

MAGIC ANT NETWORK 2023 ANNUAL REVIEW



JANUARY 2023-DECEMBER 2023

THE MAGIC ANT NETWORK

WHO WE ARE

The Magic Ant Network is a charity founded in January 2021, based on Brisbane's Northside. Our charity works in a broad range of social issues from pollution to domestic violence to the arts.

WHAT WE DO

Unity

We Connect Organisations by building 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.

Education and Awareness

We Create Awareness about Social Issues by teaching and sharing information about progress towards social issues and partner projects, through talks, inter-personal engagement, and on social media.

Welfare

We Promote Liveability and Sustainability by developing our own projects that address a variety of social issues, that either directly tackle the problem, raise funds for a charity partner or promote solutions and relevant values.

THE NAME

The name of our charity has a special meaning, going back to our initial meetings where each of our founding members chose one of the three words that became our name.

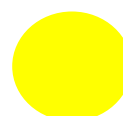
Magic is the way in which the small things we do can make life better or lift a spirit seemingly has a magic way of feeding into happiness and kindness across the community.

Ant is a metaphor for how small actions can have the biggest impacts. Ants themselves are an underestimated creature which have an important role in their ecosystem, and so do humans for the wider world.

Network is for our focus on bringing together organisations, schools, communities, councils, and charities for mutual benefit, influencing resourcefulness, resilience and progress.

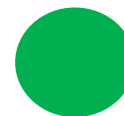
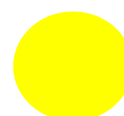


Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



CONTENTS

SECTION I: MEMBERS REPORTS	4
DIRECTOR REPORT- ELIJAH BARNES	4
DIRECTOR REPORT- LACHLAN BOYES	6
SECTION II: ACTIVITIES.....	8
CLEAN ANT SATURDAY	8
Overview	8
Einbunpin Lagoon.....	9
Lacey Road Park.....	11
O’Callaghan Park	13
Diamantina Park.....	14
Deagon Oval.....	16
Other parks in Deagon and Bracken Ridge Wards	17
Marchant Ward Parks.....	19
Clean Up Australia Day Ant Sunday	20
NEW YEAR APPEAL.....	20
HARMONY DAY	21
SPEAK OUT WITH SCRUNCHIES	22
FUNDRAISING ANT LUNCHEON.....	23
MAGIC REVIEWS	24
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	24
Broken to Brilliant Walks	24
Domestic Violence Prevention Event	25
Candlelight Walk.....	25
Disaster Relief	26
RizeUp Lunch	26
Share the Dignity	27
SECTION III: PARTNERSHIPS.....	28
SECTION IV: 2024 PROSPECTIVE.....	31
OVERVIEW	31
CANDIDATE INFORMATION CARDS.....	32
WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE	32
A FINAL WORD	33



SECTION I: MEMBERS REPORTS

DIRECTOR REPORT- ELIJAH BARNES



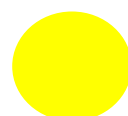
It has been a true pleasure having the opportunity to be a part of this organisation from the time when it was just a maze of ideas sprawled over a whiteboard in January of 2021, to now. As of the end of 2023, our reach extends all over Brisbane, we have six strong programs that continue to grow with each year, and we are partnered with many councils and charities in the effort towards making the world a better place, one small step at a time.

As one of the directors and founders of this organisation, I have numerous responsibilities. The most important of these is managing our biggest program, Clean Ant Saturday. Whilst the idea of going to the different parks in our community and cleaning the rubbish is a simple, there are many behind-the-scenes processes involved. Before the event, this includes scheduling to ensure we cover all the parks within a ward, that we follow a well-balanced rotation of parks requiring regular cleaning, and weekly providing this information on social media. During, this includes coordinating volunteers to efficiently cover a park, and alternating the sections of parks when our team is not able to cover the whole park every time. After, there is a series of reports to complete to keep track of litter levels, types, and anything else of note. Our team then brings this information to local council at the start of each year, which for 2024 will be after the local elections.

Additionally, as a member of the board, I have various administrative duties including writing agendas and proposals, formulating activities, attending meetings, and being involved in the board's strategic planning and decision-making. But in an organisation as small as ours, in terms of number of members, means that the board members also do the majority of the hands-on work- we do most of the Clean Ant Saturday cleaning ourselves, we do most of the reviews for Magic Reviews, and we do hands-on work for most our partners. And even when the day comes that we have more members, we are not going to be the organisation that alienates the board members from the physical volunteering. I know that because we all enjoy doing the work, and we all know that it is important and that it is making a difference. It's also right there in our fundamental philosophy, that even the smallest thing can change the world, and we see that when we make someone's life better or easier, or when we finish a clean-up knowing that none of the rubbish we collected will be contributing pollution or harming wildlife.



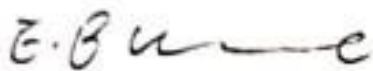
Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



Sometimes it is hard, when we see a park improve significantly in terms of litter levels after several Clean Ant Saturdays, and then it goes back to how it was when we first got there, or when there's a park on our rotation which just isn't improving. When you know that this means despite the care and effort we've taken to keep it clean for everyone and the environment, people still dump their rubbish in these places, it can seem as though we're not actually making a difference. But in the end, it still shows that it would be worse if we were to not clean these parks at all. I am sure this is something most people in the charity industry can relate to, but we are still going and still growing, and resolved to keep trying to make the world a better place. Then hopefully one day, there won't be a need for us.

For 2024, the Magic Ant Network is continuing with our six staple programs: Clean Ant Saturday, New Year Appeal, Harmony Day, Speak Out With Scrunchies, Fundraising Ant Luncheon, and Magic Reviews, as well as taking on a World's Greatest Shave event, which we do every two years, and starting some new programs. The great thing about the six staple events and WGS is that they are very sustainable in that they do require organisation and attention but they don't require a lot of money and have enough interest to keep them running. However, there is still so much more that our organisation has in the planning phase, and when everything relies on just three people who are not paid to do this work, the workload can become difficult. If something were to happen to one of the members, including an injury or if one of them moves or leaves, then there are not enough members to share the workload of the missing person. Therefore, my big thing for this year is making sure that we get more members so we can continue to grow as an organisation, and can withstand changes of circumstance.

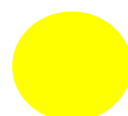
Overall, I am really looking forward to continue working with Magic Ant Network this year, and all the things we have planned. To continue watching this organisation grow, and doing the work that is well-worth doing.



Founding Director- Elijah Barnes



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



DIRECTOR REPORT- LACHLAN BOYES



It has been another exciting year at Magic Ant Network. New projects, new partnerships and new changes. I would like to start my report by saying a massive thank you to everyone who has supported us again this year. We can't do what we do without the support of family, friends and the amazing community. A special thank you to my other Directors, Elijah Barnes and Naomi Warren for being a sounding board for my wild and crazy ideas.

This year saw the continuation of Clean Ant Saturday, the first program we ever started as an organisation. Each Saturday we are out cleaning a local park in either the Deagon, Bracken Ridge or Marchant Wards – being out in nature is the best part! It is a great way to start your Saturday morning, I encourage you to join us in 2024 for more wonderful clean-ups.

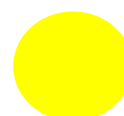
The core of our organisation is community and connection. This year we were lucky enough to strengthen our relationship with the Animal Welfare League Queensland and SANDBAG. We are in constant awe of the amazing work these organisations do and feel honoured to be involved in a small part of their work. This year we created new relationships. Broken to Brilliant and Community Plus+ are two incredible organisations that opened their arms to our team. We look forward to strengthening this relationship in 2024 and creating many more!

In 2022 Brisbane experienced one of the worst flood events to date. Many people are still not in their homes and many people are suffering from PTSD. In 2023 we are still seeing the aftermath. We are proud to be involved with a flood recovery group based out of SANDBAG and to be working with Community Plus+ to help minimise the post-flood damage. There is still work to be done in this area and we hope to continue this work in 2024.

