

# Site secured for garden

By EMILY BURLEY

THE Woolgoolga community garden is another step closer to reality with land secured for the development.

The garden will be located at the vacant space next to the netball courts on Scarborough St.

Water is being connected at the site and Cogle Consulting has donated a fence to keep kangaroos and other animals out.

Community gardens are increasingly being recognised for their range of social, environmental and economic benefits and are seen to be less about simply growing food than providing a valuable way to help communities develop and come together.

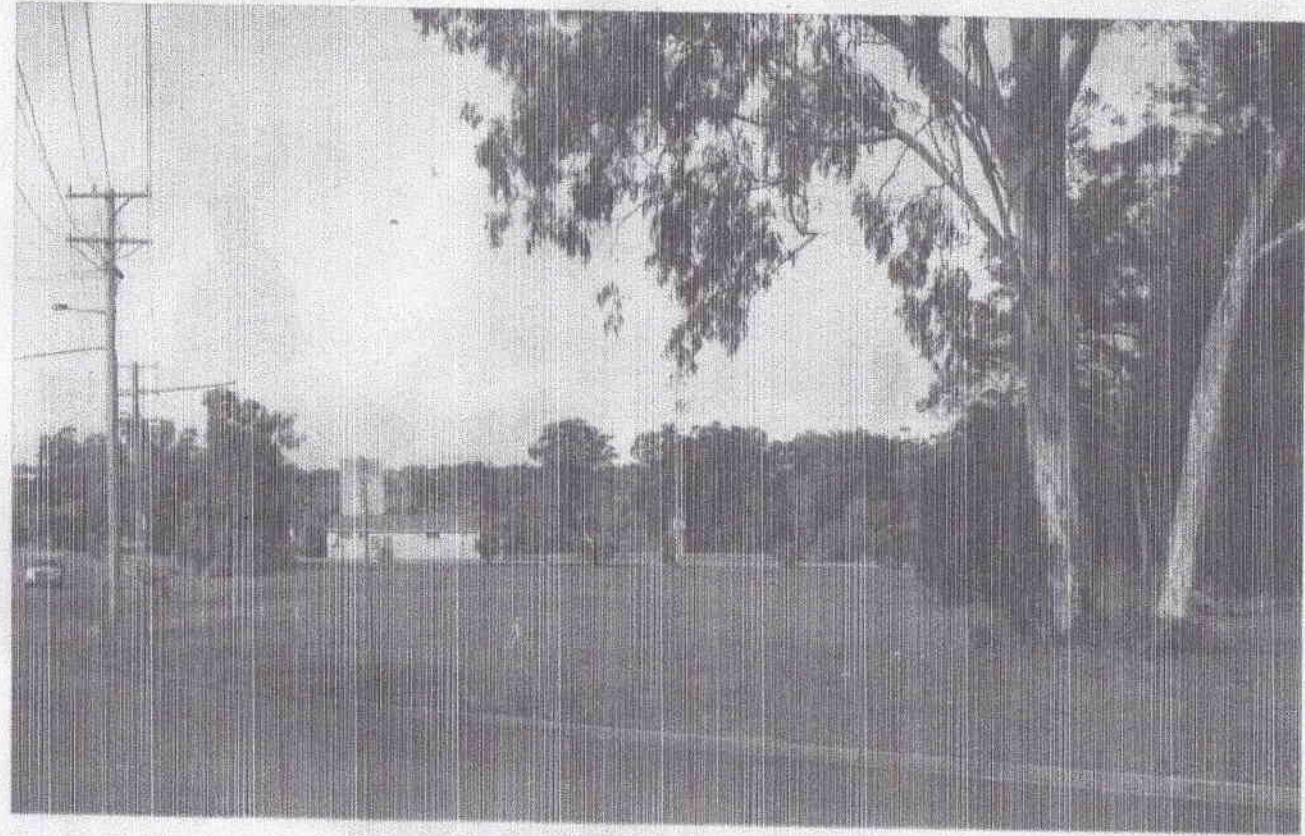
The Woolgoolga Regional Community Garden Association (WRCGA) currently has about 30 members and more than 60 people on its mailing list.

WRCGA president EJ Merrick said the garden is an inclusive space.

"We just want to involve the whole community," he said.

"It's about developing an area in the community that anyone can come and share."

While there is talk of



**SECURED:** Woolgoolga's community garden will be established next to the netball courts on Scarborough St.

PHOTO: TREVOR VEALE

building an education area, a shade house and hot house and a central meeting place among other features, Mr Merrick said no plans are set in stone.

"All we've tried to do is facilitate this for the

community," he said.

"We don't want to come up with some garden and say there it is. What we want is to say to the community okay here's a bare plot of land, come down and help us design it.

"We've facilitated with council and got everything to this point, now this is a beginning."

Mr Merrick said Woolgoolga residents interested in creating a beautiful and productive

community garden are welcome to join the association and share in the harvest.

To get involved, email [woopigardens@gmail.com](mailto:woopigardens@gmail.com) or visit Woopi Gardens on Facebook.