

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



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Record funding for local Landcare from Victorian Landcare Grants

Undoubtedly the highlight this month was this week's announcement of the 2021 Victorian Landcare grants.

A significant amount of funding is to go our to our Landcare groups, who have been patiently waiting to get their hands dirty after the last two seasons of COVID-19 lockdowns.

More to read on this in the newsletter!

Other good news for our staff and community is that our staff will be returning officially to the Warrnambool and Hamilton offices on 24th November – and the Hamilton office will also be open to the public.

We look forward to the state opening up and will continue to follow the State's regulations with all our projects, worksites, contractors and volunteers.

Adam Bester, CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Funding for Landcare projects in the catchment announced

More than \$500,000 will be invested in on-ground works through Landcare projects in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area through the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants program.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announced the recipients of the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants on November 4 with more than 450 groups and community organisations benefitting from just over \$4 million in grants around the State.



The Landcare grants were awarded for community projects including weed control, pest and animal control, habitat protection, revegetation and community education.

“This latest round of Landcare grants continues our support for vital work by volunteers – particularly in our regional communities – protecting our natural environment and improving habitats for native plants and animals,” Ms D'Ambrosio said.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO, Adam Bester, said the significant size of funding the region received through the grants was a direct reflection of the passionate Landcare group members.

“Some of the projects funded are of a significant size and value – both financially and environmentally,” he said.

“Some groups in our region have been able to put together applications for projects which will build corridor revegetation projects, link up bioregions, protect waterways, and enhance coastal areas to allow greater community benefit from enjoying our environment while also improving the vegetation of the area ... there is an incredibly diverse range of projects right across our region that have been funded through the program this year.”

The Victorian Landcare Grants program also provided \$500 support grants for Landcare groups to assist in the administration of these volunteer-based groups. A total of 28 Landcare groups within the catchment received these support grants.

It will be a busy next 12 months for Landcare groups now funding has been announced, as projects funded through the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants program will be completed by 30 November 2022

A full list of successful grant recipients for the Glenelg Hopkins Region can be found at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au



It's worth taking the time to read the 2020-2021 Annual Report

Annual reports aren't always on top of the 'must read' list, and so we have made ours as pretty as possible to encourage you to read all about what the CMA, partners and the community achieved in 2020-2021 despite all of the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions.

The CMA delivered a regional catchment strategy, we talked to a LOT of people online, we were out in the field when we could. Our partners and community members including Landcarers, Traditional Owners, agencies, and volunteers also kept delivering on projects (when and how they could), which is an testament to their commitment and passion for the region, despite the challenges over the last 12 months.

We are pretty proud of what has been achieved and we hope people take the time to have a read through and see the great work that has been done to improve the land, water and biodiversity of the Glenelg Hopkins catchment.

You can read the report online, or download a PDF from the [Glenelg Hopkins CMA website HERE](#)



YEP employees on board and out and about

One of the most exciting activities to occur this month has been the commencement of the majority of our staff employed through the Victorian Government's Youth Employment Program (YEP). The YEP crew have breathed a bit of life and excitement into the CMA and we all look forward to having them with us for the next 9 months.

The CMA had 9 roles available across the organisation for unemployed and under employed people aged between 17 and 29 years through the program.



Easing of restrictions has allowed YEP employees, project support officers Rhiannon and Liam, to get out in the field.

40kg of carp reeled in at Glendinning by anglers



Congratulations to the Hamilton Anglers Club whose annual special sponsored competition at Glendinning last weekend got rid of almost 50 kilograms of carp!

The event saw anglers haul in more than 40 carp for the weekend totaling 48 kilos. Anglers also hooked 18 redfin and 2 yellowbelly.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA was happy to support this event which not only got people out onto our waterways enjoying them recreationally, but also removed carp from the water.

Spring has sprung on the grasslands



With the easing in restrictions around travel, people can now get out and about and enjoy the display of spring wildflowers.

Our team were out on the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains recently and found the most amazing patch of Sun Orchids.

These amazing little flowers close up overnight and on cool, cloudy days. But when the sun is out - as their name suggests - they put on an amazing display of their royal purple colour.

Watch the Victorian Landcare Awards online!



The 2021 Victorian Landcare Awards will be celebrated online on Friday 26 November at 10am.

The awards will honour people and groups making outstanding contributions to protecting and enhancing Victoria's natural environment.

Everyone is welcome to join the free online ceremony.

To join in the event, people simply need to register to allow them to receive the online link to the awards.

Register by Friday 12 November at events.humanitix.com/2021-victorian-landcare-awards

Have you seen a Sanderling? Snap a photo!

This spring and summer, migratory shorebirds reach our beaches after an arduous journey from the northern hemisphere. After surviving drained wetlands, modified roosting areas and changing weather patterns, they land on our shores for a summer holiday.

When they arrive, we would like to know where they are during the early part of the season. This will help researchers with a new shorebird radio-tracking project along Discovery Bay beach areas.

