

# Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



*Hooded Plover chicks. IMAGE: BirdLife Australia*

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## Glenelg Hopkins CMA

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## Restrictions make things hard but online makes things possible

There has been lots happening across the Glenelg Hopkins catchment – despite the current rollercoaster of going in and out of lockdowns. Although restrictions make things hard, our new way of working is about taking those opportunities whilst we can for our staff and stakeholders to get some great work done in the field.

There are plenty of fieldwork examples in this month's newsletter such as the Bryan's Swamp restoration, Hooded Plover surveys and cultural burning by Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

However, when we are in lockdown it doesn't all have to stop. There are still plenty of activities our staff and community can get involved with from the safety of our homes, such as the upcoming Nature Festival, online workshops and seminars, or you can take some time to check out our various Pondcasts, stories and videos on our website and social media.

**Adam Bester, CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA**

## **Be involved with Victoria's Nature Festival ... online!**

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is once again getting involved with the Victoria Nature Festival!

As in 2020, the 2021 event is being rapidly moved online as events are impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions and uncertainty around restrictions during the festival period.

The benefit of that, is that getting involved with the nature festival can be done from the comfort of home!

A full program of activities, online videos, virtual tours, and much more will all be available during the two-week festival period. You might even catch a glimpse of this area with our Eastern Barred Bandicoot videos, Discovery Bay walking tour, cultural burning activities and more featured in the program.

If restrictions allow, there will be some in person events, and if you can get out and about, there is the opportunity to drop a pin on a Victorian map to show where you are enjoying nature!

Log on for the full program at:  
[www.together.vic.gov.au/victoria-nature-festival](http://www.together.vic.gov.au/victoria-nature-festival)

Or keep an eye out on our social media and website for updates - if we can, there are some great nature experiences in the catchment we are hoping to showcase!



## **Tree drawing competition still open!**



Glenelg Hopkins CMA is supporting the 2021 International Tree Drawing Competition being run by the creative arts community in Dunkeld. Category prizes for tree drawings are \$300!

Due to the Victorian lockdown, the Off the Rails National Tree Day event has been cancelled, but not the drawing competition! Entries are still open until September 3. Winners notified and published on the Facebook page.

Entry is simple: Draw a tree and send it in with your entry fee. Click on the link (LEFT) for details.

**Competition entry information is available at:**  
[www.facebook.com/Offtherailsdunkeld/](https://www.facebook.com/Offtherailsdunkeld/)

# More Hoodies on our beaches!

Have you ever spotted a Hoodie on the beach? Now you might be more likely to!

In some very positive recovery news, there may be signs of improvement for this little beach bird following the most recent survey as part of a National Landcare Program supported project.

Every two years, BirdLife Australia volunteers survey ocean beach habitat suitable for Hooded Plovers across eastern mainland Australia so the best estimate of population size and distribution of the eastern subspecies can be made. The surveys also assess the birds' habitat and threats they face.

Six major regions along the coast from South Australia to East Gippsland are working together under the NLP project Protecting the Hooded Plover. Friends of the Hooded Plover volunteers assist with bird monitoring, educating beach users, and erecting signage and fencing around vulnerable breeding sites.

The project has directly contributed to 119 chicks surviving to flying age. Without on-ground protection, it is estimated that this would have been as low as 30.

Last November, as part of the NLP funded project, 175 volunteers and project staff surveyed over 1,000 km of coastline coastlines across Victoria and SA, counting 795 Hoodies, as part of a tri-state surveying weekend for the Hooded Plover. In the same area, 629 were counted in 2014.

The positive numbers were added to the Hooded Plover surveying undertaken that weekend as part of the wider BirdLife Australia Hooded Plover Biennial Count. A total of 1584 Hoodies were recorded over 2400km of mainland Australian beaches for the 2019 survey. Excitingly, that indicates the mainland population appears to be stable overall and continuing to show slow recovery of the population.

As the first hint of spring is now here, the birds have already begun to nest. We now eagerly await news of baby hoodies being spotted - usually beginning in September.



