



# Woy Woy Peninsula Community Garden A Virtual Bird's Eye Tour



*Drone footage by Lucas Sequeira - School project*





## It Started with an Empty Block of Council Land, and a Dream...



In 2011, Gosford City Council proposed the sale of a block of land on Moana Street.

Jill Meredith, a concerned local resident, had a dream for the plot to be a community green space. She single-handedly lobbied the Council to stop the sale. A small group of committed volunteers joined in.





## A Decade Later, the Dream is a Reality, a Thriving Community Space

Inspired with our vision, the hard work of our volunteers, & the ongoing support of the [Peninsula Environment Group](#) (PEG), the empty plot has transformed from a grassy sandpit into a beautiful food forest in twelve years.



Today, the garden is a flourishing, safe space for a diverse group of volunteers, and local organisations to enjoy nature's bounty.

It didn't come without challenges.







# An Arson Attack in 2019 destroyed years of toiling the soil

On Sunday, 20 January 2019, volunteers arrived for the weekly “working bee” to a horrifying sight. Arsonists had lit the shed on fire, & destroyed plants, tools, & equipment on site.

Faced with a choice of giving up or rebuilding the garden, the volunteers unequivocally decided to rebuild.

We had the support of Ms. Liesl Tesch, our local MP & we decided to raise funds for our rebuilding efforts.

Our local community, businesses, & the government rallied behind us. We raised \$125K to rebuild, restock & maintain the garden. And all this right in the thick of the pandemic lockdowns!

**8 years of hard work turned to soot!**







# The Garden Has Literally Risen From The Ashes – “Phoenix Rising”



And all this right in the thick of the pandemic lockdowns







## We're Helping Both the Community & the Local Environment



We are **building a stronger, resilient community** by forging networks and links between various groups in our community: Children, youth, elderly, women, men, disabled, retired, working, culturally & linguistically diverse people.

We **educate** our community on environmentally friendly, sustainable land use.

Our education & information efforts are **enhancing skills** of our volunteers.

We are a sustainable & self-sufficient garden, with a security fenced compound, CCTV, solar power, tank & bore water irrigation.

We provide **horticultural information** about plants, plant selection & growing conditions.

We **encourage healthier eating** habits through education on nutrition & fresh food diets.

We provide **active & passive recreation area** for the local community & **provide Information** on how to establish and maintain gardens to provide healthy food.

We save hundreds of kilos of waste from going to landfill by composting on site using organic food & coffee waste from local businesses.

Ongoing expenses are supported through the collection of recycled containers & we welcome sponsorship from local organisations.





# We are from, and for, the community!

*Our garden is recognized as one of the best on the Coast. We heard it from Costa!*



## Active volunteer base

We have over 50 active volunteers at our garden. This active participation allows us to create and focus on multiple initiatives that are of interest to our volunteers.

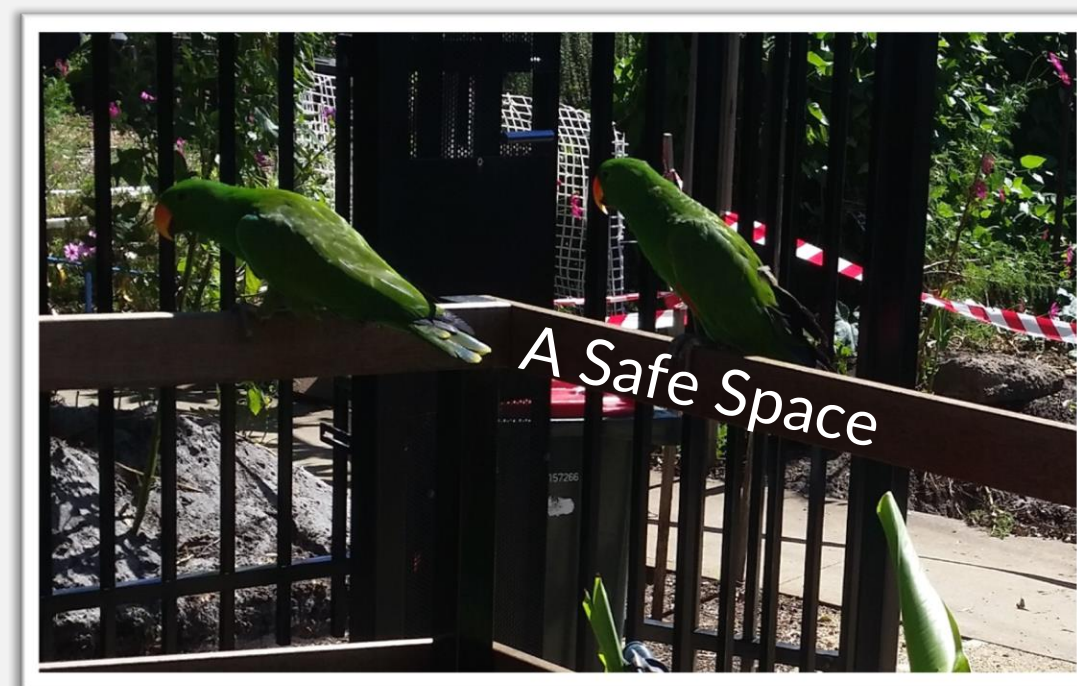
We have 10 teams covering irrigation, harvesting, edible flowers, facilities, recycling, pest management, citrus & bush regeneration, composting, propagation and administration.



## Community Networking

The garden has regular visitors from the local community, including members who require disability services, early childhood care services, & aged care services.

We regularly network with PCC, Edible Garden Trail, You Connect, Options & Disability services on the Central Coast.



## Monthly produce swap



Our volunteers & visitors swap excess produce, stories, ideas, & tips every month. These are well attended. Swaps remain open for a couple of hours on the last Sunday of every month.





A huge thank you to our local community, businesses, GoFundMe contributors and volunteers for support in raising funds & preparing us for the next decade.

## 2024 – New Beginnings! Incorporating & A NEW Licence

For the last twelve years, the Garden has operated with the support of the Peninsula Environment Group (PEG).

### Special Acknowledgements

Moving forward the garden is now incorporated as an independent not-for-profit volunteer run community organisation supported by a 10year licence with Central Coast Council

Our neighbours,  
Clarke Dowdle & Associates,  
Ray White Umina,  
Cool Coast Shade Sails,  
Central Coast Council,  
& Bendigo Bank  
for their valued support!



We sincerely appreciate every contribution made towards improving security and re-establishing the garden and its resources.

