



**BIG EFFORT:** Local artist Ash Johnson and KAPOW students added a lick of colour to Woolgoolga Community Gardens.

PHOTO: ROBERT WATKIN

# Mural brightens up garden

By **CLAUDIA JAMBOR**

A LOCAL artist has teamed up with students to paint a mural, brightening up the Woolgoolga Regional Community Gardens development.

The mural was a collaboration between garden committee members Helen Plummer and EJ Merrick, and well-known artist Ash Johnston, in a bid to add a touch of colour to the Scarborough St site.



Ash and students of Key Employment's KAPOW program – an education program designed to get young people ready for work – decorated the

garden's shipping container-cum-storage shed as part of KAPOW's 10-week graffiti art class.

Only four weeks into the program, Ash said the students did really well on establishing the first stage of the mural.

"They got thrown in the deep end a little bit but they stepped up to the plate and did really well," he said.

The mural is the latest addition to the development of the Woolgoolga Regional

Community Gardens, a community project established four years ago by Helen and EJ.

Their vision for the gardens is to facilitate a space where members of the community can grow food and forge friendships with one another.

Ash recently painted the Anzac mural on the side of the RSL Club building at Woolgoolga.

Work on the mural will continue this week.