*There has been positive signs of recovery in the biennial Hooded Plover Count. IMAGES: Birdlife Australia.*



## Low intensity burning for Red-tail food protection



Glenelg Hopkins CMA has supported Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to undertake low intensity burns in critical habitat of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo at Kentbruck Heath on the edge of the Lower Glenelg National Park. Supported by DELWP and Parks Victoria the intention is to maintain a fire regime across the landscape that prevents fire from scorching the canopy of the Stringybark eucalypt trees, the sole food resource of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Canopy scorch of the trees can limit food production for up to a decade

## New weir structure at Bryan's Swamp to help inhabitants

In early August a temporary weir on the 666 hectare Bryan's Swamp in the Victoria Valley was installed. A small crew from Nature Glenelg Trust, Panyyabyr Landcare and Glenelg Hopkins CMA took advantage of an easing of COVID-19 restrictions to install the sandbags.

The aim of the trial is to raise the wetlands water level by 20-30 centimetres so that water is retained for a few weeks longer at the end of summer. This will hopefully assist the birds, frogs and plants finish breeding. The weir height will not cause flooding of neighbouring farmland and can be easily removed if there are any adverse outcomes.



*This project has been funded through the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program.*

## Get the kids drawing for national water poster competition



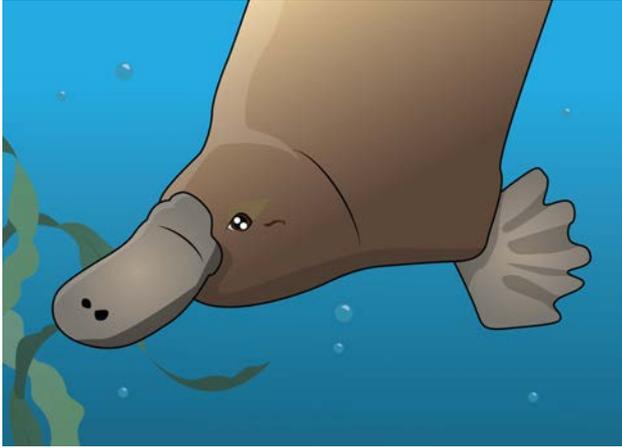
The National Water Week poster competition run by Wannon Water and supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Southern Rural Water is on again.

Help celebrate and learn more about the vital and cultural role that water plays in our lives. The theme this year is 'Caring for Water and Country'.

Students are encouraged to create an A3 poster that best reflects their interpretation of the theme. For more information visit [Wannon Water's website](#)

## CMA NEWS:

# Claim a local site for the Great Australian Platypus Search



Join what might be the biggest citizen science project EVER as part of The Great Australian Platypus Search and use some super easy but totally new-age science in the process!

While we are in lockdown now, you can register your intent to do a bit of eDNA collection around the catchment .

To get involved, hop online and nominate a site you're happy to take a sample from. All the details are available at: [www.thegreataustralianplatypussearch.org/](http://www.thegreataustralianplatypussearch.org/)

## Putting stockings on a special plant for seed collection

The VWP team were out (under covid-safe conditions) at the Skipton Common prior to the most recent lockdown putting stocking bags on Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens*) plants to capture seeds recently.

The stockings allow the seed to continue to mature and ensure ripe seeds are collected as the plant drops them.

About 25 bags were placed on plants which had come to the end of their flowering season. This seed collecting from the Skipton Common population, along with some at other populations on private land, will provide seed for conservation seed bank for posterity. Some seeds will be given to Victoria University to propagate for future planting events.



*This project is supported by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.*

## Discovery Bay episode of *The Pondcast* out now

A new episode of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's podcast series, *The Pondcast*, is out now.

Discover why the coastal area of south-west Victoria is so internationally important, not just for its geologically significant wetlands, but also the role it plays a round-the-world holiday destination for a group of birds from Siberia.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Glenelg Estuary Discovery Bay Ramsar site coordinator, Gavin, takes us for a wander on the sand dunes and around the wetlands.

