

Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 2010

## VicForests' launches Community Sponsorship Program

VicForests has launched a Community Support Program aimed at providing financial support to local community groups in regions where VicForests' operates.

Amanda Clark, VicForests' Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, said the program will provide grants to a range of not-for-profit organisations to assist them with events and activities which will benefit local communities.

"VicForests is offering grants of up to \$2000 to local not-for-profit organisations which undertake activities to enhance the quality of life in their region," Ms Clark said.

"The native timber industry continues to play an important role in local and regional communities.

"VicForests is keen to enhance this contribution by supporting initiatives which directly benefit local community members," Ms Clark said.

"Groups such as local schools, sporting organisations, local charities and other not-for-profit organisations are among those who are invited to apply. However, the program is not limited to just these groups.

Applications open on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and will close at 5pm on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

"VicForests has provided sponsorship to support local community groups and events since our organisation was established in 2004," Ms Clark said.

"This year VicForests has provided financial support to the Bairnsdale Races, Buchan Easter Rodeo, Orbost Cricket Club and the Nowa Nowa 2010 Wilderness Bike Ride.

"This new program enables us to expand that commitment to accommodate the great work of groups which we may not be aware of in the communities in which we operate," she said.

Application forms for the VicForests' Local Community Support Sponsorship Program can be downloaded online from the VicForests website –

[www.vicforests.com.au](http://www.vicforests.com.au)

To receive an application form by mail or for more information please contact Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager for East Gippsland, on (03) 5161 1300.

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