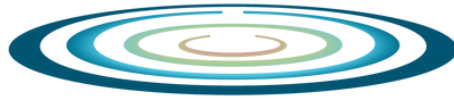


Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



Our offices will close at 12pm on Friday December 22, 2023 and re-open at 9am on Monday, January 8, 2024.

In this edition:

- Making use of storm damaged trees for fish
- Have fun on us on the Glenelg this summer
- Gathering Hairy Tail seeds with tea bags
- Keep pan eye out for Sanderling
- Raising a wetland with sandbags
- Summer by the Sea activities in Nelson this January
- Beach Road upgrade coming in the new year
- Have your say on the waterways around Warrnambool

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 5571 2526

Email: ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Farewelling 2023 and looking forward to 2024

It's been a really big year at the CMA and when we reflect on it, it's been really amazing the amount of projects that have happened thanks largely to the huge support we get from our communities, traditional owners, landholders and partners.

So at this time, I'd just like to take the opportunity to thank all of those people who have made a difference in the catchment this year through improving the health of the land, water and biodiversity.

Leading into the summer holiday period, there has been a fresh of water put down the Glenelg River to really make sure that waterway is in good condition for the holidays. And speaking of which, check out the details of our FREE community event on the Glenelg in January in this edition of the newsletter.

Speaking of holiday time - we know a lot of people locally head to Port Fairy or Robe - and so this is a little reminder to watch out for Hooded Plovers on the beaches! These little plovers are not the ones that swoop, but they are cute little beach nesting birds. So if you see signage, please be aware of them, and keep your dog on a lead.

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Storming through with new habitat for the Hopkins

Storms during winter 2023 brought unprecedented winds gusting over 100km/h to Warrnambool but a collaborative effort between anglers and the CMA has reused storm damaged vegetation to benefit fish.

The aftermath demanded an extensive clean-up effort, particularly in areas heavily affected, such as trees on the grounds of Deakin University.

Recognising an opportunity in adversity, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Deakin University staff identified a creative solution — transforming the storm-damaged trees into valuable fish habitat, in the form of Fish Hotels.

Last week, a joint effort between the CMA, Deakin University, and local angling clubs including Warrnambool, Allansford, and Koroit Angling Clubs, utilised the storm-damaged trees to construct fish hotels, repurposing the wood into structures that will benefit aquatic ecosystems.



This initiative marks a win-win situation," Senior Waterways Officer at Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Stephen Ryan, said.

"By repurposing storm-damaged trees into fish habitat, we're not only addressing a clean-up need but also contributing to enhancing the ecological health of our rivers."

Mr Ryan said an additional benefit of this initiative is its minimal ecological footprint.

By utilising trees already within the area, there is no need for transportation or removal, aligning with a sustainable approach to habitat restoration. The trees down at Deakin University grounds will find a new purpose along the banks of the river that the university overlooks."

The collaboration demonstrates the power of community-driven environmental stewardship. It embodies a sustainable approach where adversity is transformed into an opportunity to support biodiversity and strengthen aquatic ecosystems.

Senior Project Manager Andrew Briggs from Victorian Fisheries Authority commented: "It's inspiring to see such proactive efforts to enhance our aquatic ecosystems. I was thrilled to join the team and contribute to building the fish hotels, showcasing the commitment of all involved to our rivers' health."

CMA NEWS:

Get out on the Glenelg on us this Summer!

FREE January School Holiday Fun on the Glenelg River * Bochara * Bugara * Pawur

Thursday 11th of January 11am to 3pm
Moleside camping reserve Glower Glenelg National Park

Wednesday 17th January 11am to 3pm
Fulham Streamside Reserve

Canoes, Waterbug Discoveries and Face Painting. All Welcome! (17 years and under will need an accompanying adult for the canoes).



We live in a beautiful part of the world. Whether you're a frequent visitor to the Glenelg River or have been meaning to get out and enjoy it more, come along, dip your toes in the water and see something new.

No RSVP necessary just come along on the day and we'd love to see you!

Hairy Tails of the VVP bagged to gather seed

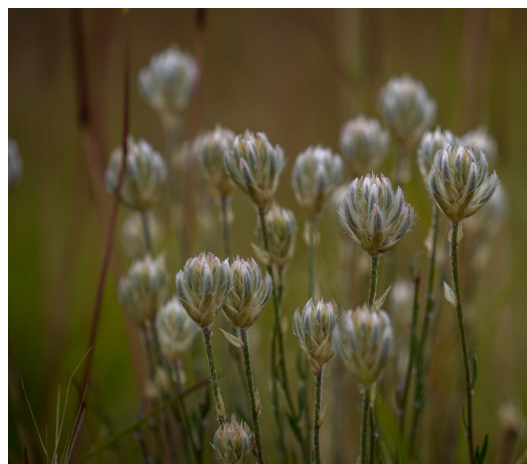
These are *Ptilotus erubescens* (Hairy Tails). This plant is one of the seventeen threatened plants of the Victorian Volcanic Plain that Glenelg Hopkins CMA is currently collecting seed from.

