

Grant to help garden grow

Bendigo, Thursday 3 December 2009: Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's philanthropic arm, Community Enterprise Foundation™, has contributed \$60,500 in funding to redevelop the Long Gully Community Garden that was destroyed in the Black Saturday bushfires.

The grant will go to Conservation Volunteers Australia which is overseeing the \$86,000 project in association with the Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre. Other funding has been contributed by the Department of Human Services and City of Greater Bendigo.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Executive, Corporate Resources Marnie Baker, said the bank hopes the project will encourage the local community to come together.

"Everyone is welcome and encouraged to help rebuild the gardens," Ms Baker said.

"We want the people of Long Gully to roll their sleeves up and get their hands dirty to re-establish this community sanctuary and have a bit of fun in the process."

Ken Beasley, Program Manager, Conservation Volunteers Australia said planned works include relocating garden beds, constructing new paths and installing seating.

"This is a fantastic project that has real benefits for the local community.

"We hope the community garden will help restore the health and wellbeing of residents impacted by the bushfires by providing them with the opportunity to reconnect with neighbours and grow fresh fruit and vegetables," Mr Beasley said.

Conservation Volunteers Australia is now calling for volunteers to rebuild the community garden with the project planning and site works set to start later this month and volunteer involvement commencing in early January.

For more information or to volunteer contact Iain Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator 5444 0777.