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For immediate release

Media Release: Everybody Needs Good Neighbours

Sunday 27th March is Good Neighbour Day and some local organisations have joined forces to make sure it's a great day for some youth in a youth hosing block in Nimbin. The Nimbin Transitional Housing Units managed by North Coast Community Housing were looking a little worse for wear with graffiti splashed across the front fence and rubbish filling their laundry.

Connecting Home Case Worker, Heath Mayne, decided he wanted to create a safer, more pleasant environment for both the youth housed in the flats and their neighbours and thought Good Neighbour Day was just the day to do so. Connecting Home approached Bunnings to see if they would come on board to donate the items needed to repaint the front fence and build a herb and vegetable garden at the flats:

"It is my hope that the garden will give the young people living there the sense of community with each other and being able to contribute, to nurture something and watch it grow and flourish and that this will be healing for them. I believe that a garden is a good metaphor for life and intend to use it to help me teach them how to nurture and tend themselves so that they can grow and flourish", says Heath. "I hope that it will give them sense of shared ownership of the project. Something to feel proud of" says Heath.

"I hope that through a working bee of local volunteers we can give them the sense that they are supported by the wider community. Something I think is so important when a lot of these kids have been abandoned many times in their life."

"The garden will help me teach them to look after something that will in turn look after them by providing healthy nourishing food. By cleaning the place up I hope to encourage the already growing sense of pride these young people have of their home" says Heath.

End

Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC)

A community-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes fairness and social inclusion in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.

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