



PLEASED AS PUNCH: Rosemary Curtis and Barnaby Joyce at Tilbuster Station.

Bigs things to grow from Tilbuster grant

By **MEG FRANCIS**

MORE homeless and at-risk youths will call Tilbuster home after a \$500,000 federal funding boost.

New England MP and Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce delivered the cheque to Pathfinders chief executive Alan Brennan on Monday.

"[This money] will allow the program to offer ongoing vocation training support, accommodation and personal support," Mr Brennan said.

"It will change a lot of lives."

The funding will be used to renovate the main building on the station property that will accommodate the homeless or at-risk youth.

It will also offer respite to families

in the New England community. "[Pathfinders] is a good cross of helping New England and agriculture," Mr Joyce said.

"The soil can make things happen.

"It gives people a chance to see another side of their nature."

Mr Joyce also commended Tilbuster Station for skills training services such as fencing, basic metalwork and basic animal husbandry.

The grant will see \$300,000 go towards Armidale's Tilbuster Station and \$200,000 for the Glen Innes Open Door Youth Centre.

Tilbuster Station currently offers a range of agriculture activities and hosts up to 120 young people and their families each week for personal support.