owls, to keep the ecosystem more balanced, we installed a barn owl nesting box. The resident bush stone curlews hatched a couple of chicks in spring and one survived. Other birds making appearances included sacred kingfishers, white-faced herons, and spangled drongos.

We also had carpet python snakes breeding on or near the Farm as we saw an adult snake a few times and found a baby in a hat hanging outside our office door.

Dwarf Sedge frogs were at home in the water plant area of the Nursery. And lizards took advantage of the many habitats we've created in the Nursery and around the rest of the Farm.

Flying foxes are important pollinators of many native trees and we are lucky to have a roosting site near the Farm. In the Spring when a lot of flying foxes were having a hard time in the dry weather, we called Bat Conservation and Rescue to come out and take a few struggling bats away to be cared for.



Carpet Python



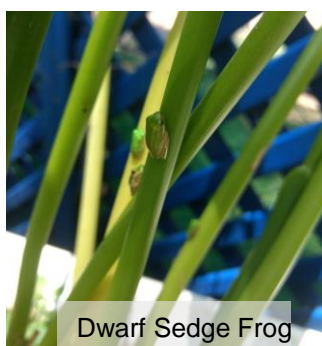
Baby Carpet Python



Spangled drongo



Native paper wasp

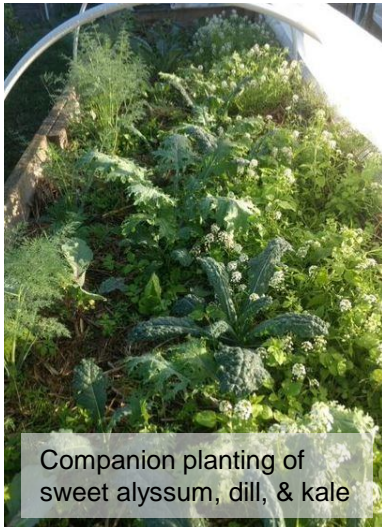


Dwarf Sedge Frog



Barn Owl nesting box

FARMING & SITE MAINTENANCE



Companion planting of sweet alyssum, dill, & kale



Monitoring plantings on the Green Roof



Kitchen garden flowers & veg

- Installed covers on some of the Kitchen Garden beds
- Increased diversity of the plantings in the Kitchen Garden wicking beds and in the Market Garden.
- Planted salt-tolerant plants in the North-East corner.
- Increased the number of native plants in the forest gardens.
- QUT students continued monitoring the native grass and groundcover plantings on the Green Roof.
- Continued trialling different bush regeneration techniques.



Lush growth on the Green Roof



No-dig bush regeneration planting



Salt-tolerant plantings



Vegetable & seedling production



- 4000 meals served
- 1383 bunches of produce sold to Windsor Food Collective and Turnstyle Bulk Buyers
- 1800 punnets of seedlings sold to the City Farm Nursery
- 36 allotments in use by members



Honey production



Native Bee honeycomb



- Approximately 160 kg honey harvested
- 7 Native beehives harvested and split



Education tour tutors learn to harvest honey



Rescued native beehive in a log

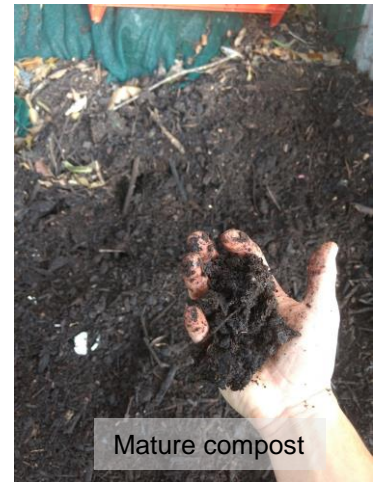
Compost production



Windrow compost system



Compost sieve



Mature compost

- Approximately 65 cu m of food scraps from local residents and a commercial soup kitchen were converted to compost.
- Approximately 85 cu m of compost made.
- 30 bags of NSCF compost sold in the City Farm Nursery.



Allotments compost bays



Windrow composting

New compost bays were built to replace the windrow composting system



ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Despite a difficult year of weather extremes and a pandemic, thanks to the dedicated staff and stallholders the Organic Farmers Market supplied fresh local produce on every Sunday of the year. Highlights of the year included a ukulele circle event in February, World Bee Day in May, several performances from the Extinction Rebellion Choir, and a Winter Solstice-themed market in June. There were also many other competitions and activities to enhance the Market shopping experience.

The Market's COVID-19 response, described at the end of this report, was a real community effort which meant that it could stay open with a reduced number of stalls..



