Strategy for student placements for the Gloucester Project (incorporating the Tucker Patch).

- **A team** of students is required to work with a community market garden based in Gloucester, NSW. As per the diagram below, students from business development, marketing, agricultural economics and sustainable agriculture are required in the period from now until Jan 2013, then communication and alternative energy students would join the program to support the previous students.

- **If other students** have a particular interest in getting involved, but aren’t specifically mentioned in the diagram, they are encouraged to approach the program anyway and every effort will be made to facilitate their interest.

- **The number** of students involved will depend on skills sets and available time, it’s envisaged no more than 5 students would be involved over the next 8 months (Nov 2012 – June 2013)

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<th>Suggested months in which to start students:</th>
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<th>Business Plan(s) are required for:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box System (Implementation and rollout)</td>
<td>Seedling Industry (Development and sales)</td>
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<th>Project Management Plans are required for:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural Economics</td>
<td>Horticulture research/advice (including sustainable agriculture)</td>
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**Research** - Masters or PhD student sample focus question: ‘Can we find a (community market garden) economy that is just as valuable to the economy as mining?’ (Take into consideration food miles, local employment, production systems, food quality, sustainable agriculture etc.)
Background:

The Gloucester Project is a regional development solution aimed at creating self-sustaining regional communities. The Project draws its strength from being a community-developed economic growth model with a focus on food production:

As part of the Gloucester Project, the Tucker Patch is a demonstration market garden where crops are trialled as models for sustainability, as well as providing fresh local produce. The Growers are committed to supporting sustainable food industries from the Mid North Coast region by providing food that's grown to organic and sustainable principals.

The growers act with values that reduce packaging, waste, synthetic chemicals and food miles, benefiting the environment through a reduced carbon footprint.

What’s in it for students?

Due to the scope of The Gloucester Project, opportunities for practical placements exist across a wide range of disciplines in short term or ongoing roles.

In the first instance, students studying in the realm of sustainable agriculture could help facilitate and suggest improvements to existing sustainable processes. Further opportunities exist for students studying business development, communications, marketing and/or public relations, sustainable energy and water use.

An opportunity may be identified for an Honours, Masters or Doctorate student to work closely with, or lead, the student team, the organisation and the local community over the next three years, around the concept of providing an ‘academic analysis’ of the project, local agricultural and social/community issues.

Time commitment from student participants

The Gloucester Project has secure, but limited funding for the next three years, monies to be spent mostly on the building of infrastructure and the purchase of equipment.

Its envisaged students would volunteer with the project pursuant to existing study requirements and/or desire to align themselves with an innovative sustainable food project – along the lines of the examples listed above. That is, an Honours student would have access to, and be expected to work with, the Project for the length of their Honours, undergraduate students the required work hours per semester, although extra volunteer hours would be welcome. Some accommodation and transport costs would be met.

For more information: please complete an expression of interest online at www.brolgaproject.com.au/students noting ‘The Gloucester Project’ in the section asking if you’re responding to a particular advertised position.
The Gloucester Project – A Regional Development Solution

The Gloucester Project is a regional development solution aimed at creating self-sustaining regional communities. The Project draws its strength from being a community-developed economic growth model with a focus on food production that:

• responds to food security challenges driven by climate change and peak oil;
• demonstrates the conversion of underutilised land into valuable agricultural land;
• provides local jobs;
• offers support for existing local farmers;
• encourages start-ups of entrepreneurial food producers;
• helps stop the drain of young local workers to the cities;
• offers opportunities to tree-changers escaping from those cities;
• provides income-generating opportunities for rural residents of any age;
• allows a connection point between rural food producers and urban dwellers to access nutritious fresh food with low food miles.

COMMUNITY VALUES
The Tucker Patch is a demonstration market garden in Gloucester, New South Wales and is the public face of The Gloucester Project. Its response to the strategic national issue of food security is to demonstrate the extensive and long-lived benefits of converting underutilised land into valuable agricultural land. The Tucker Patch model aims to help form:

• stable local communities, reversing the spiral of economic and social decline;
• prosperous local communities, with improved liveability;
• industrious local communities, with increased employment being provided locally;
• healthier local communities, with locally grown food freshly available to all;
• better connected and better educated communities;
• communities that have less demand on government assistance;
• happier community members, both rural and urban.

PRINCIPLES
As individuals and as a group, our guiding philosophy is:

• Show honesty, integrity and motivation;
• Promote the benefits of nutritious, seasonally grown food;
• Protect waterways and aquifers to ensure supplies of clean fresh water;
• Build soil by increasing its organic content and nurturing soil organisms;
• Encourage use of open-pollinated plants, heritage varieties and seed-saving;
• Ensure biodiversity of food, farm life and wildlife;
• Avoid use of artificial pesticides, herbicides and genetically modified organisms;
• Use renewable resources and recycled materials, and minimise non-reusable waste;
• Be open to new ideas, build our knowledge and share it.