

# A YEAR IN THE ANT HILL

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JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2021 – JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2022

MAGIC ANT NETWORK

Authored by: Executive Board



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# A YEAR IN THE ANTHILL

## YEAR ONE OF THE MAGIC ANT NETWORK

**Magic Ant Network are a not-for-profit organisation started in January of 2021. We have been working primarily in the 4017 Deagon Ward area. Our organisation works in a broad range of issues which includes Domestic Violence, Homelessness, Education, Deforestation, Pollution, Animal Rehoming, Health and the Arts.**

**Calling ourselves the Magic Ant Network wasn't just about being different, of course that is one of the reasons but there is also a deeper meaning behind it. When we were coming up with the name, we had to think of something that no one else would think of naming their professional charity.**

**Magic refers to two aspects within the charity, first; the work that goes into running the events, fundraising and projects is magic. The ability for so many to work together for a common goal is in our eyes, Magic. We picked the word Magic to tell the world that we believe in magic, not necessarily the kind that gives your supernatural and mysterious powers, but the kind that makes people happy, the kind that makes people feel alive and the magic that builds a better future. Spread the magic of happiness, laughter and kindness throughout the world and never look back.**

**Ant dives deep into the land of metaphor with everyone being called an Ant. Why are we insulting everyone and calling them a small creature? Well we are doing quite the opposite, it's not an insult, it's a compliment. An ant can lift 20 times its own weight! They may be small, but one ant makes a big difference in the world. Our Ant represents the idea that a small change can make a big difference. Next time you see an ant, wave at it, it might just be helping us!**

**Network is the intricate system beneath the ant hill. Our organisation has a strong focus on building connections in the community, we believe that every single connection made is going to make a big difference. We are constantly looking at ways to strengthen and build relationships in the community, we are open to any new projects proposed by our volunteers and community members alike. If you want to get involved, [click here](#).**

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# OUR ANT BOARD



**Lachlan Boyes**



**Naomi Warren**

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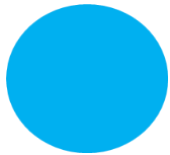
# OUR MAGIC VISION

We connect organisations

We raise awareness about social issues

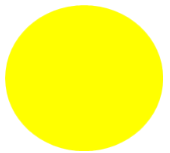
We promote sustainability and liveability

## Unity



The Magic Ant Network aims to build bridges between an array of community organisations, schools and charities. Networking different community groups is essential in establishing small changes which make a big difference. Ants always work in teams, which is what always makes them effective. To be just as effective, we need to do the same.

## Education/Awareness



At the Magic Ant Network, we are very passionate about encouraging leadership amongst the student demographic. This is carried out in a series of talks at local schools. As a part of these talks, we teach Ant Education, which is all about the different social issues the community faces, how these issues are being addressed and the different types of things students can do to help out. We also tell our story of creating this network, inspiring the students to make their own magical changes to the world.

## Welfare



As well as connecting a variety of community organisations, schools and charities, we at the Magic Ant Network offer opportunities for charities to expand, and to connect with volunteers. We passionately believe that working together to make small changes will create a positive difference towards sustainability and wellbeing. This is why we are dedicated to doing our part in making our world a better place.

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# SECTION I: MEMBER REPORTS

## DIRECTOR REPORT- ELIJAH BARNES



Having become aware of the problems within the not-for-profit sector in my final year of school, I was enthusiastic to help establish this organisation when Lachlan first proposed the idea. The name we had initially chosen was taken and although Lachlan, my co-director, suggested *The Magic of Small Things*, I was greatly opposed and determined to find an alternative. Eventually we agreed on a three-word name where each of the three founding members

got to choose one of the words, and the ant, being symbolic of small, significant, cooperative beings, was my easy choice. For our pollution section, I was inspired by Park Run to run an outdoor activity at the start of the weekend. Naturally, this led me to come up with Clean Ant Saturday, an activity I have such committed to attend weekly. I have also come up with a number of activities which will be undertaken in the next two years. It is a great pleasure to take such a significant role in this initiative.



