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## VicForests supports community projects

Fourteen community groups in the Central Highlands will receive grants totalling more than \$18 000 as part of VicForests' Community Support Program.

Liz Langford, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, Central Highlands, said there had been a terrific response from the community to the program.

"VicForests' Community Support Program received more than 80 applications from a wide range of local groups including schools, sporting groups, local charities and events," Ms Langford said.

"Of these applications, 14 were successful in receiving grants of between \$500 and \$2000.

"The successful groups from the Healesville area include the Healesville Primary School, Healesville Junior Football Club, the Upper Yarra Historical Society and the Salvation Army, Healesville.

"These groups will use the grants for initiatives such as tree plantings, providing Christmas dinner for disadvantaged locals, a study into re-establishing platypus habitat and the creation of a girls' football team.

"The Community Support Program allows VicForests to contribute to variety of valuable projects and continue to build on the strong ties between the timber industry and the local community," she said.

Ms Langford said VicForests' Community Support Program offered not-for-profit organisations the chance to access grants of up to \$2000 to undertake activities which enhance the community's quality of life in the Central Highlands.

"All applications were assessed by a selection panel against set criteria," she said.

"These criteria included how the project would benefit the community, how it would assist VicForests to educate the community and how well the project fits in with VicForests' aims and corporate objectives.

"The native timber industry remains an important contributor to regional communities in Victoria, in particular those in the Central Highlands region.

"VicForests looks forward to keeping the community updated throughout the year regarding the progress of initiatives which have been assisted by the Community Support Program," Ms Langford said.

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