

Annual Report 2023-24

Transition Town Vincent

Chairperson Report	2
Treasurer's report	3
Movie nights	4
Project: Community Food Forest	5-7
Project: Healthy Soils	8-13
Website	14

Chairperson Report

2023-2024 was an exciting year for our group as we gained some new members, grew the Community Food Forest project and our new Healthy Soils project has had a successful start.

Our monthly movie nights continued to have good attendance, and we showed some great quality documentaries on DocPlay. Our aim with the movie nights is for those who come along to learn and be inspired to take action, and I think with the films we chose, as well as the attendance of a quality guest speaker most months, we achieved this. Thanks to all our guest speakers and to Behrooz for organising a speaker or facilitating discussion himself after each movie. Thank you also to Helen, Margaret, Phil, Ian, Faye and other movie night volunteers for your tireless and consistent efforts. Without you showing up each month, our movie nights wouldn't happen.

The Community Food Forest is growing and blossoming. Not only is it providing an opportunity for the community to get involved, learn and contribute, it's also becoming a hub for talks, workshops and community get togethers organised by TTV. A huge thank you to Chris Cutress the project coordinator, and all the dedicated volunteers for your hours of work.

One of the highlights this year has been Ian joining our Steering Team and getting the Healthy Soils project off the ground. What a fantastic year it has been for this project - a steering committee has been formed, a program logic and project plan developed and already we've run events, talks and community get togethers as part of this project. On behalf of the group, I want to acknowledge the passion and drive of Ian Kininmonth in creating and getting the Healthy Soils Project going.

Another highlight is the formation of a website for Transition Town Vincent, linked to the Transition Town Australia portal, where TTV can share information about our projects, people can contact us to get involved, and we can share resources. Again, thank you to Ian for setting this up for our group.

I also want to acknowledge Kiki Donnelly joining our group as the volunteer newsletter coordinator. She has done an excellent job of curating our monthly newsletter and I personally have been grateful for her support.

Once again, I'm appreciative of what our group has achieved this year and am looking forward to another year together strengthening our local community and empowering people to tread lightly on the earth.

Meagan Mayhills

Treasurer's report

TTV has had a comfortable year financially. We began the year with \$4047.24 in accumulated funds and finished with a balance of \$3702.42.

Our major source of income continues to be our movie nights which generated funds of \$1183 against a small expense of \$234.

Our greatest costs relate to our Public Liability Insurance and we will need to investigate ways of reducing this.

Our other significant expenditure was a \$250 donation to the Black Cockatoo Recovery Centre made possible by the generous support given by attendees at the showing of the locally made Black Cockatoo Movie.

Faye Baxter

Movie nights

What a fantastic year it has been for the TTV Monday Movie Nights. We have used our Doc Play subscription for most of our movies and had some great attendance, guest speakers and conversations.

Our selection of movies was mostly chosen by Meagan with suggestions from the committee. A huge thank you to Helen for showing up every month and being in charge of playing the movie on the night, and then to Margaret for taking on this responsibility. Shout out to Phil, Faye, Charlotte and Ian for helping out on the night. Thanks to Behrooz for introducing each movie and organising an interesting array of guest speakers or facilitating conversation himself after each movie.

We would like to thank Floreat Athena for providing the venue, and Colin for opening up and operating the bar, the staff at Dejaxy's Cafe for the wonderful donation of bakery goods and The Source for their continued support in providing the popcorn..

List of movies

Month	Movie	Approximate Attendance
November 2023	Living the Change	20
December 2023	Green Herring music night	15
January 2024	No movie	
February 2024	No movie	
March 2024	No movie	
April 2024	Kiss the Ground	30
May 2024	Happy	40
June 2024	The Gateway Bug	7
July 2024	Green is the New Black	15
August 2024	The True Cost	10
September 2024	Sustainable Shorts in September	15
October 2024	Rachel's Farm	40
November 2024	Greenhouse by Joost	

Community Food Forest

The Community Food Forest was planted at Britannia Reserve, on the western bank of the Floreat Athena Football Stadium, in June and July 2023. Twenty-nine (29) food trees were planted, including a mixture of citrus, figs, olives, mulberries, pomegranates, tropical plants (mango, custard apple, longan), nuts (macadamia, almond) and native bush foods (lilly pilli, Burdekin plum, peanut tree). Two trees died (both macadamia nuts), and three additional trees, donated by volunteers, have taken their place. Thirty trees in total are in place at the Community Food Forest.



December 2023 and January 2024 proved to be incredibly challenging conditions, and the trees on the exposed bank were subjected to fierce heat and wind during this time. Without the dedicated time and energy of volunteers watering 3 times per week during this time, the trees would have suffered more than they did (the citrus were particularly impacted, with most of the leaves dropping during this time).

An ingenious solar water system was developed by a volunteer, where a car battery is charged by a solar panel and a small pump is attached to the tank to be able to transport water via hose to each plant, thereby reducing manual labour involved with transporting watering cans and buckets to each plant.



A summer preparation day was held in October 2023 to prepare for the upcoming summer heat. This activity primarily involved weeding, adding mulch and compost, as well as aerating the soil around the trees.



A winter preparation day was held in May 2024, and included scraping back the existing mulch, aerating the soil, applying nutrients and replacing the mulch again in preparation for winter rains.