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## DIRECTOR REPORT- LACHLAN BOYES

The year 2021 will forever hold a special place in my heart. Throughout this year we managed to create an organisation that not only changed our community but my life. I have always had a passion for helping and this year has allowed me to help animals, people, the land and our oceans. Looking back on the year, we went from a group fresh out of high school, to a group changing the world and making a difference. Our saying is that 'Even the smallest thing can change the world' and we didn't realise how true this was. Community has an incredible gift to come together and make a change, even if it is a small change. I have seen the best and worst in humanity this year, but I still believe we have it within ourselves to be the change we want to see. My quote is 'The Ant is mightier than both the pen and the sword'. I wrote this quote thinking about all the people in the world who think their good deeds have gone unnoticed or that they haven't made a difference. We see you and we need you. Keep changing the world, reach out to us and join us on our mission.

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## SECRETARY REPORT- NAOMI WARREN

Being a part of Magic Ant Network has been an honour and a privilege. There are parts of society that have always riled me up, made me angry, and made me want to take a stand – by protesting or by doing something that would be more detrimental than uplifting to our community. By being a part of Magic Ant Network, it has allowed me to realise that making a difference isn't always marching or protesting or doing something larger than life – it's about consistency. Through rain and heat, early mornings and cold weather, our little team has strived every Saturday to do what we can to make a small difference in our community. We've worked on doing our best in acknowledging stories and events and people that might not make headlines, but make a difference, regardless. Magic Ant Network has taught me that dedication and putting in the work will always be more beneficial than taking one large stand – because the accumulation of all the small parts will be louder. I cannot wait to see what Magic Ant Network brings to the table in 2022. I can't wait for us to be the butterfly flapping its wings – all to cause a huge difference somewhere else in our world.



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## TREASURER REPORT- JADE COX

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# OUR FINANCIALS

This year the Magic Ant Network has not accepted any monetary donations of any sort. Items that required purchasing were done with Magic Ant Networks own funds. We have received equipment loans or donations. They are listed below:

- Council rubbish bags (loan)
- Council gloves (loan)
- Council trash collectors (loan)
- All item from the New Year Appeal (donated)

Going into 2022 we are running several events that will require various levels of funding and donations. The Harmony Day event will be sponsored by Jared Cassidy and his office are kindly providing various pieces of equipment for the event.

# SECTION II: ACTIVITIES

## POLLUTION



At the start of the year, we wanted to start with an activity for each of the social issues that we wanted to begin with. Our first major activity was in the pollution section: a simple weekly event which addressed the problem, was easy to do, and encouraged community involvement. Starting on the twenty-seventh of February, the Magic Ant Network began

an initiative where we clean a different park every Saturday 9am to 10am. We began in the Deagon Ward with the support and equipment from Councilor Jared Cassidy. For the first 13 weeks, we held a Clean Ant Saturday at all the major parks in the Deagon Ward including the Frank Doyle Park, Mulbeam Park, Einbunpin Lagoon, Boondall Park, Deagon Oval, Curlew Park, Dowse Lagoon, O’Callaghan Park,



Peace Park, Gumnut Street Park, Decker Park, Boondall Dog Park, and a creek area in Brighton. The most common feedback was in regard to the time held; that it was too early, so we pushed it back to 10:30am to 11:30am, a time we have kept to since. Once we finished all of the major parks in the Deagon Ward, we devised a rotation with parks that needed regular tending, including Einbunpin Lagoon, Boondall Park, Deagon Oval, O’Callaghan Park, Dowse Lagoon and Peace Park. The latter two were significantly cleaner so we devised alternate



rotations i.e., in the first rotation we would go to Dowse Lagoon, and in the next, we

would go to Peace Park. Boondall Park, Dowse Lagoon, and Peace Park eventually became clean in successive rotations, so we decided to remove them from our



rotations. We plan to occasionally return to these community spaces to ensure that they remain tidy, in addition to other parks that we have missed.

