

Northey Street City Farm

ANNUAL REPORT



July 2021 to June 2022

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.

Our purpose is to be an inspirational model of an urban permaculture farm which promotes and educates for sustainability. We believe that the dominant way of life is unsustainable, but by practicing permaculture we can create an environmentally, socially and economically just world.

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.

CONTACT NORTHEY STREET CITY FARM



16 Victoria St. Windsor Q4030
07-38578775
info@nscf.org.au
www.nscf.org.au

ABN 16494592 971



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



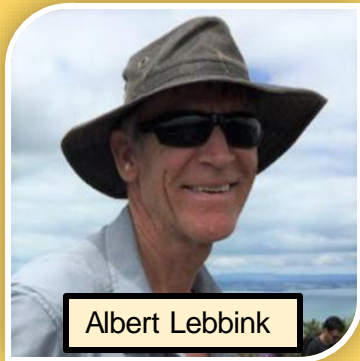
NSCF - northeastcityfarm
Markets - northeastorganicmarket
Nursery - cityfarmnursery



<http://twitter.com/northeaststreet>

Model effective participatory and inclusive processes and organisational structures

Management Committee COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Albert Lebbink

The year has been impacted by on-going Covid 19 concerns and severe flooding in March this year from which the farm is still recovering.

Our main recovery tasks are to finalise the cleaning of toilets, kitchen, and workshop spaces. Some of our workshop spaces will require reconstruction and the much-needed multi-purpose space that was about to start construction has been delayed. The proposed new toilet block is also on hold.

Our PDC coordinator, Michael, has been undertaking a project to rehabilitate our various garden beds and plots to neutralise any soil contamination from the flooding and this task is proceeding well.

The City Farm Nursery is back into full service with the addition of a coffee machine to encourage patrons and members to relax with a coffee in this pleasant space.

Education programs are recovering well, and we look forward to a full program in the coming year.

Bob Mud's kids earth play program is also back to full operation..

Sunday markets are getting close to their normal operation with a couple of stall changes, and patrons returning to take advantage of the organic produce on sale as well as enjoying the farm environment and perhaps stopping for a quick bite to eat at our pie stall or a brunch at our café which is also back in operation or just a coffee in the Nursery.

Several Farm activities are still in recovery mode including our kitchen garden and compost production.

In addition to these challenges, the Farm has had, and will have, a few staff changes.

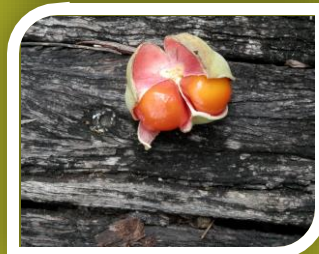
All these changes have led to some budgetary challenges and prompted us to undertake a full review of the Farm's activities and staff structure and we are confident of a clear outcome and future direction by the end of the year.

It is a challenging year for us, and I wish to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to all our staff, Management Committee members, volunteers and supporters for their perseverance and commitment through what has been another difficult and disrupted year.



Provide a demonstration urban permaculture site

FARMING



Despite the Covid lockdowns and flood devastation to the site we continued to demonstrate urban permaculture on site in the times between.

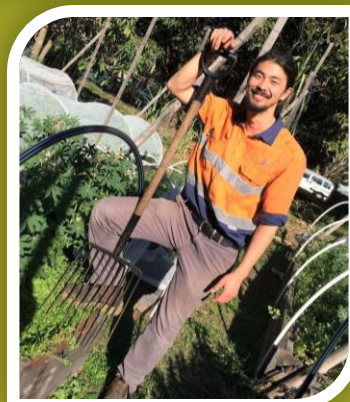
Grass mowing was a major task this year as the wet weather encouraged continuous growth of grass and weeds.

The Kitchen Garden received a makeover with plantings of herbs, flowers, and vegetables. Thanks to Moira who did much of the work.

We continued to support research on site. A group of Griffith Uni students who had set up and monitored the Green Roof planting had a paper describing their findings published in a scientific journal.

The Market Garden and allotment beds were contaminated in the flood and a group of volunteers with Michael Wardle have been trialling bioremediation techniques to deal with it.

A group of volunteers kept the compost production going in the early part of the year. Other volunteers looked after the chickens and the forest gardens. The beekeepers looked after the bees, including regular monitoring of the hives for the Varroa mite and other diseases.



