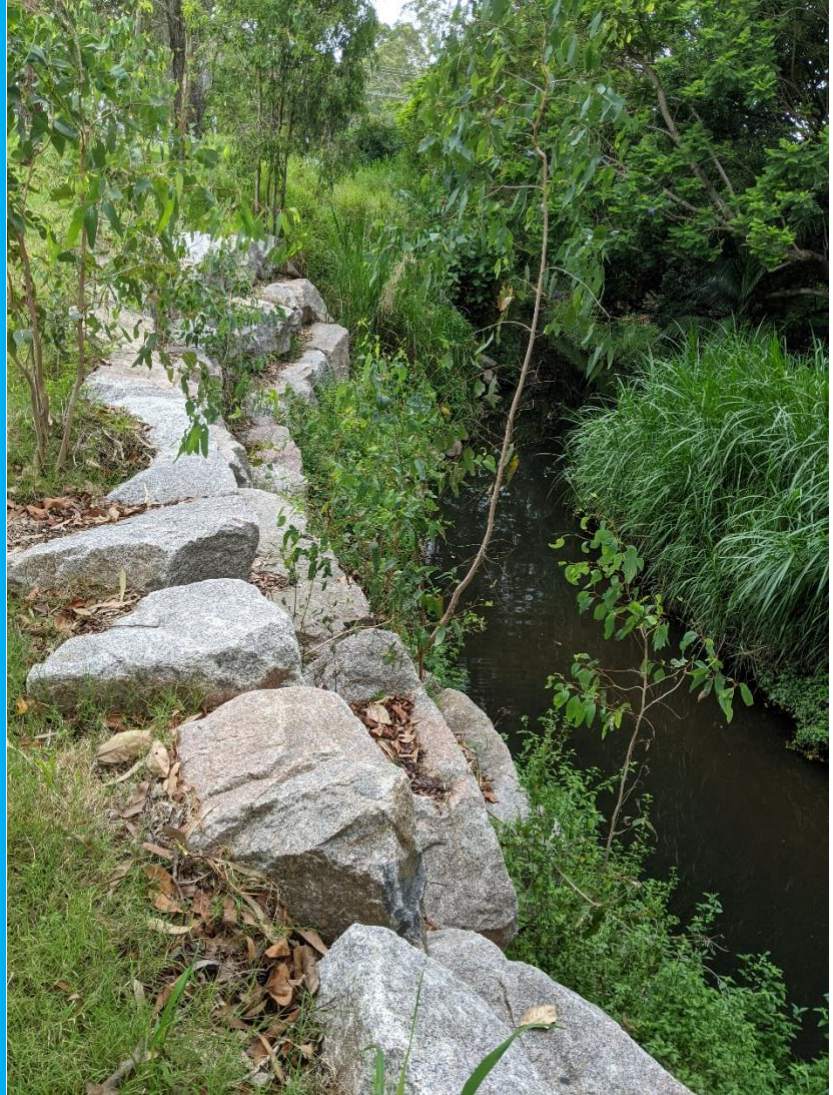


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# ANT HILL YEAR 2

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**JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2022 –  
JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2023**

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**MAGIC ANT NETWORK**  
**Authored by: Executive Board**



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## 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 and Bracken Ridge Ward area. Our organisation works in a broad range of issues which include 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!

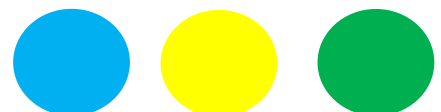
Network is the intricate system beneath the ant hill. Our organisation has a strong focus on building connections in the community, we believe that every single connection made is going to make a big difference. We are constantly looking at ways to strengthen and build relationships in the community,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



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686

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## Contents

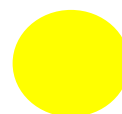
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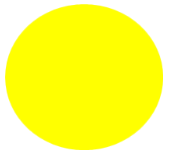
## OUR MAGIC VISION

### Unity WE CONNECT ORGANISATIONS



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 WE CREATE AWARENESS ABOUT SOCIAL ISSUES



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 WE PROMOTE LIVEABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY



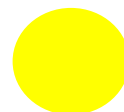
As well as connecting a variety of community organisations, schools and charities, we at the Magic Ant Network offer opportunities for charities to expand, and to connect with volunteers. We passionately believe that working together to make small changes will create a positive difference towards sustainability 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

(Overall experience)

(Introduction to duties)

(How I have managed Clean Ant)

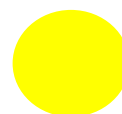
(How my role will develop in this organisation)



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## DIRECTOR REPORT- LACHLAN BOYES

Over the last two years I have been inspired, humbled, shocked, and hopeful. It still feels like we wake up every morning and there is yet another horrible thing in the world. It scares every single one of us and often leads to us shutting ourselves away. This is where that little pearl of hope shines through. We must believe in better, we must hope for better, we must be better. Our idea that 'Even the smallest thing can change the world' is something we just say. It is one of the truest things I have ever heard. You don't need to be wealthy; you don't need to be powerful to make a difference. A simple smile is sometimes all it takes to make someone's day. 2022 taught me to have just a little bit more hope in the tank. What are you hopeful for?

