

PERTH  
**CITY  
FARM**

*Annual Report*  
2022/23



# Acknowledgement of Country

Take time to close your eyes and plant your feet firmly on the ground where ever you are. Imagine yourself back many, many generations, touch the earth and plants close to you, listen - sense the animals and birds around you, to a time when the First People of this land lived as part of this whole living environment and treated it as their precious Mother. Their life depended on and was part of this Earth, as is ours.

We acknowledge, honour, respect and give thanks to the Custodians past, present and to come. May their wisdom, culture and spirit connection with these Wadjuk Noongar lands guide us.

## From the Chair

After 7 years of having the honour of being Chair of Perth City Farm it's time to step down. It has been my honour to preside as Chair of the Board for the last 7 years, receiving great joy witnessing the growth of our organisation from a branch of Trillion Trees to a fully-fledged Not-for-Profit in charge of our own destiny.

I would like to acknowledge my late husband, collaborator and colleague Thom Scott, Sandra Kreml my mentor since 1997- generously giving her knowledge and experience in developing our organisation in the formative years, and our very brave CEO Kathleen Burton who agreed to take the challenge to guide Perth City Farm at the age of thirty to the success it is now!

Our 29th year was a wonderful, busy time. The site was bustling with events - the 268 we delivered including our weekly Farmers market, sustainability forums and casual social groups. Then there was the very exciting growth of our Sustainability Education enterprise with 76 formal sessions, and most excitingly 92% of participants intending to make changes at home as a result of the experience. All of this helping us achieve our vision of Perth being a community of people living connected, sustainable lives in harmony with nature.

It's a community effort to deliver all of this. I'd particularly like to acknowledge our volunteers who contribute so much in so many ways- our community event hosts, our social gardeners, our Chook team and many others. Our CEO and staff team also give the best of themselves and their passion and hard work is commendable. Other major contributors include our landlord Development WA, our regular Farmers market stallholders and our customers- as a social enterprise they are doing the heavy lifting of funding the Farm.

I have been excited for 2024 and the 30th anniversary of starting this wonderful place. We've been working on some great events to celebrate this significant milestone in partnership with our friend at Activate Tree Planting Ltd. and the City of Perth, amongst others. The death of my beloved Thom just before the start of the new year has certainly been a blow for myself and the community. But Thom would want us to celebrate this year and rally together to take this important work forward.

Finally I would like to thank our fantastic volunteer Board who are excited and engaged, wise and experienced - giving their all to ensure that we are a value driven, financially stable community organisation - I hold each one of them with great respect and affection.

**Rosanne Scott**  
Chair



# Remembering Thom Scott

In December 2023 we lost a very important person to Perth City Farm - Thom Scott.

Thom was a father to the Farm and its community since he came to volunteer in 1995. He was a gentle, kind and generous man who lived a life of great service. A man of great depth and compassion - honest, humble and loving.



Thom was integral to the saving of Perth City Farm and our 40 year lease. He worked, volunteered for and sat in governance positions here for the last 28 years. He was a board member at the time of his death and had a sharp mind for strategy and good governance.

Thom was at his most magic one on one though, and his countless smaller contributions have helped to create the value base of our community farm. Thom embodied the statement of 'respect, non-judgement, compassion and kindness' and lived that at the Farm every day. Thom would start up a conversation with anyone and give them his full attention and lots of time. He went out of his way to help people that most would look away from or be scared of. Thom taught us how to approach strangers with an open, loving heart.

Much of the site structure has been influenced by Thom. Developing the cafe space was Thom's dream and he did much of the groundwork to secure the funding and get it built. Most of the limestone work here was from Thom teaching unemployed people through various programs. Many of our trees were rescued from elsewhere and planted by him. Thom was an educator through and through and loved to teach people from kindy kids to corporates.

Thom also loved the Arts – back in the day he looked after all the graffiti artists, was the main man for all the event set up and pack down with the young crew, our right-hand man for festivals, and much more. He and Rosanne were always the last to leave any events here, leaving the 'young ones' in the dust when it came to stamina!

Thom will always be with us here in the material fabric of the Farm and the intangible spirit of the place. The trees he planted and cared for are those we get to sit under now and share with all kinds of other creatures.

He will be sorely missed.

# About Perth City Farm

Perth City Farm is a non-profit community urban farm that harnesses the power of nature and community connection, bringing people together to learn about sustainable living.

