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Community groups benefit from VicForests' support

VicForests has announced more than \$15 000 worth of grants to support local, not-for-profit organisations across East Gippsland.

Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, East Gippsland, said the grants were part of VicForests' Community Support Program for 2011/12.

"In all, 16 groups across the region will receive assistance to undertake activities which directly benefit the local community as part of this year's program," Mr Sutton said.

"This includes primary schools, sporting clubs and various other local organisations throughout East Gippsland.

"VicForests is very pleased to be able to support the Australian Platypus Conservancy (ACP) for the first time.

"The ACP will use the grant to help develop an educational program to promote the protection of the Platypus and its habitat in East Gippsland

"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," he said.

Mr Sutton 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.

"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," Mr Sutton said.

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

Media Contact: David Walsh

T: 03 9608 9562 M: 0409 571 580 E: david.walsh@vicforests.com.au W: www.vicforests.com.au