



CORNER INLET  
COLLEGE

# CORNER INLET COLLEGE

## Annual Report 2025

A Year of Establishment, Growth and Community



# Acknowledgement of Country

Corner Inlet College acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn, work and grow together. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and recognise the ongoing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Country, culture and community.

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# Chairperson Report

As a newly registered school in 2025 by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to deliver Years 7 and 8 during the 2025 school year, it has been pleasing to see the progress and closer engagement with our school community since registration.

The reputation of our school remains positive across the local community. The dedication and sincere effort of our staff have been a key part of the school's success, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to all our staff, and my fellow Board members. We now have a committed core group of teaching and general staff who work harmoniously with a shared vision.

I would like to also acknowledge the positive feedback and input from parents and the school community, which has been both encouraging and reassuring. As a new school, we will continue to nurture our team and attract outstanding educators to further strengthen the trust our community places in Corner Inlet College.

Looking ahead, our ongoing focus is on adding further year levels up to Year 12 by 2029 to cater for our expanding student needs. We are also updating and refining our school policies to support our educational offering and delivery. Child safety has been a vital consideration in our student and parent engagement, ensuring compliance with the Ministerial Order 1359 - child safe standards.

The College Board continues to meet regularly with a strong focus on governance, regulatory compliance, child safety, and ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of Corner Inlet College. Strategic priorities include enrolment growth, future expansion into senior secondary, infrastructure development and proactive engagement with the VRQA.

I sincerely thank our entire school community, families, students, and staff for their trust, support, and partnership.



**Mr. Aaron Thomas**

Board Chair, Corner Inlet College

# Principal and Founder Report

2025 marked a significant and exciting foundation year for Corner Inlet College as we welcomed our inaugural students and families to our newly established independent secondary school in South Gippsland. The establishment of Corner Inlet College reflects a strong belief that rural and regional young people deserve access to exceptional educational opportunities close to home. Our vision has always been to create a school where students are known deeply, challenged academically and supported to develop confidence, resilience and purpose.

Throughout the year, our focus remained firmly on creating a positive learning environment where students felt known, supported and challenged to achieve their personal best. As a new school, much of the year centred around establishing strong routines, building a connected school culture and implementing evidence-based teaching practices.

In our founding year, we focused on building a culture of belonging, high expectations and student agency. Staff worked collaboratively to develop engaging curriculum programs aligned with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0, while also laying strong foundations to prepare students for future senior secondary pathways, including VCE. Corner Inlet College formally introduced its learning programs with a particular focus on explicit teaching around the learning areas. Small class sizes enabled staff to develop a strong understanding of each student's strengths, interests and learning needs, allowing for targeted support and extension opportunities.

A major achievement of 2025 was the establishment of a passionate and dedicated staff team committed to the College's vision and values. Staff worked collaboratively to create a supportive and engaging learning environment while also developing strong partnerships with families and the broader local community. These relationships have been integral to the successful establishment of the College and the development of a strong sense of belonging for students and families alike.

Throughout the year, enrolments steadily increased as more families aligned with the College's high academic expectations and clear Code of Conduct. These foundations have been essential in creating a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment where students are able to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

An important priority throughout the year was fostering a respectful and caring community culture. Students and staff worked together to establish shared expectations centred on kindness, responsibility, resilience and inclusion. Our students demonstrated enthusiasm and pride in contributing to the development of the College's culture and traditions during this important foundation year.

Student engagement in outdoor learning, camps, excursions and community activities was a major highlight of 2025. Through our Outdoor Education and Health & Physical Education programs, students participated in activities including surfing experiences, canoeing at Port Albert, bushwalking, environmental studies, geocaching and local history investigations [aa1] throughout the Corner Inlet region. These opportunities enabled students to build resilience, teamwork and confidence while developing meaningful connections with the local environment.

The College community also embraced opportunities for creativity and the arts. Dance continued to play an important role within the Health and Physical Education program, while students participated in Visual Arts, Music and Photography projects throughout the year. Students proudly showcased their learning and creativity through school displays, performances and community events.

The College also strengthened relationships with local families, businesses and community organisations throughout the year. Community working bees, outdoor learning initiatives and College events demonstrated the shared commitment to creating a thriving learning environment for young people in South Gippsland. These experiences helped foster a strong sense of connection, pride and belonging across the College community.

As a regional school, we are proud to provide young people in South Gippsland with access to an independent secondary education close to home. The support shown by families and the broader community throughout 2025 has been extraordinary and has helped establish strong foundations for the future growth of Corner Inlet College.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to providing an education that is academically rigorous, student-centred and deeply connected to our local environment and community. We are excited about the opportunities ahead as Corner Inlet College continues to grow and evolve.