We were founded in 1994 on the site of a former scrap metal yard in East Perth, next to the CBD. This once toxic and highly polluted site has been lovingly rehabilitated over many years by volunteers to become a Western Australian icon for environmental sustainability and community engagement.

Our site is designed to deliver sustainability education with offerings including tours for school groups, adult workshops, corporate team building and events. We teach 'kinder living' skills like permaculture, food growing, fermenting, foraging, gardening for wildlife and recycled crafts to thousands of people each year.

Through our City Greening enterprise we design, install and maintain sustainable landscapes through Perth. Our other key program is Sustainable Events and run a weekly farmers market, quarterly sustainability forums and seasonal festivals. About forty other non-profits deliver their community programming from our site through the year, and around 230 private events occur.

## Our Vision

Perth is a community of people living connected, sustainable lives, in harmony with nature.

## Our Purpose

To harness the power of nature and community connection, bringing people together to learn about sustainable living.

## Our Values



### Kindness

We're kind to each other, ourselves and the Earth. We welcome and include all.



### Positivity

We lead & respond with positive action



### Creativity

We use our limited resources creatively to produce awesome outcomes



### Connection

Everything we do builds connections between people and nature

# Learn

Our education program aims to teach 'kinder living skills' so participants live more sustainably.

This year we expanded our range of skills taught, introducing plant propagation, organic food growing, cheesemaking, growing edible flowers, pasta making and botanical art. All were well received.

Our corporate volunteering program grew considerably from two groups in 2022, to 15 groups over the 2022/23 year. It was heartening to experience this interest in our Farm and to see how meaningful and enjoyable a day with your hands in the dirt could be for office workers.

- **76 education sessions run**
- **1,149 people participated**
- **92% intended to apply the skill at home**
- **100% enjoyed the education experience**



*Corporate volunteers seeding up*



*Terrarium workshop*



*Introduction to Permaculture workshop*

# Connect

We facilitate many events on the farm, which provide a diversity of opportunities for people to connect. This year we introduced a series of evening forum events which are low cost opportunities for people to come together, socialize and be inspired by local changemakers and their projects. Each has a sustainability related theme, and this year we enjoyed “Incredible Edible: Urban Farms of Perth,” “The Art of Frugal Hedonism” and “Forgotten Skills.”

Our social groups continued to flourish with the weekly Writers Group and bi-monthly Yarn and Yarning being joined by a weekly Preserving Pals group who found interesting recipes to use on the Farm’s excess harvests. Grandma Rosie’s Storytime attracted a growing following and added in extra school holiday sessions so the regular attendees could bring along their older siblings for stories, songs, craft activities and a morning tea.

The Farmers market continues to be the a social hub for the community, fostering important connections between small local growers and a supportive and hungry customer base. This year we themed four bigger markets around seasonal produce and had a chef running cooking demonstrations and our stallholders offering tasters. Yum!

- **268 City Farm facilitated events**
- **12,635 people attended**
- **135 ethical businesses found customers through our markets**

We continued to offer supportive, educational volunteer opportunities this year. Many volunteers join us for the Social Gardening Group sessions on Wednesdays and Thursdays, with others contributing in more specialised ways like through the Chook Crew and hosting social events.

- **312 active volunteers**
- **5,761 volunteer hours contributed**
- **95% reported improved mental health as result of their involvement**
- **76% felt more connected to their community**



100 people joined us at the Forgotten Skills forum in April



Volunteers are essential in maintaining the Farm

# Grow

We love getting our hands dirty! In our market garden and across other gardens in Perth we grew lots of food.

- **1,311 kg organic produce grown**
- **4 external gardens designed, activated and/or maintained**

Whilst our focus is on influencing sustainable living, many other people use the City Farm site to deliver their own community programming or a special event. This year we were joined by Neami National, Ruah Community Services, Transfolk of WA and three accredited cooking schools all using the farm weekly.

Some of our favourite events included Barefaced Stories, a Town Teams meetup, Environment Matters session from the Conservation Council of WA, a WASEC panel on environmental social enterprises, East Perth Community Group meetings and of course the wonderful annual Vic Park Pride Barn Dance.

