

Thursday September 11, 2014

VicForests helps young gymnasts somersault forward with training

VicForests has provided funding to Healesville Splitz and Flipz gymnastics group through its annual Community Support Program grant allocation.

Liz Langford, Regional Engagement Manager with VicForests who runs the Community Support Program, said the grant has enabled the purchase of much needed training equipment, "We visited a pre-tournament training session of the gymnasts and they were absolutely fantastic," Ms Langford said.

"We were just blown away by the talent and delighted we could help these young children and teenagers train to the best of their ability."

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. 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 delighted that we're able to reach out and help many different groups and projects."

The VicForests' Community Support Program, now in its fifth year, has provided over \$260,000 to a wide range of groups and across the respective regions as well as a number of in-kind donations. Other local initiatives that have received VicForests assistance this year include Badger Creek Men's Shed and a number of schools across Alexandra and Marysville.

"In addition to the Community Support Program we also have a number of ongoing sponsorships such as the Healesville Junior Football Club and we continue to provide funding for annual community events.

"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," said Ms Langford.

The Community Support Program assists organisations that contribute to the wellbeing of local communities by providing grants of up to \$2000 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.