

NEWSLETTER
REGROW RESPONSE
CONJOLA & SURROUNDS



Program Update

Convoy of Hope, in partnership with eight enthusiastic schools located in Sydney and the Shoalhaven, together with generous stakeholders and donors, both local and abroad, can report that over 8,500 seeds of hope have sprouted and made their way to the Lake Conjola community and surrounding areas.

With Mullala, a local nursery supplying a variety of vibrant and healthy Tubestock and donations of succulents from the Central Coast Garden Club of Australia, students nurtured, cared, and potted these plants over the past two school terms. Students learned about the importance of native plants in their local communities, about the impact of the 2019/2020 bushfires and wanted to share hope with the residents through the gift of plants.

Kevin Cassanego, Convoy of Hope Program Manager said “Watching Frank, a local resident who lost his home and nursery to the fires, capture the full attention of young, eager-to-learn students, in a potting workshop ran at a local school, with the help of Bunnings Ulladulla, just brought some sense of purpose to the devastating experiences of the past. It was extraordinary to watch”

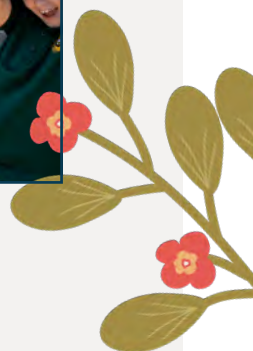
In June, the Convoy of Hope Team, students, residents, and stakeholders came together at the Lake Conjola Community Centre for a special presentation. Students and residents shared what the project has meant to them, a local student from Ulladulla High School gave a moving didgeridoo performance and a ceremonial planting took place. The atmosphere was heartfelt.



A student at St. Mary's Star of the Sea, Milton helping the Convoy team load the truck.



Students at Claremont College spreading hope.





Program Impact

Convoy's journey with the Conjola and surround's community started in January 2020 through providing some much-needed supplies, logistics and listening to many inspiring stories of courage and determination. It has been an honour and a privilege for us at Convoy to assist in the recovery. The school children's planting project has allowed us to stay connected and a part of the community as they start to rebuild.

"I know the community is very grateful for what you have done. People from not just this community but outside this community rallying behind you, now still 18 months on down the track, remembering that there's still a lot of pain and a lot of recovering to be done. So on behalf of the community, thank you." -Karen Lissa, Local Resident Volunteer

Convoy has many donors and volunteers to thank who were able to join us at our second round plant presentation, such as Commonwealth Bank, St Vincent de Paul Society, Groundswell Church and the local community champions Karen Lissa and Frank Candelo, who, along with the staff and students of the schools listed below, made Regrow Response Conjola all possible. A special shout out and thanks to resident and gifted poet Stephen Chinnock who shared a beautiful poem for us to reflect on and enjoy.

Our next and final round of plants will go out to schools in the last weeks of July and be presented to the community of Conjola and it's surrounds on Friday the 5th of November at 12 pm. Please save the date and join us for this beautiful and memorable event.

Regrow Response Participants

Convoy of Hope is so proud to have worked with each and every school to bring the Regrow Response to life! Thank you for your dedication and care to grow the tubestock to flourishing plants ready to be planted! A special thanks to those who were able to join us at our second round plant presentation

**Budawang School
Claremont College
Milton Public School
Newington College**

**St George Christian School
St Mary's Star of the Sea Milton
Ulladulla Public School
Ulladulla High School**



Students from St George Christian School delivering their natives.



Ulladulla Public School enthusiastically sending off the plants they cared for.



Students from local schools participating in the ceremonial planting at Lake Conjola



Seeds of Hope

Growing by Stephen Chinnock

Kids grow plants
Plants make a garden
There grows happiness and hope
From the seeds in the hearts
Of the next generation

These kids will grow too Knowing
they gave nourishment To those
who lost their homes But found
caring and compassion In the
hands of wonderful kids

All of us bushfire survivors
Say thanks to you all
For making our lives
Blessed again
Our gardens will bloom!



Stephen Chinnock reading his poem titled Growing at the plant pickup.



Mayor Amanda Findley, Karen Lissa, Local volunteer resident and Convoy team members

Sprouting Community

In Convoy's initial response to the 2019/2020 bushfires, we met Amanda Findley who opened the door to us to serve the Conjola and surrounds community. Since then many friendships and partnerships have been forged and a community's hope restored. Since that moment we have been honoured to meet and serve alongside the local community to see hope restored.

“You guys (students) give all of us hope. Because sometimes when things get a bit rough for us, we look at all of you young people and think gosh their smart, they're so clever, they're so switched on. You make us feel that what we do is worthwhile.” Amanda Findley, Shoalhaven City Council Mayor

Community is Everything

Bunnings Ulladulla were amazing! From potting mix to potting workshops at the local schools. Together with Convoy our aim was to see the students succeed in a beautiful harvest of hope for their surrounding community.



To read more stories and to follow along with the ongoing Regrow Response go to:
convoyofhope.org.au/news/regrow-response/

You can also visit us on our app, visit this site to download:
convoyofhope.mn.co

JUNE 2021

REGROW RESPONSE

LAKE CONJOLA & SURROUNDS



We want to say a massive thank you to a few special supporters and volunteers. Without them the Regrow Response would not be possible. These organizations have contributed through finance, resource and time to help bring Regrow Conjola to life.

**Australian Christian Channel
Bunnings Caringbah
Bunnings Ulladulla
Caltex Refinery Kurnell
Cliff Lewis Printing
Convoy of Hope Donors,
Supporters & Volunteers
Commonwealth bank**

**Karen Lissa - Conjola resident extraordinaire
The Garden Club of Australia, Central Coast
Groundswell Church
Harvest Seed Nursery Terrey Hills
Mullala Nursery Ulladulla
Qube Logistics
Soil Co Nowra
St Vincent de Paul**



Presentation day "HOPE on three!"



Special words of gratitude from residents and volunteers.



Groundswell Church volunteered their time in letterbox drops, plant pick up days and barbecues for the community



This response would not be possible without all of the volunteers, teachers and stakeholders who got involved!

Don't forget to share your story using the **#RegrowResponse** hashtag and tag us on social media **@convoyofhopeau**