



Glenelg Hopkins



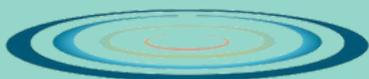
CMA



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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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So much activity and funding for 2023

It's great to provide our first newsletter for 2023 and let everyone know what we have been up to over the summer and the opportunities we have for the new year.

In this edition we have lots of interesting information and opportunities for community groups and landholders to find out how they can get involved in protecting some of the amazing swamps, bogs and wetlands we have across the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Over the summer months we have also received some great success stories from some of the bird monitoring programs that occur across our region – with record numbers of sightings and breeding activity.

Flood recovery works continue in our region with our works crew out and about helping landholders clear fencelines. Aerial surveys along waterways impacted by flooding were conducted early in January and damage is currently being assessed. A reminder to landholders if they had damage on their property to let us know so we can assess this and assist with recovery works where we can.

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Holiday fun for Windamarra Junior Rangers

The Windamarra junior ranger holiday program at Tae Rak these summer holidays saw Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Alex and Noni have a blast spending the day talking about healthy habitats for aquatic plants, water bugs, fish, and birds with the kids.

Checking out the water's edge with fish, yabbies, and frogs, searching through binoculars for birds and being amazed at the small but diverse world of water bugs were highlights.



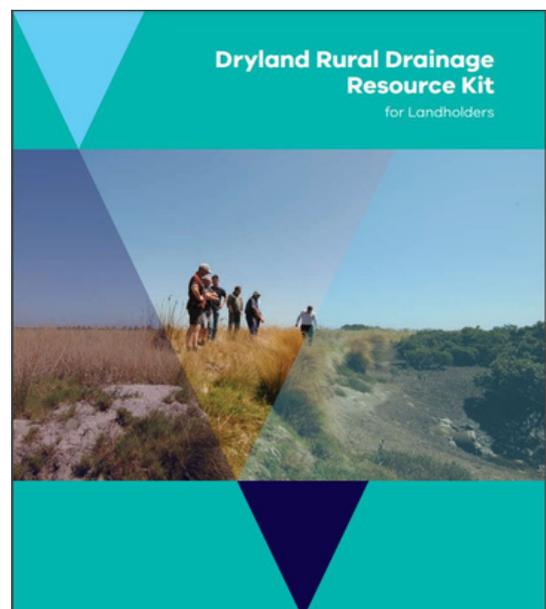
New Dryland Rural Drainage kit to help landholders

Dryland rural drainage is drainage that benefits agriculture in dryland (not irrigated) regions outside of urban areas.

To help landholders understand what they can and can't do and the process around options to manage dryland draining is now available in a resource kit.

Understanding the rights and responsibilities around dryland drainage is important for landholders who may undertake works that turn out to be illegal.

How do I find out what I need to do? Visit our website and download the resource kit [HERE](#)



CMA NEWS: UPCOMING EVENTS / FUNDING

Saline wetland workshop - February 9

Do you have a salty swampy patch on your farm? Want to know more about the very special plants and animals which love these areas, and the benefits of having them on your farm?

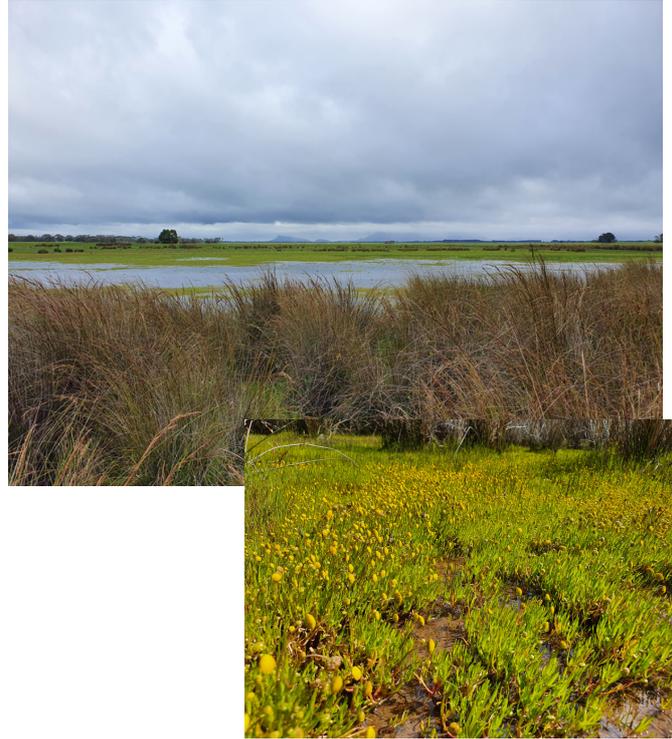
Join the wetland tour around Willaura on Thursday, February 9 with wetland and flora and bird experts to discuss these often overlooked areas of significance.