Recently a raised garden bed was installed to plant quick-growing edibles, including table greens and herbs. Soil was donated from a local landscaping job, and a mixture of FOGO compost and biochar was incorporated into the soil.



A number of community members have volunteered their time and energy to assist with maintenance of the food forest, including watering, plant health, administration and general area maintenance.

Volunteers have reached out to Noongar community groups, especially to custodians of the nearby lake, known as Galup in Noongar and Lake Monger in English, with interconnected interests in sharing and building Indigenous knowledge and expertise in native plants, underground water, and the area's environmental and cultural heritage. A meeting is planned with the City of Vincent's Community of Elders to discuss, amongst other things, an appropriate Noongar name for the food forest.

Chris Cutress, Project Coordinator

Healthy Soils

History

The My Healthy Soils Project was initiated in early 2024 following the success of using biochar and FOGO compost in the food forest plantings. The project's vision is 'residents empowered with the knowledge, skills and tools to transform their urban yards and courtyards from carbon sources to carbon sinks while creating cooler, healthier and more sustainable living environments.'



In the first instance a [program logic](#) was developed to provide a framework for the project. This was supported by a more [detailed plan](#) and the concept of a circularity precinct / community biochar research precinct encompassing the existing food forest, tools n things library, meeting rooms, mulch and FOGO compost piles.

Discussions were held with a number of people who agreed to be part of a steering group for the project. There are about 12 people listed on the steering group however in reality 7 are regular attendees to the meetings of which there have been 4. This has also been successful in introducing about 5 new members to the TTV.

The focus to date has been on scoping and planning the implementation phase of the project which is planned for next year. This will require a more detailed plan and schedule and call for additional volunteers.



Community involvement

Community involvement contributes to part of the TTV's vision of 'strengthening community connections'. There has been significant community interest in the project in a short period of time. This provides confidence for the project going forward.

Connections have been formed with:

- Mayor of Vincent Alison Xamon, many of the Councillors and John Carey MLA.
- Tools n Things Library who have very generously supported us with their experience, tools and donation of part of the wire cage for our activities.
- North Perth Community Garden (NPCG) with two of their members, Chris Watts and Colin Scott on our steering group. Chris Watts also helped develop and deliver the workshop Biochar for Community Gardens.
- Leederville Connect through the Nourishing Leederville initiative.
- Professor Stephen Joseph of the Australia New Zealand Biochar Industry Group (ANZBIG) who has donated 20 hours of time this year to the project.
- FASERA Biochar who donated 2 cubic metres of biochar to the project.
- Dr Grey Coupland and her Pocket Forests initiative.



Events

Four (4) events have been held in a short space of time and this is helping inform the project and develop interest. There are now over 30 people on a mailing list interested in being involved in the project or being kept up to date. These and other activities are contributing to one of the short term outcomes of the project which is “Increased awareness and understanding of the role of organics among residents and decision makers.”

The events are summarised as follows:

1. Visit by Professor Stephen Joseph to the food forest on 21st March 2024 to discuss biochar with the Mayor and about 5 other attendees.



2. Biochar for Community Gardens workshop on 31st August 2024 conducted in partnership with North Perth Community Garden. Presenters were Chris Watts and Ian Kininmonth. Biochar making was successfully demonstrated to about 15 attendees.



3. Pocket Forests for the Inner City presentation by Dr Grey Coupland on 25 September 2024 at Floreat Athena with about 25 people attending.



4. Grow Your Own Food event held 1st September 2024 at the community food forest with about 30 people participating.
5. Swap and Grow event held at the new Potting Shed with about 20 people participating in activities including:
 - a. Tour and talk about use of biochar/compost at the food forest by Chris Cutress
 - b. Talk about biochar by Chris Watts.
 - c. Children's activities with Evie Kininmonth.



Outcomes and outputs

Outcomes and milestones have included:

- Successfully trialling the use of biochar/FOGO compost/worm juice at the community food forest.
- Preparation of a program logic and detailed outline for the project.
- Preparation of a sketch plan for a circularity precinct / community biochar research hub in the NW corner of Britannia reserve (Floreat Athena area).
- Formation of a project steering group which has met 4 times.
- Building two biochar makers/kilns suitable for use in residential yards and courtyards.
- Developing a method for making small amounts of biochar in household bbqs (Webers), fire pits and pizza ovens.
- Developing and running a Biochar for Community Gardens workshop with North Perth Community Garden.
- Successfully demonstrating the making of biochar to the community on two occasions.
- Preparing and publishing a booklet: Biochar for Community Gardens.
- Donation of use of the wire cage to the project by the Tools n Things library.
- Over 30 people on the project mailing list.
- Web pages, information sheets and other resources prepared.

<https://transitionaustralia.net/resources/my-healthy-soils/>



Ian Kininmonth, Project Coordinator

Website

A website for Transition Town Vincent was established under the Transition Town Australia portal. This is located at <https://transitionaustralia.net/group/transition-town-vincent/>

This includes the following pages:

- About us
- Get involved

Project pages including:

- Community Food Forest
- My Healthy Soils
- The Potting Shed
- Biochar Trials

Resources pages including:

- My Healthy Soils
- Biochar for Community Gardens
- Community Food Forest

In addition, a number of events were posted on the site.

Suggestions and additions are greatly welcomed.