

Okines Community House

Food For the Future

SHARING STORIES - LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of
food security:
Food access and affordability

Sub-determinant:
Skill development

Location & year:
Dodges Ferry, 2012-2014

Story tellers:
Nat Siggins, Okines
Community House
Coordinator

Gabe Gartrell, Garden
Project Officer

Claire Boost, Garden Project
Officer

Summary/Description

Okines Community House in Dodges Ferry has worked with Dodges Ferry Primary School to create an outdoor classroom that can be shared with the community.

Through the Food for the Future project, the Community House has expanded their existing Community Garden, and created a space where local school children can come to learn about growing their own fruit and vegetables. The 'Grow and Learn' program is run with students in grade 4 and 5,

Okines Community House has also started a food co-operative, where pantry items like flour, spices and legumes are purchased in bulk, so community members can buy items at a reduced cost. The co-op started with 20 members, and has now grown to over 80.

A recent addition of a pizza oven in the garden has also been welcomed by staff, volunteers and the community.

Benefits and achievements

The Community Garden has opened up to community members outside of the school, with private plots available to the public for lease.

Through the Food for the Future project, the relationship between the Okines Community House and the Dodges Ferry Primary School has been strengthened, and students have had a chance to connect more with the food that they eat.

"Our philosophy is all about slowing down, and connecting the community together."

Gabe Gartrell



Promotion

The Okines Community Garden and food co-op are promoted through the Community House, which is located next-door to the garden.

The project is also promoted on social media, and photos of are regularly posted on facebook which helps community members to stay connected to events and activities in the garden.

The 'Grow and Learn' program is integrated into curriculum for grade 4 and 5 students at Dodges Ferry Primary School.



Funding

The Okines House 'Food for the Future' project is an initiative of the Food For All Tasmanians Fund. Dodges Ferry Primary School are also involved in the project, and a large number of dedicated volunteers support the Community Garden, Food Co-op and the Grow and Learn program.

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Information was compiled by **Population Health (DHHS)** in partnership with this initiative and the Social Inclusion Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.