My favourite program of 2023 would have to be Magic Reviews. This program has our team travelling around Brisbane to see some incredible works of arts. Art is such a vital part of society and has an important role to



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



play in development. We started this program to highlight the amazing work that theatres, individuals and musicians do in our community. I am pleased to say we have over 10 reviews lined up for 2024 already and have welcomed four new reviews to the team.

One of my proudest moments in 2023 happened at SANDBAG's Candlelight walk in May. This year we launched our Speak Out With Scrunchies program. This program aims to raise awareness about Domestic and Family Violence and to show support to those impacted. It is a way for community members to stand in solidarity, to show that we will never stop fighting. At the Candlelight walk this year, I was lucky enough to speak to those in attendance and talk about this program. Before the walk started, we took a photo. A photo of every single person in attendance wearing a scrunchie on their wrist. Writing this brings tears to my eyes. To see so many people speaking out and demanding change by using our program is something you never forget. I cannot wait to see this program in action in 2024.

Every year I write my report. Every year I remember the things we have done in the community. Every year I wonder if we have made a difference and if we have done enough. In my heart the answer is always, no. My brain, however, tells me to shut up. It tells me that each year we grow, each year we work with more organisations, each year we make a small difference. I hope one day we don't have to exist, and we can close our organisation. It might never happen, but hope must always be the last thing you lose.

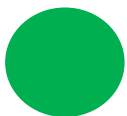
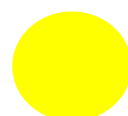
As we close the door on 2023, I gaze at the brand-new door that is 2024. What a year it will be!



Lachlan Boyes - Founding Director



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



SECTION II: ACTIVITIES

CLEAN ANT SATURDAY

Overview

Magic Ant Network's first and longest running program is Clean Ant Saturday. This program has run almost every Saturday morning since February 2021 and is still running strong. Basically, every week our team goes to a park to clean-up the litter. Each week is a different park but we regularly revisit some of the more littered parks in the community.



When starting Clean Ant Saturday in 2021, we went to each of the parks within the Deagon Ward, one per week for an hour. Then we organised the parks that required the most continuous attention into a rotation. By the end of 2021, most of these parks had improved greatly so were removed from our rotation, but the Einbunpin Lagoon, O'Callaghan Park,

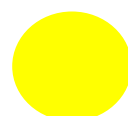
and Deagon Oval remained. At that point we also started having Clean Ant Saturday events at each of the parks in the Bracken Ridge Ward, so within a six-week rotation, we used the first, third, and fifth for the three Deagon Ward parks and for the other weeks, we went to the Bracken Ridge Ward parks. Once we went to all of the Bracken Ridge Ward parks, we changed the rotation so that the second and fourth week clean-ups were at the Bracken Ridge Ward parks that required the most attention: Lacey Road and Diamantina Park, and the sixth week would be for revisiting other parks within these two wards.



This rotation continued in 2023 but in September we decided to expand this program into the Marchant Ward. To keep up with our progress in the Deagon and Marchant ward parks, we retained this rotation but we set our Marchant park clean-ups to start 30 minutes after the finishing of the Deagon or Bracken Ridge ward. As many of these Marchant parks are smaller and cleaner, our Marchant ward



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



clean-ups only last 30 minutes. Currently our Deagon/Bracken Ridge clean-ups run 8-9am, and our Marchant clean-ups run 9:30-10am. As the temperature warrants, we will push both an hour later.



Each week after Clean Ant Saturday, our team posts photos of the clean-up on Facebook to create awareness of litter in the community. We also complete reports to track progress of litter levels and major litter items. Litter levels are measured on a scale of 0 to 7, with seven being the most littered. These are judgment-based rather than using litter counts, and generally consider the amount of rubbish within the covered area (sometimes not the entire park). For terminology of litter items, we often use the term scraps, which refers to the objects that are too small to identify the original item.

Clean Ant Saturday is occasionally cancelled due to wet weather and we break for two to three weeks at the end of the year but apart from that, Clean Ant Saturday runs every single week. As of 16th of December, 2023, when we had our last two clean-ups for 2022, we had a total of 143 Clean Ant Saturday events.

Our community and friends are always welcome to come and lend a hand at our Clean Ant Saturdays. In 2023, we were fortunate enough to have members from Broken to Brilliant, Marchant Ward Office, Chermside Community Action Network, and community, family, and friends volunteer at our Clean Ant Saturdays.

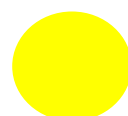
Einbunpin Lagoon

In 2023, we had six clean-up events at Einbunpin Lagoon. It marks the first week in our rotation.

The Einbunpin Lagoon is the park at the center of Sandgate. It is the habitat for an assortment of turtles, birds, and other local wildlife. It is

