



Glenelg Hopkins



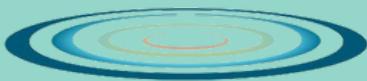
CMA



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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Late winter rains benefit the catchment

Some late winter rain has definitely been a blessing, as many of our wetlands and rivers received little runoff during the winter. The welcome rain will also assist lots of tree planting projects that have been occurring across the region, including large projects with Monivae College along the Grange Burn and a tree planting event on the Hopkins River with Deakin University and other community members.

On behalf of Glenelg Hopkins CMA we wanted to send a big shout out to Don Rowe who attended the National Landcare Awards this month as a finalist. Don was the winner of the Victorian Individual Landcarer Award which acknowledged his amazing contribution to Landcare and improving the health of the catchments.

The CMA was very excited to be involved in promoting the Cosmos Magazine's Australian Mammal of the Year Competition this month. We were even more excited when the winner of the competition was announced as the critically endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat. This tiny bat calls the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region and SE South Australian home.

There are lots of exciting stories and upcoming events in this newsletter, so enjoy the read!

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Future Ready Farms website launched

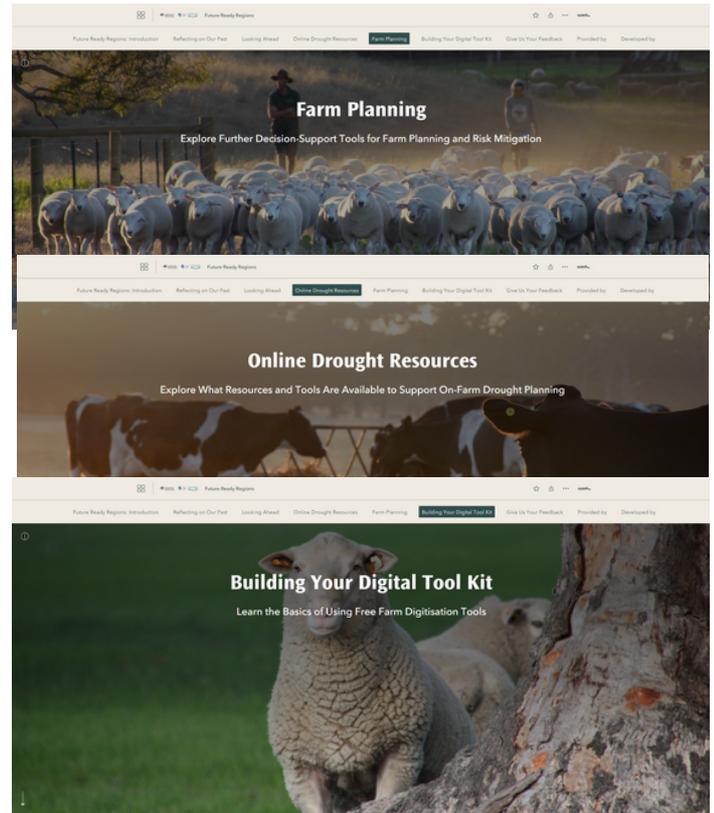
The website developed as a result of the Future Ready Farms project was launched at Sheepvention this year.

The website provides a range of information, tools, resources and website links to help the user to better understand drought and climate in the region.

While reflecting on past conditions, the website also provides the user with the resources to look ahead and also update their farm plan.

The [Future Ready Regions website](#) is now up and running and allows farmers to input their own data to help with farm planning.

This project is funded by the Australian Government



New uniforms for Estuary Watch volunteers

Our EstuaryWatch volunteers have been out and about monitoring our waterways sporting their new uniforms, which will keep them warm, dry and shaded as they go about water sampling.

EstuaryWatch is a Victoria-wide citizen science program and we are lucky enough to have a very supportive and active group of volunteers on the Hopkins and Merri systems in Warrnambool who ensure we know what's going on with the estuaries.

Their volunteer monitoring work complements the works we do, and there are more eyes noticing changes, both positive and negative, around our natural environment.

If you would like to become part of our EstuaryWatch crew, find out more about what's involved at www.estuarywatch.org.au





EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES CONNECTED LANDSCAPES

Welcome to the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-2027

Have you seen the Regional Catchment Strategy online?

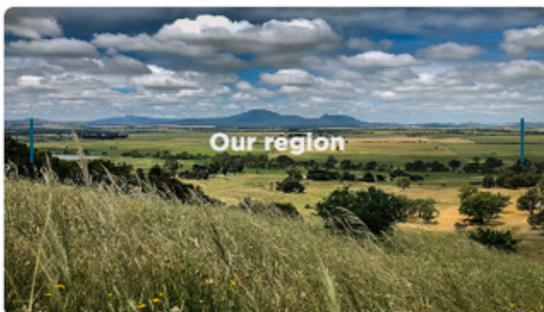
After the best part of two years of development, we are very pleased to confirm that the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2021-2027 has been formally gazetted by the Victorian Government and is now ready for implementation.

