



# Glenelg Hopkins



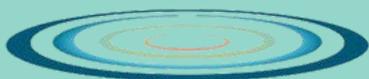
CMA



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## Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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## So much activity and funding for 2023

The year has begun with plenty of activity, and looking forward, there is plenty on the calendar coming up! The completion of a project on the Hopkins River in Warrnambool placing fish habitat packs into the waterway has been a great achievement. This has been the largest fish habitat restoration project undertaken in the region to date, which included a total of 130 habitat packs (fish hotels, rocks and logs) to replicate natural habitat. We have already had reports from recreational fishers that these areas are being occupied by fish. This project will now shift to further installation works in the Merri River.

Recently the CMA has been represented at the Great South Coast Sustainable Water Forum, where Executive Manager Waterways - Chris Solum, and I were able to present on the organisation's progress with the Sustainable Irrigation Program. The day was coordinated by Food and Fibre Great South Coast and was well attended by agencies and community.

Check out this newsletter to see the funding still available around swamp areas in our region, and remember to keep an eye out for Sanderling on our beaches.

Finally, it has been very pleasing to be able to announce that I have signed on for another five years at the CMA. The organisation and our partners are doing great things and I look forward to seeing new projects and partnerships developed to support the land, water and biodiversity of our region.

**Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA**

## CMA NEWS:

# Adam Bester to continue as CMA CEO

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Chair Tony Ford has announced this week Adam Bester will stay on as the CEO of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA for another 5 years.

"Adam has been pivotal in leading the organisation to be one of the key delivery partners for Australian Government projects with threatened species and sustainable agriculture under the National Landcare Program, as well as a wide variety of State Government funded projects under the Government's water, environment and biodiversity portfolios," Mr Ford said.

Dr Bester said recommitting to the CMA was an easy decision. "There is still so much I feel I can contribute to the region. We have a great bunch of staff and a great community to work with. Over the next five years I want to continue having a strong focus on delivering great outcomes for the communities in SW Victoria."



[Read the full media release here](#)

# High swells and large beach berm leads to estuary opening

High swells building an unusually large sand beach berm has led to the CMA and Parks Victoria taking proactive action to support the Surry River at Narrawong with an authorised artificial river mouth opening (ARMO) on Friday, 10 February.

The decision comes following an extremely large and unseasonal 8m swell hitting the coastline the week before, depositing large volumes of sand at the estuary mouth and high volumes of seawater entering the estuary.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Executive Manager Waterways, Chris Solum, said monitoring by the CMA indicated seawater intrusions can result in dissolved oxygen depletion in the estuary, leading to vegetation dieback and risk of fish death events.

"Artificial openings are not the preferred management approach, with the management authority preferring to let the mouth of the river open and close naturally," Mr Solum said.

Opening an estuary can only be completed by authorities when they are safe and appropriate.

Opening an estuary mouth without authority can lead to heavy fines and prosecution.

[Read the full media release here](#)



## CMA NEWS:

# Wetland workshop finds rare grasses, birds and more

The saline wetland workshop at Willaura on February 9 was all about grasses, and how important these naturally occurring salty wetlands are to the landscape - but it was also all about birds.

Birdlife Australia's Dan Lees was at the field day discussing how these saline (and fresh) wetland areas are key areas for birdlife - both migratory and resident species.

Saline wetlands are home to some pretty special grasses which thrive in those conditions, including the endangered Adamson's Blown Grass.

Adamson's Blown-grass and the three subspecies that have been identified, were found and discussed in the paddock of a local landholder at the event.

Dr Austin Brown, together with staff from Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria spoke about the genetic work being done to establish the subspecies genetics, and seed germination and viability trials for this species.

The paddock discussion about grasses (and birds) has begun the conversation between landholders, researchers and the CMA to assist with the Australian Government-funded Adamson's Blown Grass recovery project now being delivered by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA



## Soils, compost and biofertiliser field day - April 6

Compost and biofertilisers - they are all about improving and looking after the soils we have.

The Upper Hopkins Land Management group is hosting agroecologist David Harwick, Soil Land Food, at Maroona on Thursday, April 6, if you want to know more about improving soil health

This one-day program follows on from the popular soil health course David delivered to farmers locally in 2021.

The day will cover:

- The range of alternative fertility inputs
- How to make biofertilisers, bioferments and biostimulants
- On farm composting: aerobic & fermentation
- How to make compost on-farm
- Monitoring and testing compost quality
- Using composts and biofertilisers



Need more information? Contact Ayesha at [facilitator@UpperHopkins.org.au](mailto:facilitator@UpperHopkins.org.au) or register online [HERE](#)

# 130 fish habitat packs hit the Hopkins River

Two years, more than 2000 logs, nearly 100 root balls, thousands of rocks, dozens of volunteer hours and loads of helping hands later, the last of 130 fish habitat packs has been placed in the Hopkins River in Warrnambool.