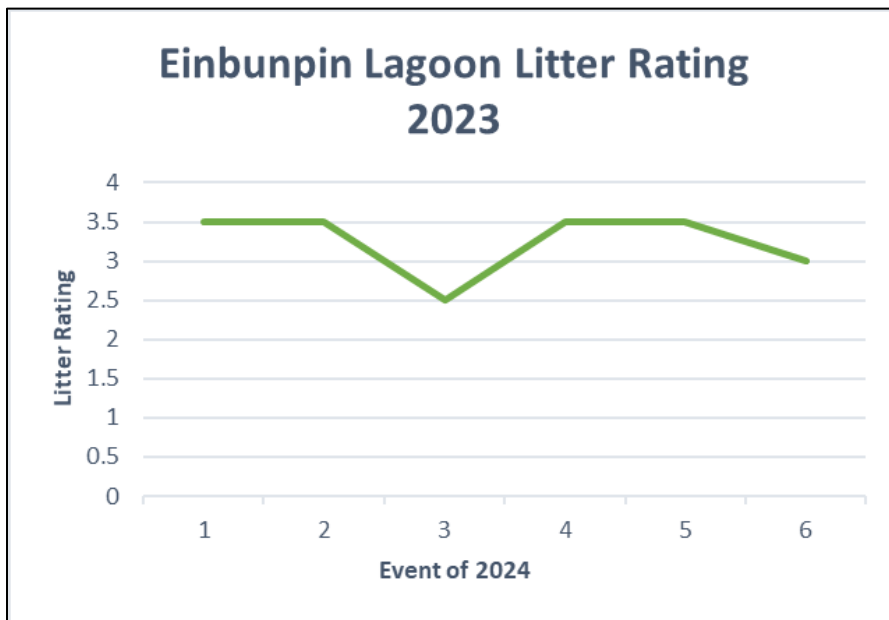


Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org

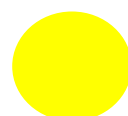
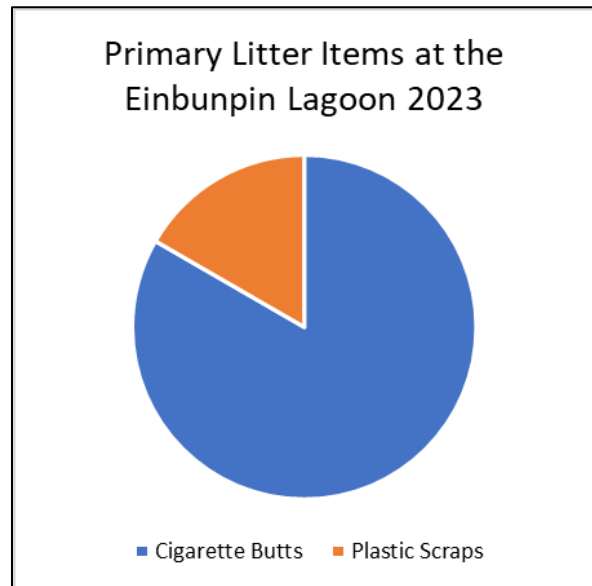
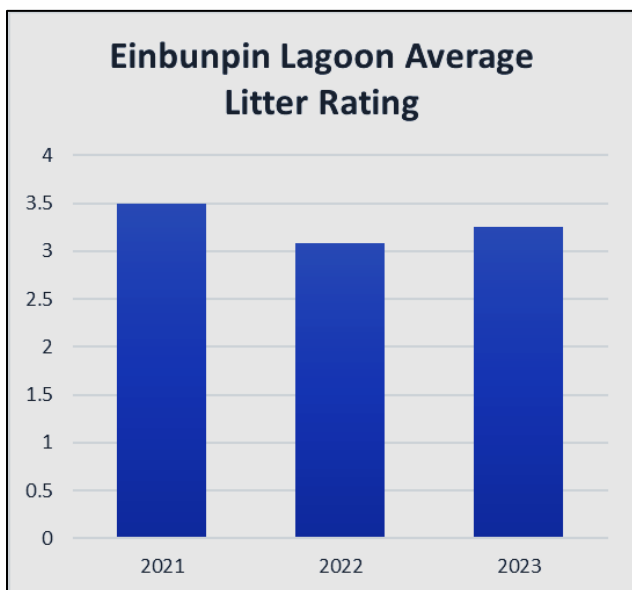


heavily used by community members for leisure purposes and community events including the Einbunpin festival.

In terms of litter, the Einbunpin Lagoon is usually one of the cleanest on our rotation, but the litter here has a particularly significant impact on the wildlife and the lagoon, and since it is used so frequently by so many, it is a natural choice for our rotation of parks. Litter here often builds up within the bushes and the carpark, but we are aware there is probably much litter that enters the lagoon before we get to it.



As demonstrated by the diagrams, the litter levels for the Einbunpin Lagoon remains quite consistent, with a litter rating between 2.5 and 3.5 out of 7. The most common litter item by far is cigarette butts, and for the clean-up where



plastic scraps was the primary litter item, cigarette butts was still identified as a significant litter item.

In 2024, we will return to the Einbunpin Lagoon for clean-ups on the following dates:

- 3rd of February
- 20th of July
- 9th of November
- 30th of March
- 14th of September
- 25th of May

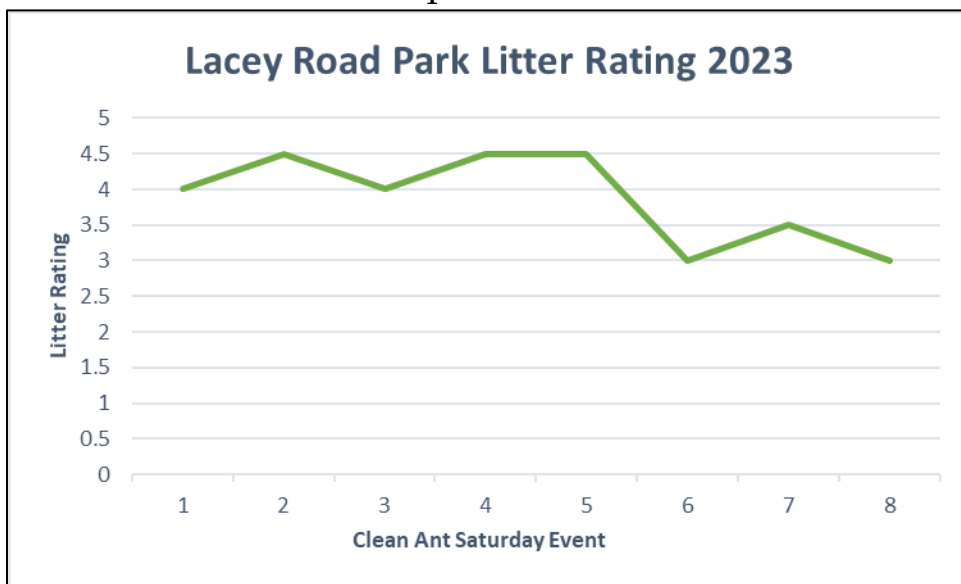
Lacey Road Park

Lacey Road Park is the second park in our rotation, and in 2023, we had eight Clean Ant Saturdays at this park.



Lacey Road Park is a park between Lacey Road and Roghan Road in Carseldine. Technically, it is two separate parks: Lacey Road Park is the large, open area along Roghan Road, and Lacey Road Dog Park begins along Lacey Road but consists of several smaller, almost hidden areas separated by the environment.

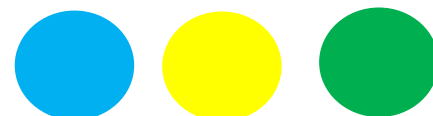
Our clean ups here cover both parks, but usually, we switch which end we start from each time since it is difficult to properly clean the whole area every time due to the size of the parks and amount of litter. It is not a high-use park



like the Einbunpin Lagoon, and is probably the least used of our five regular parks, but it is still a very nice park that is worth keeping clean.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



As demonstrated within the diagrams below, the litter levels at Lacey Road Park have generally improved, though very slightly this year, with litter rating 4-4.5 towards the start of the year to 3-3.5 towards the end. Towards the start of the year, the most common item we found was dog poo bags, usually sparsely spread throughout the park. The number of dog poo bags gradually decreased throughout the year but towards the end, we began to find a very large concentration of cigarette butts around the bench in the main park area. In our last two clean ups, our crew spent a considerable amount of time just picking up the cigarettes around this bench, but we still made time to see the rest of the park, which has been improving. However, there is still a long way to go.

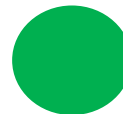
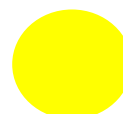


In 2024, we will return to the Lacey Road Park for clean-ups on the following dates:

- 10th of February
- 6th of April
- 1st of June
- 27th of July
- 21st of September
- 16th of November



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



O'Callaghan Park

O'Callaghan Park is the third park in our rotation, and in 2023, we had seven Clean Ant Saturdays at this park.

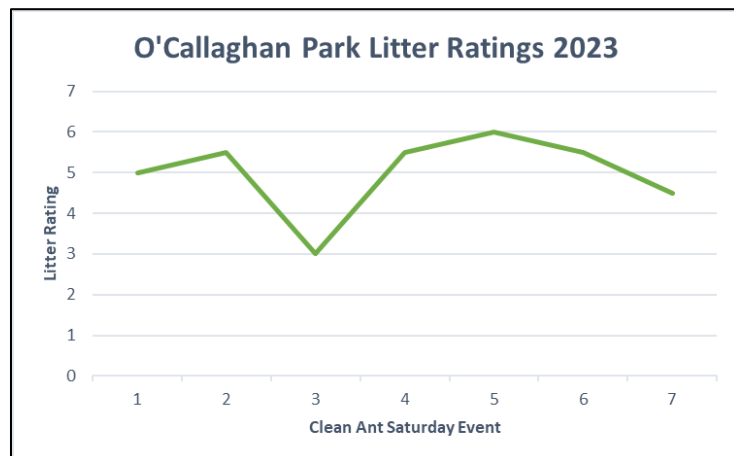


O'Callaghan Park sits along Zilmere Road in Zilmere, and whilst it is in the Deagon ward, it borders the Bracken Ridge ward. This park is regularly used by a range of sporting clubs, and was used for the annual Zilmere Festival in previous years.

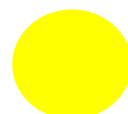
Litter has been regularly observed in all parts of the park, however, there are particular concentrations of rubbish in the carpark and the drain. The drain is of significant concern as it releases a toxic odor when the rubbish builds up, also impacting the waterflow. Sometimes our team observes larger items in this drain including shopping trolleys and desk chairs, so we take these out and put them out of the way. We have observed earlier in the year that council took action into fixing the drain, but continued littering in the area has allowed the problem to continuously resurface. Whilst the drain is a particular concentration of rubbish, we have observed that most of the park is regularly littered with various items of rubbish, and is therefore appropriate for our rotation.



