

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a bunch of ripe, red, oval-shaped tomatoes. The person is wearing a white shirt with thin black vertical stripes. The background is a lush field of green tomato plants with many leaves and some unripe green tomatoes. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting a healthy agricultural environment.

COMMON GROUND

project

2023 IMPACT REPORT

FOOD BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER

BUT TODAY OUR FOOD SYSTEM IS IN CRISIS

FOOD INSECURITY

**DETERIORATING
PHYSICAL & MENTAL
HEALTH**

ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE

**ECONOMIC & SOCIAL
DISPARITY**

We need local, community-based regenerative food & farming ecosystems.

We can no longer wait for the solutions to appear on their own.





OUR MISSION

Common Ground Project is a regenerative farm and social enterprise on a mission to connect and empower the community through food and farming.

We exist to empower agency and access for those who need it most, so that we can create a fairer, more resilient food system for everyone.

We believe that access and connection to land, food, meaningful work and community underpins impactful social and ecological change.

FARM

Our regenerative farm underpins everything that we do.

Regenerative agriculture recognises a dynamic system to restore soil and ecosystem health, address inequity, and leave our land, waters, and climate in better shape for future generations.

We are dedicated to rebuilding a farming and food system that nourishes the environment that sustains it, the people whose livelihoods depend upon it, and the community who are daily fed by it.



FOOD HUB

In 2022, we partnered with VicHealth as one of seven Food Hubs within Victoria.

The Future Healthy Food Hubs initiative aims to create healthier communities across Victoria through increased access to local food, education and opportunities that encourage communities to celebrate, showcase and learn about our collective food system.

Our vision is to support a network of local farmers and producers across the region, and create a thriving, interconnected local food system.

PROGRAMS

We deliver education, training and employment programs to those most vulnerable, and provide an inclusive space for growing, cooking, purchasing, knowledge sharing, and ongoing community collaboration.

All our programs support food security in the region, as we work to create fair access to locally grown, healthy food.



TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Empowering training and employment opportunities across our cafe, farm and Food Hub, providing pathways for those facing barriers to meaningful employment.

Professional development, participant-led design, knowledge sharing and celebration of culture, cuisine and community.

EDUCATION & WORKSHOPS

Immersive learning experiences and connective adventures on the land.

Hands-on and practical, exploring themes relating to: where our food comes from, different methods of farming, and how we are all part of a greater local food system and ecosystem.

INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS

Working with the next generation of farmers, educators, dieticians, chefs and food systems advocates as they complete their studies.

Hands-on work experience, grounded in a systems-thinking yet community-based approach.

VOLUNTEERING

Weekly community volunteering days every Tuesday from 9:30am as a place for people to learn and connect with the land and community.

Everyone is welcome, everyone belongs and no experience is needed.

2023 IMPACT SNAPSHOT

PEOPLE

12

REFUGEE WOMEN
SUPPORTED THROUGH 8-
WEEK TRAINING &
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

647

YOUTH (AGED 0-25)
PARTICIPATED IN

22

EDUCATION PROGRAMS
& WORKSHOPS

576

HOURS PAID
HOSPITALITY
TRAINING

600+

KG FRESH PRODUCE
DONATED TO LOCAL
FOOD RELIEF

2,400

MEALS DONATED
TO LOCAL FOOD
RELIEF AGENCIES

81

ORGANIC VEGGIE
BOXES SOLD

500+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGED
AT COMMUNITY EVENTS,
DINNERS + WORKSHOPS

16

LOCAL PRODUCERS
SUPPORTED AT OUR
FOOD HUB

PLANET

4

ACRES OF LAND FARMED
REGENERATIVELY

800+

NATIVE TREES &
SHRUBS PLANTED TO
INCREASE
BIODIVERSITY

95

30 METRE
PRODUCTIVE BEDS
UNDER ROTATIONAL
CROPPING

1.2+

TONNES OF FOOD WASTE
DIVERTED FROM
LANDFILL TO COMPOST,
WORM FARMS OR CHOOKS

50%

REDUCTION IN WASTE
TO LANDFILL

PERFORMANCE

7

NEW STAFF MEMBERS
ONBOARDED TO EXPAND
OUR FARM, FOOD HUB &
PROGRAMS

5

NEW REVENUE STREAMS
CREATED ACROSS THE
ORGANISATION

\$55K

ADDITIONAL REVENUE
GENERATED TO
REINVEST

WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED...



2020



2023

...IN 2024 WE AIM TO SUPPORT

PEOPLE

- 25 TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS WITH OVER 1,200 HOURS OF PAID WORK
- 2000+ YOUTH ENGAGING IN OVER 100 EDUCATION PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS
- OVER 1,000 HOURS OF INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS
- 5,000 MEALS DONATED TO FOOD RELIEF AGENCIES
- COMMUNITY NETWORK ESTABLISHED FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE & PREPAREDNESS

PLANET

- 6 ACRES OF LAND FARMED REGENERATIVELY
- 50% FURTHER REDUCTION OF WASTE TO LANDFILL
- 3 TONNES FOOD WASTE DIVERTED TO RESOURCES

PERFORMANCE

- MAINTAIN OUR 9 FULL TIME STAFF MEMBERS AND REMUNERATE FAIRLY
- 25% INCREASE IN REVENUE ACROSS THE ORGANISATION



CONTACT

For more information, please contact our
CEO, Felicity Jacob.

Felicity Jacob

0437 688 790

felicity@commongroundproject.com.au



LEARN MORE

**COMMON
GROUND**
project