

Community unite after fires

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Bayindeen fire ground to meet 20 impacted landholders and catch up with the CMA Works Crew and Upper Mt Emu Creek Landcare Network (UMECLN).

A massive congratulations to the fire fighters and community who look to have done a remarkable job in saving a lot of homes. I was blown away by the sheer size of the fire which looks to have burnt all the hillsides and farm land. Barely any green could be seen in the landscape.

There have been many organisations that have provided donations to landholders (feed, etc) and come to their aid. Our works crew and Lynn from UMECLN have been out helping landholders over the last few weeks putting up new fences to retain stock on property (approximately 6.8 km across 7 landholders), build three stock containment areas and put some sediment control in place for high risk areas.

One area that was most at risk was the Cave Hill Creek Camp wetland/dam, which is a centrepiece feature for this location and has a number of fish, platypus and recreation values. The facility and wetland lie immediately below the scorched public land forest on the Cave Hill Creek which feeds Fiery Creek 1km to the south east. The forest floor immediately upstream of the facility is covered in a thick bed of ash. This ash is at risk of washing into Cave Hill Creek on the first significant rainfall event.

Our crew with the help of DEECA Forest and Fire Staff where able to lay 210 coir logs upstream of the lake to help capture the ash.

Continued ...

In this edition:

- CMA Works Crew fire response
- Beach Road closure extended
- Banksia Awards
- Lake Bolac Eel Festival
- Four years of projects celebrated
- Beach Clean up
- Beach-side learning
- 2024 Victorian Landcare Grants are now open
- Cocky Count time



CMA NEWS:

Community unite after fires con't.

Unfortunately over the recent weekend the location received around 75 mm of rain. The sheer amount of ash toppled the coir logs in places but still held back enough sediment to avoid any water quality issues in the lake.

At other sites we were able to put up sediment traps which saved some dams, but in sites that have not had sediment traps these dams have basically filled up with sludge. We will look to monitor the Middle, Fiery and Cave Hill Creeks over the coming months to monitor any sediment impacts on these important river systems. More details and photos can be found in a later article in this newsletter.

Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA



***ABOVE: Dam post-rainfall with sediment control.
BELOW: A dam which did not have sediment control
nearby post-rainfall event.***



CMA NEWS:

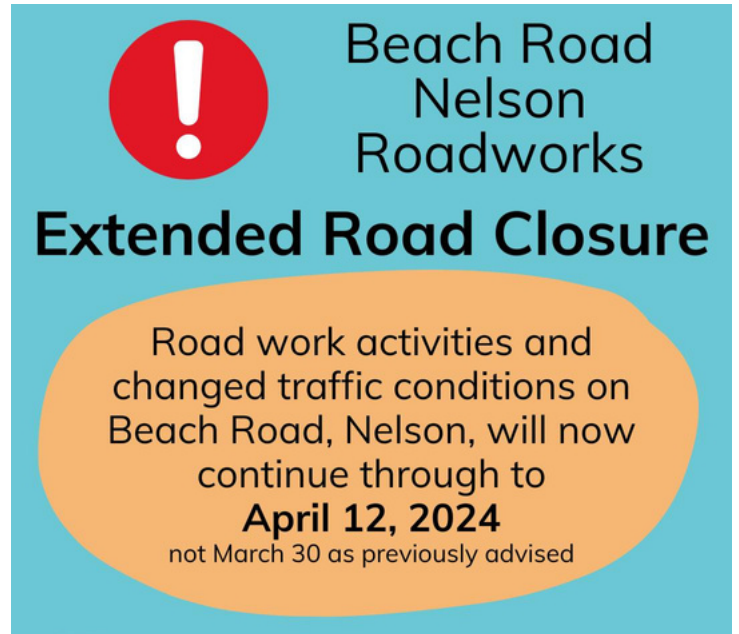
ROAD CLOSURE: Beach Road works to continue until 12 April 12

Beach Road will remain partially closed for longer than anticipated, with traffic management around our construction site to continue longer than expected to ensure quality work.

The Eel Creek culvert replacement has closed access to the site and road, as anticipated for a two week period. Public access now available again albeit with traffic management in place.

Caravans should avoid Beach Road due to limited turn-around options. Great South West Walk users can still complete the walk with signage at Eel Creek.

Limited access to the estuary is in place due to rising water levels, with road closures to Estuary Beach carpark until April 12, 2024.



**Beach Road
Nelson
Roadworks**

Extended Road Closure

Road work activities and changed traffic conditions on Beach Road, Nelson, will now continue through to
April 12, 2024
not March 30 as previously advised



For information relating to these roadworks and closure please refer to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website www.ghcma.vic.gov.au or call 03 5571 2526 or email ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Banksia Award Finalist!