This year has once again been one of the best in my life. Starting this organisation will always be one of the best things I ever did. Working with such a dedicated and incredible team has shown the true good in this world. Every day I am thankful that I have Elijah and Naomi by my side. They say it takes a village to raise a baby, well it takes a team of three to change the world!

This year wasn't without its challenges. Not every project went ahead when we planned and not every project made it off the drawing board. Don't worry, we never leave an idea behind, we just make it better. The floods this year saw devastating damage and listening to the stories of those impacted left me shocked and upset. In true community spirit, everyone was out helping with the clean-up and getting their neighbours back on their feet.

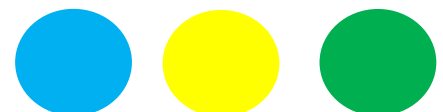
The events that I attended this year all brought something different and unique to the table. I heard heartbreaking stories that left tears in my eyes, these stories weren't all sad, they were also a call for change. A call to end Domestic and Family Violence, a call to end institutional racism, a call for better disaster relief. A call to be better. Going forward in 2023, I will hold myself to a high standard and do whatever I can to hold our government, businesses, schools and charities to a higher standard.



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Hosting our first Charity luncheon for the Animal Welfare League Queensland (AWLQ) was one of the most exciting things in 2022. When I had the opportunity to talk at the lunch, I told a story about the time I was in Hobart, Tasmania. My partner and I were walking down one of the most well-known streets of Hobart. We were talking about our day and what we might do tomorrow, when we noticed a man and his dog sitting on the path. This sight is all too common around the world but one thing we noticed was who was warmer. It was an extremely cold night and yet a large warm blanket wasn't pulled tightly around the man's shoulders. It was wrapped around the dog. In that moment I realised that to the majority of us, our animals are more important than ourselves. I realised that if we want to fix the animal homelessness crisis, we need to look no further than pet owners. I am looking forward to continuing our work with the AWLQ and strengthen our relationship to better support our animals.

One of our biggest focuses here at Magic Ant Network, is connection. During this year we formed several new relationships. One of those relationships was with SANDBAG. This organisation is one of a kind and an incredible group. When we attended the RizeUp Luncheon, we were joined by Lana, SANDBAG's Women's Counsellor. The very next day our team was lucky enough to attend a collaboration by SANDBAG, Green P Farm and Brisbane Rape & Incest Survivors Support Centre (BRISSC). This event centred around Truth, Healing and Reconciliation. It was an informative and welcoming event that left the team with lots to think about. Continuing the relationship with SANDBAG is one of my biggest goals of 2023.

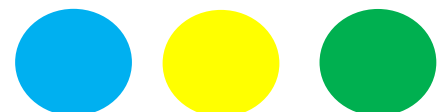
Going into 2023 we are hoping to form many more partnerships with businesses, schools, council and charities. Working with these organisations is what will help us move towards a better world and our hope is that with greater collaboration, we can see real change.



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My goals for 2023 are large in both number and ambition. These goals are not out of reach, and I can't wait to write my 2023 report and see what we have achieved. My goals are as follows:

- Have a Share the Dignity Period Pack Vending Machine in all Brisbane City Council Public Schools and major shopping centres.
- Build our animal rehoming commitments to help rescue animals stuck in rural pounds.
- Create a Clean Ant Saturday partnership with Brisbane City Council
- Attend local schools and provide our Leadership Ant Education talks
- Create a local area that pays tribute to those impacted by Domestic and Family Violence
- Build our relationship with Moreton Bay Regional Council
- Have a Book House at all Brisbane City Council train stations

These goals are all things I will give 100% to achieve and the work has already begun. If you want to get involved in any of these areas, please don't hesitate to reach out for a chat via email or phone.

Before I close my report, I wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone in our community who has supported us through the last two years. We are only a small team and a small organisation, but your support makes us feel larger than life. Please keep it up and don't hesitate to say hey!

As I write this report and think about my closing statement, I am hopeful for our next year of work, and I can think of only one appropriate way to close my 2022 Ant Hill Report. Even the smallest thing can change the world.