Through the process of consultation with community and stakeholders, the RCS development process has resulted in a suite of short and long term outcomes that reflect regional priorities and interests.

The RCS will provide an overarching plan for integrated catchment management and provide direction for a broad range of regional partners and the community on how to manage water, biodiversity and land in the region.

The strategy's projects and deliverables will be undertaken by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and a wide range of partners, including state and local government organisations, private businesses, public groups, communities and individuals.

The completed strategy is now available as an online document which you can find at www.glenelghopkins.rcs.vic.gov.au



CMA NEWS:

Become a boom catcher this spring!

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.

The best way to find a Bittern is to listen for their booming calls during the breeding season.

Male bitterns have a distinct, low booming call likened to a foghorn that they repeat several times in succession, calling most frequently at dawn and dusk during the spring summer.

Volunteering is easy, it just takes some of your time, training is provided and sites are located Australia-wide. Surveying will take place over the following weeks: September 8 – 12th; October 8 – 12th; November 6th – 10th; December 6th – 10th.

Details are available on the website [HERE](#)



Water Week poster competition CLOSES SEPTEMBER 2!

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>



Technology and people power combine to find threatened mussel



The search for the threatened Glenelg Freshwater Mussel in the lower Glenelg river system has been a showcase of how technological and physical scanning can prove to be the best way to find species.

The small Mussel, only found in the lower reaches of the Glenelg River, is tricky to find by eye so this recently completed project used both physical means and eDNA technology to locate the specimens. As it turns out, the combination of both people and technology is the best way to find these elusive animals. Read the full report of how the project used eDNA to find mussels [HERE](#)

Join in the Victoria Nature Festival!

The Victoria Nature Festival is back for 2022!

Running from 12 – 25 September join in the event celebrating the amazing nature Victoria has to offer in your backyard, around the corner or around the state!

This year, there are in-person events and online events. And for the first time, you can join in the Great Vic Nature Walk on September 18, simply by wandering around in nature in your local area.

You can view the program of activities and how you can get involved now at www.vic.gov.au/naturefestival



Glenelg Rural Women on Farms: Soil and spring pasture workshops

The local Women on Farms groups delivered by Southern Farming Systems with support by Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program are getting together to discuss soil acidity, soil assessment and spring pasture management on Tuesday 13th September in Skipton or Wednesday 14th September in Branxholme.

These days are open to all women on farms who have an interest in learning more about the following topics:

- Practical tips on soil & tissue testing, monitoring & visual assessments of soil condition
- What are the trace elements that might be limiting pasture production
- Liming and how to use the lime calculator
- Access to many helpful MLA How do I... Fact sheets SFS has developed.
- A farm walk included in the program so that you can apply your new skills and knowledge.

To learn more or register for the workshops visit www.sfs.org.au/events or contact Lisa Miller, SFS E: lmiller@sfs.org.au or M: 0488 600 226

Women on Farms Soil and Spring Pasture Management Workshops



Tuesday 13 September 2022

Skipton Mechanics Hall

5 Anderson Street, Skipton

TIME: 9.45am-2.00pm

Wednesday 14 September 2022

Branxholme CFA Office

94 Best Street, Branxholme

TIME: 9.45am-2.00pm

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

More information and to register at

www.sfs.org.au/events

CONTACT

Lisa Miller SFS E: lmiller@sfs.org.au or M:0488 600 226



Southern Bent-wing Bat wins 2022 Australian Mammal of the Year title!

After 6 weeks of intense voting – in which more than 50,000 votes were cast – the winner of the inaugural Australian Mammal of the Year contest run by Cosmos Magazine was the Southern Bent-wing Bat!

This critically endangered microbat triumphed in the competition with almost 60% of the vote in the final two days of voting which pitted it against the Dingo.

The voting system whittled down a list of the 350 Australian mammals over a 6 week period to find the winner.

Southern Bent-wing Bats live in caves throughout southwest Victoria and southeast South Australia and have a maternal breeding area around the Naracoorte caves in South Australia.

This tiny, cave-dwelling bat only reaches an average length of approximately 5 centimetres (including their head and body) and weighs only 15 grams – about the same as a 50-cent coin!

To find out more about the competition visit Cosmos Magazine's website [HERE](#)



Images: Rick Hammond & Steve Bourne / Zoos Victoria



Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

Come work with us

2 x business traineeships

- 12 month positions
- Full time roles (38hrs/week)
- Certificate III Business qualification

To apply visit: westvic.org.au