



MORE JOBS · LESS WASTE · FAIR FOOD

MEDIA RELEASE

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Green Connect opens its farm for community celebration of new education and play spaces

Illawarra-based social enterprise Green Connect will unveil its farm redevelopment on Saturday 6 March with a community celebration and open day.

The redevelopment will open-up the farm for environmental education and has provided much-needed work for young people and former refugees during COVID.

We will be celebrating the opening of these new things:

- Our new farm and education hub (proudly funded by The Ian Potter Foundation and Westpac Foundation)
- Our new children's garden (proudly funded by the NSW Government through the My Community Project fund)
- Our new entrance garden (proudly funded by Bohmer's Tree Care).

The redevelopment has been many years in the making. It's the next stage in a journey which started with the transformation of a steep block of unused land in Warrawong into one of the largest urban permaculture farms in the world, which creates jobs for young people and former refugees.

"The redevelopment means we can increase food production, jobs, community engagement and financial sustainability at the farm," Green Connect General Manager Kylie Flament said.

Parts of the project were developed ahead of schedule with more young people and former refugees available for work, as COVID put Green Connect's zero waste work at festivals and large events on hold.

Those working on the project included participants from the NSW Government-funded Green Connect youth employment program, which ended last week. Of 97 participants in the program, 62 gained paid employment, 40 gained long-term contracts and 28 worked for six months or more.

The open day will include self-guided tours of the farm, a scavenger hunt, kids activities including garden exploration games and an Early Start Discovery Space play area, an op shop stall, farm produce stall, coffee van and bake sale. Entry is by donation – book tickets at [Community Day 2021 - Green Connect Illawarra \(green-connect.com.au\)](https://www.green-connect.com.au)

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT Kylie Flament 0468 686 513