In collaboration with local contractors and anglers, the CMA has completed its fish habitat project in the Hopkins which saw 'fish habitat packs' placed in the waterway to replicate habitat which has been removed over time, to create a healthier ecosystem and encourage native fish breeding. Each habitat pack is made up of fish hotels built by local anglers, rootballs from storm and fire damaged areas across the state, and rock, which are individually placed into the waterway ... usually by a floating excavator! This project has been a shining example of how State and Federal Government funding, together with strong community, agency, and organisational support, can deliver positive outcomes for the waterway, its inhabitants, and the people who love to use the waterway.



## CMA staff cultural awareness training

As part of our staff development, Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff complete cultural awareness training.

Last week that included a tour of the Tyrendarra and Kurtonitj Indigenous Protected Areas which make up part of the World Heritage-listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape with Aaron from Windamara Budj Bim Rangers and staff from Southern Grampians Shire Council.

It included discussion about traditional practices such as hunting and burning, modern and historical Gunditjmara land management, and a tour of some ancient Gunditjmara eel channels, which have been dated at more than 6000 years of age.



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# Woody weeds in the Fitzroy River at Tyrendarra removed

The Fitzroy River at Tyrendarra is a lot more visible to visitors and locals thanks to the first of two woody weed removal activities by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA regional works crew.

A community information session was held in Heywood on 4 February 2023 to advise of the planned works to remove woody weed vegetation along the waterway.

'Woody weeds' refers to a number of non-native species growing along the water's edge and includes willow, ash, hawthorn and poplar trees.

The CMA has since implemented initial on-ground woody weed control works from the bridge at the Henty Highway to Bond Street.

A large number of weeds were targeted and removed by the CMA work crew, with support from Glenelg Shire Council who arranged for the material to be chipped and removed.

Further scope from the highway to the railway bridge was postponed due to the timing of the works and possible conflict with the Wood, Wine and Roses Festival in late February.

This second area of the waterway will be completed by the CMA when works can be planned and community advised.

These initial works were part of the Budj Bim Connections Flagship Waterway Project being undertaken by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA with funding through the Victorian Government.



## BEFORE and AFTER



## **Junior Landcare Grants program opens for applications**

The latest round of the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants program has officially opened, offering primary schools and early learning centres across Australia the chance to share in \$1 million to help grow the next generation of environmental champions.

Woolworths and Landcare Australia are calling on all Aussie primary schools and early learning centres to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 to help them develop projects focused on sustainability and inspiring students to play an active role in the future of their natural environment.

This could include growing veggie or bush tucker gardens, creating compost for school gardening beds, setting up nest boxes or creating habitats to protect native wildlife.

Applications for the 2023 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants are open now and close 17 March 2023. To find out more about the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants Program and to apply, visit [juniorlandcare.org.au](http://juniorlandcare.org.au).



## **Get your swamp assessed - stewardship payments 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 on our website.



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

**Follow us online!**



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## Running out of time to see a Sanderling on our beaches

The Sanderling are an amazing little shorebird that treks the globe every year, travelling from the arctic to our southern beaches and back every year.

Each summer, they land tired from a journey of thousands of kilometres weighing less than a chook egg (<60 grams) having flapped the ENTIRE way to the southern hemisphere (they don't ever glide!). Then they spend their summer holidays on our beach, fattening themselves up to a pre-return flight weight of over 120grams, and setting off for the northern Summer in about April.

We don't know much about these amazing globetrotters, so a project looking to try and capture images of tagged birds to see when and where they are spotted around the globe is underway.



*Tagged Sanderling on the beach. Image: Andrew Patterson*

### **How can you help this project? Take a picture!**

If you go to one of our southern beaches and see these little birds – usually on the water's edge running in and out of the waves, and/or in flocks by thousands – we'd love it if you took photo for us so we can see their leg tags.

This helps us know which birds are coming and going each year, and we can track how long they've been doing it for.

More information about the project and how to take a picture of the birds can be found [HERE](#)  
All images submitted to us go in the running to win a Jimmi Buscombe limited edition print.

## Livestreams a hive of activity with more than just Bandicoots and Platypus

Have you caught up with the busy little animals on our livestreams? Platycam livestreams the Grange Burn waterway in Hamilton and often has plenty of activity with ducks, rakali and platypus. You can watch it at [www.platycam.com.au](http://www.platycam.com.au) Over on Bandicam, it's the possums and wallabies and kangaroos often seen on screen along with our Eastern Barred Bandicoots! You can watch it at [www.bandicam.com.au](http://www.bandicam.com.au)

