

Tuesday, July 27th 2010

Back to school in Toolangi forest

VicForests' staff have spent the day in forests near Toolangi with community members from areas around Kinglake affected by the Black Saturday bushfires.

The group is undertaking training in forest growing and management with Timber Training Creswick as part of a community based program for people recovering from the impact of these fires.

Gerard Stewart, from Timber Training Creswick, said the course is designed to teach the group more about the forests and forest industries.

"We spent the day with VicForests' staff in the bush around Toolangi to see how an active harvesting coupe works," Mr Stewart said.

"It was fantastic experience."

"The visit highlighted the environmental care and OHS requirements associated with native timber harvesting operations, and was particularly eye-opening for those who had not seen the real thing before.

"The community group are taking part in this particular course to learn more about our forests and the timber industry.

Lachlan Spencer, VicForests' Regional Manager, Central Highlands, said VicForests was delighted to be able to assist with the training.

"VicForests continues to work with the communities affected by the Black Saturday bushfires," Mr Spencer said.

"Our staff and contractors are part of these communities so it is wonderful to have the opportunity to share our passion, knowledge and experience in the forests with people from the regions we live and work in.

"Hearing that both the staff and the group got so much out of this trip is very pleasing.

"Victoria has some of the best managed forests in the world.

"VicForests is always happy to showcase the techniques we use to sustainably harvest timber from our forests, allowing for wood products to be produced locally," he said.

Timber Training Creswick provides specialist training for the forest growing and management, sawmilling and timber processing industries.

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