

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



2021 VICTORIAN LANDCARE AWARDS

Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award

Don Rowe



National
Landcare
Program



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- Where we have been out and about in the field
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- Come work with us

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Local landcarers recognised in Victorian Landcare Awards

What a great spring we have had in the catchment - driving around it's great to see how much the vegetation has responded and how healthy the waterways look after a good season.

In this month's newsletter we celebrate our locals who received recognition at the recent Victorian Landcare Awards, and notably, Don Rowe, who received the highest individual award at the event. Don goes on to represent Victorian at the National Awards next year.

With coronavirus restrictions easing around the State. It has been a busy time for staff getting back out in the field. It has also been fantastic to be able to host field days and showcase our projects to the community again. There are some great links to online content from these events if you were not able to attend..

Adam Bester, CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Maroona's Don Rowe wins top Landcare award

The Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award acknowledges the significant contribution made by an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to Landcare.

Don Rowe is a landholder and leading Landcarer in the Upper Hopkins region. He has been active in the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group (UHLMG) since it formed in 1991, helping to guide the strategic direction of the group under the banner of mitigating and adapting to climate change.



Well before UHLMG was formed, Don and his wife Goldie were erecting land class fencing and planting biodiversity corridors on their property, transforming the agricultural landscape. Many of the new trees and shrubs were grown from seed Don had collected. He also pioneered the use of direct seeding in the region as a way of sowing large areas with indigenous trees with excellent results.

Don and Goldie have hosted numerous paddock walks, field days and social gatherings for UHLMG on their property. Don is an important mentor and role model for other farmers who share his commitment to soil health and sustainable farming, as well as enhancing indigenous vegetation, protecting wetlands and waterways, and controlling pest plants and animals.

As a teacher at Ararat Secondary College, Don promoted sustainable farming practices and organised students to work on many tree planting projects from Elmhurst to Tatyoon. He believes revegetation is a positive way of improving the future.

“I think every landowner should have a revegetation project that they work on each year. The benefits are well known and with the immediate threat of climate change, it is one thing we can all do. Many of us despair at the lack of leadership in tackling the impending climate crisis but we can all make an effort to improve our small part of the planet,” Don said.

Don has represented the interests of UHLMG members to promote sustainable and practical responses to climate change in the region. He has worked with the Ararat Rural City Council Environmental Sustainability Advisory Group, the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee, Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Advisory Group, the Upper Hopkins Stakeholder Group convened by Ararat Rural City Council, and Ararat Greenhouse Action Group. His approach to strategic planning is pragmatic and realistic, recognising that Landcare members are volunteers with many other roles and responsibilities.

The region is facing rural population decline. As farm sizes increase, neighbours get further away from each other, and it can be challenging for people to connect. Don has led the UHLMG in engaging with the community and supporting and encouraging new landholders. Don is a regular contributor to the UHLMG newsletter, reaching more than 400 subscribers, and often pens letters to the editor of the local newspaper on environmental and climate change issues.

Don has worked tirelessly at the Maroona Reserve, adjacent to the Hopkins River, planting trees and controlling weeds with the local primary school.

CMA NEWS: Victorian Landcare Awards

Jackson wins Dr Sidney Plowman Travel and Study Award

The Dr Sidney Plowman Travel and Study Award is made to a staff member of DELWP, DJPR, or one of the Victorian CMAs, who has influenced and improved sustainable land management practices.

Jackson Chatfield is a Gunditjmara and Kirrae Whurrong man working for DELWP as state-wide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator in the Victorian Landcare Program. Jackson builds partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community groups, government, and natural resource management organisations that create opportunities for Aboriginal participation in Landcare and caring for Country. He is also a member of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Advisory Group.



A big part of Jackson's role involves educating the community and advocating for the protection of cultural heritage across both public and private land in Victoria. He also supports the self-determination of Traditional Owners by developing and supporting programs that enable them to connect with and heal Country the way they want to. Some of the partnerships Jackson has fostered has seen Landcare projects also being undertaken on Aboriginal-owned properties.

One of Jackson's major achievements has been developing an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide for Landcare and Environmental Volunteers. The five-step guide helps volunteers assess the impact their project or activity may have on Aboriginal cultural heritage and identify areas of cultural heritage sensitivity to determine if approvals are required before starting their project. The guide has made groups more aware and inclined to partner with Traditional Owners instead of simply consulting with them. This has helped ensure that Aboriginal cultural heritage is identified, registered, and protected for generations to come.

