

## **Billabong vegetable garden rehabilitation**

Grant Provider: Landcare

Grant Amount: \$2,500

### **Project Purpose**

The main goal of this project was to rehabilitate the Billabong Clubhouse community vegetable garden, which had become rundown and underutilized, with the aim of encouraging members to re-engage with our gardening group and promote sustainable gardening practices.

### **Summary**

The Landcare grant of \$2,500 has been fully utilized towards the rehabilitation of our community vegetable garden. The project focused on reviving the garden to its former glory, improving the soil quality, repairing existing infrastructure, and installing a new watering system to ensure the sustainability of the garden. The successful completion of this project has not only beautified the area but also reinstated the garden as a central hub for community engagement and environmental stewardship.

### **Project Details**

#### *1. Preparing the Garden Bed:*

The first step in the rehabilitation process involved stripping back the original garden bed to remove weeds, debris, and any unsuitable soil. This was critical in ensuring that the new plantings would have a healthy foundation. The preparation involved layering high-quality organic materials to enrich the soil, specifically:

- Organic Compost: To improve soil structure and provide essential nutrients.
- Garden Soil Mix: To ensure a balanced, fertile ground conducive to vegetable growth.
- Potting Mix: For areas where more delicate seedlings were to be started.
- Soil Improver: To enhance the soil's water retention and nutrient availability.
- Organic Sugar Cane Mulch: Applied on top to retain moisture, suppress weeds, and gradually enrich the soil as it decomposes.
- Compost Bins: Two compost bins were installed to manage garden waste and foster a cycle of sustainability within the garden.

#### *2. Infrastructure Repairs:*

Minor repairs were undertaken on existing infrastructure, including the stabilization of raised garden beds. These repairs were essential to ensure the safety and functionality of the garden space for community members.

### *3. Installation of a New Watering System:*

A drip irrigation system was installed to replace the inefficient and outdated watering method. This system is designed to conserve water by directing it precisely to the base of the plants, reducing wastage and ensuring that the plants receive the water they need to thrive.

### **Impact and Conclusion**

The rehabilitation of the Billabong Clubhouse vegetable garden has revitalized a key communal space, encouraging members to participate in gardening activities and promoting a sustainable approach to local food production. Under the leadership of our Dietitian, Katherine Chan, and with the involvement of twelve dedicated individuals, the project has not only enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the area but also serves as a model for environmental and community engagement. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting that the garden is a significant improvement over its previous state. This rejuvenated space now allows us to utilize the vegetables harvested in our daily meals at Billabong Clubhouse, bringing fresh, nutritious produce directly to our table.

We are immensely grateful for the support provided by Landcare, which has been instrumental in achieving these outcomes. The success of this project is a testament to the power of community collaboration and the shared commitment to sustainable living practices. Moving forward, we are committed to maintaining the garden and expanding our activities to involve more community members in sustainable gardening practices. The impact of this project extends beyond the garden itself, offering a tangible connection to the environment and to the health and well-being of our Billabong Clubhouse community members.











**JEFF FAINT**  
*General Manager*

☎ 0267 669 960  
 ☎ 0459 340 195  
 ✉ [manager@billabongclubhouse.org.au](mailto:manager@billabongclubhouse.org.au)  
 📍 6 Darling St, Tamworth  
 🌐 [billabongclubhouse.org.au](http://billabongclubhouse.org.au)