Vic Catchments was nominated as one of five finalists in the Nature Positive category of the National Banksia Awards - Australia's longest running sustainability awards.

We are especially proud of Victoria's Traditional Owners, community, all our partners, Landcarers and landholders who have been part of the story of CMAs for over 25 years for which the award recognises.

Keep an eye out for the outcome of the awards as Victoria's CMAs are up against finalists from around Australia at the [Awards Website](#)



Finalist
of the 35th National Banksia
Sustainability Awards

Nature Positive Award

Banksia
FOUNDATION

CMA NEWS:

Lake Bolac Eel Festival

We were so excited to be a part of another Lake Bolac Eel Festival and being part of the local Traditional Owners and community's celebration of the eels making their migration south to the ocean from the waters of Lake Bolac.



Four years of catchment-wide projects celebrated

The four-year projects funded under the Victorian Government's Environmental Contribution come to an end in June and to promote the outcomes and outputs of these projects and the really great things our staff and community members have done, we have been creating videos to celebrate them. You can watch them online on our YouTube channel or via the CMA website.



[Watch the Wetlands of Western Victoria video](#)

[Watch the Wetlands of Estuary Management video](#)

[Watch the CMA Works Crew video](#)

[Watch the Sustainable Irrigation Program video](#)



CMA NEWS:

Beach Clean up

April 14

The crew from Beach Patrol 3280-3284 are back on the bus to clean up the Fitzroy Estuary on April 14. Free lunch provided to all those wandering around picking up rubbish!

Want to get on the bus?

Book your seat for a pick up in Port Fairy Info Centre, Koroit Village Green or Flagstaff Hill carpark by scanning the QR code or emailing

3280-3284
BeachPatrol

beachpatrol3280@gmail.com

Join Us
Fitzroy River ESTUARY

Beach Patrol Day Trip

FREE BARBECUE LUNCH PROVIDED

BOOK EARLY LIMITED PLACES

BEACH CLEAN UP

Glenelg Hopkins
CMA

Sponsored by Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Sunday 14 APRIL
Bookings Essential

RSVP QR Code Your Details

PICK UP & DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Flagstaff Hill Car Park	9.00 am	Flagstaff Hill Car Park	4.30 pm
Koroit Village Green	9.15 am	Koroit Village Green	4.15 pm
Port Fairy Information Centre	9.30 am	Port Fairy Information Centre	4.00 pm

Beach-side learning for Timboon TAP students.

Year 8 students from Timboon P-12 School participated in the Timboon Agricultural Project (TAP), delving into geology during a recent excursion along the southern coastline. The TAP provides hands-on experiences connecting students with agricultural, environmental, social, and community activities, enriching their classroom learning.

At the Hopkins River mouth, Jarred Obst, a Waterways Officer from Glenelg Hopkins CMA, educated the students about estuary protection and management. He highlighted the dynamic nature of estuaries, which have evolved over 6,000 years, and engaged the students in water quality sampling and monitoring to assess the health of the waterway.



CMA NEWS:

2024 Victorian Landcare Grants are now open

The 2024 Victorian Landcare Grants are now open!

Landcare and other environmental volunteer groups and networks can apply for:

- \$20k grants for projects that help protect and restore the natural environment
- \$500 grants to help with group running costs

The grants help achieve the targets in Biodiversity 2037, the Victoria Government's long-term plan to stop the decline of our plants and animals and improve the natural environment.

[Apply here](#)

2024 Victorian Landcare Grants NOW OPEN

Apply for
Up to \$20,000 in project grants
Up to \$500 for support grants

**Applications close:
5pm Tuesday 30 April 2024**

Find out more:
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au



It's Cocky Count time - Saturday 4 May



The South eastern Red tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Project Team is currently seeking volunteers to assist in the 2024 annual count for the spectacular SE Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo.

Cocky Count day is on Saturday 4 May.

There are a number of sites in stringybark forest waiting to be traversed for cockatoos, from Keith to Mount Gambier in SA and Nelson to Little Desert in Victoria.

You can get your own group together or when you register, ask to join in with others. You don't need any prior experience, but need to know what the cockatoos look and sound like. For those that need some additional support, a count training video and session are available online.

To register please visit <http://www.redtail.com.au/how-to-get-involved-in-counts.html> or email redtail@birdlife.org.au.

Farmers don't forget to let the team know if you'd like to search your own property on the day.

And if you happen to see Red-tails from now onwards, don't wait until the count weekend to let the team know, send them an email, contact via the website (www.redtail.com.au) or call 1800 262 062 and let them know time, date and location of sighting, together with the number of birds seen.

The RTBC Annual Count is being delivered by BirdLife Australia and supported by project partners Glenelg Hopkins CMA Wimmera CMA and the Limestone Coast Landscape Board