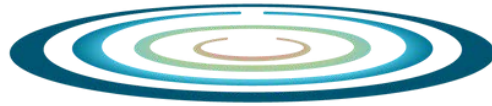




# Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



## In this edition:

- Button Wrinklewort Knowledge Sharing .
- Future Fish Habitats.
- Webbed friends Come Out For Hamilton And Alexandra College.
- All Abilities Access Kayak Launch.
- How Many Eggs In a 7.5kg Carp ?
- Happy Birthday Platycam.
- Portland Tree Planting Day.
- 25 Years Of Victorian CMA's.
- Annual QAQC Testing.
- Supporting Women On Farms.

## Celebrating a big month on the Merri River

There has been so much happening on the Merri River this past month. Firstly we have seen the successful completion of the Merri Connections Project. The partnership between the CMA and Warrnambool City Council oversaw the installation of the all abilities kayak launch, all abilities carpark and concrete pathways along the river's edge. People of all mobilities can now access the waterway at water level and enjoy the natural environment right along the water course. This project was a great collaborative effort between Warrnambool City Council, the CMA and the State Government and delivers not only excellent facilities, but also environmental and community benefits.

The CMA also recently reviewing funding from the Victorian Government to develop a Platypus Demonstration Site on the Merri River. This builds on the successful demonstration site along the Grange Burn in Hamilton which included the installation of platypus habitat, Platycam and other interpretive material along the river.

**Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA**

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## **Button Wrinklewort knowlege sharing**

The Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*) lives on the grasslands of Victoria's Volcanic Plains and is a particularly special endangered plant. Through genetic mutation populations in western Victoria have doubled the number of chromosomes, leaving them reproductively isolated from their diploid ancestors found in other parts of Australia.

More than 40 people who have researched, learned about, are interested in, and conserved the Button Wrinklewort gathered to talk about the tetraploid.

From farmers to practitioners, researchers to rail authorities, attendees heard about the genetics of the Button Wrinklewort and how it can impact the survival of isolated populations; how the species is pollinated; how remnant and recreated populations are monitored; how land managers are protecting a tiny population in the urban sprawl of St Albans; and how land managers are protecting populations in western Victoria on narrow rail corridors.

The day ended with a field visit to the Rokewood cemetery, the second largest population of the tetraploid remnants (the diploid populations occur in Melbourne, and NSW and ACT).

The cemetery visit provided a first-hand view of the importance of biomass management for the ongoing survival of this endangered species.



## **Future fish habitats**

Many volunteers helped plant trees by the Hopkins River at Deakin University Warrnambool with Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network and the Rotary Club . These trees will help provide future fish habitats for our river friends.



## **Webbed friends come out for Hamilton and Alexandra College**

Outdoor Education students from The Hamilton and Alexandra College gathered at the Grange Burn to talk to waterways officer Chris Wilson about the CMA's waterways and native vegetation restoration work and why removing introduced tree species, like oaks and elms, along the riverbanks is important.



During the talk with Chris, the Grange Burn platypus got the memo there was a school group doing a walk and talk and appeared on cue!

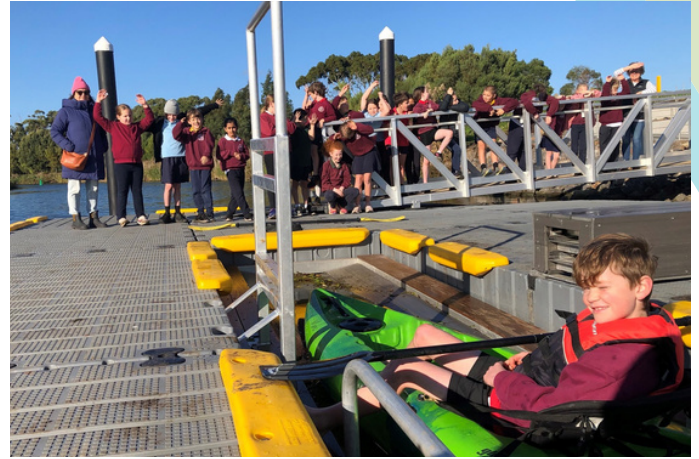
## CMA NEWS:

# All abilities access kayak launch

Grade 3/4 students from St Pius X Parish School teamed up with Warrnambool City Council and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA to make the area around the new kayak launch facility look even better.

They planted over 100 new plants, had a demonstration of how the new launch works from classmate, Murphy, and checked out the waterbugs found in the river as part of their morning's activities.

The new jetty, which gives recreational access to the river to people with limited mobility, was recently completed by Warrnambool City Council in a project funded by the Victorian Government through the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.