Listen online here: [ghcma.vic.gov.au/the-pondcast/](http://ghcma.vic.gov.au/the-pondcast/)



# Weed or native? New guide helps learn the difference

Ever been weeding in the bush or going around your farm looking at what to keep and what to spray and thought '... hang on, is that a weed or a native?'

A new booklet produced by the the Southwest Environment Alliance (SEA) hopes to help people answer their own questions. SEA Landcare Facilitator, Kristy Brewer, said the new guide was like having a local ecologist in your back pocket.

"A lot of times I get phone calls from people trying to identify a plant and its just a physical impossibility to be everywhere," she said. "This guide has over 800 plants in it and should help people learn the difference between the plants themselves.

"Also, it can be in your back pocket on your phone or in your ute glove box which makes it very convenient to access rather than waiting for someone to get back to you."

Kristy said to identify a plant you need more than one feature (yellow flowers is not enough), and to know what else it might look like. Many species that could be confused with one another, along with pictures and descriptions are listed together to help making identify the native and weed species easier.

The new guide builds on another locally produced booklet, 'Plants of the Great South West' by Kevin Sparrow, and has had extensive assistance from Jodie Honan from Gunditj Mirring TOAC, and local plant enthusiasts who have been generous with their time and images of plants to try and make the guide as user friendly as possible.

Each page has an easy reference guide on the images to make knowing if they are native to the south-west, introduced, or if they could become a problem if disturbed or planted in the wrong environment. This is indicated by a tick, a cross or a question-mark.

Hard copies of the guide are available through SEA by contacting Kristy on 0413 718 875 or emailing [facilitator@sealliance.org.au](mailto:facilitator@sealliance.org.au). Alternatively, the guide can be viewed online and downloaded from the website [HERE](#)



## Native or weed?

Plants that can be confused in Portland and district



### LARGE LEAVES WITH BERRIES

**Sea-box *Alyxia buxifolia* (Apocynaceae)**  
Small to medium shrub. Leaves opposite, or in whorls of three. Leaf size varies a lot; paler beneath, smooth edge. White flowers; red to orange berries. Coast and hinterland.



**Italian Buckthorn (Mediterranean) *Rhamnus alaternus* (Rhamnaceae)**  
Shrub to small tree. Leaves with 'toothed' edge, no obvious glands. Fruit red to black. Vigorous invasive weed spread by birds.



**Mirror-bush (NZ) *Coprosma repens* (Rubiaceae)**  
Shrub to small tree. Shiny, rounded leaves. Orange berries. Vigorous invasive weed spread by birds.



### MYRTACEAE – BOTTLEBRUSH, TEATREE

**Giant Honey-myrtle (Gippsland) *Melaleuca armillaris***  
Long leaves. Creamy bottlebrush flowers. Extensively planted and can be invasive.



**Scent Paperbark *Melaleuca squarrosa***  
Shrub to tree, short leaves. Lemon-cream-white bottlebrush flower spikes on tips of stems. Damp areas.



### WATTLES WITH 'FERNY LEAVES'

All wattles are family **Fabaceae**. Their 'leaves' are flattened stems called phyllodes. Fabaceae have pods similar to a garden pea or bean plant.

**Late Black Wattle *Acacia mearnsii***  
Olive-green, spaced, flattened pinnae ('leaflets'). Gland at each junction, and glands in between as well. Woolly stems. Lemon-yellow flower heads



**Early Black Wattle (NSW) *Acacia decurrens***  
Glabrous, well-spaced, narrow pinnae. Gland just below each junction. Branchlets with ridge, smooth stems. Yellow, globular flowers.



**Cootamundra Wattle (NSW) *Acacia baileyana***  
Greyish to purplish, crowded pinnae. Bright-yellow flowers. Can hybridise with *A. decurrens*.



# Big success for little farm movie night

Coronavirus restrictions eased enough in July to allow 60 enthusiastic film-goers attended the Willaura Memorial Hall to view *The Biggest Little Farm* together. The evening was organised by the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group as an initiative of the Soil Health Committee.



The documentary film tracks the adventures of two new farmers who give up their city life to begin a biodiverse farm in Los Angeles County. Over time, the farm transforms from desolate, run-down beginnings to a healthy, thriving ecosystem.

