

Thursday October 9th, 2014

VicForests' grants assist East Gippsland communities

VicForests has provided funding to a number of community groups and services including health and education initiatives across East Gippsland.

Orbost based Moogji Aboriginal Corporation (MAC), who provide a range of health services for the region, has received funding through VicForests' annual Community Support Program.

Chris Allen, Project Manager with MAC, said: "The grant has assisted community members to access training including first aid training, OHS White Care (construction) and agricultural chemical courses. This training has provided skills to community members to assist them with gaining and sustaining employment.

"The latest funding will assist workers on the MAC environmental program to gain their certificate in Conservation and Natural Resource Management and gain a better understanding of environmental policy and management.

"MAC has been very happy with the support provided by VicForests and we will continue to apply for this funding on an annual basis," said Mr Allen.

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.

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

"This 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.

"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."

"Now in its fifth year, the Community Support Program 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.

"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," said Ms Langford.

Other groups that received funding this year include Gippsland Lakes Community Health and Swifts Creek Bush Nursing Centre.

VicForests' 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.