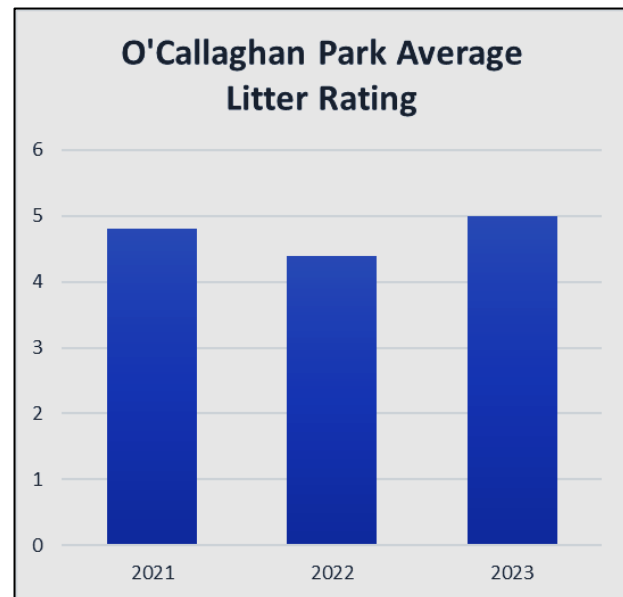
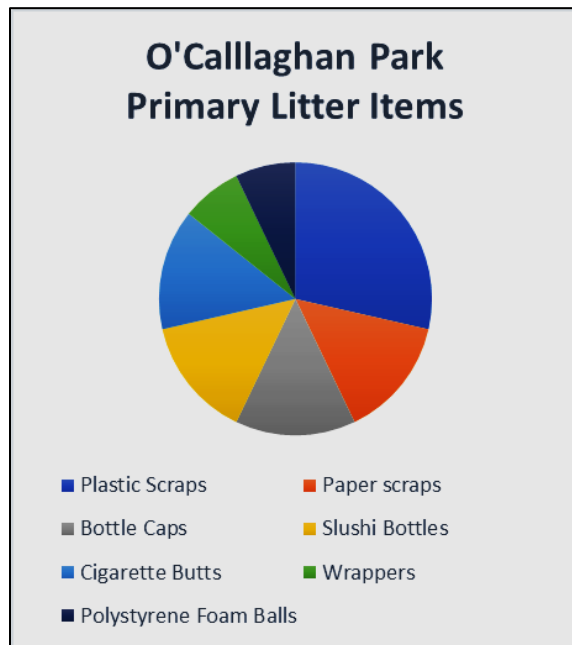
As demonstrated in the diagrams, the O'Callaghan Park rubbish levels do waver but there is no significant change in the litter observed this year. This is a continuing trend from previous years. The litter items found vary from time to time, and there



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



are some such as the foam balls which were only observed once, but usually most of the litter items listed are present, though differing in prominence.



In 2024, we will return to O'Callaghan Park for clean-ups on the following dates:

- 17th of February
- 13th of April
- 8th of June
- 3rd of August
- 28th of September
- 23rd of November

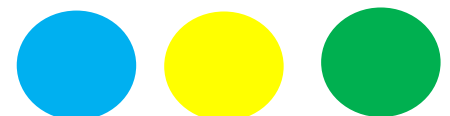
Diamantina Park

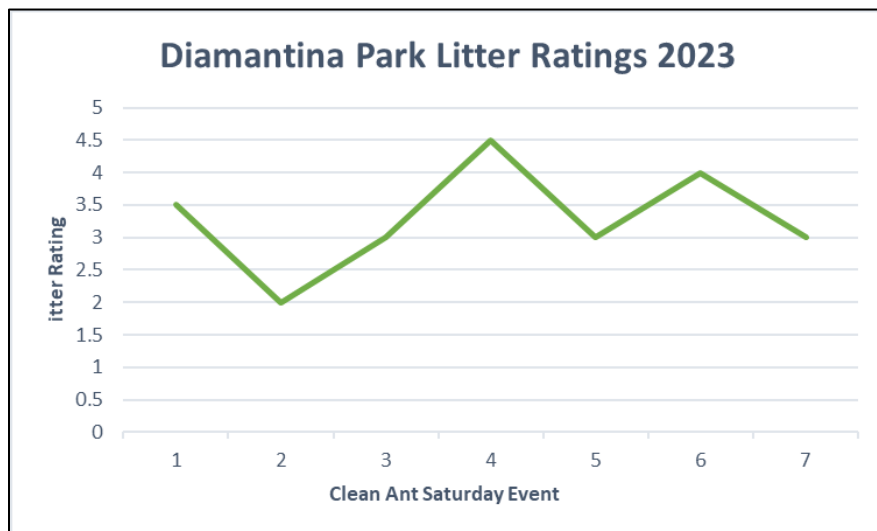
Diamantina Park is the fourth park in our rotation, and in 2023, we had eight Clean Ant Saturdays at this park.

Diamantina Park runs along Diamantina Crescent in Fitzgibbon. There is an adjacent parklike area between Diamantina Park and Iris Place Park that we also cover in our clean-ups. The park is not used for any major community events, but it is high use, especially as part of a longer pathway for leisurely walks.



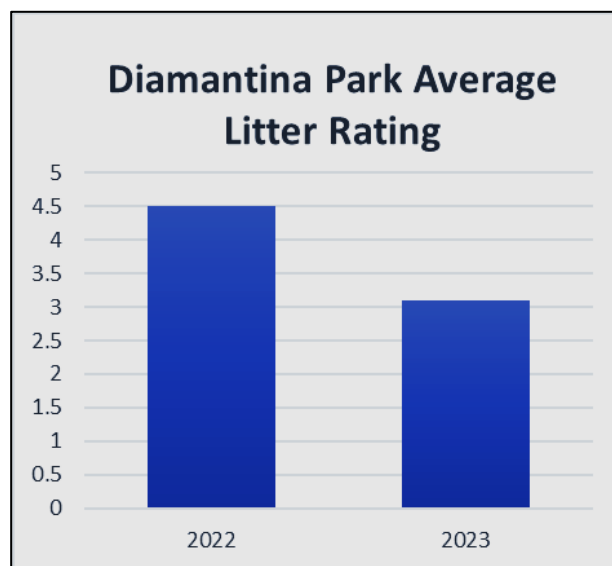
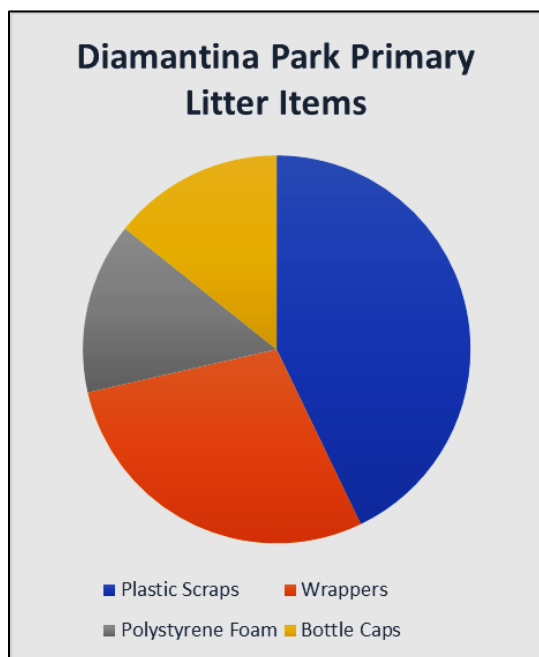
Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org





The park has a low-lying and small stream that runs through the middle, from one end to the other which connects to multiple drains. The litter tends to be concentrated in this stream, and sparsely spread throughout

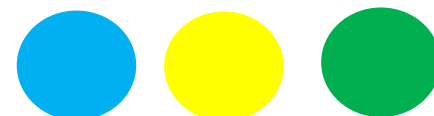
the rest of the park. As demonstrated in



the diagrams, the litter levels in this park are more erratic than the other parks, but there has been no significant increase or decrease this year. It has, however, improved since the initial clean-up of the park in 2022.

