



Glenelg Hopkins



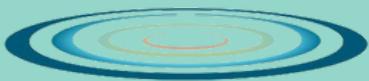
CMA



In this edition:

- Sheepvention success
- Tiles monitoring biodiversity
- Planting on the Grange Burn
- Water Week poster competition
- Roadside pilot project sprouts
- Seasonal Watering Plan released
- Women on Farms at Jigsaw Farms
- Waterway recovery funding now available

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 5571 2526

Email: ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Winter shines a spotlight on vegetation

Winter rains have shown they certainly make a difference in the catchment with the first shoots of the season coming through on many of our vegetation projects, and offering a great support to revegetation works that have been completed.

It was great to see so many people at Sheepvention in Hamilton. It is one of our most engaging activities and best way to talk to a lot of people about what we do, face to face. It was great to have it back on the calendar and have so many great conversations about how people can be involved with what we do.

At the beginning of July the Seasonal Watering Plan for 2022-2023 was launched. Developed by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, this plan outlines how and where water for the environment plans to be used. This is particularly pertinent in our region to the the Glenelg River.

For something fun this month, if you have primary school aged children, we have joined with Wannon Water and Southern Rural Water to have the Water Week poster competition again. You can find details about this in the newsletter and online.

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Sheepvention success!

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA was at Sheepvention in Hamilton this year.

Held over 3 days for the first time, the event from July 31 to August 2, again proved to be an excellent engagement activity for staff to meet with community members and discuss CMA projects and activities.

The ever popular Conductor Roberto returned and spent days handing out fun species cards to help the younger generation learn about Australian native animals.



What's under the tile?

As part of our projects on the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains, dozens of terracotta tiles have been placed on roadside reserves.

Our team has been out placing tiles on monitoring sites with La Trobe University ecologist John Morgan - both those with native grasses established, and the areas which were graded as part of a pilot project establishing new native grassland areas.

The tiles encourage any invertebrates, reptiles, small mammals and amphibians to gather under them, so when we lift them, we can see what calls that area home, and also detect the differences between monitoring areas.

These tiles will stay in place for 3 months before our team go back out and lift and record what they find under them.

This monitoring work will continue for a number of years, and is part of the Recovery of Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains project being undertaken by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA with funding from the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the grasslands restoration project also supported by Regional Roads Victoria and La Trobe University.



CMA NEWS:

Mud no barrier for combined planting day on the Grange Burn

Baimbridge College students joined members of the Rotary Hamilton Victoria Australia and staff from Wannon Water Southern Grampians Shire Council and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA to plant thousands of trees, shrubs and grasses as part of ongoing revegetation and beautification of the waterway in late July.

These ongoing project works have removed invasive and non-native plants along the banks of the river and replaced them with native species indigenous to the area.



Water Week poster competition on again

Calling all primary school students!

In partnership with Wannon Water and Southern Rural Water, we are inviting you to help celebrate National Water Week by creating a poster that explores your water story!

This is a fun activity in the lead up to National Water Week 2022 (17 – 23 October) with great prizes to be won. The competition is open now and entries close 2 September 2022.

Enter now at:

<https://www.nationalwaterweek.com.au/wannon-water>



CMA NEWS:

Tiny green shoots breaking ground for pilot project

These little leaves are the native grasses and herbs we sowed on the Penshurst Dunkeld Road about two months ago as part of a grassland restoration project which scrapes the top 150mm of soil from the roadsides.

By taking away the soil with the seed bank of introduced grasses (like Phalaris) and other weeds, and replacing it with native grasses and herbs, we are hoping to create established areas of native grasses. Through natural seed and gene flow, these natives should then have a greater opportunity to repopulate the roadsides.

Native grasses are naturally less combustible (and burn cooler when alight), and lower growing than introduced species, making the roads safer, and returning them to a more natural state.

This pilot project is being undertaken by Glenelg Hopkins CMA with support from the Australian Government, Regional Roads Victoria and La Trobe University



Seasonal Watering Plan plans for environmental water delivery

The 2022-2023 Seasonal Watering Plan has now been released to plan for environmental water delivery this coming season.

