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Media Release

DOONELLA RESIDENTS PITCH IN FOR COMMUNITY GARDEN

Residents of a budding Noosaville community have joined forces to create their own large scale organic garden in a first for the Sunshine Coast.

Dozens of Doonella Noosa residents are involved in the unique project which will provide a wide range of organically grown produce for everyone in the community.

The urban garden has been created on land owned by one of the residents and also serves as an outdoor meeting place for the community to gather and socialise.

The first produce is about to be harvested while further planting has taken place recently that will help stock up local kitchens in the next few months.

Doonella Noosa is an intimate Stockland community featuring quality homes in a lush forest setting on the shores of Lake Doonella.

The idea to create a community garden stemmed from Doonella resident Cathy Michelsen, who offered almost 500 square metres of her backyard for the venture.

"I have a large block with more land than I need and thought this would be a great way to bring the community together in a worthwhile and productive way," she said.

"It has been very well received so far with many families from the neighbourhood getting involved.

"The kids are learning about growing food and absolutely love running around with their friends. It's also been a great way for the adults to get to know each other better."

The Doonella Noosa community garden is now almost fully planted with only a handful of banana trees still to come.

Fruit trees already growing include orange, lemon, lime and mango trees, plus melons and avocados. Other crops include tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, capsicums, chillies, broccoli, cauliflower, potatoes, radishes, corn and basil.

Residents are starting a roster of people to help water and tend to the garden. A water tank has been installed and there are also plans to put in outdoor seating made from logs collected in the area.

Stockland Regional Manager for the Sunshine Coast, Troy Wainwright, said the Doonella Noosa garden was an amazing initiative that had inspired and united the community.

"This is no ordinary backyard veggie patch," Mr Wainwright said.



“This is a large scale operation that will supply a whole range of healthy organic produce to the residents.

“Doonella Noosa has always been a tight-knit community but this project has brought residents even closer together and created something very special that could last for many years.”

Mr Wainwright said Stockland had provided assistance in terms of the garden’s design and creation, and supplied some of the materials needed to get things started.

Doonella resident, Mary Garrahy, has also been instrumental in the community garden, including organising resident working bees.

“I am not a gardener but I would love to be one,” Mary said.

“Gardening has always been a bit daunting for me but now we can share the wisdom and experience of others in the community to do this together,” she said.

“It’s all about having healthy fruit and vegies for the kids and reducing the shopping bills by growing your own.”

Doonella Noosa is currently selling land from \$230,000 and home and land packages from \$439,000. For further information visit the Sales and Information Centre on Sea Eagle Drive, Noosaville, call 5447 425 or go to www.stockland.com.au/doonellanoosa.

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