At 30 June 2020 we had a total of 96 stalls:

- 9 Coffee and Hot Food stallholders
- 20 Farmers
- 6 Farmer-Resellers
- 16 Resellers
- 12 Food Makers
- 17 Makers
- 8 Upcycle stallholders
- 8 Wellness stallholders



CITY FARM NURSERY



Bush tucker plants and farm fresh raw honey were extremely popular items in the City Farm Nursery this year. We also sold lots of seedlings and seeds during the short period of COVID 19 panic buying. Many of the seedlings were produced at the Farm.

The Nursery included more certified organic retail products this year. We installed a large commercial fridge and now sell certified organic juice, iced tea, sparkling drinks, Kombucha, and coconut water for very hot days when we need a little refresher. We now also stock our own NSCF reusable keep cups.

There are now 4 native beehives in the Nursery amongst other habitats for frogs and lizards.

Thank you to our great team of volunteers this year. We would not be who we are without your regular help and support.



Carissa keeping up the supply of vege seedlings

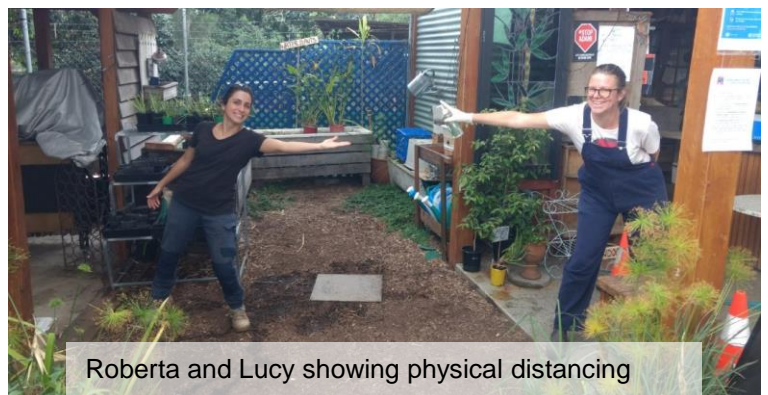


Vege seedlings



Wildlife habitat

- Small pots of herbs and veggies were the biggest sellers, making up 19% of total sales for the year
- 2327 seedling punnets were sold
- 1108 packets of seeds were sold



Roberta and Lucy showing physical distancing

EVENTS



The Farm decided to trial a monthly **Organic Night Food Market** and we launched the event at the Summer Solstice 2019. It was a great evening with about 750 people attending. This was followed by a Jazz evening in January, with 500 people attending, and a First Nations themed event in February, just after COVID came to town, and numbers dropped to around 300. Even though we had a stellar line up for the Autumn Equinox, COVID19 restrictions meant we had to cancel the event.

COVID19 restrictions meant we had to cancel all our up-coming events from late March.

As we were unable to host the usual Winter Solstice Festival, we opted to have a **Winter Solstice themed Sunday Market**. We were very grateful for the people who shared their intentions for the year, which were burned in a sacred fire that evening.

We also trialled a **NSCF food stall** at the Farmers Market on a Sunday, which we hope to further develop in the coming year.

We understand the impact COVID has had on our arts community as well as on our events, and we look forward to developing safe events for us all to participate in and enjoy in the future.



ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education program continues to grow steadily with increased numbers of participants in the Sustainable Living Workshops most Saturdays and in the Permaculture Design Courses.

We also ran popular short courses including holistic decision making Permaculture Practicals, Introduction to Permaculture, Retrosuburbia, Holistic Orchards, and the new offering, Permaculture Potager. Another successful new offering was the Crystal Waters Permaculture Village tour.

The 3 Permaculture Design Courses were taught by Adult Education Co-ordinator, Michael Wardle, and the teaching team of Kerri, Krystelle, Jenny, and Tim.

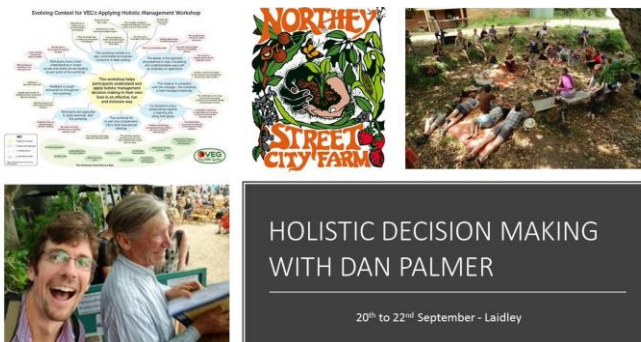
We shut down the education program in late March due to COVID restrictions and rescheduled the April to June workshops to later in the year.