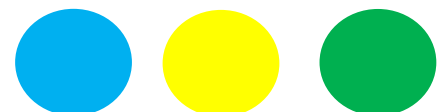
Lachlan Boyes



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686

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DIRECTOR-SECRETARY REPORT- NAOMI WARREN

## SECTION II: ACTIVITIES

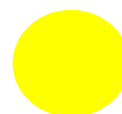
CLEAN ANT SATURDAY



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686

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## HARMONY DAY

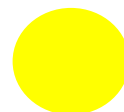
March 2022 saw Magic Ant Network hold our first Harmony Day event. This event brought together schools, Councils, businesses, and charities to create a sense of belonging. A day filled with performances, guest speakers and a flag precession, topped off with donated sausages!



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“Everyone Belongs” – In a time of uncertainty, having such an event allowed the community to come together. At the end of the day, we all just want to belong somewhere and Magic Ant Network welcomes everyone into our fold. Our Ant Hill worked to put together a day of diversity, inclusion, and education.

A massive thank you to the following:

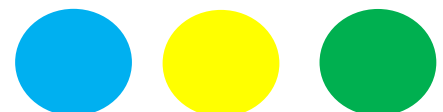
- Tesh and Jade Cox who provided the groundwork for the event and were essential in making the day a success
- Vicki Sinclair from Bracken Ridge State High School, who kindly donated flags for our flag procession.
- St. Patrick’s College, St. John Fisher College, and Sandgate State High School for their wonderful student performances.
- Cr Sandy Landers – for providing gazebo and donated arts and craft items
- Cr Jared Cassidy – for providing gazebo, speaker, tables, chairs and being a guest speaker
- Stirling Hinchliffe MP – being a guest speaker
- Anika Wells MP – being a guest speaker
- Naje Featherstone from Sheltered By Grace – providing support wherever she could



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- Lisa Caruana – being the bravest guest speaker and providing such a powerful speech
- Reeve McLennan – being a fantastic guest speaker and for having an amazing shirt!
- Martin Cabrera – being an inspirational guest speaker and supporting us through high school
- Kika McIntyre and the Jabiru team – bringing their incredible PlayBus
- Anouk Brown – for her wonderful performance
- Sandgate Woolworths – Donating sausages, onions, bread, water, and sauce
- Harrison, Barnes, Gardiner, and Boyes family

Looking back on the day brings us much joy, seeing how many people were involved to make the day a success shows what community can do.

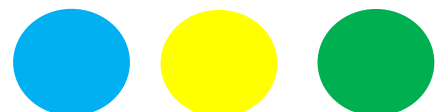
We can't wait to see you at our next Harmony Day event on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.



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## SUSTAINABILITY GARDEN

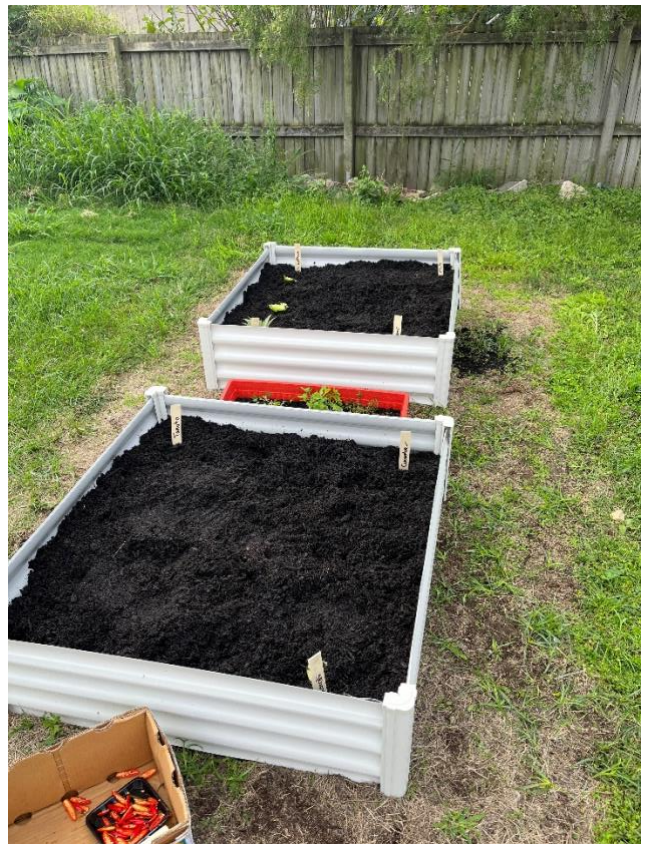
This year we worked with Sheltered By Grace to build a sustainability garden for their clients. A generous community donation allowed us to build two gardens at the Logan based shelter. Eating healthy is an important part of life, growing that healthy food is even better!