In 2024, we will return to Diamantina Park for clean-ups on the following dates:

- 24th of February
- 20th of April
- 15th of June
- 10th of August
- 5th of October
- 30th of November



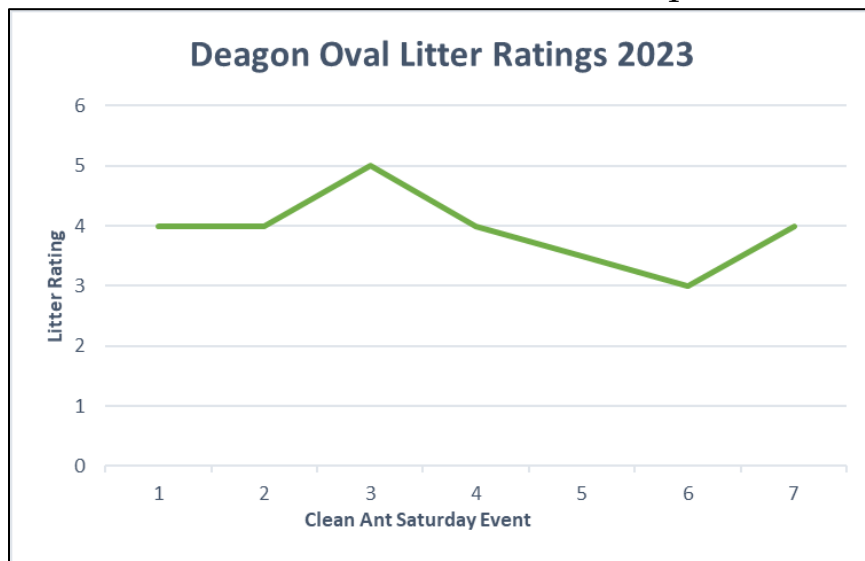
Deagon Oval

The Deagon Oval is the fifth park in our rotation and in 2023, we had six Clean Ant Saturdays at this park.

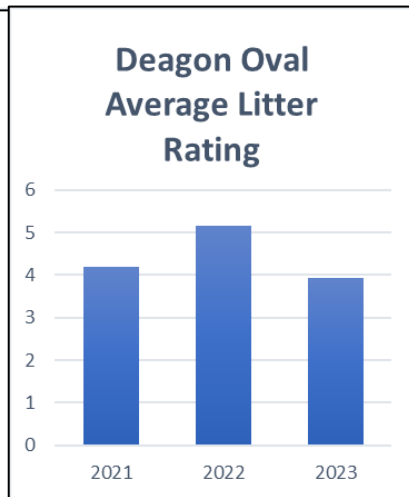
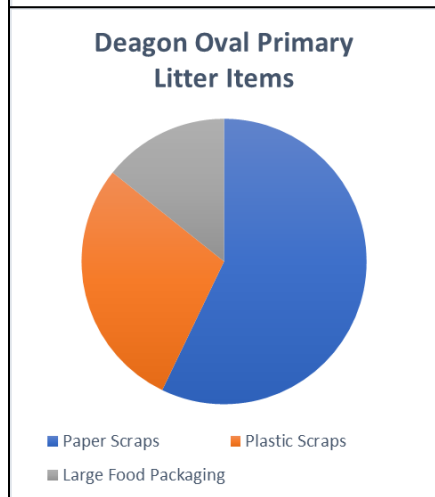
The Deagon Oval sits on Board Street in Deagon. It consists of several sporting fields and facilities, and is used by numerous sport clubs and the Sandgate PCYC.



At one end of the area is a skatepark, where there is usually the greatest concentration of rubbish, and it sometimes takes up to 40 minutes for our team to clean this particular section. Due to this, we

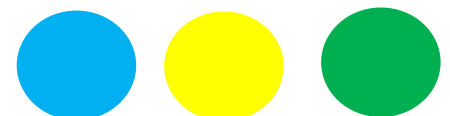


always begin by cleaning the area around the skatepark. Significant concentrations also exist in the drains on Racecourse Road, the Board Street roadside, and in spectator zones.



As shown in the diagrams, the litter levels have slightly improved throughout the year but still have a long way to go. This is altogether an improvement from 2022. In terms of primary litter items, towards the start of the year, paper

scraps was the most common, but towards the end of the year, plastic scraps became more prominent.

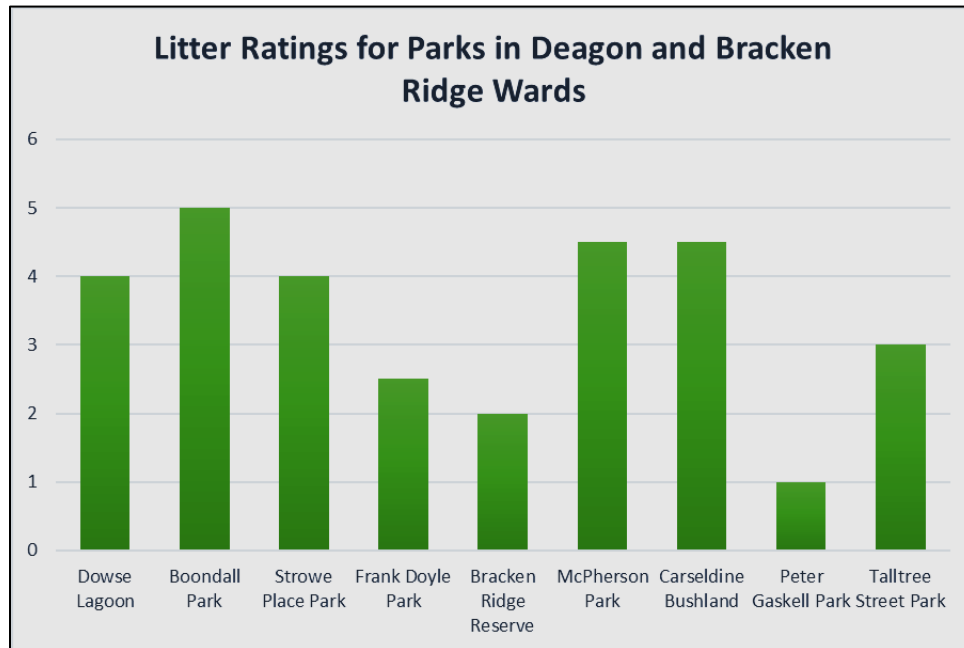


In 2024, we will be returning to Deagon Oval for the following dates:

- 27th of April
- 17th of August
- 7th of December
- 22nd of June
- 12th of October

Other parks in Deagon and Bracken Ridge Wards

In our rotation, the sixth week is used to revisit other parks from the



Bracken Ridge and Deagon Wards. These parks are selected by community request, or by the team members to prepare for an event (as McPherson Park clean-up was for the preparation of

Harmony Day) or simply check a park that previously had a moderate litter rating. If one of these parks gets a high litter rating, then the board discusses it's potential inclusion for the rotation.

