

Tuesday, May 4th 2010

VicForests to increase support for local communities

VicForests has announced plans to work more closely with local communities.

Local resident, Michael (Mick) Sutton, has been appointed as Community Relationship Manager for the East Gippsland region, based in VicForests' Orbost office.

Amanda Clark, VicForests' Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, said the role will provide greater support to help meet community needs, as well as increasing community understanding of VicForests' activities.

"Mick's position will include working with a wide range of local community groups to foster a greater understanding of the role of forestry, wood and wood products in their lives, as well as supporting local community activities," Ms Clark said.

"This will be an important link between VicForests and local Gippsland residents, both as a contact for queries about our operations and as a co-ordinator of support for local community events

"Mick's background in education, and with local community and environmental projects, provides him with a terrific understanding of what is required to work with the East Gippsland community.

"His involvement in Landcare activities and work with the Snowy River Catchment Advisory Group means he has a strong understanding of the region's sensitivity to environmental issues," she said.

According to Mick Sutton: "this promises to be a challenging role but one which gives me the opportunity to make a difference and build on my previous experience in the areas of education and environmental stewardship," Mick said.

"The position was especially attractive given my interest in the environment and forests, in particular. And being a local, I am already aware of some of the community issues related to the forestry industry."

"I'm also keen to keep working with the good people of East Gippsland, in the best part of the world!" Mick said.

VicForests will be launching a number of community initiatives over the coming months within the East Gippsland region.

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