



Media Release

13 December 2017

Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief helps people in need

A \$2,000 investment in Warragul-based charity, Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief, will go towards helping more than 700 families within the Baw Baw Shire access emergency food supplies.

The grant was provided by VicForests, as part of its Community Support Program, and will go towards the operational costs of the volunteer-run organisation, which relies on donations and contributions to continue providing its vital services to those in need.

The grant will support the Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief op-shop, which provides affordable clothing and furniture to Baw Baw Shire residents while also raising funds for the Food Relief program.

Mrs Anne Pascoe, Manager Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief, said that the funds provided by VicForests are a great help to the organisation.

“To be able to provide the food we do, we rely on external funding to help keep our clients’ money contributions as low as possible. Grants such as those from VicForests are incredibly helpful in helping us provide our vital services”

The programs that the Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief provide are accessed by pensioners and those on Centrelink or Health Care cards, as well as those struck by unforeseen circumstances like sudden unemployment and natural disasters, such as bushfires.

Liz Langford, Regional Engagement Manager VicForests, said that assisting local organisations, such as the Baw Baw Combined Churches, is an important part of supporting the communities that VicForests operate in and around.

“Our staff, contractors and customers are members of many regional communities throughout Victoria.

“VicForests is proud to be able to help support the Baw Baw Shire community, which has such a strong connection to the native timber industry,” Ms Langford said.

“This is just one example of how we invest in regional communities across Victoria each year, with a total of \$350,000 in Community Support Program grants going to a diverse group of community organisations across the state in the past seven years.

“In addition to financial assistance, we also provide timber and bark donations, as well as ongoing partnerships with local groups and services, we strive to enhance the communities where we live and work,” she said.

VicForests has committed to a longer-term sponsorship agreement with the Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief for at least the next three years.

For more information about Baw Baw Combined Churches Food Relief, please visit their website www.warragul.foodrelief.org.au/



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For more information about VicForests Community Support Program please visit www.vicforests.com.au/communitysupportprogram

Additional information

VicForests is a native timber harvesting organisation which regrows all harvested areas with the same type of forest that was originally there and only harvests around 0.04% of Victoria's forests each year.

This small percentage of harvesting is vital to many regional Victorian communities that rely on the native timber industry.

The native timber industry contributes hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs to regional Victoria regional each year.

VicForests is certified by the Australian Forestry Standard which is endorsed by the world's largest forest certification scheme; PEFC.