

Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010

## VicForests supports community projects

The National Timber Worker's Memorial in Eden has received a grant as part of VicForests' Community Support Program.

Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, East Gippsland, said grants totalling more than \$15 000 were provided through the program to community groups and events in East Gippsland and southern NSW.

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

"We have received applications from a wide range of local groups including schools, sporting clubs, local charities and events from right across the region.

"The funds provided to the National Timber Workers Memorial will go towards the maintenance and the upgrade of the site.

"The memorial is located in Wellings Park in Eden and honours timber workers who have given their lives in workplaces across in Australia.

"VicForests is very proud to support the project and help acknowledge the long history of the timber industry in this part of the world.

"We look forward to continuing to build on the strong ties between the 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.

"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, particularly in south-eastern Australia.

"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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