We farewelled Ko Oishi our Farming & Site Manager in September. Neale McAlpine is currently acting in the position. Hamish Fairbrother is the Farm Co-ordinator.

Provide a demonstration urban permaculture site

SITE MAINTENANCE



The February Flood had a massive impact on our site, but we have been busy improving the site before and after it.

The toilet block was painted and refurbished, including installing a hand dryer and possum proofing the walls.

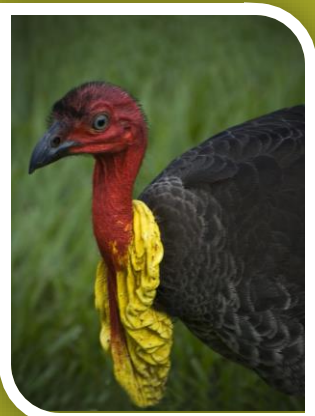
The electrical systems were improved with more security lighting and a new Nursery sub-board was installed. We upgraded all our security systems after some thefts. We also upgraded the Wi-Fi system on site.

The Nursery was possum proofed to reduce stock losses and damage. And we were constantly dealing with brush turkeys moving our mulch.

A concrete floor was built in the Events shed to make it easier to use; the posts in the kitchen were decorated with decoupage and paintings; and the seating platforms for the Market customers were rebuilt to protect the fig tree roots. They were swept away in the flood but have now been put back in place.

Thankfully, we had decluttered the site yard before the flood came, so we reduced some of the potential mess. A 6m² skip bin and 4 ute loads material was disposed of.

There were also lots of routine tasks to do, including providing lunches for everyone on site on three days a week. Thanks to the kitchen crew who kept us all fed even during the flood clean-up.



*Provide permaculture and sustainability education programs
and learning opportunities*

ADULT EDUCATION

The adult education program has faced challenges in the last 12 months due to the COVID outbreak and flooding. 4 workshops had to be cancelled or postponed due to COVID and flooding events which did affect our income, and there was slight decrease in numbers due to these events.

We ran 29 popular short courses and workshops for 364 participants. Workshop topics included Worm Farming and Composting, our Introduction to Permaculture, Integrated Pest Management, Edible Flowers, Hands on Wicking beds, Witchy Brews, Serious Backyard Abundance and many more.

The 2 Permaculture Design Courses had 40 participants and were taught by Michael Wardle, Adult Education Co-Ordinator, and the teaching team.

3 Saturdays
9, 16, 23 April 2022
9am to 4pm each day

Serious Backyard Abundance



Saturday 10 July 2021
9am to 4 pm

The Frugal Gardener



Integrated Pest Management in your garden with Jenny Kato

Saturday 13 November 2021
9 am to 12 pm



Worm Farming and Composting at Home with Brian Donaldson

Saturday 16 October 2021, 9am to 12pm

Provide permaculture and sustainability education programs and learning opportunities

YOUTH EDUCATION

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

We had a range of people of all ages visit the farm for excursions and tours in the 2021 – 2022 financial year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the numbers of groups that visited was less than usual. These groups have been able to see how our urban permaculture farm operates and do a range of hands-on activities including composting, propagation, feeding chickens, tasting from the garden, eco-arts and more.

16 groups of people visited: 8 schools and 8 other groups, including out-of-school hours care groups and groups of adults. 549 tour participants in total visited the farm; 325 of these were school students.

This year we also developed a new education kit for teachers for the year 9 'Biomes and Food Security' Geography unit, which includes permaculture case studies from around the world.

In term 2 of 2021 we also started running a regular 'bush kindy' session for Brookes Street Early Education Centre each Friday morning, which has been lots of fun. We've been doing eco-arts, building cubbies, gardening and exploring the farm.

We receive a lot of wonderful feedback about our tours and activities, thanks to our team of casual education staff. In 2021 – 2022 our team included Belinda, Desi, Gavin, Lucy, Nadine, Rachel, Stacey, Dave, Moira and Richard, who worked alongside Youth Education Coordinator Emma Brindal.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

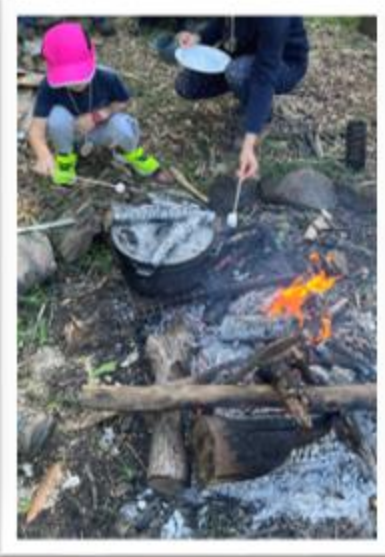
We ran our 'Successful School Gardening' workshop again for teachers and school community members, run by Jenny Kato and Emma Brindal. We had lots of positive feedback and will continue to offer this workshop in the future to support schools to establish and maintain thriving gardens that the school community can engage with and learn in.