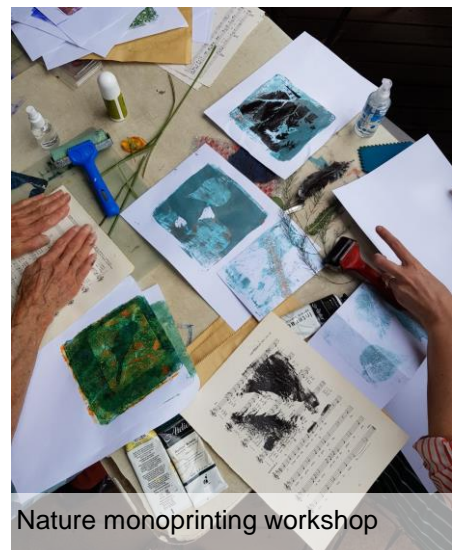
PDC students making compost



For the love of bees workshop



- 30 Sustainable Living Workshops & short courses held.
- 441 workshop participants.
- 47 people graduated from the 3 Permaculture Design Courses.



Nature monoprinting workshop

YOUTH EDUCATION



Youth Education tutors



Tours and Excursions

We had a range of people of all ages visit the farm in 2019 – 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the number of visitors has been much less than usual, but those that visited before March were able to see how our urban permaculture farm operates and do a range of hands-on activities including composting, propagation, feeding chickens, harvesting and cooking from the garden, Earth Arts and more.

For schools, student visits are an opportunity to integrate learning on a range of topics including sustainability, food security, reducing waste, living things, food webs and more.

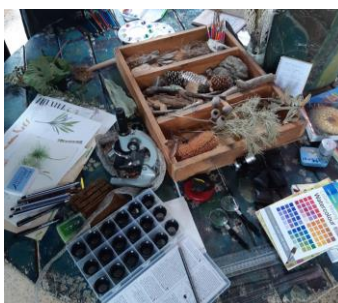
We receive a lot of great feedback from our tours and activities, thanks to our team of casual education tutors. In 2019 – 2020 our team included Lucy, Ray, Gavin, Jenny, Christel, Stacey, Desi and Richard, who worked alongside Youth Education Coordinator Emma Brindal.

Professional Development Workshops for teachers

We ran a full day 'Outdoor Learning and the Curriculum' workshop for teachers in November 2019. Workshop participants learnt about approaches to outdoor experiential learning. They experienced and reflected on a range of outdoor activities that can be linked to the curriculum.

Activities included nature journaling with guest presenter Bethan Burton, 'Sit Spots', a 'Web of Life' activity and a 'Council of All Beings'.

An online webinar on this topic was also held in June 2020.



- 21 groups of people visited with 572 participants in total (made up of 6 International study tours, 3 schools, 6 out of school hours care groups and 6 other groups).
- 146 participants were from local schools; 206 were from out of school hours care groups; 120 were international students or other international guests; 12 were tertiary students and 88 were other adults.

Earth Kids



Nature journalling



Learning to grow veges

We ran three Earth Kids school holiday programs and one homeschool program in 2019-2020, with 65 participants over the 4 programs.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cancel our autumn school holiday program and autumn homeschool program. Instead we ran a webinar for parents on nature connection and outdoor learning which got great feedback. We were very happy to be able to hold our winter Earth Kids program in June /July 2020 again.

Our Earth Kids staff Rachel, Gavin, Christel and Jenny joined our Youth Education Coordinator, Emma Brindal, to run these programs through the year. We also had parent and student volunteers who joined in the fun and helped Earth Kids to run smoothly.

Favourite activities of Earth Kids through the year have included planting, tasting from the garden, tree climbing, games, shelter building, pizza making in the cob oven, fire tending and adventure challenges. We had several guest presenters through the year: Aaron Saunders a First Nations man who shared his knowledge about native plants and their uses; Bethan Burton from Journaling with Nature who introduced the children to nature journaling; and Tali Shelley from Bushtekniq who worked with the children to plant some natives in the Earth Kids area.



Learning about native plant uses



Playing games



Planting a Bunya Nut tree



Campfire cooking



Bamboo construction

EARTH ARTS



Bob Mud continued 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.



SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

People

At 30 June 2020 we had:

- 226 members
- 75 new volunteers recruited during the FY
- 124 days/month on average donated by volunteers
- 13 Part-time staff
- 12 Individual Projects and 95 places allocated in the Work Experience (WEX) program in the FY



Volunteers' Lunch Dec 19

Social Media

- 31,571 NSCF Facebook fans
- 9680 Instagram followers
- 5191 E News subscribers
- 364,475 website visits/year



Wednesday talk

Finance

- 379 Payslips
- 2702 Invoices issued
- 963 Payments made



New noticeboard being decorated



Whole Farm meeting

DECOLONISATION ACTION GROUP



The DAG group met regularly and had many interesting discussions on decolonisation and white privilege, some around a campfire with members of our First Nations Advisory Group.