However, with only three parks remaining in the rotation, we decided to expand into different wards. Firstly, one of our directors observed a massive amount of rubbish in a pathway on Buchanan Road, Morayfield, where we

decided to go for our thirtieth clean-up. It remains the most littered area where we have held a CAS event. Afterwards, we established a relationship with Councillor Adam Hains, so we are looking forward to doing more events, especially Clean Ant Saturdays, in his local ward. Additionally, we have started making our way through



the major parks in the Bracken Ridge Ward with the support of Councillor Sandy Landers. We finished the year with our fortieth Clean Ant Saturday on the Sandgate/Brighton foreshore, and whilst the rubbish here was very separated and quite minimal, due to its significant impact on the environment, we plan to return more frequently. Overall, all forty of our Clean Ant Saturdays for 2021 achieved what we were aiming for: making community spaces better for everyone, including the plants and

animals, whilst also being able to engage with our community. The most improved park, agreed on by our regular volunteers, is Boondall Park, which turned from a very littered space to one where very little rubbish could be found. The amount of volunteers has greatly varied but towards



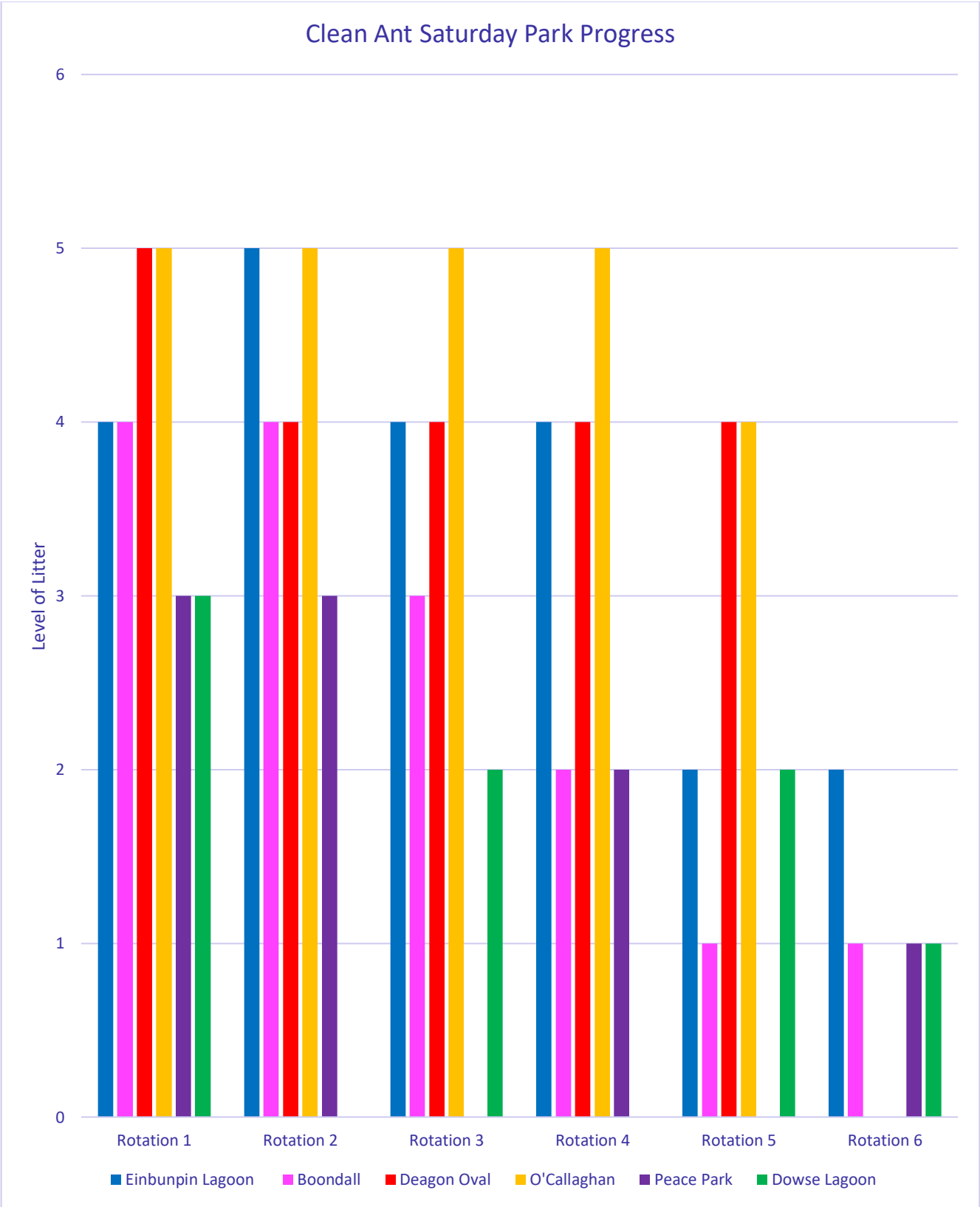
the end, somewhat decreased, with our most popular Clean Ant Saturday being our third, which was at the Einbunpin Lagoon, which had twelve volunteers in attendance. We hope to eventually have enough volunteers so we can potentially run multiple Clean Ant Saturdays simultaneously, each in different local wards.



