



Glenelg Hopkins

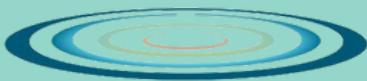


CMA

In this edition:

- What's flowering this winter
- Junior rangers find aquatic creatures
- Pesky pigs and invasive weeds in Budj Bim
- EOIs for Red-tail habitat support open
- Sustainable soils workshop
- My farm dashboard - Informing farm decisions
- What a works crew
- Platypus potted on Platycam
- New episode of *The Pondcast*
- Victorian Landcare Grants now open

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Celebrating 25 years of CMAs

It was 25 years ago on 1 July 1997 Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria came into existence.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA, together with the other 9 CMAs who were created at that time, have delivered significant benefits to the land, water and biodiversity of regional Victoria.

The last 25 years have seen a vast number of individuals, communities, community groups and businesses involved in the delivery of those projects. Over the next 12 months we will be showcasing some of these great projects, people and the change over time.

Continuing on with the delivery of projects, the Victorian Landcare Grants are now open for applications. Details about the 2022 program are available on our website. Applications close on July 26. Also open are expressions of interest for pine tree removal in the western part of our catchment to support the regeneration of stringybark trees for the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

If you are around Hamilton for Sheepvention (July 31 - August 2), pop in and see our stand and have a chat to our staff about our projects and how you can be involved.

Chris Solum, Acting CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Look who's flowering for winter

After some carefully planned burns to support its recovery, the Critically Endangered Spiny Rice Flower is now appearing in all its glory on the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

This very special little flower has some of its biggest populations in these grassland areas, and our VVP project team carefully manage its recovery with landholders and land managers with planned burns, weed eradication and planting of seedlings in carefully chosen locations to support its plant health and population growth.

This winter, these little plants are showing off just how much they are benefitting from these activities.

This project, is supported with funding from the Australian Government and assistance from Victoria University, Melbourne Australia, Trust for Nature and the Ballarat Environment Network.



Junior rangers get hands on with aquatic animals

The CMA was out with the Windamara junior rangers recently learning about the fish and invertebrates which live at the Tyrendarra IPA.

Dion and Kylie from Austral Research and Consulting set some nets and did an electrofishing demonstration in the Darlots Creek to show how we check what is living in our waterways.

There were several species caught, including Southern Pygmy Perch, Common Galaxiid, Southwest Blackfish and a Glenelg Spiny Crayfish.



Pesky pigs and invasive weeds in Budj Bim

Feral pigs and invasive weeds have become a growing problem in the World Heritage listed Budj Bim cultural landscape on Gunditjmara Country since the 2019-20 bushfires but a multi-agency partnership project is aiming to reduce their impact.

Since the fires, the unique cultural and ecological values of the area have been at greater risk of invasion from pest plant and animal species – pigs, in particular, can cause significant physical damage to the landscape.

The partnership between Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DELWP Barwon South West and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation will help protect the land and water as it continues to recover from the fires through feral pig monitoring and control and invasive weed control across the Gunditjmara-managed landscape.

The project builds upon the on-going successful work funded by the Victorian Government's Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery work, delivered by DELWP, Parks Victoria GMTOAC, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation.

This project has been funded by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery Program for wildlife and their habitat.



Images: Budj Bim Cultural landscape; evidence of damage to the landscape from feral pigs.



CMA NEWS:

De-pining for endangered red-tails

We're de-pining for red-tails.

If you are a landholder in the identified area of southwest Victoria, you might have critical feeding habitat for the endangered South-Eastern Red-Tail Black Cockatoo.

