



*A television news team films the remarkable "Fodder Factory".*

## 'Factory' grows feed indoors

**A** farmer at Bobin Creek, inland from Taree, has invented a system of indoor fodder production that is already benefiting a number of local farmers and is rapidly spreading further afield.

Designed for farmers by a farmer, the "Fodder Factory" is a unique Australian invention with great potential for supplying animal feed when conventional sources of fodder fail, such as during droughts.

The Fodder Factory is essentially a hydroponic fodder production system, capable of producing nutritious green stock feed all year round and with minimum water requirements.

Three models are available producing from 240 kg to more than 800 kg per day and giving a yield of 7 kg of green feed from 1 kg of seed at costs competitive with paddock production.

Sold on a "turnkey" basis ready to operate, the Fodder Factory is a steel frame enclosed by plastic and provides an automatically controlled environment.

Operation is as simple as removing the fodder daily and replacing it with new seed ready for sprouting.

The nutrient in the tank is replenished once a month.

Inventor Peter Ryan, a long-term deer and cattle farmer, and a lecturer in good farming practice, has spent almost 10 years developing the idea into a commercially viable system which is now being sold all over Australia.

The Fodder Factory is also generating inquiries from other countries as far afield as the Arab States.

Peter Ryan may be contacted on (065) 50 5150.

## ARTISTS DRAW A BEAD ON FUTURE

**T**he Cultural Futures Regional Arts Conference held at Coffs Harbour earlier this year mapped out a plan of action for promotion of the arts and cultural activities on the Mid North Coast.

Sponsored by the Mid North Coast Regional Development Board, the conference drew together 120 people involved in the arts industry, tourism, business, local government and representatives of the State Government.

"A series of important and practical recommendations and resolutions were carried by the conference," said conference co-ordinator Christine Goodwin.

"These are intended to have a direct and significant impact on the development, production and public profile of the arts and cultural activity of this region.

"One of the major recommendations of Cultural Futures was the formation of Arts Holiday Coast, a regional committee with broad-based representation in the arts and culture industry.

"This recommendation has already been

implemented and Arts Holiday Coast is now pursuing a wide-ranging agenda of issues raised and discussed at the Cultural Futures conference."

Regional Arts Development Officer Jamie Derkenne said: "Regional arts development has both short-term and long-term benefits for the North Coast.

"Any attempt to foster the growth of what has been quite a stagnant industry is critical."

One of the main concerns raised at the conference was the lack of support from local government for the cultural future of the region, Mr Derkenne said.

Even though we were "lifting our game" on arts and culture, it has not been a very high priority issue with local government, he said.

Mr Derkenne said that in the last calendar year Regional arts and culture had attracted more than \$160,000 in funding.

"This has been used by either local government or local arts councils or community groups," he said.