

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW, DOYALSON COMMUNITY

There is a very busy group of volunteers toiling away at the Doyalson Community Gardens in the grounds at the rear of the Doyalson Baptist Church. They have identified that our younger generations may not have had the opportunity to learn how to grow their own food and indeed, don't know what can actually be grown in their own backyards. It is the intention of this group to address this problem and to share the knowledge they have accumulated before it's lost. They intend to use the 'allotment' type of garden for those who don't have space at home for their own garden and for those with space, assist them to get their own gardens growing through education and hands on help.

"By educating people, particularly the younger generations, on how to sustainably, affordably and environmentally raise their own fruit and vegetables in small areas or in containers, they will be improving the general health and wellbeing of our next generations. If our population do not begin to grow their own fresh produce then our future is in serious trouble" says lifetime gardener & farmer, Kevin Brown.

The community garden is very much a work in progress. They started out with an idea over 12 months ago, worked hard to receive grants from the Central Coast Council and Doyalson RSL Club to get started then officially opened to the public earlier this year. They can now cater for all ages and fitness levels in the garden and hope to have a wheelchair friendly section in the future. The raised garden bed layout has been designed around this feature.

Anyone can 'hire' a garden bed for a period of 12 months, plant it out and gain individual assistance in learning all aspects of the home production of healthy, nutritious garden produce. They tend to the garden and reap the produce for their own use or can donate excess to the garden managers for sale. After the 12 months they would have gained enough knowledge and be confident to plant their own garden at home. The group have also set up composting stations and a chook yard and will be selling fresh eggs soon.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation is thrilled to be able to assist this very worthwhile group of volunteers with grant funds to purchase container gardens, water pumps and garden soil to expand their already flourishing community garden.

Do yourself a favour and call in to see their fantastic set up from 11am-5pm Tuesday to Sunday, behind the Baptist Church on Wye Road (near the Doyalson lights).



L-R: Peter Smith  
Environment &  
Community  
Manager of Wyong  
Coal & Kevin Brown  
with volunteers from  
Doyalson  
Community Garden