We also ran the 'Outdoor Learning and the Curriculum' workshop for teachers and other educators, run by Emma Brindal and guest presenter Bethan Burton from Journaling with Nature. Workshop participants learnt about approaches to outdoor experiential learning, and experienced and reflected on a range of outdoor activities that can be linked to the curriculum, including nature journaling, 'Sit Spots', a 'Web of Life' activity and a 'Council of All Beings'.



Provide permaculture and sustainability education programs and learning opportunities

Earth Kids



We ran four Earth Kids school holiday programs and three homeschool programs in the 2021-2022 financial year, with 145 participants in total.

We were grateful to our guest presenters through the year: Bruce Morgan from Murri Tukka, who introduced the children to many edible native plants; Rebecca from Bat Conservation and Rescue who introduced the children to an orphaned flying fox and talked about the importance of bats for our ecosystems; Claudine from Reptile Adventures who brought some wonderful reptiles for the children to meet, and members of the 'Learn About Birds' Group who took the children for bird walks to discover and learn about the birds that live on site and along the creek.

The Earth Kids particularly enjoyed all the games we play, as well as building shelters, planting, tasting from the garden, tree climbing, fire tending, cooking on the fire, adventure challenges, and learning about their bird and animal 'nature names'.

Our Earth Kids staff Cris, Rachel, Gavin, Nadine, and Moira joined our Youth Education Coordinator, Emma, 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.

Running Earth Kids is a huge team effort, and a lot of fun for us all!



BIODIVERSITY at the Farm

The Farm now has many mature native plants and this year we developed two self-guided walks to help visitors learn about and appreciate them.

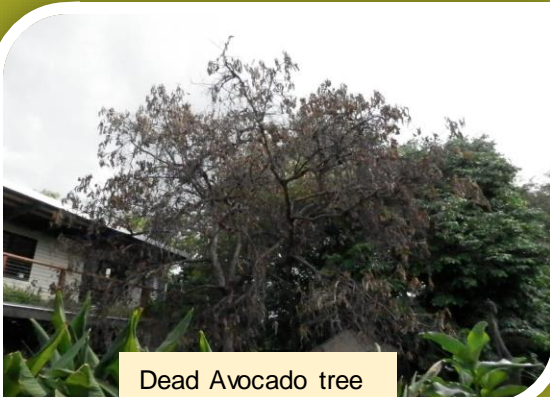
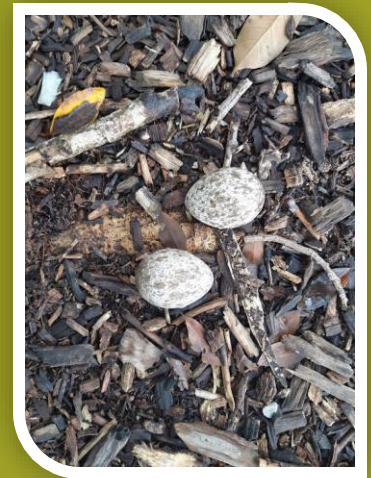
The first is a Sensory walk which includes audio recordings, accessible through our website, to guide you through some mindfulness activities. The walk is through the riparian forest of the Bowen Heritage Trail.

The second, shorter walk is through the useful native plants around the 'village green' with descriptions of the plants listed on the website.

The Earth Kids went birdwatching and spotted some interesting things – bush stone curlew eggs, a kingfisher, and superb fairy wrens

Most of the fruit and native trees had a good flowering season after the heavy rains. The candlenut tree dropped all its seed within a few days of the flood, while an avocado and two loquat trees died.

The brush turkeys, possums and water dragons have all been active despite the disruption of the floods. A butcher bird visited the office and a brush tailed possum used the Nursery shelving as a sleeping spot.



Encourage community involvement in our activities

EARTH ARTS



Thank you to our long-term volunteer Bob Mud, who continued to provide free Earth Arts activities three days a week.