Unfortunately, due to flooding in the Logan area, the gardens had to be moved and didn't go as well as planned. We are heading back out in 2023 to rebuild the garden bigger and better. In the next year we are hoping to build more Sustainability Garden through the area.

A massive thank you to the Sheltered By Grace team for welcoming us with open arms and allowing us to build these gardens. We are looking forward to working with the team more in 2023!

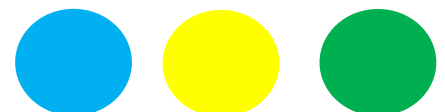
If you want to help us build more garden or have a good location for one, email us at [info.magicantnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:info.magicantnetwork@gmail.com).



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## DISASTER RELIEF

February 2022 saw one of the worst flooding events Brisbane has ever seen. We would like to begin this section by paying our respects to those who lost treasured items, their homes, and their loved ones. We also send our love to those in NSW who continued to experience flooding throughout the year.

We as an organisation don't believe the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor responded to the flooding event in a timely fashion. This led us to go out by ourselves to clean and aid in the recovery. The day after the water receded, we took to the street with our Clean Ant Saturday cleaning equipment and began cleaning the local area. We stopped and talked to residence along the way and were saddened to hear all that was lost.

Joining with the team organised by Cr Jared Cassidy, our team continued to help where we could. Magic Director Lachlan went to several houses in the area to assist with the clean up and he noticed one thing. "Everyone wanted to help. No job was too big or too small. It showed that even in the darkest of times, the light can shine through. I am proud to be a member of this community".

This event led to our team committing to creating a Disaster Relief plan. This plan will allow our organisation and others to aid in the recovery effort immediately. It will help communities have hope for better days. We look forward to working with Council in 2023 to make this plan a reality.

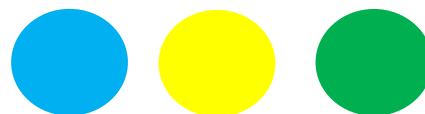
If you have a story from the February flood or would like to help in the Disaster Relief Plan, contact us at [info.magicantnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:info.magicantnetwork@gmail.com).



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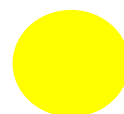
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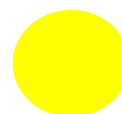
## NEW YEAR APPEAL



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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This year has been full of wonderful community events, corporate lunches, and informative talks. Attending these events are highlights of our year and help grow strong connections with our wonderful community.

### Einbunpin Festival

2022 marks 30 years of the Einbunpin Festival! It was incredible to see the number of community members attend the event and share in this momentous milestone. This year we saw three Deagon Councillors come together; Denise Herbert, Victoria Newton, and Jared Cassidy. It was a fantastic festival, full of dancers, singers and of course the Bunpin.



### Youth Festival

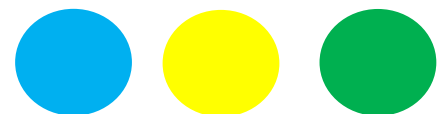
How talented is this 4017 community? If you want to see some amazing talent, look no further than the Youth Festival. We did not envy the judges at the festival; the quality of performances was through the roof. The 2022 winner was SWAG Cats. We can't wait to see what 2023 holds for these wonderful artists.



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## RizeUp/DD Group Charity Luncheon

This year our team was lucky enough to attend a charity luncheon for Rize Up Australia, hosted by DD Group. There wasn't a dry eye in the room when this year's guest speaker, Tracey James, spoke about her experience with Domestic and Family Violence. The event raised over \$40,000 that will go towards helping create a home for those fleeing DFV. We will be booking another table for 2023 and we hope you can join us.

## Zillmere Festival



After a few years hiatus with COVID, the Zillmere Festival was back bigger than ever. This year Magic Ant Network were lucky enough to be involved in the running of the day. A massive thank you to Kika, who gave us the opportunity to be involved and for making the day such a success. Yet another day full of incredible talent, delicious food, and a sense of belonging. We are looking forward to Zillmere Festival 2023.

## School's Out! – On the Green

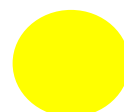
The Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is made up of the young leaders of tomorrow and what a group they are. This year we were fortunate to attend the School's Out – On the Green event that is organised by this Council. A night of performances, games, food, and fun. Congratulations to all who made it possible and all who performed.



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## SECTION III: 2023 PROSPECTIVE

OVERVIEW

ANT EDUCATION

SPEAK OUT WITH SCRUNCHIES

ECO ANT SUMMITS

ARTSY ANT WORKSHOPS

## OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS



Phone: 0497 641 895; 0447 938 686

Email: [lachlan@magicantnetwork.org](mailto:lachlan@magicantnetwork.org); [elijah@magicantnetwork.org](mailto:elijah@magicantnetwork.org)

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