Event details:

Meet at the Willaura Community Hall,
Main Street, Willaura @ 10am.

BYO gumboots/gaiters and hat.

This is a catered event, please RSVP your attendance and any dietary requirements to Aggie Stevenson by 12pm, Wednesday February 8 to:
a.stevenson@ghcma.vic.gov.au or 0435 537 443.



Funding for regenerative cropping training

Upper Hopkins Land Management Group (UHLMG) will administer up to ten grants to cropping farmers to undertake the 8-week online training provided by RCS (Resource Consulting Services). Learn about the course [HERE](#).

Each farmer can receive one grant of \$550 (incl. GST) to encourage the adoption of innovative farm practices that protects soils and biodiversity.

Additional funds (\$550 incl. GST) are available to farmers who have wetlands they will not crop.



Funding for these grants has been made available by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Follow us online!



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Best ever results from spring Bittern listening survey

Since September 2022, 286 Australasian Bittern listening surveys were conducted and entered into Birdata - nearly triple the number of similar surveys conducted in 2021.

Observers conducted surveys across the species' range (excluding southeast QLD) with the Hunter region and Northern NSW attracting the most surveys (~80).

Overall, 68 positive detections were made over the survey period. Most of these detections came from the Glenelg-Hopkins Region in southwest Victoria.

Along with Australasian Bittern, 137 other species were detected including Lewin's Rail, Barn Owl and Little Bittern. The most detected species after the Australasian Bittern was the Black Swan, followed by Purple Swamphen and Australian Magpie.



Australasian Bittern. Image: Imogen Warren

OCOC grants open - get together for landscape projects!

Funding is now available through the *Our Catchments Our Communities* program for swamp areas and group projects working across a wide landscape.

Expressions of interest are being sought from people who have swamp areas on their property to have assessments of those areas carried out with a view to understand what is in the swamps, how farming can productively continue around them and how to protect them.

This funding encourages Landcare groups to work together and create project which work across a larger area than their own, to deliver wide benefits to the region.



Find out more about the funding available on our [GRANTS AND FUNDING PAGE](#)

Best season of Hoodies on Pt Fairy beaches

Did you get to the Port Fairy beaches these holidays and see these little guys? There were five nests of Hooded Plovers on the Port Fairy beaches - the most we have ever found!

These guys are super special but a very prone to being hurt or lost with people disturbing their nests - mostly accidentally.

Sadly, the one hatchling found on the Cape Bridgewater beach - which had its nest area roped off and signed - was killed with illegal beach driving and beach party goers.



It was a painful reminder of how precious they are and that if you are on the beaches, and see them or the areas signed around them, to please steer clear and remember to pop your dog on a leash.

Get your swamp checked - Swamp stewardship payments now available

Did that swampy area on your farm fill up last year with all the rain? Want to understand how you can look after it and continue to farm profitably but don't want to have to pay for an inspection and information? We can help with that.

Expressions of Interest to have the swamp assessed to learn what's in it, how to farm around it, and how you can protect it and its special inhabitants are now open.

Find out the details of how to get an assessment and information about your swampy area, can be found on our website.



Find out more about the stewardship funding available on our [GRANTS AND FUNDING PAGE](#)

Record numbers of Orange Bellied Parrots return home

The Orange Bellied Parrot is a remarkable parrot, battling the elements to make at least a thousand kilometre journey each year from its only known breeding grounds at Melaleuca, south-west Tasmania, to wintering habitat sites on the mainland of Australia.

Historically, this species is known to occur in a coastal area that spans from the Coorong in South Australia to Gippsland in eastern Victoria.

In 2022 the largest number of parrots returned to Melaleuca - 74! This is the largest number recorded in over 15 years, and exceeds the previous year's record number of 70, and a long way from the annual return of 23 birds in the years between 2010-2016.



Orange Bellied Parrot. Image Madi Riley

Coordination of the volunteer effort in Victoria to sight these birds has been a joint effort between the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning, BirdLife Australia, Corangamite CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding by the Australian Government. Locally, the Nature Glenelg Trust coordinates volunteers. If you would like to assist in the search get in touch with Lauren at lauren.kivisalu@natureglenelg.org.au, or ph: 0437 464 004

Call to log post-flood recovery requirements

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA provides support during and after flood events in our catchment areas. Post-flood recovery activities including immediate works required on-farm and within communities, and more long-term projects supporting the landscape in recovering from the flood events of late 2022 are now underway.

To log your flood damage on your property call the CMA on 03 5571 2526. At this time the details and location of the damage on your property will be noted, a follow up call will schedule an inspection.

Information about what types of activities the CMA is funded to undertake as part of these recovery works is outlined on our [FLOOD RECOVERY PAGE](#)