The farmers use compost, animal manure and diverse rotations to build soil health, create lush pastures and support an orchard business.

Following the film, everyone was invited to stay for a delicious supper from the Willaura Bakery. This was an opportunity to meet up with neighbours and build upon the community network of farmers and Landcarers in the region.

Many people were impressed by the changes that *The Biggest Little Farm* was able to undergo in a relatively short time, but were very aware of the amount of hard work and financial input required to make such a rapid turnaround.

This project was supported by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

To learn more about the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group visit [www.UpperHopkins.org.au](http://www.UpperHopkins.org.au) or contact Upper Hopkins Land Management Group Facilitator, Ayesha Burdett [facilitator@UpperHopkins.org.au](mailto:facilitator@UpperHopkins.org.au)

The Biggest Little Farm chronicles the 8-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature.

**RSVP**  
0429 021 500  
Facilitator@  
UpperHopkins.org.au

7pm, Friday 18 June  
Willaura Memorial Hall  
**FREE ENTRY**  
for all of the family

Join us for supper and conversation after the film.

This project is supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

## Follow us on social media:



GlenelgHopkinsCMA



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## Photography competition for Glenelg region

The Upper Glenelg Landcare group is running a photography competition with some great prizes on offer! With nine categories to enter, and two entries per person allowed, get out and get snapping in the local area. Entries can be posted in, dropped off at a number of businesses in the Glenelg Hopkins Region or emailed to [upperglenelglandcare@gmail.com](mailto:upperglenelglandcare@gmail.com) (Max 12MB)



**LANDCARE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**

**Entries now OPEN**  
Over \$1500 in prizes & local vouchers

**ENTRIES CLOSE OCTOBER 1st 2021**  
\$300 voucher for overall winner in each age group!  
See your photograph feature in our Landcare Calendar  
Max 2 entries per category. Max photo size 8x10 in  
Entries to: Lynn Brown 1633 Coleraine Balmoral Rd, Brit Brit 3315  
For more info 0428 067 130

**NINE CATEGORIES TO CHOOSE FROM:**  
**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**  
Open, secondary, junior  
**ANIMALS IN ACTION**  
Open, secondary, junior  
**LANDSCAPES / SEASCAPES**  
Open, secondary, junior

Entries can be left at: Balmoral - McDonald Rural Services; Casterton - Casterton Farm Supplies, Elders, Casterton Ag, Element Café; Coleraine - McDonald Rural Services; Hamilton - Southern Grampians Livestock and Real Estate.



See the [Upper Glenelg Landcare Facebook page](#) for full entry requirements; Terms and Condition apply.

Please attach your name, age, contact details including address, category and a brief description of the photo. More information is available at: [www.facebook.com/UpperGlenelgLandcare](http://www.facebook.com/UpperGlenelgLandcare)

## FROM LITTLE THINGS...

Join us for a series of **FREE** online events this Spring!

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 AND  
THURSDAY OCTOBER 1



## 23RD WIMMERA BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR 2020

REGISTER AT:  
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU/E/FROM-LITTLE-THINGS-TICKETS-115670546719](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/from-little-things-tickets-115670546719)

FOLLOW US FOR MORE DETAILS:

WIMMERA BIODIVERSITY SEMINAR  
 @BIO\_SEMINAR  
 @BIODIVERSITYSEMINAR

## Biodiversity forum goes online

"From little things..." is the theme for this year's event and focuses on the smaller but very important components of biodiversity and environmental ecosystems, including insects, fungi and even the little people that will go on to make the biggest differences. The program of presenters is varied to include topics from the local Wimmera area and beyond, all relating to this event theme.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, like many other events, the 23rd Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar will be held online. A series of short webinars over the five Thursday's in September and a bonus one in October, will be delivered using the Microsoft Teams platform (similar to Zoom which you may have already used). Each webinar runs for approximately one and a half hours and you can register for all five events or just the one or two that you'd like to attend.

The program starts on Thursday, 3 September and finishes on Thursday, 1 October.