**Jennifer Young**

Principal, Corner Inlet College

# School Profile

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Corner Inlet College is a non-denominational, co-educational and open-entry independent secondary school with a strong focus on student learning, achievement and personal growth. As a school, we place a high priority on being a caring, respectful and inclusive community where each student is known, valued and recognised for their individual strengths.

Corner Inlet College has a positive community culture, supported by small class sizes, respectful relationships, outdoor learning opportunities and a rich co-curricular program. It aims to nurture confident, capable and well-rounded young people who are prepared for their future.

The College is located in South Gippsland, near Foster, in the Corner Inlet region, overlooking farmland, native forest and the coastal environment of Corner Inlet and Wilsons Promontory. It draws enrolments from across the broader South Gippsland and Corner Inlet region, including Foster, Toora, Fish Creek, Meeniyan, Sandy Point, Yarram, Mirboo North, Leongatha and surrounding communities.

In 2025, the school's Direct Measure of Income (DMI) was 88.

At the time of the 2025 Federal Government Census, 16 students were enrolled at Corner Inlet College across Years 7 and 8. The School is located on one site covering 2 acres hectares, with 4 teaching staff and 3 operational staff.

None of the 16 students had 'Language Backgrounds Other Than English', none were indigenous, and 8 were recorded as having a form of disability.

# Our Philosophy

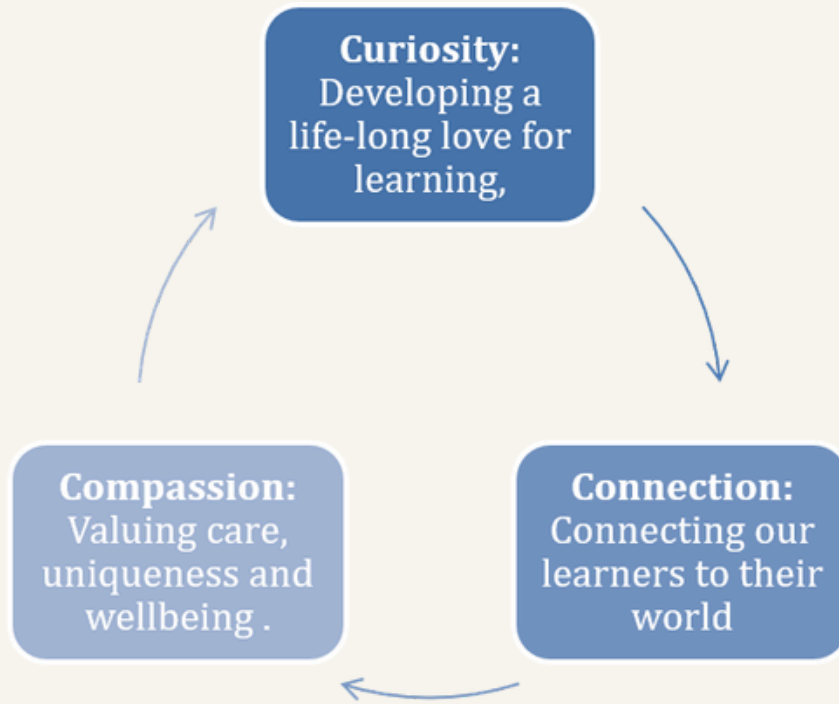
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At Corner Inlet College, we are dedicated to nurturing curious, confident and capable young people. Our learning community values respectful relationships, meaningful learning experiences and the individual strengths of every student. We work closely with students and families to create a supportive environment where students feel known, safe and inspired to grow.

Throughout the 2025 school year, Corner Inlet College developed its reputation as a small, student-focused learning environment where high expectations, belonging and individualised support are central to student success. Our programs integrate academic learning with environmental stewardship, local history, creativity and outdoor experiences unique to the Corner Inlet region.

# Vision

Corner Inlet College is characterised by three key values:



# Governance

The School is governed by a Board of Directors elected by members of Corner Inlet College Ltd, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Directors are elected for three-year terms, with elections being held at the Annual General Meeting. The Board meets every term. Members of the Board reflect the broad cross-section that makes up the school community.

The Board has been led since 2025 by the Chair, Mr. Aaron Thomas and supported by other board members Ms. Bree Harris and Ms. Dianne Bray. The inaugural and current Principal is Ms. Jennifer Young.

The Board, Principal and the School Leadership Team are committed to continuing to ensure best-practice governance for the School.

