



Media Release

2 June 2016

VicForests Community Support Program open for applications

VicForests is inviting not for profit community groups and services to apply for a grant as part of its 2016 Community Support Program, before the deadline of Friday, 10 June.

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, VicForests Regional Engagement Manager is encouraged by the success the program has experienced since its inception.

“Since we started the program in 2010, we’ve helped almost 200 community groups and services and have provided more than \$300,000 in grants and funding across the Central Highlands, Western Victoria, Gippsland and East Gippsland regions,” said Ms Langford.

“In 2015 we supported over 40 small community groups around Victoria operating in isolated communities that otherwise struggle for funding and support.

“One recipient of last year’s Community Support Program was indigenous group ‘Bidwell Maap’ who used their grant to train community members in multimedia and IT skills.

“Another grant went towards funding a Heyfield Community Centre program ‘Out and About’ that helps out isolated community members integrate into their community.

“Grants also assisted with tree planting in Noogiee and Yarriambiack and creating walking trails in Hepburn and Mount Torbeck.

“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 \$2,000 to organisations such as charity groups, sporting groups, educational and community groups located across the Central Highlands, West Victoria, Gippsland and East Gippsland regions.

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.

VicForests Community Support Program applications can be submitted online at www.vicforests.com.au/csp.

Alternatively you can download an application form and send to the email provided on the form. The last date for applications is Friday 10 June at 5pm.

For more information please contact Liz Langford on 03 5969 9000 or liz.langford@vicforests.com.au.



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Image: Liz Langford, VicForests with 2015 Community Support Program recipients, Gladysdale Primary School students.