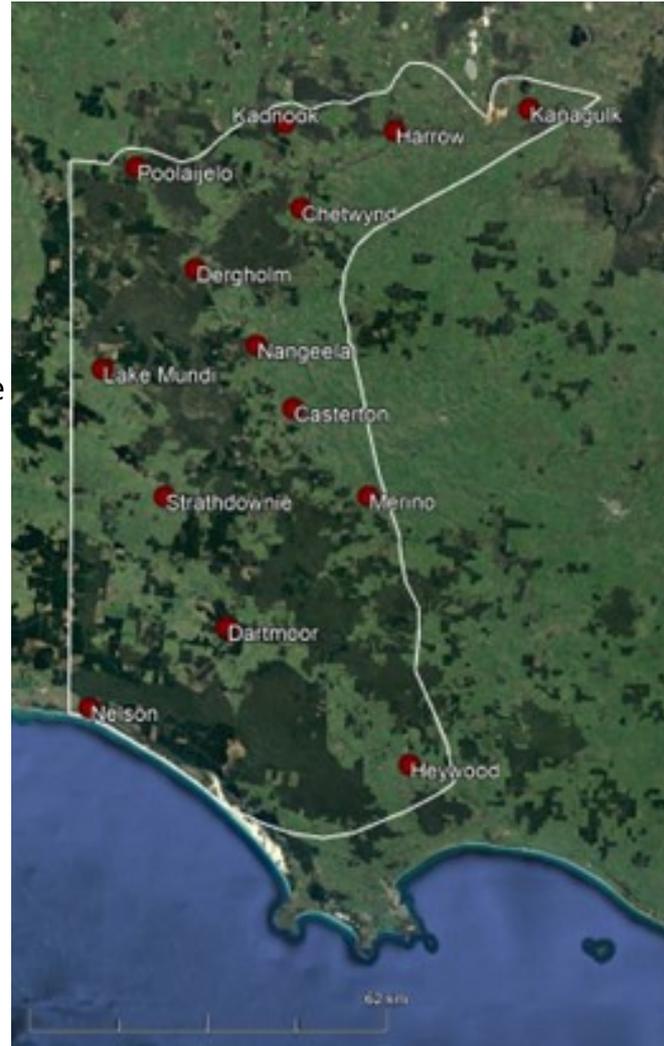
The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working to implement invasive pine control in areas of stringybark and improve the currently scarce food resources for this endangered species.

If you have property within the region and want pine trees removed from stringybark habitat, we'd love to hear from you.

For further information, or to register your interest in this project please contact Rhiannon Fischer at Glenelg Hopkins CMA on 0457 250 487 or r.fischer@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Expressions of interest close July 31 2022.

This project is funded by the Australian Government.



ABOVE: The project area where landholders can have pine removed from the landscape. BELOW LEFT: An example of stringybark tree areas the project is hoping to remove pine trees from. BELOW RIGHT: Pine trees drop needles which create a thick layer on the ground which does not allow stringybark trees to regenerate.



Sustainable Soils Workshop

Beyond Bolac organised a Sustainable Soils Workshop at Tatyoon in late April.

The event was hosted by the McDougall's of Ballycarrick who dug a soil pit in a cropping paddock, a pasture paddock and a wetland.

Christian Bannan a consulting soil scientist explained the soils physical and chemical properties and how these relate to farming.

Michelle Casanova got a chance to get below the surface of a wetland and discuss how important they are for getting carbon deep into the soil.

The workshop was well attended with 20 participants and provided the CMA an opportunity to discuss the Our Catchments Our Communities project and provide Glenelg Hopkins CMA information brochures and guides. The event was made possible through Glenelg Hopkins CMA Capacity Building Grants.



My Farm Dashboard - Informing farm decisions

Farm business decisions are becoming increasingly complicated as our farming systems intensify and diversify. Farms collect and use lots of data to inform many decisions and that's why to build farm resilience Southern Farming Systems and a collaboration of partners listened to farmers and created the My Farm Dashboard.



“The project is really the first of its kind to help farmers make more informed and time critical decisions that lead to better outcomes. By bringing together a consortium of agricultural industry, educational and government partners the project has amalgamated tools and data on key factors climate, commodities, and production in a single online portal. It will provide farmers with the 'right information at the right time', thus avoiding unnecessary information overload” said Bret Ryan, SFS Interim CEO.

My Farm Dashboard is designed to help decision making it has two parts:

1. The Decision Wizard which is a tool that helps you think through the critical considerations for a decision, rank their importance, which indicates what outcomes are required for the decision.
2. The dashboard helps you assemble the information you need to inform the critical considerations for that decision.