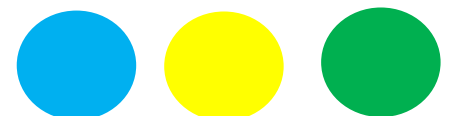
Boondall Park, situated between Sandgate Road and Muller Road in Boondall was a part of our initial rotation but at the end of 2021, it showed much improvement, so it was removed. However, when our team revisited this year, it had significantly worsened so the board decided to include it in the rotation for 2024. These are the dates for clean-ups at Boondall Park in 2024:

- 16th of March
- 11th of May
- 6th of July
- 31st of August
- 26th of October
- 21st of December

McPherson Park sits along Denham Road in Bracken Ridge, between Bracken Ridge State School and the Bracken Ridge Tavern. Our initial



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



clean-up of this park was conducted in late 2021, where we observed it was low in litter. However, upon returning to clean it for the annual Harmony Day in 2023, our team found a significant increase in litter, so we will also be including it in our rotation for 2024. These are the dates for the clean-ups at McPherson Park in 2024:

- 9th of March
- 4th of May
- 29th of June
- 24th of August
- 19th of October
- 14th of December

Community members who have noticed a particular park in the Bracken Ridge or Deagon ward that requires cleaning can make a request to have it cleaned by the Magic Ant Network. Simply email elijah@magicantnetwork.org and we'll get there on the next suitable extra week in our rotation. The extra weeks on our rotation for 2024 are:

- 23rd of March
- 18th of May
- 13th of July
- 7th of September
- 2nd of November

The other parks cleaned in the extra week of our rotation were generally cleaner, or at least parks such as Stowe Place Park, didn't appear to require regular cleaning due to the litter building up over longer periods of time. If no other parks are suggested by community members for 2024, it is likely we will return to Dowse Lagoon, Stowe Place Park, and Carseldine Bushland for some of the extra weeks.

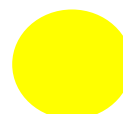
On the 27th of May, 2023, one particularly special event for our Clean Ant team occurred: our 100th Clean Ant Saturday. That means 100 hours of cleaning up litter from parks on 100 different weeks completed by our team. This took place at Frank Doyle Park, the location of our very 1st Clean



Ant Saturday. It was attended by the local Councilor

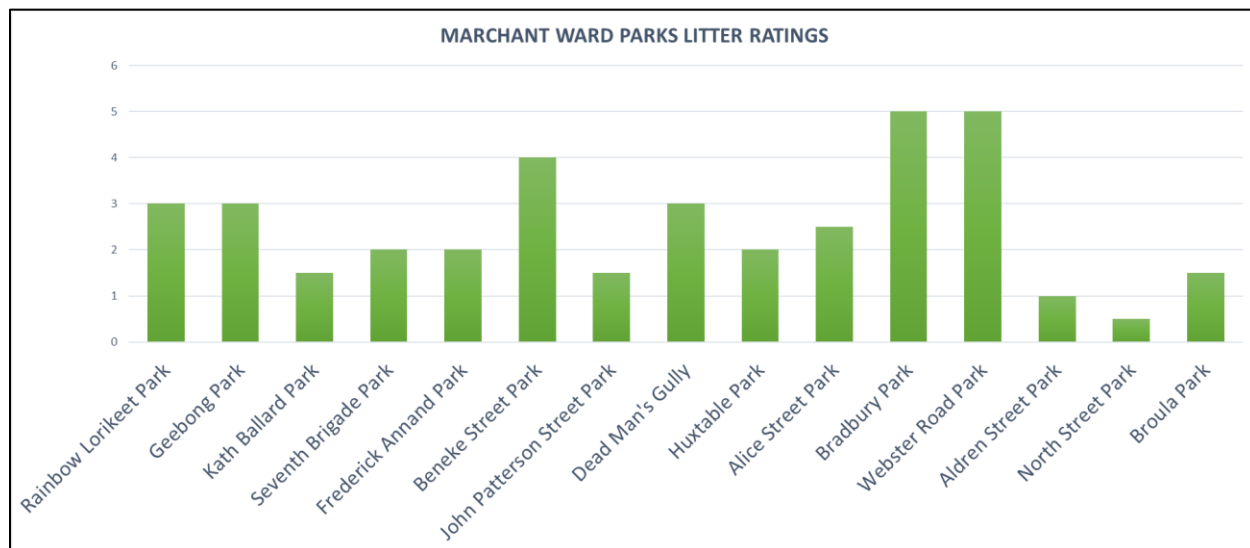


Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



Jared Cassidy, as well as community, family, and friends.

Marchant Ward Parks



This year, our team started to clean the parks in the Marchant Ward as part of our Clean Ant Saturday program. These have occurred thirty minutes after the Clean Ant Saturday at the Deagon and Bracken Ridge Wards, and run for thirty minutes. This began on the 2nd of September with Rainbow Lorikeet Park.



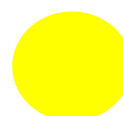
Across all of the parks we've cleaned so far, the trend in litter tends to be higher amounts for parks that are large but not high use and/or don't have enough bins. Seventh Brigade Park is very large but as it is high use and has many bins, the litter level was low. Most of the other low litter level parks are very small and are based around a playground. However, parks such as Webster Road Park are secluded, large and don't contain enough bins (Webster Road Park has one bin) to help keep down the level of rubbish.

In 2024, we will continue clean the remaining parks in the Marchant Ward, one per week. This includes:

- Keith Payne Park 06/01
- Gordon Park Playground 20/01
- Hickey Park 27/01
- Kedron Brook Reserve 03/02
- Norman Avenue Park 10/02
- Ameila Park 17/02
- Shand Street Park 24/02
- Bradshaw Park 09/03
- Montrose Street Park 16/03
- Emerson Park 23/03
- Grinstead Park 30/03



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



- Halford Park 06/04
- Alderley Park 13/04
- Prentice Park 20/04
- Lanham Park 27/04
- Archer Street Park 04/05
- Kokoda Park 11/05
- Damon Park 18/05
- Swinburne Street Park 25/05
- Wesley Street Park 01/06
- W A Jolly Park 08/06
- Gibson Park 15/06
- Grange Fores Park 22/06

After this, the Marchant Ward rotation will be devised from the parks that require regular attention as judged by the board.

Clean Up Australia Day Ant Sunday

Clean-Up Australia Day is something our team has experimented with across the past three years, in terms of how we should be involved. For this weekend, we cancel the Clean Ant Saturday on the Saturday, with Clean Up Australia Day taking place on the Sunday. Previously, we went to clean up the litter at all the major Sandgate foreshore parks. However, this year we decided to join Bracken Ridge Ward Councilor Sandy Landers in her clean-up of the Carseldine Bushlands. This was attended by a large number of community members resulting in a very thorough and successful clean-up.



Clean-up Australia Day will occur on the 3rd of March 2024.

NEW YEAR APPEAL

Every year, the Magic Ant Network organises a New Year Appeal to support the Animal Welfare League Queensland.



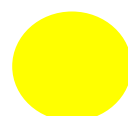
We are incredibly lucky to have such a generous community who donate food, bedding and other items. Our drop off location for 2023 was Bracken Ridge Jetts, and at the end of the collection



period, members from the AWLQ brought two puppies from their shelter to meet with the Jetts administration and the Magic Ant Network members and collect the items.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



For the New Year Appeal in 2024, the Jetts Bracken Ridge are returning as a collection point, in addition to the Jared Cassidy Deagon Ward office, and the Sandy Landers Bracken Ridge Ward office. All pet supplies are accepted up until the 9th of February.

HARMONY DAY

In 2023, the Magic Ant Network had its second annual Harmony Day event. It was held at McPherson Park on the morning of the 26th of March, and was in collaboration with the monthly Bracken Ridge Lions Train Day. Whilst Harmony Day officially resides on the 21st, it is most suitable for community attendance on Sundays, as most of the other major community events in the Sandgate and Bracken Ridge, or 4017 area, are held at this time of the week.



The Magic Ant Network initially decided to hold a Harmony Day event since it is one of the biggest national celebrations and is not specific to any one culture, rather it celebrates all of them. In 2022, we had our inaugural Harmony Day event at the Einbunpin Lagoon where we had a range of guest speakers, and flag procession and performances involving local school students.

