Media Release

VicForests

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VicForests supports community projects

The Buchan Rodeo is one of 25 community groups and events in East Gippsland to receive grants as part of VicForests' Community Support Program.

Mick Sutton, VicForests' Community Relationship Manager, East Gippsland, said the program had provided funding of 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.

"We have had a long association with the Buchan Rodeo and are very pleased to be able to continue this relationship again in 2011.

"The annual Easter Sunday rodeo is a major local event and one that has particular significance for our local communities.

"The rodeo helps to raise funds for local medical and emergency response services and the grant provided by VicForests will go towards upgrading catering facilities at the venue.

"The Nowa Nowa Community Development Group also received a grant to erect signage for new mountain bike tracks in the nearby State Forest.

"VicForests 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.

"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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