



Five Villages Community Garden Association President's message October 2021



Hello gardeners,

Just a brief update this month as we have had a frantic week pulling together an **application for the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program**. This Federal Government sponsored program (through the National Recovery and Resilience Agency) supports the recovery efforts of communities in eligible Local Government Areas (including Shoalhaven LGA) affected by the 2019–20 bushfires.

As mentioned previously a long-term goal of FVCG is to create a **community garden at Yulunga Reserve**. Due to significant costs involved in creating a garden of substance we had been considering a smaller scale demonstration garden adjacent to the existing tennis courts. Fortuitously, the Grant Program mentioned above specifically targets projects that support community recovery and resilience. We believe that we have been able to prepare a submission that meets all eligibility criteria for the Program, and if successful we will be able to create quite a significant garden.

Due to a very tight timeframe for submitting an application, **we were not able to seek community input** into a design, so we have based our submission on a high-level conceptual design. Attached are extracts from the application which will give you a sense of what we are proposing.

Grant applications will be assessed during November with announcement of successful applications later in December. It goes without saying that should we be successful **there will be significant community wide consultation prior to finalising a design**. So, get ready to participate and bring your ideas to the table if and when we put out a call.

At this point our sincere **thanks go to Yulunga Reserve Management Committee** for agreeing to set aside land for the proposed garden between the skateboard park and existing toilets. **Thanks also to Red Head Villages Association and Shoalhaven Council** for providing letters of support for our application.

We are optimistic, so get excited gardeners! Start dreaming up ideas for a space at the Yulunga Reserve and thinking about all of the things you want to grow, learn and share with our community.

Dennis Buttigieg
FVCG President

