

17 March 2016

Teaching children the value of sustainably managed forests

VicForests provided each student at Gladysdale primary school with a seedling in celebration of International Day of Forests and to teach them about sustainable forest management.

The United Nation's International Day of Forests is held on 21 March every year and is a chance to show the positive nature of forestry and the benefits forests provide to communities across the world.

VicForests Regional Engagement Manager, Liz Langford said that VicForests is an active member of many local communities where its staff, contractors and customers, work and live.

"Forestry is a vibrant and important component to local economies in regional Victoria. There is a great sense of pride among timber communities and many industry workers are fifth or sixth generation in their family.

"Many of the children at this school have family or family friends who work in the industry and it is really positive for them to learn about sustainable forestry practices.

"We gave each child a seedling of their own to nurture and grow to teach them about the forestry cycle of harvesting, regrowing and selling timber products."

Principal of Gladysdale primary school, John Shackleton said "It's wonderful to see VicForests so committed to the local community. The students really appreciated the seedlings they were given and it was a great way to get the students engaged when talking about the important role that sustainable forestry plays in our community."

Forestry plays an integral part in the lives of at least 1.6 billion people around the world, who depend on forests for their livelihoods and daily subsistence needs.

Ms Langford said that VicForests regrows all forests that it harvests, planting thousands of trees each year. "VicForests has a store of around three billion seeds and our staff collect around 1,500 kilos of seeds every year so we are able to regrow all the same species of plants."

"In addition to the environmental benefits of sustainable forests, they also produce beautiful, useful and recyclable materials we all use or appreciate in our daily lives," she said.

VicForests is certified to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AFS) which provides customers with a guarantee they are purchasing locally sourced and sustainable timber products.

VicForests is also proudly supporting the upcoming Gladysdale Apple and Wine Festival in May 2016 and regularly supports and assists local communities with grants, donations and ongoing partnerships with local groups and services.

