

Indigenous Land Management

Indigenous land management teams, government and community agencies attended a workshop at the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council's Murrook Cultural Centre on the 10th December 2015.

The theme was Indigenous Land Management Partnerships in Action and offered Indigenous bush regeneration teams the opportunity to learn from case studies, find out about training options and share solutions to common challenges. The workshop helped to build the capacity of Indigenous Australians to manage natural resources.

Report on NAIDOC Day 2016

CVA were involved in the nationally celebrated NAIDOC Week 2016, which celebrates and acknowledges the history, culture and achievements of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander peoples. CVA hosted an activity at Heaton Public School's NAIDOC Day on 22nd July 2016. Primary school students from age 5 to 12 years old were engaged in nature play activities. Students used the leaves of a Sandpaper fig to smooth their 'hunting sticks' and built gunyahs (a form of shelter traditionally used by Indigenous people).



Newcastle Wetland Connections was a 4-year project to restore the upstream catchment of the Hunter Wetlands Centre, a Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance. The project improved the health and biodiversity of urban waterways and coastal wetlands in the city of Newcastle.

Indigenous engagement

The project incorporated activities to build the capacity of Indigenous Australians to manage natural resources, and share their stewardship ethic and knowledge with the wider community.

An Indigenous lead team coordinated a program of cultural competency training workshops, cultural events, and a training and employment program for Indigenous Australians. The project team participated in nationally celebrated days such as NAIDOC Day 2016.

Key statistics

- 160 Indigenous participants attended cultural events
- Two Indigenous Australians completed a traineeship and graduated with Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management
- An Indigenous Land Management workshop in 2015 engaged over 34 participants from Local Aboriginal Land Councils, community groups and environmental organisations



This project was coordinated by WetlandCare Australia (now merged with Conservation Volunteers Australia) through funding from the Australian Government

Program partners



Join us to Revive Our Wetlands - a national initiative of Conservation Volunteers Australia
 Email wetlands@conservationvolunteers.com.au
 Visit our website www.conservationvolunteers.com.au

Traineeship program

The project established a traineeship for three Indigenous Australians. The trainees were assisted throughout the selection process by the Aboriginal Employment Strategy. Two trainees completed a six month program to gain accreditation of Certificate 2 in Conservation and Land Management in an experiential manner, on-ground and on Country.

The traineeships were delivered by Conservation Volunteers Australia. The trainees were further mentored by Indigenous role models who began their own successful careers as trainees. They participated in cultural activities to strengthen their own connection to Country while also learning about Newcastle's rich cultural and environmental heritage. Over six months the trainees undertook bush regeneration at seven sites, installing more than 10,000 native plants around Waratah West, Sandgate and Warabrook.

Meet Mariah Kennedy

Indigenous Australians are the traditional custodians of the land and Mariah Kennedy is on her way to a career caring for Country.

Mariah was one of three committed and skilled workers in the traineeship program. Through her successful completion of the program she earned accreditation in Certificate 2 Conservation and Land Management, First Aid, ChemCert and a Chainsaw license. Mariah went on to successfully secure full-time employment in the bush regeneration field.

As well as gaining accreditations in conservation, Mariah's participation in the project helped to strengthen her connection to Indigenous culture.

'It gives you a lot of perspective thinking about where I was before to where I am now. The training was a great opportunity'

Mariah Kennedy, Traineeship Graduate



Left: Indigenous Traineeship participant Mariah Kennedy with CVA Staff

Above: NAIDOC Day 2016 celebrations at Heaton Public School

Front page: Opening of Birabahn Cultural Trail at the Wollotuka Institute

Below: Cultural workshop training at Worimi Conservation Lands

