



Traditional Owners Work On Country to Protect Corner Inlet

Traditional owners are playing a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, providing direction and getting work done in the Corner Inlet catchment area.

The Corner Inlet Partner Group was established to ensure the highly valued Corner Inlet and Nooramunga area remains in good condition and has a strong future as a productive ecosystem. Coordinated by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), the partner group work together to ensure the inlet has a healthy future.

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) are important partners in the Corner Inlet Partner Group, with their

Natural Resource Management Works Crew implementing a range of ground work. The benefits of this partnership are many and include; the knowledge and culture of Traditional Owners being incorporated into natural resource management, cultural awareness and knowledge of local history and increased opportunities for new initiatives

From the headwaters of the rivers that flow down to the inlet, to the beaches surrounding the Inlet and on the islands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga– the GLaWAC crews are making an impact as they work on country to make a difference to the local environment.

Pictured: Parks Victoria and GLaWAC staff undertaking fox control baiting on Dream Island (Source: WGCMA)



GLaWAC's Natural Resource Management Works Team has been actively involved in many projects around the inlet including;

- Fox control on the barrier islands in partnership with Parks Victoria – this protects habitat for native animals and ensures the safety of shore birds
- Tree planting on the Franklin River in partnership with Greening Australia – this restores habitat for native plants and animals and protects the river
- Weed Control and planting of native vegetation (2,400 trees) on Mack's Creek in partnership with the WGCMA – this eradicates invasive species, restores native habitat and protects the creek
- Saltmarsh protection on the edges of Corner Inlet in partnership with the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network – this ensures stock are excluded from coastal zones and protects important vegetation
- Mapping and protection middens at a number of coastal sites – this preserves cultural heritage and protects the coastline



These activities fit in well with GLaWAC's Whole of Country Plan and fulfil many of the goals that the plan outlines. Andy Booth, NRM Business Development Coordinator with GLaWAC commented "The projects we work on in Corner Inlet are rewarding, our crews get to work on country and we all learn together."

Commenting on the revegetation project at Mack's Creek, On Country team member Corey Jack said "Working on this project has been really rewarding, the team has come away from feeling good about re-vegetating the country and restoring the landscape to its original state."

Pictured top: GLaWAC team working on revegetation project on the Franklin River (Source: Greening Australia), and above: Sea shells from McLoughlins Beach (Source: McLoughlins Beach)



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