This small herbaceous plant with distinctly woody rootstock has become very rare across the Glenelg Hopkins region in recent decades.

Like some other species in the genus, propagation can be challenging due to often low seed viability and seed predation. However, through the Victorian Government's Nature Fund program, the CMA is hoping to establish production plants in a grassland nursery to produce seed for establishing new populations.

Tea bags are being placed over flowers as they finish up for the year, allowing the seed to continue to mature on the plants and prevent it from being blown away in the wind.

The tea bags will then be collected early next year, hopefully full of viable seed.



Sanderlings are back for the summer

Twenty state of the art Bluetooth GPS trackers were fitted to 20 Sanderling and successfully released.

We are now on the hunt for both leg-flag readings of any Sanderling, with the lucky photographer receiving the monthly prize of a framed Jimmi Buscombe Sanderling print.

In addition, if you get close enough you can use the Ecotopia app on your smart-phone to connect to the birds fitted with bluetooth trackers to download their tracking data. You can find the details of how to use the app on our website. This data is essential for researchers to continue their work to better understand Sanderling movements along the Discovery Bay coast, but also throughout south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia.

**Learn about
the app**

[here](#)



Raising a wetland, one sandbag at a time!

Recently an outlet drain of a stunning seasonal wetland was filled as part of a trial hydrological restoration.

This sandbag wall construction raised the outlet height by 50cm which modelling shows will turn this 63 ha seasonal herbaceous wetland into a 75ha wetland. This will allow the wetland to fill up earlier and stay wet for a few weeks longer allowing its plants, frogs and birds a few more weeks to breed.

This trial is part of the Victorian Government-funded Our Catchments Our Communities Swamp Stewardship project, which is working with farmers to learn more about our regions seasonal wetlands and how to manage them better in our productive agricultural landscape.

All of these works were completed under a GHCMA Works on Waterway permit.



CMA NEWS:

Enjoy learning about our Ramsar area this Summer by the Sea

Want to find out more about the amazing Ramsar-listed Glenelg Estuary Discovery Bay landscape when you're enjoying Summer by the sea in the southwest?

Pop January 22 and 23 in your diaries!

There's 2 Summer by the Sea walks at the Estuary mouth and a Community Forum on how we help manage the Ramsar Site.

At the community forum on Jan 23 (4-8pm) you can learn about what happens with the management and project within the Ramsar site including the Sanderling tracking project, the Beach Road/ Eel Creek construction activities, Wetland extent monitoring, and pest plant and animal outcomes. We'll even put on a free supper for you!

This community forum event is an open invitation and no RSVP is required.

The Estuary mouth walks will take place on January 22 (5-7pm) and January 23 (9-11am) with the 1-2hour walks leaving from Nelson taking in Livingstone Island, the Glenelg Estuary mouth and Discovery Bay beach.

Find out more info at our website or find out what else is being planned to celebrate 30 years of Coastcare on the Summer by the Sea website.

Find the GEDB Ramsar Estuary walks [CLICK HERE](#)



SUMMER BY THE SEA

6 - 25 JANUARY 2024

Summer by the Sea is an annual community program delivered by Coastcare Victoria with the support of local experts and volunteer groups.

SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE:

COME CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF COASTCARE

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[@COASTCARE_VIC](#)
WWW.SUMMERBYTHESEA.VIC.GOV.AU

Coastcare Victoria VICTORIA State Government

Keep up to date with what we are up to at the CMA!



Glenelg
Hopkins CMA



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CMA NEWS:

Upgrade for Beach Road, Nelson for extended period in early 2024

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE:

Beach Road, Nelson, Victoria

29 January 2024 to 30 March 2024

We would like to inform you that a temporary road closure will be in effect on Beach Road in Nelson starting from 29th January 2024 and lasting until 30th March 2024. This closure is necessary for essential road maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

Closure Details:

Road: Beach Road

Closure Dates: 29th January 2024 to 30th March 2024

Closure Type: Full road closure, weekdays, with partial opening on weekends

Reason: Road maintenance and infrastructure improvements

Please cooperate with traffic control directions as construction crews require a safe and environment in which to complete this important work.

During this time, access to the Ocean Beach Carpark will be maintained (except for 2 weeks in March).

