

## Proposal to Extend Community Garden Network in Beechworth

### Vision:

In response to the challenges of the climate emergency, our vision is to create a safe place to grow food, learn about sustainable food growing practices, reduce food waste and promote social harmony and inclusion by building community capacity.

### Values:

It is important to us that we act collaboratively and respectfully at all times, and to demonstrate we act in good faith and with integrity on every issue.

- Share the joy of community gardening
- Collaborate to achieve common goals
- Employ environmentally sustainable practices
- Be future-focused
- Be empathetic to other community members whose physical, mental and emotional health may be at risk
- Act with integrity and respect
- Listen to one another ; our power comes from being a united community
- Acknowledge our weaknesses and recognise the strengths

### Strategic goals

- To identify the model of community garden best suited to community needs
- To secure suitable land for the garden(s). Explore all options such as *Crown land, Shire land, Church land, private gardens etc.*
- To identify existing and potential food growing assets, both private and publicly owned; *e.g. Quercus Community Garden, U3A garden beds at the Old Railway Station, BULs Bush Tucker garden, Chinese Gardens.*
- To utilise and research models for sustainable community gardens
- To ensure a high level of community participation to set up, manage and maintain the garden. Potential partners include
- To identify and uphold statutory and legal requirements for a community garden
- To develop and maintain plots for individual members and community groups
- To nurture community events within the garden

### Organisation

- Financial , social and community members
- Partners *e.g. Men's Shed, Playgroups, Schools etc.*
- Auspiced by Quercus / BULS - Memorandum of Understanding **or** Incorporated body
- Insurance – public liability etc.
- Member Agreement / Code of conduct

### Leadership

- Committee of management
- Budget
- Raising ongoing funds to cover insurances, maintenance of assets, utilities etc. including grant applications
- Liaison with landowner, Shire Planning and Environment Advisory Committee
- Liaison with community groups *e.g. Quercus Community Garden, Playgroups, Schools, U3A, Beechworth Health Service, Salvation Army, Senior Citizens, Businesses, Churches*
- Be guided by the **Community Garden Manual** developed in Vic as part of funding used to set up a number of gardens in fire affected communities (Beechworth, Yack etc. including community consultation, site assessments, and garden design.  
<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/HMST-manual.pdf>

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