My Farm Dashboard incorporates an extensive list of tools developed within the Smart Farm project including:

- a state-of-the-art satellite pasture estimation model calibrated and verified using hundreds of pasture cuts from twenty-two locations;
- a Lime Assist calculator that combines in one user-friendly model technical information on lime quality from twenty-four lime producers/quarries, soil physical and chemical information, crop rotations and crop economics. To help producers make optimal liming decisions;
- a shared data network providing localised climate data from soil moisture probes and weather monitoring stations located at over 100 sites across the SHRZ;
- climate information making rainfall predictions from the BoM ACCESS three-month climate model that have been processed by the CSIRO into a daily feed; and
- commodity price information enabling farmers and advisors to examine historic weekly prices for major commodities.

Over 8500 farmers have participated in the Australian Governments National Landcare Program Smart Farming Partnerships Project called Building the resilience and profitability of cropping and grazing farmers in the High Rainfall Zone of Southern Australia

This project is delivered by Southern Farming System through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and GRDC.

Join us at Sheepvention 31 July, 1 & 2 August in the Napier Room on Monday 1st 9.30am or 3.00pm or Tuesday 2nd, 9.30am for a presentation from Cam Nicholson who will run through how to access the dashboard and use it to make informed farming decisions. My Farm Dashboard is FREE for all to use and if you miss the sessions, please visit Southern Farming Systems exhibitor site in the Innovations HUB to chat to staff about My Farm Dashboard.



CMA NEWS - UPCOMING EVENTS

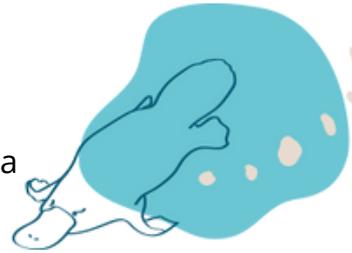
What a crew!

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Works Crew has been assisting with the delivery of thousands of hours of environmental works over the last 5 years. In that time, the crew's work has focused on removing woody weeds such as elm and ash tree seedlings, blackberry and lucerne bush; along with helping plant thousands of indigenous trees, shrubs and tussocks along the Grange Burn waterway. These activities have led to a dramatic improvement of the instream and adjoining streambank habitats, which benefits many of the local birds, fish and mammals (and yes, the wonderful platypus) that call the Burn home. The CMA Works Crew is funded through the Victorian Government's Environmental Contribution.



Spotted! Seeing Platypus from our living room

PlatyCam success! After the launch Monday May 30, the local Platypus put on a show that night and have continued to be swimming pass spotted by the live stream viewers on [PlatyCam](#) all over the world.



It is an amazing feat for Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Arthur Rylah Institute, Southern Grampians Shire Council and the local town of Hamilton to have something so unique for everyone to experience from The Grange Burn itself or watching PlatyCam from the comfort of your own home anywhere on the Globe.

Don't have time to watch 24 hours of footage? You can see a playlists on YouTube of all the sightings of the Platypus right [HERE](#)

If you see a Platypus on the live stream feel free to drop a comment with a time of the sighting.

Happy Platypus spotting.

Battling Italian Buckthorn

In the latest episode of *The Pondcast*, Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Tania Parker is out in the field at the Tyrendarra Flora Reserve with Robin Adair, talking Italian Buckthorn, a woody weed causing issues in the South west.

[LISTEN TO THE PONDCAST HERE](#)



Episode 11:
The entirely unpalatable Italian Buckthorn



The Pondcast is available on
Apple podcasts
Spotify
Google Podcasts
and [ghcma.vic.gov.au](#)



2022 Victorian Landcare Grants - NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for the 2022 Victorian Landcare Grants. The Victorian Government is providing \$3.35 million funding to support Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks for on-ground works, education, and capacity building projects that help protect and restore Victoria's land and natural environment.

Up to \$20,000 is available for project grants and up to \$500 for support grants. The grants are open to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteer groups and networks that are community-based and have a focus on on-ground land and natural environment improvement work.

This includes Landcare groups and networks, Friends of groups, Conservation Management Networks, Coastcare groups and Aboriginal groups and organisations working on Country.

Applications close 5pm Tuesday 26th July 2022.

For more information go to www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