# Child Safety

Corner Inlet College has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse in accordance with Ministerial Order 1359. The School is committed to acting in all students' best interest and in keeping them safe from abuse or harm.

The School regards its duty of care obligations and child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance. The School is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain a child-safe culture.

The School has developed a suite of child safety policies to ensure and uphold its child safety and duty of care obligations and to embed an organisational culture of child safety. The School Board has direct oversight of the School's Child Safety practices and performance.



# Parent Perspective

“My daughter has been a part of Corner Inlet College since it opened in 2025, and it has been a wonderful experience for both of us. Since joining the CIC community she has become a much happier, more confident, and kinder person. Whenever there has been something I felt needed to be discussed, I have found the staff approachable, supportive, and easy to talk to. I have always felt listened to and never judged.

One of the things I value most about the school is how accepting the students are of different personalities. The young people genuinely support one another and get along remarkably well.

We are incredibly grateful that Corner Inlet College opened, as we do not believe our daughter would thrive in a mainstream school environment. The small class sizes and the way the teachers adapt their teaching to suit each child’s individual learning needs have made a significant difference to our daughter.

We couldn’t be happier with the school and the positive impact it has had on our daughters life and learning experience”.

Parent of Year 7 Student

“As a parent, I have been very pleased with the school and the positive environment it provides for students. Being a small independent country school, it offers a welcoming and supportive community where every child is known and valued. The teachers are caring, dedicated, and genuinely interested in helping each student reach their full potential. I appreciate the strong sense of belonging, the quality of education, and the opportunities my son has to learn and grow both academically and personally. It is a wonderful school that creates a safe, friendly, and encouraging environment for children to thrive”.

Parent of Year 8 Student

“Corner Inlet College is a fantastic school that provides a supportive, inclusive student-focused learning environment. The staff genuinely care about each student's wellbeing and academic success, providing a welcoming atmosphere.

The school has a strong focus on individual learning needs, wellbeing, outdoor education, and personal growth, which has fostered my son's confidence and learning engagement.

Along with making education engaging and relevant within a supportive education setting CIC has a commitment to curiosity, connection, and compassion. Thus, creating a positive school culture where my son has been able to thrive both academically and personally”.

Parent of Year 7 Student

# Student Perspective

“I joined Corner Inlet College during the year, and it was one of the best decisions of my life.

At Corner Inlet College, we participate in Outdoor Education. We take part in a variety of activities, ranging from swimming to five-kilometre hikes. These activities help us develop a range of practical skills, confidence, and teamwork.

In our academic classes, we study Science, English, Dance, Physical Education, Mathematics, and Humanities. In Dance, we learn a variety of styles, including contemporary and jazz, which helps us develop creativity and self-expression.

Corner Inlet College has many strengths. Two of its greatest strengths are its flexible approach to learning, which supports students with different needs, and its optional uniform policy, which allows students to wear comfortable clothing and express themselves.

Every Friday, we enjoy a shared lunch where students help prepare meals such as barbecues and salad wraps. This helps us develop valuable cooking and teamwork skills while contributing to our school community.

Corner Inlet College is a progressive school that still places a strong focus on education. It provides a supportive and welcoming environment where all students can thrive, regardless of their circumstances.

Year 7 Student

When I first arrived at Corner Inlet College, I felt unsure of myself. The thought of starting at a new school, surrounded by new people and new opportunities, made me feel nervous and anxious. However, the teachers understood how I was feeling and made a genuine effort to ensure that not only I, but every student, felt welcomed and supported.

Now, when I arrive at Corner Inlet College and look out towards Wilsons Promontory on a brisk morning, I feel safe and comfortable. I know that the people around me are my friends, and the opportunities that once seemed intimidating are now something I look forward to. What once felt uncertain has become exciting, and I am grateful to be part of such a supportive and encouraging school community.

Year 7 Student

# Staff Perspective

“As part of the Corner Inlet College staff team, 2025 was a momentous year for the school. The experience of being a part of, and, developing programs to suit the students has been a fantastic experience. Working with an experienced staff team has helped the first year of our school a positive experience. The level of support provided from the Staff and the Principal has been excellent, with time to prepare and provide advice and feedback to help improve me professionally. It has been great to see the students take ownership of their school and to see large improvements in their performances both academically and socially in such a short space of time. I have a great work/life balance, and this helps my performance professionally, I continue to enjoy working at Corner Inlet College and looking forward to seeing the students develop.”

