



2018 NATIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS

11 October
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Nominee: Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation, VIC
Category: Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award

Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation represents the Wurundjeri people, the Indigenous owners of the historical property "Coranderrk" in the Yarra Valley. Set up as an Aboriginal Reserve in 1863, Coranderrk closed in 1924. In 1999, the Indigenous Land Corporation purchased 80 hectares of the property, handing it to the Wandoon Estate. This purchase included the last remaining building on site. But without access to funding or land management skills, the property was left effectively unmanaged for years.

The *Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)* partnered with Wandoon Estate to restore environmental health and productivity to the farm. Restoration has also been supported by Wandoon Estate's community volunteer group, Friends of Coranderrk.

Caring for Coranderrk Country has been ongoing for more than three years, led by two Wurundjeri women, Brooke Collins and Jacqui Wandin. The pair has focused on restoring Coranderrk as a working farm, as an important habitat for native fauna, and as a place to bring Wurundjeri people together on country.

The PPWCMA's Regional Landcare Facilitator, Karen Thomas, and Regional Indigenous Facilitator, Rhys Collins, have engaged a farm consultant to develop an environmental plan. The farm consultant is now mentoring the Indigenous owners in farm management techniques as well as running the farming operation, with only the farm returns as payment.

Sustainable farming practices canvassed have included productive beef cattle grazing, habitat restoration, and waterway management and protection. 100 volunteers have participated in three planting days. 10.6 hectares have been revegetated, with 19,600 plants planted. Fencing has been erected to protect waterways and enable stock rotation, cordoning off roughly 5305 metres, and 27.5 hectares of weed control has been undertaken.

Wurundjeri Council's Narrap Team has coordinated Indigenous employment on the property, and Coranderrk is the only property in the region managed by its traditional owners that is both a working farm and a valuable habitat for a threatened species. The habitat corridors being created on the property are much wider and more densely planted than typical shelterbelts, in accordance with the environmental priorities of the Indigenous owners.

The restoration project has also partnered with PPWCMA's "Yarra4Life" project and its partners, delivering a property-works plan to support habitat restoration for the helmeted honeyeater as well as funding for plants, fencing and weed control. Another partnership, with Melbourne Water, has led to funding for dam improvements, protecting stock water quality and providing off-stream watering for livestock.

This program is supported by Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.





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Landcare is a grassroots movement that harnesses individuals and groups to protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's natural environment and its productivity. Groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities. To find out how you can become a Landcare volunteer and for full details on all 2018 National Landcare finalists, visit www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Ends

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Web Summary

Wandooon Estate Aboriginal Corporation represents the Wurundjeri people, the Indigenous owners of the historical property "Coranderrk" in the Yarra Valley. Set up as an Aboriginal Reserve in 1863, Coranderrk closed in 1924. In the absence of a local Landcare group, the *Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)* partnered with Wandooon Estate to restore environmental health and productivity to the farm. A farm consultant is now mentoring the Indigenous owners in farm management techniques, including productive beef cattle grazing, habitat restoration, and waterway management and protection. 10.6 hectares have been revegetated, with 19,600 plants planted. Fencing has been erected to protect waterways and enable stock rotation, cordoning off roughly 5305 metres, and 27.5 hectares of weed control has been undertaken.

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