

Thursday, March 11

## Bollards Help Launch Bug Blitz

The 'Bug Blitz Bollards at Lake Guthridge' project was launched today, March 11, in Sale.

The project is part of celebrations to mark the United Nations' International Year of Biodiversity.

VicForests' Regional Manager – East Gippsland, Barry Vaughan, said VicForests has donated the bollards which have been painted by school children to help commemorate the event.

"VicForests is proud to be involved with this initiative," Mr Vaughan said.

"The 38 bollards, which were painted by the students, have come from our salvage harvesting operations.

"The bollards have been placed in 15 schools across Gippsland including schools in Toongabbie, Heyfield, Stratford, Loch Sport and Seaspray.

"Another three bollards have been painted by artist Kathy Luxford-Carr and will be located in a high profile position at Lake Guthridge in Sale.

"Salvage harvesting operations have taken place in areas affected by the Black Saturday bushfires and allow us to utilise timber that would otherwise be wasted.

"The timber industry continues to play an important role in regional communities and VicForests is pleased to be able to support a project like this one," he said.

The United Nations has declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity to encourage people all over the world to reduce biodiversity loss.

Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms.

Along with VicForests, the 'Bug Blitz Bollards at Lake Guthridge' project is being supported by GEO, Wellington Share, Bug Blitz Trust and The Hugh Williamson Foundation.

Bug Blitz™ is the creation of renowned naturalist Professor Edward O. Wilson from Harvard University and uses bug identification and recording to indicate the health of habitats in various locations.

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