Luke Rooker

# NAPLAN Results

Corner Inlet College's 2025 NAPLAN results represent the first formal assessment data for the College, with testing undertaken by a small inaugural Year 7 cohort only. As such, the results should be interpreted with an understanding of the limited sample size, which can contribute to greater variability in outcomes. Despite this, the data provides a valuable and credible baseline for the College, offering important insights into student achievement in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. This baseline will be instrumental in informing targeted teaching strategies, tracking cohort growth over time, and supporting the College's ongoing commitment to evidence-based practice and continuous improvement.

## Writing

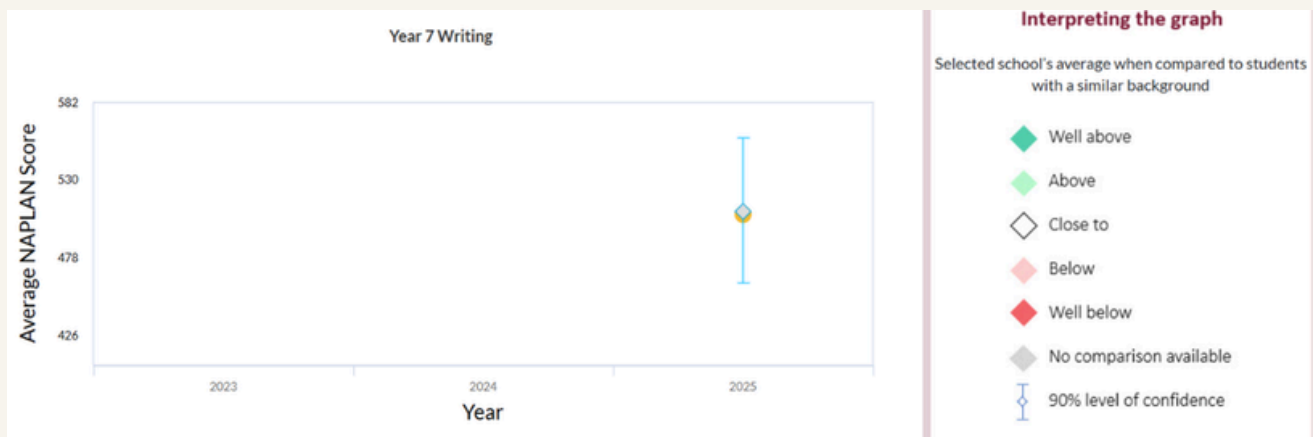
The Year 7 Writing cohort achieved an average NAPLAN score of approximately 505, with results sitting close to students with a similar background.

The data shows:

- A moderate spread of results, as indicated by the confidence interval (approximately mid-460s to mid-550s), suggesting some variability in student performance.
- Overall performance is consistent with expected standards, with no indication of significant underperformance relative to comparable schools.
- The distribution suggests a mixed cohort, with some students performing at higher levels while others may require additional support to reach proficiency.

This result indicates that:

- Writing outcomes are broadly aligned with like schools, providing a stable baseline in the College's early years.
- There is an opportunity to strengthen consistency in writing achievement, particularly by supporting students in the lower range while extending high-performing students.
- Continued emphasis on explicit teaching of writing, literacy development, and structured feedback will be important to lift overall performance.



## Reading

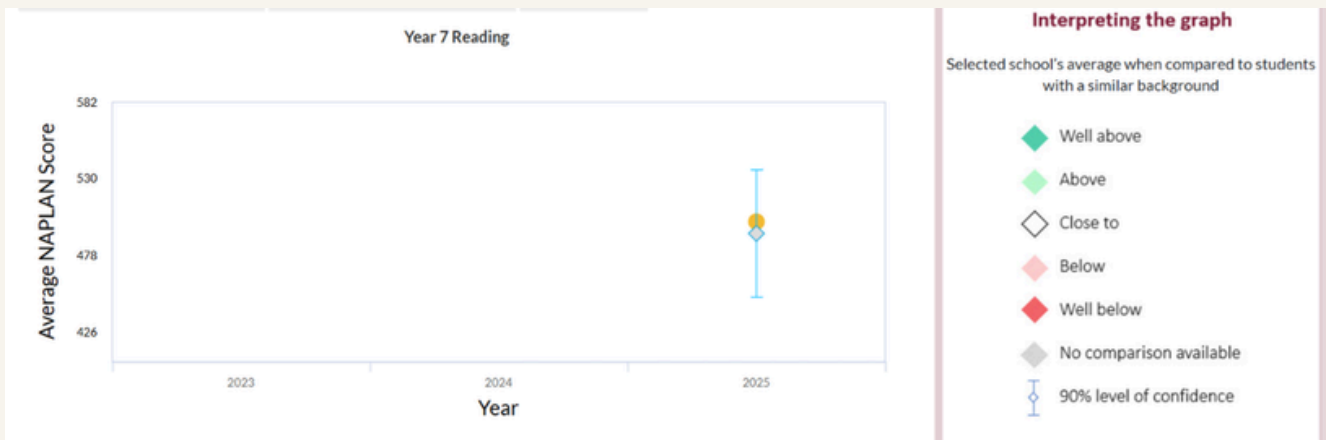
The Year 7 Reading cohort achieved an average NAPLAN score of approximately 495–500, with results close to students with a similar background.