### 2022 Parks – First 5 months

- 05-02-22 BR- Hidden World Park
- 12-02-22 D- Einbunpin
- 19-02-22 BR- Stanley Day Park
- 26-02-22 D- O'Callaghan
- 05-03-22 BR- Chris Brunton Park
- 12-03-22 Fifty! Reserve (Vistentine road) in Morayfield
- 19-03-22 Einbunpin Lagoon in preparation for Harmony
- 26-03-22 BR- Bracken Ridge Reserve
- 02-04-22 D- Deagon Oval
- 09-04-22 BR- Lacey Road Park
- 16-04-22 D- O'Callaghan Park
- 23-04-22 BR- Flinders Park
- 30-04-22 D- Einbunpin Lagoon
- 07-05-22 BR- Diamantina Park
- 14-05-22 D- Deagon Oval
- 21-05-22 Sixty BR-Enbrook Parkland

# Statistics



## ANIMAL REHOMING

Going into this venture we knew we wanted to do something with animal rehoming, we just weren't sure what. RSPCA 2020/21 statistics say that they received approximately 64, 883 dogs and cats and the AWL statistics say that they received approximately 7,959 dogs and cats. This means that over this period roughly 72,842



dogs and cats needed rehoming and that is only at the RSPCA and AWL. Then we reached out to the Animal Welfare League and all of that changed. We went down for a meeting and discussed how we could make a difference and help in this area. The AWL told us about their Emergency Boarding Program.

This initiative helps community members who cannot look after their animals for a period due to hospitalisation, Homelessness and Domestic and Family Violence. During this period the AWL use their fantastic network of Foster Carers to care for the pets until the owner is ready to take them home. After hearing this we knew that we had to help with this program. The New Year Appeal was born. We see a lot of Christmas Appeals around the end of the year, but we wanted to do something a little different and give these animals the best start to 2022. Councillor Jared Cassidy and

Councillor Sandy Landers allowed us to use their offices as donation drop-off points. The Appeal is still going, and we haven't been able to collect the donation however, both offices have let us

know that there have been several donations. We look forward to taking the donations down to the AWL when the Appeal has finished. Going into 2022 we will be



### RUNNING INTO THE NEW YEAR!

Help Magic Ant Network and the Animal Welfare League give animals in need the best start to 2022.

What to donate:

- Cat Bowls - Cat Litter Trays - Cat Play Wands - Cat Carriers - Large Dog Blankets - Large Stainless Steel Dog Bowls – Kmart has all these items!

Call 0411 965 848 if you have any questions on what to donate

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looking at working more closely with the AWL and starting our own program with them. We will be looking at working with other animal rehoming organisations to ensure our world can get to a time when we have no homeless animals. 2022 is going to be a great year for our Animal Rehoming section and we hope you will join us in finding a new home for these beautiful animals.

### Shave & Groom

As a part of our partnership with the Leukaemia Foundation, we will be participating in the World's Greatest Shave in June 2022. We have decided to make the event even bigger by incorporating the Animal Welfare League and providing an information session on blood cancer in dogs and cats. This event will also allow pet owners to come and get their pet groomed in support of blood cancer. Check our Facebook (Magic Ant Network) to stay up to date with the event and make sure you come along, colour or shave your hair before getting your pet groomed!

### Ant Education

Our Ant Education program provides the opportunity for the Animal Welfare League to come out to schools and bring along a furry friend to meet the students. We talk about issues such as desexing, microchipping and we promote adoption and the AWL's Emergency Boarding Program. There is also the opportunity for students to create their own fundraisers within the school to either raise money for the AWL or donate much needed supplies.



