

Media Release

A photograph in the top right corner showing two people wearing high-visibility orange safety vests and yellow hard hats, standing outdoors in a natural setting.

8 September 2016

VicForests grant supports Cann River classes for children

Cann River Community Centre received a grant as a part of VicForests' Community Support Program that will enable them to continue their arts and crafts classes for children.

The Community Centre runs a series of activities for children aged as young as four and has recently been struggling from a lack of financial assistance.

The VicForests' grant will purchase new sewing machines for a class that is run weekly for local children, many of whose families cannot to buy the machines themselves.

Ms Julie Brownlie, Community Centre Sewing Class Instructor, said that the funds provided by VicForests will greatly assist in keeping this community program running.

"The classes are run solely by volunteers and the Centre has been struggling to maintain the costs of these activities for our local community.

"Thanks to VicForests we will be able to continue the sewing classes for the local children whose families often can't afford to buy the materials required,"

"These classes will help the children of Cann River to improve both their skill levels and their self-esteem," she said.

The Community Centre will be able to purchase up to three speed adjustable sewing machines for the classes with the grant provided by VicForests.

"The new machines will be for the younger and less confident children to help them improve both their confidence in their ability to sew and their control of the machine," Ms Brownlie said.

Ms Brownlie said that these classes also help the children further develop a range of skills.

"We have children as young as four taking part in our classes which help them to learn hand-eye coordination, sharing and become more outspoken."

VicForests' annual Community Support Program helps regional community groups and services, who are positively contributing to their local area.

The VicForests initiative, now in its seventh year, has provided over \$350,000 to communities as well as a number of in-kind donations and ongoing support to other groups and services across the State.

Liz Langford, Regional Engagement Manager VicForests, said the grants are supporting the important work of community organisations.

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"Many of our staff live and work in regional Victoria and VicForests is proud to support these communities.

"Each year we have a great response from organisations applying for a grant and we're happy to be able to reach out and help many different groups and projects," Ms Langford said.

VicForests' Community Support Program assists organisations that contribute to the wellbeing of local communities by providing grants of up to \$2,000 to charity, sporting, educational and community groups in regional Victoria.

Close to 250 community groups have received grants from VicForests since commencing the program in 2010.

-Ends-

NOTES:

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Images: Children's sewing class, learning to make pillows.