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VicForests' grant helps Alexandra Primary School achieve their Mountains to Rivers Garden Project

VicForests has provided funding to Alexandra Primary School for a large garden project through its annual Community Support Program.

The Mountains to Rivers garden project has been a labour of love with input from students and parents of the school.

Alexandra Primary School Principal, David Pelosi, said: "The grant provided by VicForests has greatly assisted with our Mountains to Rivers Garden Project, contributing much needed funds to purchase native plants.

"I am extremely pleased with the strong support provided by VicForests, who also generously provided logs for our garden to be carved into seating arrangements.

"Not only have VicForests been very supportive, I have found them to be highly passionate and committed towards making a difference in the community, for the community," said Mr Pelosi.

The Community Support Program has been designed by VicForests to assist regional community groups and services who are working to positively contribute to their local area.

The VicForests' initiative, now in its fifth year, has provided over \$260,000 as well as a number of in-kind donations to a wide range of groups and services across the state.

VicForests' Regional Engagement Manager, Liz Langford, said the grants have enabled groups and services to do what they do best and that is enriching the communities around them.

"Our support program is very important to regional communities and to us. Our staff live and work in regional Victoria and contributing to local community groups and services is just part of what we do.

"Schools play such an important role in the community, especially in regional areas like Alexandra. We are delighted that we are able to contribute to this wonderful garden project that we hope the children will enjoy immensely.

"In addition to the Community Support Program we also have a number of ongoing sponsorships and we continue to provide funding for annual community events such as the Alexandra Truck and Ute Show," said Ms Langford.

Ms Langford said that VicForests is encouraged by the success the program has experienced since its inception.

“We have had another overwhelming response from local groups and services this year. It’s become a really popular initiative and we’re very happy that we’re able to reach out and help many different groups and projects.”

Other local initiatives that have received VicForests assistance this year include a number of schools and health care services across the state as well as providing funding for training programs with a number of indigenous groups.

The Community Support Program assists organisations that contribute to the wellbeing of local communities by providing grants of up to \$2,000 to charity groups, sporting groups, educational and community groups located across the Central Highlands, Gippsland and East Gippsland.

The Victorian forestry industry plays a key role in building and supporting rural and regional communities through its business activities and by sponsoring local community events and activities.