We appointed a First Nations Engagement Co-ordinator, Emily McConochie, for 5 months with a grant from Bank Australia. She ran a session on 'Decolonisation 101' for the NSCF community; ran a public workshop on 'Remembering our Radical Roots' in the lead-up to Invasion Day; and guest presented at an Outdoor Learning workshop for educators. She also encouraged some important conversations relating to First Nations culture and engagement at the farm.

The group organised a public talk by author Ray Kerkhove on 'Campsites of Brisbane' which was very well attended.

First Nations involvement was encouraged in all aspects of the Farm:

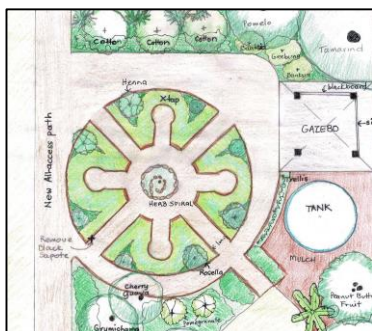
- Aaron Saunders was a guest presenter at Earth Kids - he taught the children about local native plants and foods.
- Two year-groups from the Murri School visited the Farm, and our Permaculture Design Course students did their garden designs at the Murri School. One person took up the first Nations PDC part-scholarship.
- We held a First Nations themed Night Market, with performances from Ethan Enoch, Balairi and a native foods workshop. Through this event we raised money to support gardens for First Nations organisations.
- The City Farm Nursery expanded its range of native food plants.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP



The next 3-year Strategic Planning process was organised by the OD group. Staff, Management Committee and key volunteers participated in workshops in November & December. Linda Parmeter facilitated the process which revised the Farm's Goals and developed Objectives. Each Team then developed their Actions to achieve the Objectives.

DESIGN GROUP



Activities during the year:

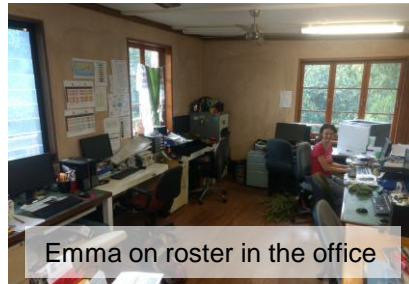
- Liaised with architects on the new toilet block design.
- Submitted a development application for the new stage.
- Approved the Dye and Fiber garden design.

2020 PANDEMIC

As mentioned in almost every report above, the COVID19 pandemic had major impacts on the Farm for the last four months of the financial year.

As soon as the pandemic was declared, Ko and Jody set up wash stations and we started physical distancing on site. We made the difficult decision to move the Australasian Permaculture Convergence, planned for April, a year ahead. We also cancelled our largest event of the year, the Winter Solstice Festival.

By late March we cancelled or rescheduled all our education activities, closed the WEX and volunteer programs, and many staff started working from home. We were able to retain all our staff thanks to the Jobkeeper payment.



The Farm and Site staff continued coming on site to do essential maintenance with a small group of long-term volunteers. They were kept busy setting up wash stations and temporary fencing to ensure the Market and City Farm Nursery could stay open.

The Organic Farmers Market and Farm teams worked hard to ensure they could keep the supply of organic vegetables available to shoppers. The site was fenced so that the number of patrons could be restricted, marks were painted on the floor to show correct distancing, wash stations were set up, and extra staff were employed to monitor numbers and physical distancing. Market stallholders put up 'sneeze guard' shields and restricted the number of customers in their stall, and the stalls were more spread out.

The City Farm Nursery also changed the way it operated to enable physical distancing. It reduced its opening times to only the weekends, changed the layout, set up an online store, and stopped serving coffee. They also had lots of extra work sourcing stock, especially vegetable seedlings, to supply the demand from panic gardeners for a few weeks.



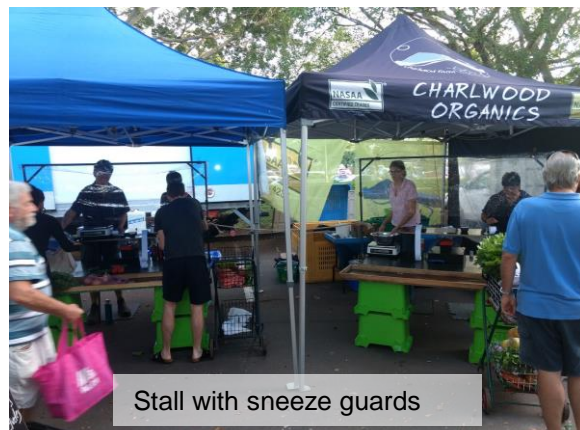
Wash stations



Queue at the Market stalls



Queue to enter the Market



Stall with sneeze guards