The data indicates:

- A broad spread of achievement, with the confidence interval ranging from approximately the mid-440s to just above 530.
- Overall performance is consistent with expected benchmarks, showing alignment with comparable schools.
- The range of results suggests a diverse cohort, with both higher-performing students and those requiring targeted literacy support.

This result suggests that:

- Reading achievement is in line with similar schools, providing a solid baseline in the College's early years.
- There is scope to lift the middle and lower bands, particularly through continued focus on comprehension strategies and vocabulary development.
- The presence of higher-achieving students provides an opportunity to extend and challenge learners through rich, knowledge-based texts.



## Numeracy

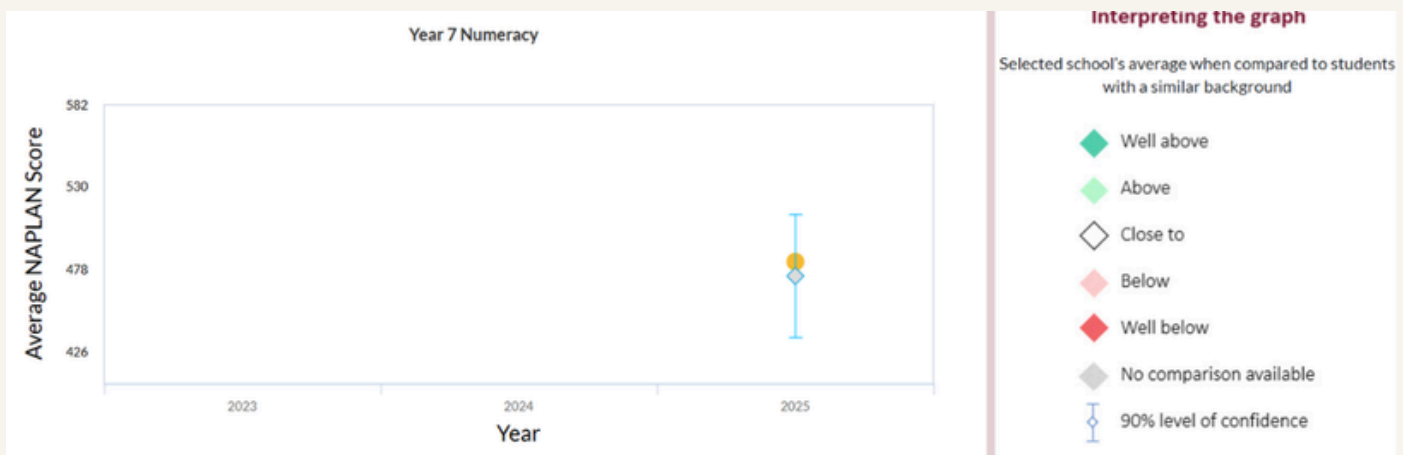
The Year 7 Numeracy cohort achieved an average NAPLAN score of approximately 480–485, with results close to students with a similar background.

The data indicates:

- A moderate spread of achievement, with the confidence interval ranging from approximately the low-430s to just above 510, suggesting variability across the cohort.
- Overall performance is aligned with expected benchmarks, indicating no significant deviation from comparable schools.
- The distribution reflects a mixed ability cohort, with both students demonstrating strong numeracy skills and others requiring targeted support.

This result suggests that:

- Numeracy outcomes are consistent with similar schools, providing a sound baseline in the College's early years.
- There is an opportunity to strengthen foundational numeracy skills, particularly for students in the lower performance range.
- Continued focus on explicit instruction, problem-solving, and numeracy fluency will support improvement across the cohort.
- High-performing students can be further supported through extension and application-based learning opportunities.



# Teaching and Learning

Corner Inlet College curriculum plan aligns with the Victorian Curriculum F-10 2.0.