Water for the environment is water that's set aside in storages such as dams and released or 'delivered' to help native plants and animals survive, thrive and reproduce. It also helps to maintain and improve waterway health needs such as connectivity, water levels and water quality.

The seasonal watering plan is a state-wide plan outlining where, when, and why water for the environment can be delivered throughout Victorian waterways by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. You can find the plan on our website [HERE](#)



Glenelg Rural Women on Farms - Best practice farm planning

Start with securing farm water, fix the urgent degraded areas, then go slowly. Soil test to identify land classes and observe where its wet and where stock graze

Mark Wootton, Jigsaw Farms

This was the advice of Mark Wootton and Eve Kantor from Jigsaw Farms to 20 visiting women from the local Glenelg Hopkins Rural Women on Farm's group recently.



The Hensley Park farm, 18 kilometres north of Hamilton makes up 3,550 ha of land carefully managed to optimise farming systems. Two of their other farms at Melville Forest were originally part the Potter farm plan program in the mid 1980s, which focused on whole farm design. Mark and Eve have expanded this approach across all their properties.

The participants appreciated the commitment of Mark and Eve in implementing their farm plans and that it didn't happen in a year and there is a process. Mark and Eve are still observing, monitoring and learning how to make their property and farming systems the best they can be.

Mark said securing farm water supply was one of the first things to focus on. A large dam of around 34 megalitres provides reticulated water to paddock troughs and all waterways are fenced off as a biosecurity measure, preventing faecal contamination of water.

Mark and Eve have fenced to soil type and are aiming to maximise utilisation of pastures by having smaller paddocks (20-30hectares in size). "There isn't a square paddock on the farm," said Mark.

"20% of the farm has been planted to trees and this has achieved landscape change" said Mark, explaining this was done by a wide array of measures such as establishing tree havens for livestock shelter in poor conditions, waterway plantings and woodlots."

The trees have encouraged birdlife which in turn add to the farm's Integrated Pest Management program. Eve said: "Birds are a bioindicator of a healthy ecosystem. We first identified 46 different types of birds when we took over the property and we now have 172 different species." A pair of sea eagles have even made home at one of their large dams.

They have learnt from mistakes, such as tree losses to frost leading to the planting of frost tolerant species. Their future plantings will be from tree species indigenous to areas one hour north of where they currently are, in readiness for warmer and drier conditions.

The next women on farms events will be held in September focusing on Soil's visit
www.sfs.org.au/events

Waterway protection and restoration funding for Fitzroy River and Darlot Creek

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has funding available for landholders to undertake waterway protection and restoration activities on the Fitzroy River and Darlot Creek in the Budj Bim cultural landscape.

Activities may include:

- Waterway fencing
- Woody weed management
- Off-stream stock water access
- Revegetation works

Expressions of interest close: Friday 19 August 2022.

For further information, please contact Tania Parker at Glenelg Hopkins CMA on 0428 506 699 or email t.parker@ghcma.vic.gov.au

This project is funded through the Victorian Government's Environmental Contribution.



Fitzroy River and Darlot Creek landscapes

FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE for waterway protection and restoration works

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: August 19

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

VICTORIA Government
Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Become a Boom Catcher this spring and help locate Bitterns

As part of the Australasian Bittern Recovery project, there is opportunity for people to become Boom Catchers!

We are currently seeking volunteers as part of the 2022 Australasian Bittern Listening Survey.

The 2022 listening survey will be the most extensive survey of these critically endangered Australasian Bittern and will be completed at sites all around Australia.

These secretive birds are difficult to see, as they keep a low profile in wetlands and their brown streaked plumage blends in with the dense vegetation but can be located by their distinctive booming call.

To find out how you can be involved, visit the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website [HERE](#)



WANT TO BE A BOOM CATCHER?

Seeking volunteers to ground-truth the booming of Australasian Bitterns this spring. It's easy and survey sites are located Australia-wide.

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

PHOTO: Ingrid Warren

Glenelg Hopkins CMA
birdlife
Spring Trust