- **37 community groups used Perth City Farm facilities**
- **232 private events occurred**



*Vic Park Pride's annual Barn Dance event*



*WASEC's People Profit Planet event*



*Gardener Macca with a great bunch of bananas*

# Who We Are

## Board

Rosanne Scott, Chair  
Morgan Gillham, Deputy Chair (to 8/2/2023)  
Gary Ausbruch, Treasurer  
Sian Churcher, Secretary  
Lana Snook, Director  
Amanda Ottaviano, Director  
Kate Wood, Director  
Shane Kearney, Director (to 10/01/2023)  
Thom Scott, Director

## Staff

Kathleen Burton, CEO  
Rod Hughes, Farm Manager (to 03/03/2023)  
Paula Garvin, Venue and Office Manager  
Debbie Baldwin, Accountant  
Emma Slavin, City Greening and Nursery Coordinator (to 16/11/2022)  
Katie Sebbes- Armstrong, Market Garden Coordinator (to 16/11/2022)  
Phoebe Dean, Venue, Office and Marketing Assistant  
Alice Hennessey, Communications Coordinator (to 01/12/2022)  
Rocio Uculmana, Markets Coordinator (to 03/06/2023)  
Lucy Chen, Markets Assistant (to 14/06/2023)  
Douglas Scott, Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor  
Fernando Alves de Rezende, Cleaner (to 15/06/2023)  
Talia Mason, Cleaner  
Steff Carstairs, Farm Manager  
Lucy Cousins, Edible Landscapes Team Leader  
Alannah Flick, Communications Coordinator  
Ken Allen, Markets Coordinator  
Jackson Lemin, Markets Assistant and Assistant Gardener  
Macaulay Welchman, Assistant Gardener



*Perth City Farm Board*



*Staff member Paula celebrated 10 years of service to Perth City Farm*

# Volunteers

Volunteers remain an integral part of the Perth City Farm team to the mutual benefit of our organisation and the volunteers.

This year we had 312 active volunteers who helped us in the garden, with chicken care, at the farmers market, in the office, with Grandma Rosie's Storytime and at special events. Our board are also volunteers.

We are grateful to our wonderful volunteers for the hands on help, enthusiasm, interest and love they give each week. Perth City Farm would be a dull place without them!



*Volunteers at the 2022 Festive Party*

# Supporters

This year we received the following grants and sponsorships:

\$17,500 from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for COVID related business interruption.

\$14,495 from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources through the Stronger Communities program, to fund an accessible pathway through the Farm space.

\$15,234 from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources through the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises program, to fund a new heat pump and energy efficient lighting.

\$3,390 from the Jack Johnson All At Once matched funding program.

\$2,580 from the City of Perth Local Activation sponsorship program for our 'Learn Connect Grow' Forum series.

\$900 from Australia Post to purchase instruments and books for Grandma Rosie's Storytime.



*Wild Brewing instructor Tim Greaves*

# In-kind Supporters

A big thank you to:

Dickies Trees for keeping us supplied with woodchip mulch.  
Sam Warner from Churchlands Plumbing and Gas for his rapid response and extra support.  
Anode Electrics for their rapid responses and quality work.  
NPB Security and Natale Security for their excellent service.  
Festoon Perth for contributing their beautiful lights at our events.  
Pink Diamond Cleaning for working hard and flexibly to keep the site sparkling.  
Dougie Scott for his time and effort finding us cheap or free supplies.

# Other Supporters

Development WA has been a wonderful support as our landlord through this year.

The good people of Perth who support our enterprises: hold their events with us, do their weekly food shop at the markets, participate in our workshops or eat at our on-site café.  
Thank you!

# Financials

The operating result for financial year ended 30 September 2023 is a profit of \$46,766, after a profit of \$93,002 in 2022.