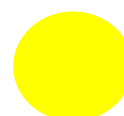


In 2023, upon realizing that the day we were planning our Harmony Day celebration was on the same day as the Lions Train Day, we thought it would be beneficial to combine these events. In the lead up to Harmony Day, the Planning Committee, made from community, family, and friends met to delegate tasks and decide who would run the different activities.

On the day, the Magic Ant Network had a stall where community members could participate in these activities, buy a range of items including scrunchies for our May program, Speak out with Scrunchies, find out more



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



about the Magic Ant Network, and raise money for our charity partners. For activities, we had a toss/prize game, a craft table, rubbish sorting relays, and a scavenger hunt where participants had to find information about different countries spread throughout the event area on information sheets. Our team was fortunate enough to have the assistance of Sandbag volunteers, and student leaders to help assist with the running of the stall and activities, as well as the community, family, and friends involved in the planning committee and on the day.



On our first Harmony Day event in 2022, we had a naming competition for our mascot, the ant. Two names stood out: Chowa and Autumn so we decided to name the ant mascot Autumn, and create a new mascot for the Harmony Day event, which would be called Chowa. For this Harmony Day event in 2023, we had a competition where community members could suggest the type of animal for Chowa. From the suggestions by community members on the day, the board selected the humming bird to be the animal for our Harmony Day mascot, named Chowa.

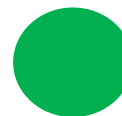
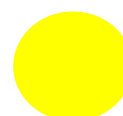
The Magic Ant Network will be holding our Harmony Day event once again in 2024. All are invited. Applications are currently open for our Harmony Day Planning Committee for those interested.

SPEAK OUT WITH SCRUNCHIES

This year the Magic Ant Network launched a new program: Speak Out With Scrunchies. This program aims to raise awareness for Family and Domestic Violence in a way that supports those not ready to speak. Those who participate simply wear a scrunchie on wrist or hair for the month of May (Domestic and Family Violence Prevention month) to demonstrate their support for an end to domestic violence and standing in solidarity with victims. We see a lot of pressure on people to



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



come forward with their stories but sometimes, they aren't ready, and it can cause more harm. However, this program tells the community, and those who feel unsafe or unsupported three things – we believe you; we support you and we see you.

The highlight of this program was when Lachie, one of our Founding Directors, attended the SANDBAG Candlelight walk and got an amazing photo of the community wearing their scrunchies proudly. We are looking forward to running this program again in 2024 and look forward to having everyone involved.

FUNDRAISING ANT LUNCHEON



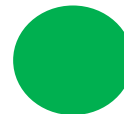
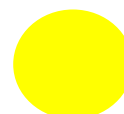
In September, the Magic Ant Network has an annual AWLQ Fundraising Luncheon. Our 2023 luncheon was our second and turned out to be a massive success. We raised \$700 that was donated to the Animal Welfare League Queensland. These funds were raised through a percentage of ticket prices, raffle tickets, and general donation

opportunities. This money goes towards supporting animals that were surrendered, abandoned and rescued. This year, the Sandgate Post Office Hotel provided the venue and went above and beyond to make the day incredible.

The luncheon itself consisted of a three-course alternate drop meal in the Sandgate Post Office Hotel's function room. Guests were given a variety of brochures, information cards and booklets about the Animal Welfare League's many great projects. Between the courses, there was a presentation by leaders from the AWLQ Bracken Ridge Warra Shelter and the animal panel, which also included board members from the Magic Ant Network, allowing time for attendees to receive detailed and discussive answers to their questions. The event



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



finished with a raffle of many sponsored prizes assisted by Bracken Ridge Ward Councilor Sandy Landers.



We were lucky enough to have two puppies along to the event – they were asleep by the end! Thank you to everyone who attended the luncheon, and we look forward to seeing our community and friends involved again in 2024.

MAGIC REVIEWS



In 2023, the Magic Ant Network launched their very own reviewing program that draws connection and awareness to The Arts- an industry that contributes to culture and tradition but relies much on hard hours, little pay, and community involvement. Through our reviewing program, three incredible productions were reviewed in 2023, as listed

below:

- ‘Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street’ – Ghostlight Theatre Co./ KSP theatre
- ‘A Murder is Announced’ – Nash Theatre
- ‘The Amateurs’ – Ad Astra

The reviewing team is excited to announce eight amazing productions have been locked in for reviews in 2024, and that three new reviewers have since joined the program. Whilst the focus of our Magic Reviews program has been community theatre, we are also able to send reviewers for musical performance and a range of books upon request.

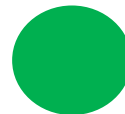
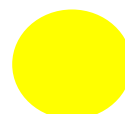
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Broken to Brilliant Walks

Every Saturday, the Magic Ant Network team travel to parks within the Brisbane City Council LGA. However, since June 2023 we have joined the amazing domestic violence charity, Broken to Brilliant on their Support Walk from Downhill Creek to Milne Hill lookout every third Saturday prior to our clean-ups. Not only is it a great way to support those impacted



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



by Family and Domestic Violence, but it is also wholesome to be out in nature.

Our team has loved attending these walks with Broken to Brilliant and we have made incredible connections with those in attendance. We can't wait for more walks in 2024.

Domestic Violence Prevention Event

In 2023, SANDBAG, a community organisation and charity for the 4017 area, hosted the Domestic Violence Prevention Event. This event was held in the middle of the day, prior to the Candlelight Walk which took place that evening.



The Domestic Violence Prevention Event involved different charities and organisations that work in domestic violence prevention

and awareness. These different groups could then begin to build connections with each other and create awareness of each other's programs. Community members who dropped by also had the opportunity to learn about the different groups. Throughout the event, there were several presentations and guest speakers, allowing for an in-depth explanation of some of the involved programs.



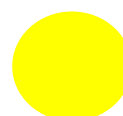
The Magic Ant Network was fortunate enough to have it's own table to promote the program, Speak Out With Scrunchies, and one of directors was given the opportunity to introduce our various programs as one of the presenting speakers.

Candlelight Walk

SANDBAG is the heart of the 4017 community and it holds the most incredible events throughout the year. In 2023 our team attended our third candlelight walk at Einbunpin Lagoon with SANDBAG and the community. This event involves individuals, businesses, organisation and government



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



coming together to make a stand against Family and Domestic Violence. It was incredible to hear the stories of survivors and people who work in the space, the bravery and dedication blows our mind. Our team would highly encourage our community and friends to attend the candlelight walk May 2024. We will be posting the event on our page when the date and time are announced.



Disaster Relief

In 2022, Brisbane was subject to a major flooding event and in 2023, like-minded people formed a committee, intent on ensuring that a better disaster plan was in place. The Magic Ant Network has been involved in the events and planning sessions held at SANDBAG to assist wherever possible.

One such event was the Flood Recovery Expo which was designed to raise awareness and support for those in flood prone areas. The team at SANDBAG have been helping organise this response and are wanting to ensure the community builds an everlasting disaster response plan in the 4017 area.

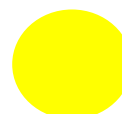
Our team is looking forward to being involved in this project again in 2024 and for many years to come.

RizeUp Lunch

In 2023, the Magic Ant Network team was joined by members of SANDBAG in attendance of the annual RizeUp Luncheon. Every year this luncheon draws a massive crowd and leaves people with a tear or two. The team at RizeUp are doing incredible work in



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



the Family and Domestic Violence space, from setting up houses to ensuring no family is without Christmas presents.

The Magic Ant Network will be getting another table for the 2024 event and we hope to see our supports, volunteers and partners in attendance.

