

Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> 2010

## **VicForests supports community projects**

The Orbost Snowy Rovers Football and Netball Club and the Orbost Youth Group are two of the 25 community groups in East Gippsland to receive a grant through VicForests' Community Support Program.

Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, East Gippsland, said the program had provided grants totalling more than \$15 000.

"There has been a terrific response from the community to VicForests' Community Support Program," Mr Sutton said.

"VicForests received applications from a wide range of local groups including schools, sporting clubs, local charities and events.

"Other groups successful in obtaining grants include the Buchan Rodeo, the Friends of the East Gippsland Rail Trail, the Nowa Nowa Community Development Group and Breast Care Support East Gippsland.

"These grants will go towards a range of initiatives such as purchasing uniforms, and equipment, establishing gardens, holding events and to fund prizes for various community exhibitions.

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

"We look 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.

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