The College timetable incorporated 75-minute learning blocks to support deep engagement, consolidation of learning and opportunities for productive struggle through The Learning Pit framework. Teachers used diagnostic, formative and summative assessment data to personalise learning and support student growth.

Programs included English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education including Outdoor Education, Technologies, Spanish, The Arts including Visual Arts, Music and Dance.

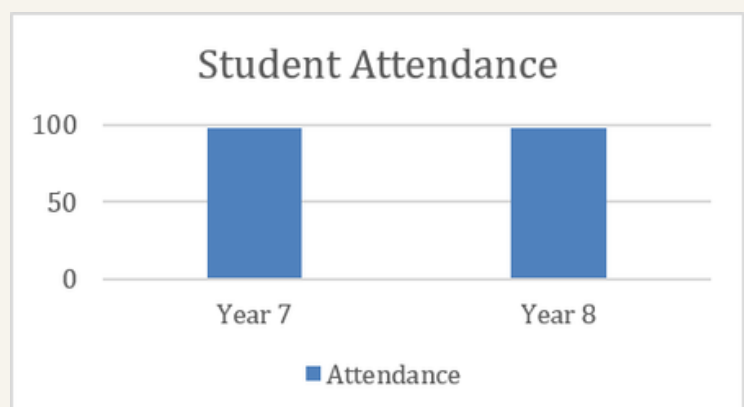
## Student Attendance

Corner Inlet College places a strong emphasis on student attendance and engagement as essential foundations for academic achievement, wellbeing and positive school connection. In accordance with the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 and Regulations 2017, attendance rolls are marked each lesson period. The College records reasons for all student absences and follows up promptly with families when a student is absent without notification.

As a newly established school in 2025, Corner Inlet College worked closely with students and families to build positive attendance habits and strong partnerships between home and school. Through small class sizes and strong relationships with students, staff were able to provide individualised support to encourage consistent attendance and engagement in learning.

Corner Inlet College is proud to have maintained student attendance rates above 95% throughout its foundation year. These strong attendance rates reflect the positive relationships between students, families and staff, as well as the engaging and supportive learning environment developed across the College.

The College recognises that regular attendance supports student learning continuity, wellbeing, social connection and participation in the broader life of the school, including outdoor education, camps, excursions and co-curricular opportunities. Attendance and engagement continue to be key priorities as the College grows and develops.



# A Well-Rounded Education

Corner Inlet College is committed to developing confident, capable and compassionate young people who can make a positive contribution to their local community and the wider world. While academic achievement remains a strong priority, the College also recognises the importance of developing character, resilience, leadership, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.

At Corner Inlet College, students are encouraged to participate in a broad range of learning experiences beyond the traditional classroom. Through outdoor education, community projects, performing arts, leadership opportunities and co-curricular activities, students are supported to develop confidence, independence, empathy and a strong sense of belonging.

## Outdoor Education and Community Connection

Outdoor Education is a key feature of the Corner Inlet College program and reflects the unique natural environment of South Gippsland. Throughout 2025, students participated in a range of activities including surfing experiences, canoeing at Port Albert, bushwalking, environmental studies, geocaching and local history investigations. These opportunities supported students to develop teamwork, resilience, leadership and environmental stewardship while building meaningful connections with the local community and landscape.

The College also strengthened partnerships with local families, businesses and community organisations throughout the year. Community working bees and school events demonstrated the shared commitment to creating a thriving learning environment for young people in the Corner Inlet region.



## The Arts and Creative Expression

The Arts continued to play an important role in the life of the College during its foundation year. Students engaged in Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Photography programs that encouraged creativity, collaboration and self-expression. Dance formed an important component of the Health and Physical Education program, while Visual Arts and Photography projects enabled students to showcase their creativity and explore connections with the local environment and community.

A major highlight of 2025 was the College Production, *The Lorax 2.0*, which brought together students, staff and families in a celebration of creativity, environmental themes and performance. The production reflected the College's strong connection to environmental stewardship and sustainability, while also providing students with opportunities to develop confidence, teamwork, public speaking and performance skills. Students were involved in all aspects of the production, including acting, dance, music, set design and backstage support, demonstrating outstanding enthusiasm and collaboration throughout the process.

Students proudly shared their work through displays, performances and College events throughout the year, contributing to the vibrant culture of the school community.



### Student Wellbeing, Leadership and Belonging

As a newly established school, 2025 focused strongly on building a culture of belonging, respect and high expectations. Corner Inlet College maintained a strong focus on positive relationships, emotional regulation, resilience and student belonging.

Students were encouraged to contribute to the development of school traditions, routines and community culture. Through small class sizes and strong relationships with staff, students were supported to develop confidence, responsibility and student agency.

