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VicForests supports community projects

Twenty-five community groups and events in East Gippsland will receive grants totalling more than \$15 000 as part of VicForests' Community Support Program.

Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, East Gippsland, said there has been a terrific response from the community to the program.

"VicForests' Community Support Program received applications from a wide range of local groups including schools, sporting clubs, local charities and events," Mr Sutton said.

"Among the groups successful is being awarded a grant was St Mary's Primary School in Bairnsdale.

"St Mary's will put this money towards a project to establish a wetlands area at the school.

"The area is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the important role played by wetlands and allow children to gain hands-on experience in this type of environment.

"The funding provided by VicForests will be used to purchase native plants, and to build pathways, information signs and fencing to protect the area.

"VicForests looks forward to continuing to build on the strong ties between the timber industry and the local community," he said.

Mr Sutton 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 East Gippsland.

"The Community Support Program allows VicForests to contribute to variety of valuable projects," he said.

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

"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, particularly in East Gippsland.

"VicForests will keep the community updated throughout the year regarding the progress of initiatives which have been assisted by the Community Support Program," Mr Sutton said.

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