Blackwells recognised in farming award

Australian Government Landcare Farming Award Highly commended The Blackwell Family

Bill and Cee Blackwell returned to the family property 'Corea' near Dunkeld in 1975 after it had been severely damaged by fires. Always interested in nature, Bill and Cee developed their own direct seeding systems and began to plant wildlife corridors. All family members were involved and now sons Woody and Charlie also farm the property.



Successfully farming and protecting grasslands



A field day showcasing how two farmers are looking after their native grasslands and wildflowers, while operating a commercial and multiple enterprise farming business was successfully held in November. The day showcased two different farming operations and a talk by a grasslands researcher from the Arthur Rylah Institute.

Videos and information from the day is available on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au and Facebook page [HERE](#)

Woorndoo grasslands community day speakers available online



Stuart McCallum (left) and Elia Pirtle (right) of Victorian Volcanic Biosphere Inc with grasslands researcher John Delpratt.

The Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group's 2021 community day, hosted two guest speakers to talk grasslands and the potential of creating a biosphere for the Victorian Volcanic Plains region.

Guest speakers were Stuart McCallum and Elia Pirtle of Victorian Volcanic Biosphere Inc who discussed what a biosphere, how they have previously been created around the world, learnings from that, and how creating a biosphere around the grasslands of the VVP could benefit more than just the grasses.

The video from the day can be viewed on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website [HERE](#) or via the You Tube Channel [HERE](#)



Willaura workshop discusses IPM in crops

An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop was held at Willaura on the 8th of October.

Participants were involved in several activities including catching and identifying insects from crop and pasture paddocks. Four of the participants on the day were agronomists, who were able to take knowledge gained from the day and spread it through their respective networks.

This workshop was supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA with funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Hear a yarn about the Glenelg River from Traditional Owners



An interactive website which allows people to hear stories of the Glenelg River from Traditional Owners has been launched after three Traditional Owner groups came together to share the river's stories and culture, bringing the past and present together.

Known as Bochara to Gunditjmara people, Bugara to the Wotjobaluk and Pawur to the Boandik, the Glenelg River is a boundary and a connection for the three language nations – Boandik to the west, Jadawadjali Clans of the Wotjobaluk Nation in the north, and Gunditjmara in the south and east.

The website features videos, imagery, story-telling and species information about the Glenelg River and why it is so important to the Traditional Owners, and is now live online at: www.glenelgriveryarns.com



Arctic shorebirds 'checking in' for the summer holidays



With no QR code required, migratory shorebirds are arriving at Discovery Bay after flying tens of thousands of kilometres after the northern Arctic summer with Sanderling flocks of more than 1000 recently arriving at beaches in Nelson, Victoria. More are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

As part of a new migratory tracking project, researchers will attempt to catch Sanderling and fit them with a very small location tracking beacon – but they need citizen help to locate these arriving flocks.

Members of the public are encouraged to let the project team know when they see flocks of sanderling on our southern shores by emailing a sighting location to Gavin Prentice at GlenelgRamsar@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Post-fire flora survey finds unexpected residents

A post-burn site visit was conducted at Stockyard Hill with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners.

The site was burning using cool burning techniques by traditional owners in May,

Some interesting trends in floristic structure were observed. There was also quite a bit of activity under tiles set up by Dr Greg Kerr, Nature Glenelg Trust, including a Fat tailed Dunnart and Whip snake (right).



CMA NEWS:

New Podcast episodes out now!

Featuring: Bitterns and tree planting champions



Episode 8: Searching for the Bitterns



The Podcast is available on
Apple podcasts
Spotify
Google Podcasts
and ghcma.vic.gov.au



In episode 8 of The Pondcast it's all about bitterns.

We talk to project manager Jacinta – who explains the project behind finding the elusive Australasian Bitterns. These shy, long-necked birds who sway with the rushes, fly south for the winter each year from the NSW rice fields.

And meet siblings, Riley and Macey from Portland, who noticed a weird noise coming from the swamp at the bottom at their garden, and for the last couple of years, they've been actively reporting and recording them for the CMA project.



Episode 9: Don Rowe - Winning trophies for treeplanting



The Podcast is available on
Apple podcasts
Spotify
Google Podcasts
and ghcma.vic.gov.au



In episode 9 of the Pondcast we meet Victorian Landcare Awards Australian Government Individual Landcarer Award winner Don Rowe, from Maroona.

This award acknowledges the significant contribution made by an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to Landcare.

But his key message to other landholders is: just start planting.



How to listen to *The Pondcast*

The Podcast is available to listen, download and follow on the following podcasting platforms: Apple podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Podbean. Or you can find it on www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/whats-happening/

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