The College's clear Code of Conduct and high academic expectations have helped create a safe, respectful and supportive learning environment where students are able to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

### Sport, Cultural Opportunities and SEISA Participation

Corner Inlet College values participation in sport, outdoor recreation and cultural activities as important aspects of student wellbeing and development. Through Health and Physical Education and Outdoor Education programs, students participated in activities that promoted teamwork, resilience, physical fitness and confidence.

The College is proud to be a member of the South East Independent Schools Association (SEISA), providing students with opportunities to participate in interschool sporting and cultural events with other independent schools across the region. Throughout the year, students participated in SEISA activities including theatre sports and cross country. In 2025, CIC will expand our involvement to athletics, surfing and dance. SEISA events encourage teamwork, school pride and positive relationships with students from other school communities.

Participation in SEISA events allowed students to challenge themselves in competitive and collaborative environments while also developing leadership, communication and sportsmanship skills. These opportunities contribute significantly to student confidence, connection and engagement in school life.



# Staffing and Professional Practice

The role of staff is critical to the achievement of Corner Inlet College's vision and values. As a newly established independent secondary school, 2025 involved building a passionate, collaborative and highly committed staff team dedicated to supporting young people in South Gippsland.

Our staff are committed to creating a safe, supportive and academically rigorous learning environment where students are known deeply, challenged appropriately and encouraged to achieve their personal best. Staff work closely with students and families to foster positive relationships, strong wellbeing outcomes and a culture of high expectations across the College.

## Professional Learning

Corner Inlet College maintained a strong commitment to evidence-based professional learning throughout 2025. Staff engaged in ongoing professional development focused on explicit teaching, the Science of Learning, curriculum development and effective classroom practice aligned with the Victorian Curriculum F-10 2.0.

As part of the College's foundation year, staff worked collaboratively to develop coherent, knowledge-rich curriculum programs designed to support continuity of learning and strong academic outcomes for students.

Teaching staff also participated in subject-specific professional learning opportunities to strengthen curriculum knowledge and classroom practice. This included professional development through the Victorian Association for the Teaching of English (VATE), where English teachers engaged in workshops and professional learning sessions focused on evidence-based literacy instruction, text analysis, writing pedagogy and preparation for future VCE English pathways. These opportunities supported staff to remain informed about current best practice in English teaching and curriculum delivery.

All staff completed mandatory Child Safety professional learning and training, including the Victorian Government's Protecting Children – Mandatory Reporting and Other Obligations modules, alongside Corner Inlet College's own Child Safety policies, procedures and Code of Conduct training. The College remains strongly committed to maintaining a child-safe culture where the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all students is prioritised.

Staff also participated in professional learning related to student wellbeing, behaviour support and the development of consistent school-wide expectations and routines. This work supported the establishment of a calm, respectful and safe learning environment where students are able to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Corner Inlet College continued to prioritise staff qualifications in first aid, CPR, anaphylaxis management and emergency response procedures to ensure students are supported in a safe and well-prepared environment.

In 2025, all Teaching staff held a Bachelor's Degree, one held a Masters and none identified as having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background.

Throughout 2025, the College continued to develop a collaborative and committed staff team. Teachers worked across curriculum areas to provide flexible and engaging learning opportunities suited to the needs of a growing regional school community.

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## Leadership



**Jennifer Young**  
**PRINCIPAL and TEACHER**

Bachelor of Education  
Bachelor of Sport and Outdoor Recreation  
Masters of Educational Leadership