Earth Arts is self-directed learning through creative play in, and with Nature. There is a drop in playgroup every Tuesday and Friday on the Village Green - all morning from 9am. Sundays are a casual community clay art studio during the Market and is for kids of all ages.

Community Involvement

Over 50,000 people visit the Farm each year to attend the activities on site. From Organic Farmers Market and City Farm Nursery customers, to workshop and course participants to volunteers, and staff.

We are grateful to our dedicated long-term volunteers who kept the Farm going through the pandemic and flood. And we welcomed many new volunteers, including TAFE horticulture students and trade school students.

We continued our free farm tours and Wednesday Talks whenever we were able.

Ronni Martin - Education and Support Manager, Karen Lavin - Promotions and Admin Co-ordinator Kai Kamada-Laws - Temporary Promotions Co-ordinator, and Adnan Al-Abdulla - Finance Co-ordinator, kept the wheels running smoothly in the background.

POST-FLOOD REVIEW

In 2022 the Management Committee initiated a process to review the organisational structure of the farm, the impact of the flood, and how we might become more resilient in the face of future climate impacts.

A review committee was formed to guide this review, and we engaged Nancy Cole as an external facilitator to support us through this process. We held a first meeting as part of this process in June, which focused on the impact of the flood and how we might respond. We undertook a survey of our supporters in early July to gather ideas for future activities.

The review process will be continuing through the latter half of 2022.



Social Media

- ❖ 35,014 NSCF Facebook fans
- ❖ 13,114 Instagram followers
- ❖ 5,306 E News subscribers
- ❖ 76,796 website visits/year

EVENTS



Events at the Farm were greatly impacted by the pandemic, as they were nationally. We had planned to host 4 events a year at Solstice and Equinox times and unfortunately had to cancel our Spring Equinox Event in September 2021.

Desi Achilleos, Enterprise and Events Manager, and the Events team organised the events that were held this year.

Our Summer Solstice was held the day the Queensland Government introduced public health policies allowing only vaccinated people to attend events and this created a lot of tension in the community.

We held our Autumn Equinox as a free event at the Organic Farmers Market and it created a lovely atmosphere on the day.

We were greatly relieved when the mandate lifted, and our Winter Solstice event could go ahead with all community involvement regardless of their vaccination status due to the majority of individuals choosing to be vaccinated by that time. The program featured 8 music performances and 35 workshops and activities.

It was a great event and the feedback from stall holders, staff, volunteers, performers and patrons was excellent.

We also had several site hires during the year including 50th birthday parties, 21st events and even a wedding. The Farm is such a lovely site to hire, and we hope we can continue to share the atmosphere with the community with provide site hire opportunities.



Provide services to the community through environmentally, socially and financially responsible enterprises.

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET

Despite another year of challenges, Northey Street Organic Farmers Market continued to provide an outlet for farmers and local businesses to sell certified organic produce, food, and drinks; and ethically made items.

In September, we won the Organic Retail Outlet category in the 2021 Organic Consumer Choice Awards.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacted stallholder attendance with at least one absence per week since December. NSCF started our own pie stall at the Market this year and recently restarted serving coffees in the Nursery as well.

The February floods lead to the cancellation of only two markets; it was heartwarming to see everybody in the community come together and ready the site for trading again so soon after a natural disaster.

Following the initial phase of flood recovery, the Market hosted a special Autumn Equinox event in March with performances and a ceremony.

And in June we received the sad news that Market stallholder Ian Steinhardt (Nourishing Biodynamics) passed away. Ian was a well-known and well-respected member of the biodynamic farming community. Best wishes to Ian's wife Jennifer, and their family and friends, over the coming months. We will be thinking of you.

Simon Calcinai, the Markets Coordinator, worked with staff and stallholders to keep the markets thriving.

At 30 June 2022 we had a total of 107 stalls:

- ❖ 14 Charity and Community stallholders
- ❖ 5 Coffee and Hot Food stallholders
- ❖ 19 Farmers
- ❖ 5 Farmer-Resellers
- ❖ 14 Resellers
- ❖ 13 Food Makers
- ❖ 19 Makers
- ❖ 12 Upcycle stallholders
- ❖ 6 Wellness stallholders



Provide services to the community through environmentally, socially and financially responsible enterprises.