Share the Dignity

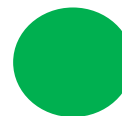
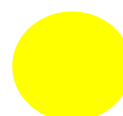
Our Founding Director, Lachie, was fortunate enough to attend a packing day at Share the Dignity in 2023. What a day it was! The team at Share the Dignity put so much love and effort into ensuring these bags have exactly what women, girls and those who menstruate need. One of the highlights of the session was the connection each individual volunteer made. It was nice to have a bunch of like-minded people in a room, working towards a common goal.



We look forward to attending more packing events in 2024.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



SECTION III: PARTNERSHIPS

One of the main focuses of Magic Ant Network is unifying charities, councils, businesses, schools, and community, and we have achieved this so far by building connections and partnerships with these different groups, helping in any way that we can. Three of our major partnerships are the Deagon, Bracken Ridge, and Marchant councilors who have been massive supporters of our programs, so we would like to thank them for their continued support of our activities. And we look forward to continue working with them in 2024.

Below is listed the Magic Ant Network's various charity partners, with information regarding their values and programs:



Animal Welfare League QLD

AWLQ works with councils and the community to improve the outcomes for abandoned and homeless pets. AWLQ strives to give every animal in need a second chance at life and promises to never euthanise a healthy, sociable or treatable animal in our care.

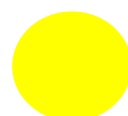


Leukaemia Foundation

Your blood really is a remarkable thing. It keeps you alive by giving your body what it needs, taking away what it doesn't and fighting off infection. But more than 110,000 people in Australia are living with the devastating impact of blood cancer and it's one of the biggest causes of cancer death. It's a cancer of your blood and immune systems, preventing them from doing what they need to keep you alive and healthy. Blood cancer develops in the places of your body where blood is made, but its exact cause is unknown. A range of things affect someone's chance of surviving blood cancer and it can be incurable. There are many different types of blood cancer and together they are among the most prevalent and deadly cancers in Australia today. The most common types of blood cancer are called lymphoma, leukaemia and myeloma.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org





Basic Rights Queensland & Working Women Queensland

BRQ is a state-wide Qld community Legal Centre, providing advice, advocacy and free legal services. They help people having problems with Centrelink or disability discrimination, and women in the workplace.

Working Women QLD is a free, confidential & supportive service to help vulnerable women seeking help with work matters. You can call them for free on 1800 358 511 on weekdays 9am-4pm.



SANDBAG

The Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group Incorporated, known as SANDBAG Inc. is an independent community based organisation that has been working within the Brisbane North Community for the past 25 years.

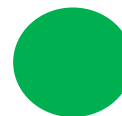
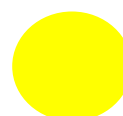
This organisation aims to create community connections that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities and engage with people experiencing adversity due to poverty, homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence, disability, and discrimination due to age, gender or sexual orientation. SANDBAG works to break down barriers that exclude people from housing, healthcare, employment, meaningful connections, and to give people a voice.

They also assist and support individuals to access a safe space, resolve crisis, break social isolation, access health and community services, and build community.

Working developmentally, their values strongly drive not only what they do but how they do it. Actively living these values underpins the approach of all those who work for or are connected with the organisation.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org





Broken to Brilliant

Broken to Brilliant™ is an Australian registered not-for-profit charity established by domestic violence survivors to mentor other survivors to re-establish successful lives. They help victims who have safely left the abusive relationship and are out of the crisis by providing services and programs to empower, support, assist and give hope to survivors in their journey to create a new chapter in their lives.

Their focus is not during the crisis of domestic violence or during the stage of transition and resettlement time. Their focus is on a survivor's journey of recovery and rebuilding their lives.



Community Plus +

Community Plus+ has grown from a history of grassroots advocacy and continues to enact our strong commitment to social justice and inclusion for the wellbeing of all.

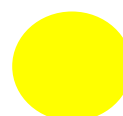
They are proud to be active partners with local communities in placemaking, working alongside partners, stakeholders, other agencies and community members to be the ears of the community, and the voice of Brisbane's Inner South.

Each part of Community Plus+ empowers communities to be the heart of inclusive social change through our neighbourhood centers, community resilience and tenancy advice services, programs and social activities.

Community Plus+ are well versed in delivering place-based outcomes through collaborative partnership and activation of community spaces, including West End Community House, Yeronga Community Centre, Annerley Hub, West End Croquet Club and Boundary Street Kiosk.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
 Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
 Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



SECTION IV: 2024 PROSPECTIVE

OVERVIEW

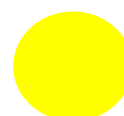
In 2024, the Magic Ant Network is excited to continue six of the activities from 2023, as well as a range of new projects. The continuing projects are Clean Ant Saturday, New Year Appeal, Harmony Day, Speak Out With Scrunchies, Fundraising Ant Luncheon, and Magic Reviews, and the new/returning projects are Candidate Information Cards and a World's Greatest Shave Event. Below is the main calendar of events for 2024:

Month	Programs
January	Clean Ant Saturday (6 th , 20 th , 27 th) New Year Appeal- starting on the 8 th
February	Clean Ant Saturday (3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th) New Year Appeal- finishing on the 9 th
March	Clean-up Australia Day Sunday (3 rd) Clean Ant Saturday (9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th) Harmony Day (24 th) Candidate Information Cards- released prior to council elections
April	Clean Ant Saturday (6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th)
May	Clean Ant Saturday (4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th) Speak Out With Scrunchies- all month
June	Clean Ant Saturday (1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th)
July	Clean Ant Saturday (6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th) World's Greatest Shave (21 st)
August	Clean Ant Saturday (3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th , 31 st)
September	Clean Ant Saturday (7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th) Fundraising Ant Luncheon (28 th)
October	Clean Ant Saturday (5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th)
November	Clean Ant Saturday (2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th)
December	Clean Ant Saturday (7 th , 14 th , 21 st)

Further information for each individual event including time, location, and community participation will be made available on Magic Ant Network's Facebook page closer to the dates. Magic Reviews is not included as it will continue throughout the year based on TBC dates for individual performances and review publications.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



CANDIDATE INFORMATION CARDS

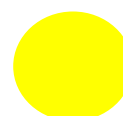
Candidate Information Cards is a program that we are looking to start for the council election coming in 2024. We recognise that in elections, it is difficult to compare the policies of the different candidates, and that the best candidate, being the one with the best policies, should be elected if the voters are aware every candidates policies. This is what Candidate Information Cards will address. Firstly, we will contact the candidates of a particular electorate and ask for their policies on the eight main areas that we work in, as well as other social issues of particular relevance. We also ask the candidate for a general statement. All of these answers will be succinct to ensure their policies are clear and easy to read. Once all of the responses are collected, we will collate these into pamphlets, one for each electorate. The pamphlet has one candidate per page with the social issues labelled clearly. These pamphlets will then be made available to the public. For the local election coming in 2024, we are looking to have Candidate Information Cards for each of the Deagon, Bracken Ridge, and Marchant wards.

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

In 2022, the Magic Ant Network held a World's Greatest Shave event outside the Bracken Ridge library. The participants were the Magic Ant Network team members, with funds raised between March and June for the Leukemia Foundation and the very important work that they do. In 2024, our team will once again be participating in the World's Greatest Shave with the event set for July 21st. Fundraising for the event will begin at our annual Harmony Day celebration and finish after the July event. Our team welcomes anyone from our community, friends, and partners, to join us in getting shaved or simply sponsor us through donations. Shaved or cut hair will go to sustainable salons to be repurposed for wigs (longer hair), compost, or absorbing oil spills (shorter hair).



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org



A FINAL WORD

The Magic Ant Network team would like to thank everyone who has helped us and supported us in 2023. It has been a pleasure working with our family, friends, community, charities, and councils in making the small changes to the world that lead to a big difference. We look forward to working with everyone again in 2024.



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686
Email: lachlan@magicantnetwork.org
Website: www.magicantnetwork.org

