



Country on track

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) 'On Country' team has been busy at Point Fullerton.

As well as extensive revegetation works, a fishing technique workshop was conducted by the GLaWAC cultural hub manager, Grattan Mullett.

Point Fullerton is located on the northern side of Paynesville town and is the starting point of the Paynesville to Eagle Point walking track. The site itself is surrounded by coastal marshland and is a haven for wetland birds.

Unfortunately, the point itself is heavily degraded due to construction spoil being dumped on the site and not cleaned up.

The GLaWAC 'On Country' team has surveyed the site, identified the vegetation that would naturally occur on the site and replanted this vegetation.

More than 6000 native trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted by the crew, including forest redgum, blackwood, black wattle, kangaroo grass, swamp paperbark and drooping sheoak to name a few.

Coupled to this project, the GLaWAC team has undertaken some weed control, in the form of cutting and painting non-local acacia species.

Also, a traditional fishing techniques workshop was run by Grattan Mullett senior.

Students at Eagle Point Primary School listened to fishing stories of yesteryear and how traditional owners used to catch fish and make boats for fishing.

This project was the first natural resource management project that GLaWAC had applied for. Funds were made available by East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) from a fund sourced from the Arthur Rylah Institute.

Future works are being planned, including walking tracks, seating, bird hides and bush tucker areas.

On Country operations general manager for GLaWAC, Joanne Brunt, said the team had done a fantastic job working at Point Fullerton in some very trying and wet conditions.

"Their knowledge of plants and where they should be planted is quite impressive," she said.



Grattan Mullett talking to Eagle Point Primary School students about fishing. (PS)

