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Community groups benefit from VicForests' support

VicForests has announced almost \$20 000 in grants to support local, not-for-profit organisations in the Central Highlands.

Liz Langford, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, Central Highlands, said the grants were part of VicForests' Community Support Program for 2011/12.

"More than 20 groups across the region will receive assistance to undertake activities which directly benefit the local community as part of this year's program," Ms Langford said.

"This includes primary schools, sporting clubs, community radio stations and healthcare providers in areas as far apart as Alexandra, Healesville, Wallan, Neerim and Warragul.

"The Community Support Program builds on VicForests' long standing involvement with local communities across eastern Victoria and allows us to support local groups.

"Along with financial assistance, the program also offers groups access to 'in kind' donations of material such as timber and seeds from VicForests' operations," she said.

Ms Langford said a selection committee assessed all applications for funding from the Community Support Program.

"Each submission was considered using set criteria including how the project will benefit the local area, how many people will benefit and how the project will assist VicForests to educate and inform the community," she said.

"VicForests has always provided support to various community groups and events, and this program has become an important part of VicForests' community engagement initiatives.

"It also highlights the vital contribution the native timber industry continues to make to regional communities in Victoria, including those in the Central Highlands.

"We look forward to letting the community know more throughout the year about the projects supported by this year's Community Support Program," Ms Langford said.

For more information regarding VicForests' Community Support Program please go to VicForests' website – www.vicforests.com.au

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