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## HOMELESSNESS

Currently, there are 20,000 homeless people in Queensland and each person for a different reason. Our government is not doing enough to combat the rising number of homeless people. We continue to see a rise in home prices due to the pandemic and as a result people are being kicked out of the homes or unable to pay rent. We also see the stigma around homeless people continuing and unfortunately means they are less likely to be offered assistance from the public. Thankfully there are several organisations that provide food, shelter, clothes and other services to our homeless community. Early in 2022 one of our directors was on his way home on the bus and drove past a park in the city. In this park was an organisation providing haircuts and food and drink for members of the community. This organisation is Merciful Servants, and we will be hoping to form a partnership with them after our director jumped off the bus for a chat. Groups like these are what make the difference. This year we started working with Sheltered By Grace, a shelter for the homeless situated in Logan. Sheltered By Grace specialises in helping men and women over 25 years of age. They



are one of the first shelters that care for men affected

by Domestic and Family Violence and they run several programs to help those affected by drugs and alcohol. After catching up with the team at Sheltered By Grace, Magic Ant Network decided to offer some support. We are pleased to be adding several sustainable gardens to the ground and we will also be running a drama program. The sustainable garden will allow the clients to care for fruits and vegetables, as well as use them in their cooking. The drama program will enable the clients to build confidence as well as practice for job interview scenarios. We are looking forward to starting these projects early 2022. The Magic Ant Network has started a simple three step rule when walking past a homeless community member: STOP, SMILE and TALK. Three simple steps to change someone's life.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Throughout 2021 the Magic Ant Network was lucky enough to be involved in several community projects. It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated community members and see how a small thing can change the world. We look forward to partaking in these projects again in 2022.

### Domestic Violence Walk

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of May, Magic Ant Network walked alongside members from the 4017 community to say not to Domestic and Family Violence. Charity organisation SANDBAG organised this walk and it was a fantastic turnout. 1 in 4 women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner by the age of 15. On average 1 woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner. 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. Almost 40% of women continue to experience violence from their partner while temporarily separated. These statistics are scary and heart-breaking. They are also very real and enough is enough. Please consider joining us on this walk in 2022.



### Einbunpin Festival

The Magic Ant Network went out to the annual Einbunpin Festival held in the Sandgate town centre. It was a lovely day, and the performances were amazing. The team walked around the park and chatted to a few community members about our impact. We look forward to the festival in 2022.

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## The Little Mermaid Junior – Bracken Ridge State High School

We believe that the arts are an important part of the community and the arts is needed now more than ever. In 2021 we started a initiative: Magic Arts Project. This allowed us to provide a little package of small gifts for the cast and crew of The Little Mermaid Junior. Our Board got together and had a blast packing the gifts. The performance was amazing, full of laughs and fantastic talent.



## Peebo and Dagwood Place

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September our directors were fortunate enough to attend the official opening of Peebo and Dagwood Place. This park was names after two of Sandgate’s best clowns, Peebo and Dagwood. There was overwhelming support from the community and showed the everlasting impact of Peebo and Dagwood.



## RizeUp Charity Lunch – Direct Distribution Event

RizeUp is a Domestic and Family Violence that specialise in creating beautiful homes for families in refuge. Direct Distribution, a PPE and Safety gear business holds an annual charity lunch for RizeUp and in 2021 one of our directors went along. It was great to hear from such inspiration people such as Founder Nicolle and Gareth Edwards, Fiona Worrall and Michael Jeh. Magic Ant Network are looking at taking a table to the event and we hope you will consider joining us.



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## Bracken Ridge Lion's Train Day

Late in 2021, Councillor Sandy Landers invited us to the Bracken Ridge Lion's Train Day. There we were able to learn how to drive the trains and cook the snags. Unfortunately, the first train day of 2022 was cancelled but we are looking forward to getting back out there for the next on in February.