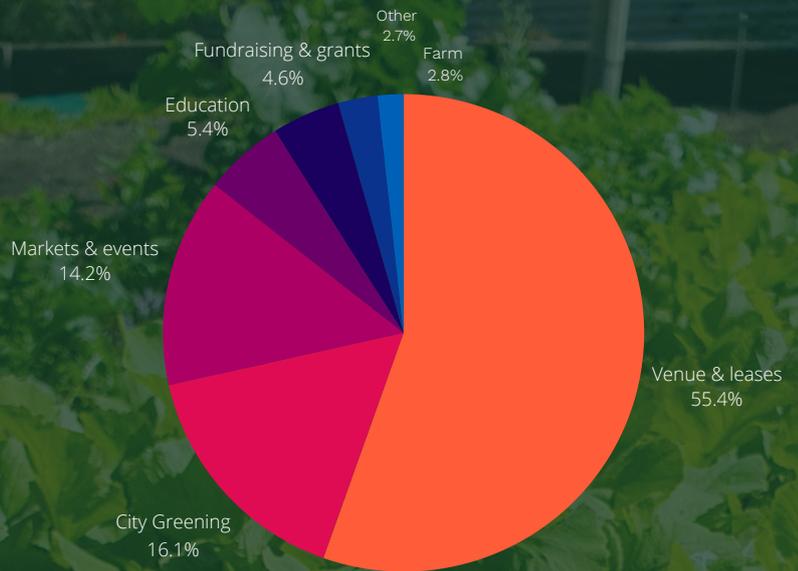
This is a pleasing result for us as a social enterprise as it was driven by the growth of our key enterprises rather than COVID support payments or bequests as in 2022.

Venue Hire was able to return to normal operations after two years of COVID upheaval and achieved its largest ever revenue figure, a 26% growth on the 2022 result.

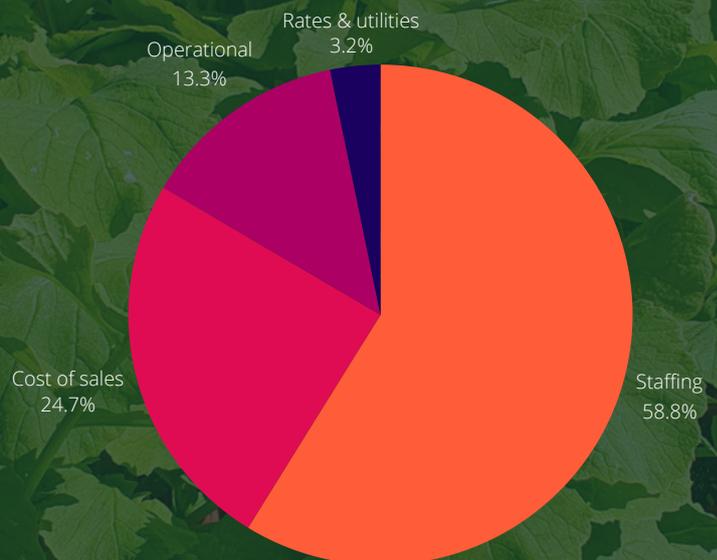
Our Sustainability Education enterprise achieved a massive 59% growth in revenue and 80% growth in profitability. This has given us confidence in the market opportunities for this high impact work in the future.

Our retained surplus has grown to \$590,431, putting us in an excellent position to invest in growing our key enterprises through 2024.

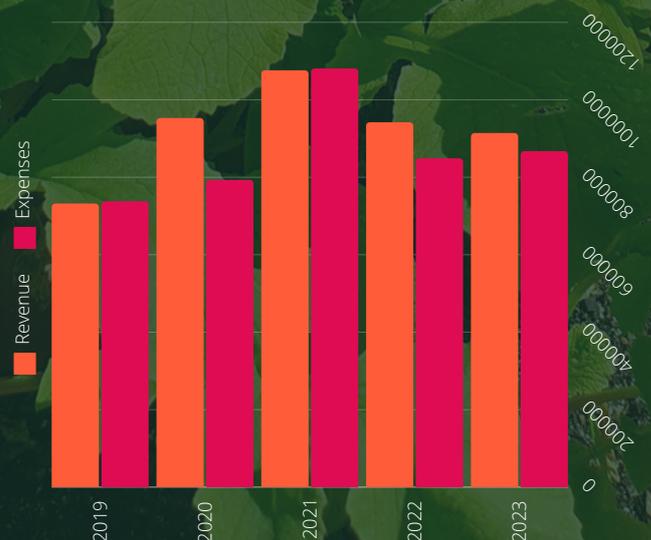
## 2022 Revenue



## 2022 Expenses



## Revenue & Expenses 2019 - 2022



# Photo Gallery



Unveiling a fabulous tactile artwork in the Farm, created in partnership with Senses and MAAN.



Rod and Kathleen enjoyed a visit from a permaculture legend- Rosemary Morrow.



L Tash from Teeter Bakery picks up stinging nettle for her famous pies. M We trialed a 'Weed Dating' social event in February. R Thom and Rosanne picked our olives this year and the Preserving Pals group marinated them.

# PERTH CITY FARM

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