CITY FARM NURSERY

This past year has been one with many changes in the Nursery. We are so grateful to have our volunteer crew return after the devastating flood and having their support has meant we've had time to work on all those little jobs we couldn't get around to.

The site crew volunteers have also helped us to make many improvements to the look and safety of the Nursery which will continue to happen as a result of consultation with designer Shannon D'Souza.

A big thankyou to Nahshon Pinto who worked with us to develop a strategic business plan for the Nursery, we're looking forward to implementing some exciting new ideas to make our Nursery a beautiful destination.

We have solved all the technical problems we had with internet access and installed a new Point of Sale system which makes serving our customers much easier and more efficient.

In a collaboration with Frank Jordan the butterfly man, we've been able to propagate and sell butterfly host plants this year.

This year we found some new suppliers to expand our range and are embarking on a plan to propagate more of our own stock to sell niche Permaculture plants to the public.

Thank you to Belinda Kau, Emma Davis, Lizzie Gallagher and Roberta Ramalho, our staff, for their work under difficult conditions this year.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support us by buying local, sharing learnings and generously giving your time and energy, we couldn't do it without you.



Include First Nations culture & knowledge in collaboration with First Nations people.

We thank our First Nations Advisory Group, Dominique Chen, Michael Williams, Derek Sandy and Jacob Birch for their involvement during the year.

Jacob Birch joined the First Nations Advisory Group this year. Jacob's research and work towards re-establishing First Nations food ways will contribute great insight into our work at the Farm.

4 Grow Share Yarn gatherings, facilitated by Dominique Chen, were held during the year. These sessions 'for mob, by mob' build connections around urban-based bush foods and medicines.

We received a Bank Australia grant for Dominique Chen to develop an on line training resource to accompany regenerative agriculture and permaculture courses in Australia. It will give participants an opportunity to explore ways to practically and meaningfully engage with First Nations people, protocols, and perspectives, towards a more equitable and respectful, land-based future

We continued our connections with the Deebling Creek protection camp through donating plants, sugar cane mulch, helping in their edible garden, and a NSCF staff rep and a FNAG member attended a Truth and Healing session at the site.

We included support and involvement of First Nations people in many of our activities.

The first student on our First Nations part-scholarship graduated from the Farm's Permaculture Design Course and a second was very close to finishing.

Earth Kids featured sessions by Bruce Morgan of Murri Tukka who enthused the kids and parents with tastings and information about bush foods.

City Farm Nursery launched the pay-it-forward Native Plant program. Customers donate the cost of a native plant which we forward to First Nations communities to re-generate land in a way that heals country and supports communities' knowledge and connection with native plant food and medicine.

The Nursery collaborated with Dominique Chen to provide materials for her Grow Share Yarn workshops

The Winter Solstice Festival featured First Nations content including Barkindji woman and hip-hop artist Baarka, as the headline act. We were extremely fortunate to have Bruce Pascoe present on the topic 'Native grains and food sovereignty'.



Flood 2022

On Sunday 27 February 2022 around 5m of flood water swept across our site. This followed major flooding from Friday night. The water reached about 100mm below the office floor, which had been built 400mm above the 1-in-100-year flood height! All areas of the Farm were badly impacted. Everything was covered in mud. Nursery stock was spread across the site. Most of our tools and equipment were damaged. Every rainwater tank was disconnected and moved by the flood water. Soil tests afterwards found that the soil in the garden beds is contaminated with petrol and diesel. The list goes on.

The Nursery and Markets opened two weeks later after a mammoth effort from staff and volunteers to clean up and make the site safe. Volunteers also cleaned and saved a lot of the furniture and equipment, saving us money and avoiding a waste of resources.

The Nursery was badly impacted by the flood, but we took it as an opportunity to clear the decks and start again. We managed, with the support of the Farm and help from an awesome, tireless clean-up crew, to reopen the Nursery two weeks after the flood and were proud to offer a clean green refuge to our flood affected neighbours and customers.

We received many generous donations from the public, including some organising benefit events on our behalf.