# SECTION III: FUTURE OF OUR NETWORK

## MY ANT TREES

My Ant Trees is one of the many activities we have planned for 2022, this one as a direct solution for deforestation whilst also creating awareness of environmental issues and encouraging community engagement. We firstly plan to work with school environment clubs to plant trees in schools, and further down the track, community members. When someone plants a tree as a part of the My Ant Trees program, the tree planter takes an oath (either one they create or the version provided by the Magic Ant Network) about looking after the tree, and why the tree planting is important. Afterwards, a photo of the planted tree will be taken, and thereafter, every month to show the progress of the tree. These are posted on social media to help encourage awareness of the program and deforestation. Additionally, the Magic Ant Network will be providing information on how to properly plant and maintain the trees.

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## ARTSY ANT WORKSHOPS

Artsy Ant Workshops is a major program that the Magic Ant Network has planned for the future, starting in 2023 or 2024. As one of the organisation's directors is heavily involved in music, and the other, in drama, it was only natural for us to undertake a project in the arts. Artsy Ant Workshops brings professional artists and students of all levels together for a five-day period. It is planned to be held four times per year: Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. Our Summer workshop breaks the students into specialties, whether it be instrumental music, dancing, drama or the visual arts, and in between daily rehearsals/projects, students will be involved in smaller groups to get substantial feedback from professionals. Our Spring and Autumn workshops bring all the students together to work towards the production of a major work, but our Winter workshop gives students the opportunity to try a variety of different areas in the arts. Altogether, these workshops allow students passionate about the arts to further explore these passions, affordably, whilst also ideally providing income opportunities for local professional artists.

## ANT EDUCATION

Ant Education is one of the activities that we hope can go forward in 2022. Having just been through the school system, the directors and secretary of the Magic Ant Network have identified that the reality of social issues is generally neglected by the Queensland Curriculum. For Ant Education, we offer schools the opportunity for the members of our organisation to go in and teach students about a range of domestic and environmental social issues, including a discussion considering their causes and solutions. This will hopefully encourage the students to become aware of the different problems in the community, and potentially encourage students to get them involved in solutions. Our lectures are based upon the many experiences we have had in facing these issues throughout the last two years, including discussion with relevant partners, and thorough research.

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## ANT BINS

Our Ant Bins project looks at helping schools, councils and community clubs dispose of their waste. A number of schools are involved in Envirobank or Containers for Change programs. Alongside this Magic Ant Network offer to help take the containers to a drop off point if they are receiving too many donations to keep up. There are several opportunities for schools to expand into the community and this is where we partner with the local council and look at ways to get the community involved with a school recycling project. Our community clubs are an integral part of the local area and that's why we need to keep them clean. In 2022 Magic Ant Network are launching our very own bin design that will allow community clubs to dispose of their waste in a fun and efficient way. Keep your eye out for the launch.

## HARMONY WEEK

In 2022 the Magic Ant Network will be hosting our first Harmony Day event at the Sandgate Einbunpin Park. We are excited to bring together different cultures from around the area and immerse our community in the flavours of our local restaurants. We are also holding a flag parade that will allow students from the local schools carry around a country's flag. Local schools Bracken Ridge, Sandgate, St. John Fisher and St. Patrick's College will be given the opportunity to have their students perform at the event and show off some of the incredible local talent.

## ECO ANT SUMMITS

Eco Ant Summits is a major annual event we hope to launch in 2022. As an organisation that does a lot of work in the environment, we looked for ways to get school environment clubs involved in community environmental problems. Our top idea was Eco Ant Summits where we invite a range of local High Schools to participate in a day event where they can learn from guest speakers about innovative solutions to contemporary environmental problems and work together through scenarios which encourage students to devise their own innovative solutions. For the schools that don't have environmental clubs, we have offered to

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help them take the steps to set-up their own and get more students engaged in environmental solutions.

## FUNDRAISING ANT LUNCHESES

**Fundraising Ant Lunches is an event that marks the establishment of a partnership with a Charity Ant. For every charity that the Magic Ant Network partners with, we will hold a community lunch at a local park to raise money for them and create awareness of their projects. The money here is raised from the lunch itself in addition to a range of raffle auctions.**

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# OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS


We would like to say a massive thank you to our Charity and Corporate Ants of 2021 and we look forward to welcoming more in 2022.



## CHARITY ANTS



## CORPORATE ANTS

Proudly Supported By  
**Jared Cassidy**  
Councillor for  
Deagon Ward



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Cr Sandy  
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