## Teaching Team



**Jane Hollins**  
**TEACHER**

Bachelor of Education  
Graduate Diploma of Psychology



**Julie Jones**  
**TEACHER**

Bachelor of Education



**Luke Rooker**  
**LEARNING SUPPORT**

Bachelor of Sport and  
Exercise Science

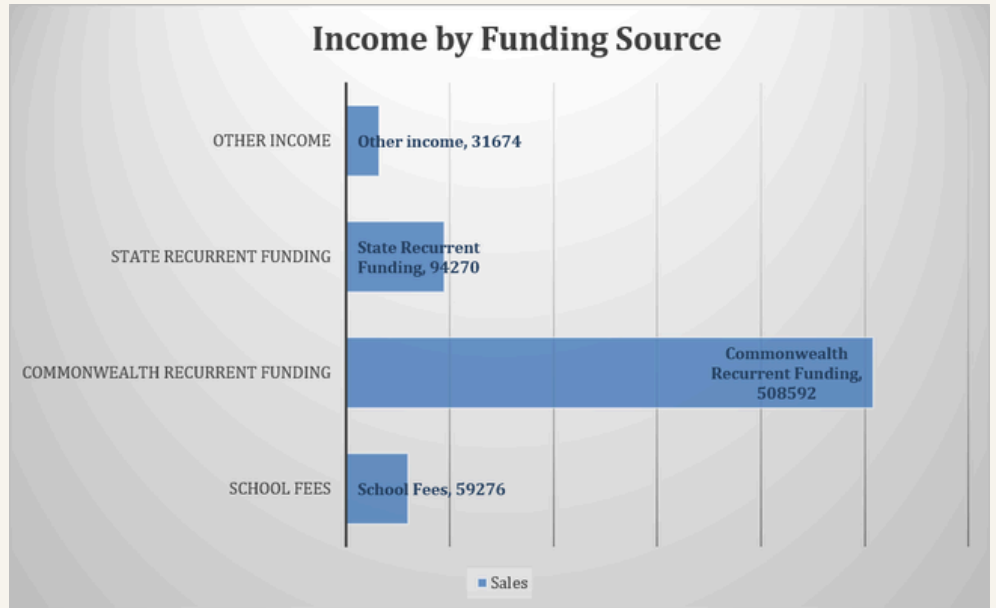
# Financial Summary

The following provides a summary of Corner Inlet College's financial position for the 2025 operating year.

## Income

The College received funding from the following sources:

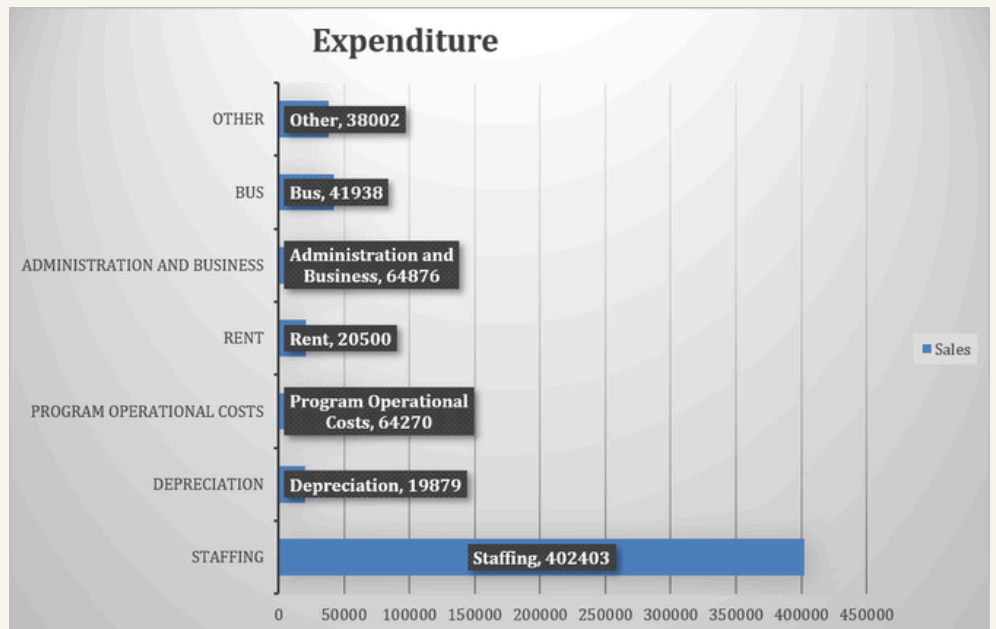
- Australian Government recurrent funding
- State Government recurrent funding
- Tuition fees
- Other private sources



## Expenditure

Key areas of expenditure included:

- Teaching and non-teaching staff salaries
- Curriculum resources and materials
- Property and facilities maintenance
- Administration and compliance costs
- Professional development



The College maintained a balanced budget throughout its foundation year, with prudent financial management ensuring resources were directed toward student learning outcomes and building a sustainable operational base for future growth.

# Our Year in Pictures

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# Looking Ahead to 2026

As Corner Inlet College moves into its second year of operation, the school remains committed to delivering high-quality education for rural and regional young people. Priorities for 2026 include continued enrolment growth, including adding Year 9, strengthening academic programs, expanding student opportunities and progressing plans for senior secondary offerings.

Planning continues for Stage 2 development works, including additional learning spaces, outdoor learning decks, improved accessibility infrastructure and sustainability initiatives such as expanded solar capacity and water storage.

The College looks forward to continuing to build a connected, aspirational and innovative learning community for students and families across South Gippsland.