But maybe even more importantly, is seeing which birds have been here before and are returning.

These birds have leg tags which researchers would love to see images of.

If you find yourself at one of our southern beaches, with a decent camera and zoom lens (sorry, mobile phones don't cut it - unless its the new iPhone13 ProMax because you can't get close enough) and spot some Sanderling with leg tags like in these images, we would love to know!

It would be most helpful to log these tag numbers and images on the [BirdMark website](#). Alternatively you can send the images to media@ghcma.vic.gov.au and they will be passed on to project team members (the preference is the Birdmark site as this is an international register).



ABOVE and BELOW : Examples of photos the project team would like to see of Sanderling with leg tags identifying them as previous visitors to our shores. IMAGES: Sarah Campbell



Want to get more involved?

If you would like to have a chat about spotting Sanderling, or for access to view the shorebird identification video from the recent training session, please contact Gavin Prentice at: g.prentice@ghcma.vic.gov.au

This is how we would like to see them...



Sanderling
Banded: 25 April 2015
Brown Bay, SA
Age 2+

Seen: 08 May 2018
Nanshan Bay,
Guangdong, China
Observer: Kanghua
Zheng

But make sure not to stress and harass birds!

Where does water for the environment go?

Water for the environment - it can be a challenge to work out why's and what for's.

In our region, there are very many environmental benefits supporting the waterways themselves and the plants and animals which reside in them, but there are also some very significant social and community benefits delivered with the flows.

This is the Western Region plan for water for the environment for this coming season.

More information can be found on the website of Victorian Environmental Water Holder www.vewh.vic.gov.au



For more details see the seasonal watering plan at vewh.vic.gov.au

Want to know more about environmental flows in our region?

The updated Glenelg Hopkins CMA website has information on the benefit water for the environment has given our region - and its not all about fish and animals.

There has been some huge improvements in water quality, outcomes for agriculture and significant community benefits delivered through the program. To learn more, check out www.ghcma.vic.gov.au.

Water for the environment

Water for the environment



So what is Water for the Environment?

Many of Victoria's rivers and wetlands have been modified so the population has grown to provide water important for towns, industry and food production in some rivers, up to half of the water that would have flowed naturally prior to the construction of dams, weirs and reservoirs, is removed each year for urban consumption, irrigation and industry. In the Glenelg Hopkins region, water for the environment is set aside in Rocklands Reservoir and is periodically released into the Glenelg River to support the plants and animals that live, feed and breed there.

What's changed since environmental flows began?

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| | | | |
| Endangered pygmy perch & boccaltfish are thriving | Native fish like lampmou are back to their previous numbers | Soiling events have decreased by 80% | Rare Wimmera Boretoad has become more prevalent on river banks |

Check out how water for the environment is helping bring fish back to the Glenelg River.



Good news for farmers, great news for anglers...

Environmental flows have the decreased salinity of the upper Glenelg River providing fresher water for stock to drink. This has led benefits for the many farmers using the river for stock and domestic purposes.

Environmental flows have changed the face of fishing in the Glenelg River north of Colerain since they started in 2009.

Annual fish surveys show native fish numbers are increasing in the Glenelg River and native fish are returning to the upper reaches of the river.



From a farming perspective environmental flows are a productivity booster.
— Adam Weaver, Bannock



With good flows we are able to supply our stock with better quality water and secondly we are able to enjoy the river and the native fish that goes with it.
— Julie and Peter Crooke, Dargaline



There has been a real improvement in the health of the river and this is very evident in the stocks and catches of the native fish.
— Shane Lowry, Administrator South West Victoria Fishing Report

85%

of conditions in the upper Glenelg region rely on a healthy Glenelg River for stock and domestic water supply

80%

reduction of acidity concentrations due to flows, an important benefit for downstream users

73%

increase in times where environmental flows have made water suitable for stock to drink

\$34

million estimated in total benefits to the economy contributed from environmental flows in the Glenelg River

Snakes in the field

Mouse plagues, La Nina and COVID lockdowns. What hasn't 2021 thrown our way?

All CMA staff have learned to adapt to the ever-changing conditions of 2021 and the potential impacts this has had on their work out in the field.

One major affect of these events in 2021 is the increase in our little slithery frenemies, snakes. Increased food, vacant buildings and plant, as well as varying weather patterns, has caused an increased in snakes dwelling out in the field.

Although this may be a hurdle for field workers, the training and measures in place at the CMA have led to our field staff to be more than equipped to deal with an increase in snakes in the field.

Training on snake identification and an awareness of the impact 2021's events have had on snakes is the key to keep all Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff safe and healthy as they return to the field. Staff are also equipped with appropriate first aid training for snake bites and PPE equipment, ensuring the health and safety of themselves, and others in the event of an emergency.

The safety of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's employees is the highest priority, and to avoid snakes at all costs. Let's keep safe and healthy as we return to the field this summer.



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