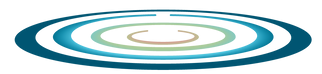
We apologise for inconvenience this road closure may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to enhance the safety and quality of Beach Road environment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this road closure, please feel free to contact our office at 03 5571 2526 or ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Glenelg Hopkins

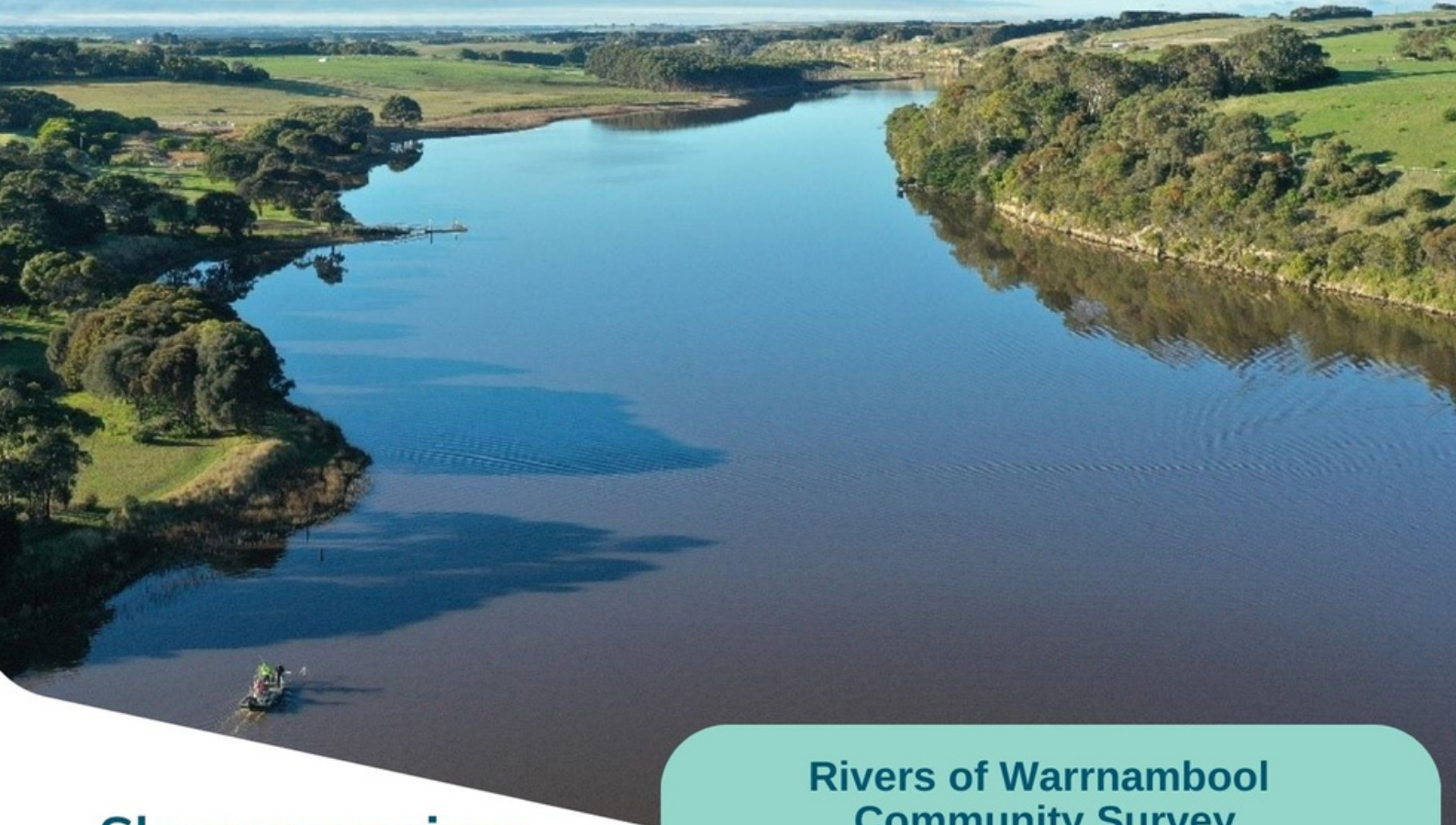


CMA



The upgrade of Beach Road will ensure this situation no longer occurs.

Got thoughts about the rivers around Warrnambool?



Share your river thoughts with us in a short online survey



Scan the QR code or visit the website below

www.surveymonkey.com/r/WarrnamboolRiverThoughts

Rivers of Warrnambool Community Survey

Glenelg Hopkins CMA invites you to complete an online survey (it takes about 5 mins) to understand how you use local rivers and your thoughts on their management. We are seeking your input to help shape the activities we deliver to manage our waterways.



Want to know more?

Email: rowsurvey@ghcma.vic.gov.au
or visit our website:
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au