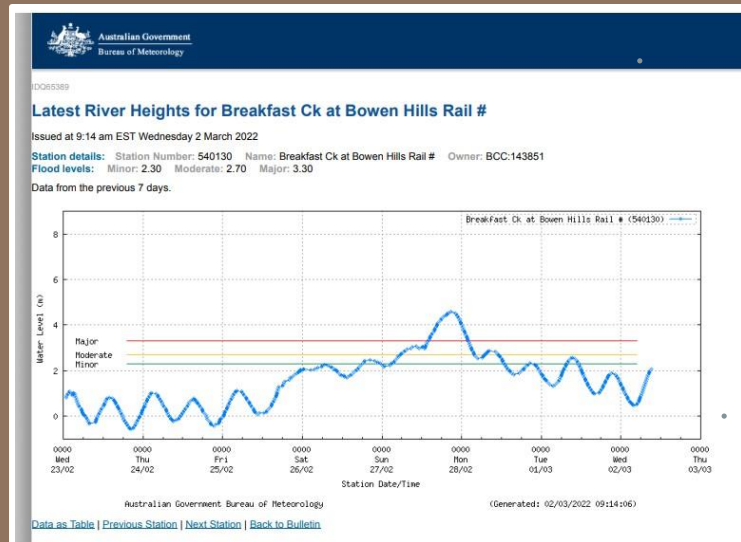
Office stairs



Chai Café fridge lifted onto a bench by the flood



Truck washed from the carpark into the creek



Dead fish and mud in the Nursery

Flood 2022 CONTINUED...



Rainwater tank stuck on clothes hoist



Allotments



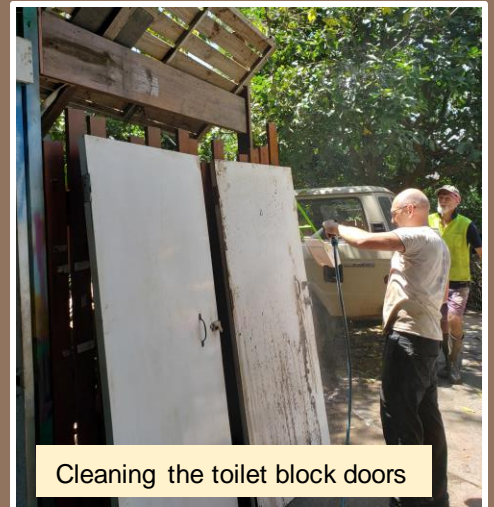
Nursery shelving



Damaged Nursery stock



Cleaning the market shed



Cleaning the toilet block doors

NSCF Supporters

Thanks for support of our programs this year :

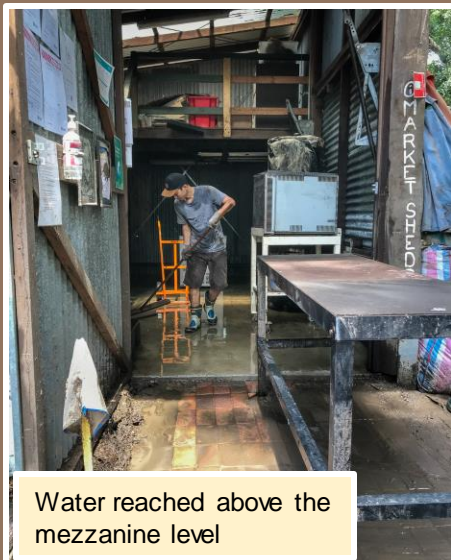
- Our members
- Our donors
- The NSCF First Nations Advisory Group
- Brisbane City Council
- Bank Australia
- OzHarvest

Thanks for help with the Flood Recovery:

- All the donors to our Chuffed and other fundraising campaigns
- All the volunteers, stallholders, suppliers, and staff who worked to get us operating again
- The Australian Army
- Brisbane City Council and the Mud Army
- Aviso Insurance Brokers



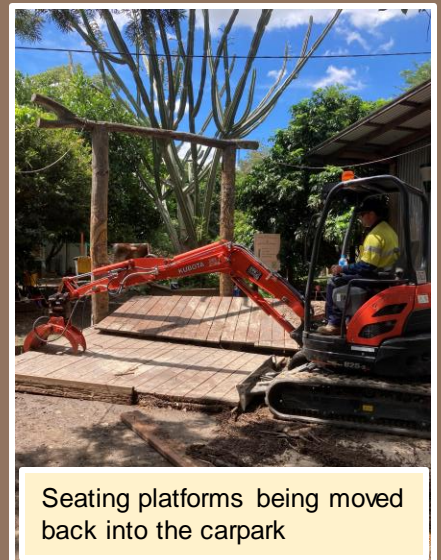
Some of the cleanup crew resting



Water reached above the mezzanine level



Toys left on the shed roof



Seating platforms being moved back into the carpark