## How many eggs are in a 7.5kg Carp ?

Carp produce about 100,000 eggs per kilogram of body weight.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Stephen Ryan used the 7.5kg Carp caught in the carp fishing comp as an education tool to anglers around why these fish are known as the rabbits of the waterway.

This particular carp had about 750,000 eggs inside it, showing the anglers how much a prolific breeder carp is.



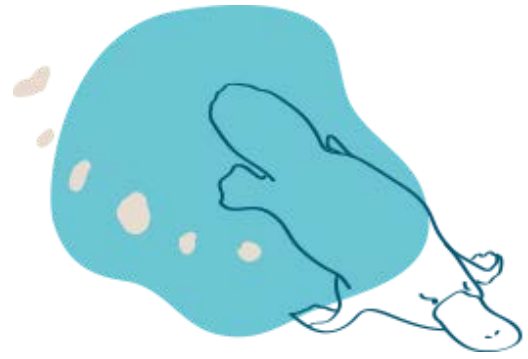
**Watch the video of finding out how many eggs a 7.5kg carp has inside on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)**

## Happy birthday Platycam

The 30th of May 2023 marked the one year birthday launch of the Platycam down on the Grange Burn.

This is the only live stream of wild platypus in the world.

The platypus made an appearance early in the morning to celebrate the birthday!



[SEE THE PLATYPUS CELEBRATING HERE](#)

## Portland Tree Planting Day

In the lead up to World Environment Day on Monday (June 5) the Rotary Club Of Portland and SEA Landcare teamed up with the students from St John's Lutheran Primary School Portland and our CMA works crew members for a tree planting day.



## CMA NEWS:

# 25 years of Victorian CMA's

At the end of this month, we will have completed our 25th year of operation as a Victorian Catchment Management Authority.

For 25 years, Victoria's CMAs have delivered land, water and biodiversity programs that not only enhance and protect our environment but support thriving communities.



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's are part of and work with our communities

**34,400 partnerships**  
We're better when we work with others

#CMASGetITDone



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's look after natural assets

**21 million ha** of pest plant and animal control

#CMASGetITDone



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's look after natural assets

**18,300 km** of fencing to protect waterways

#CMASGetITDone



CMA's look after natural assets

**1.5 million ha** of improved agricultural practices

#CMASGetITDone




**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's are part of and work with our communities

**1.8 million** people attended events

#CMASGetITDone



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's look after natural assets

**136,700 ha** of vegetation enhancement

#CMASGetITDone



**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS CMA'S IN VICTORIA**

CMA's support Traditional Owner Self Determination

#CMASGetITDone

Read the 2021-22 report at [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

## **Supporting women on farms**

The RALF program has been supporting the Southern Farming Systems 'Women on Farms' series, and this month it hosted at Chatsworth House where animal production and feed budgeting was discussed. Chatsworth House Pastoral is a property that has traditionally been farmed in a conventional manner.

The current owners have been there for 3 years and in that time have moved towards a regenerative approach to their system. They are minimizing chemical herbicide and fertilizer use, as well as decreasing paddock size and increasing stock rotations. A focus on multi species plantings into their pasture program has seen a significant improvement in their soil, plant and animal health. The owners have also been front runners in combining farm business and natural capital, of which there was much interest in the group, and region as a whole.



## **South-eastern red-tailed black cockatoo count numbers up**

Results from the annual South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo count have been finalised, with 1,204 birds sighted for 2023. This is slightly higher than the 1,143 birds sighted in 2022. In total, 120 volunteers participated in the count across the species range, including 49 volunteers in the Glenelg Hopkins region where 323 birds were sighted. The majority of birds are currently located in areas surrounding Casterton and Edenhope.



## **Coastal Connections birding workshop**

The GHCMA facilitated a birding workshop at Picks Swamp in South Australia, on Bunganditj Country. 18 people attended the event, including 5 staff from Budj Bim Rangers and 6 staff from the Burrendies Works Crew. Other attendees included staff from Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) and the South Australian Department of Environment and Water (DEW). NGT and DEW staff gave a background on the history of the swamp and its rehabilitation from paddock to swamp, in addition to bird monitoring history and methodology.

The group then went for a walk around the swamp and sighted four Brolgas and four Australasian Bitterns. It was a great day out for all, with participants seeing their first Bitterns and establishing new connections with each other.



## **Reversing decline of the critically endangered Southern Bent-wing bat**

A Senior Biodiversity Project Officer has been appointed to support the implementation of the Nature Fund Reversing Decline of the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat Project.

As part of the project, a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the CMA and the Southwest Environment Alliance (SEA) has been drafted. The MOU sets out arrangements and expectations with regard to the shared delivery of the SEA Wildlife Habitat Fund. The fund will be used to provide grants to landholders undertaking on-ground works to improve bat habitat.

