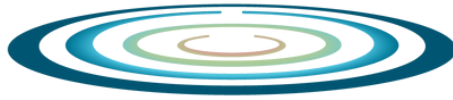


Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



In this edition:

- Bromfield street weir removal
- Glenelg River mouth opened
- Beach Road works finishing up
- Victorian CMAs win coveted Banksia Award !
- Bat tracking at Bat's Ridge completed
- Four years of catchment-wide projects celebrated
- Red Gum Festival
- Winda Mara junior rangers holiday catchment activities
- It's Cocky Count time

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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CMA Board meet in Balmoral

The CMA Board had their April meeting at the township of Balmoral last week.

Meeting in one of our regional towns continues the Board's focus on having most of its meetings across different locations in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area. Meeting in our towns provides an opportunity to meet with the community and relevant agency staff over lunch, talk, and have field visit to discuss local issues and achievements.

For Balmoral the focus was on environmental water, and the way in which the Glenelg Hopkins CMA delivers it to the Glenelg River. As part of the day's activities, other than the meeting, Board members visited the Rocklands Reservoir to look at the carp screens in action and look at the dam infrastructure. Rocklands Reservoir is a significant water storage in our region, and is the only means to provide environmental water to the Glenelg River. CMA Board members and staff were taken on the tour by GWMWater Managing Director, Mark Williams and staff who manage the Reservoir.



Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Bromfield Street weir removed

Warrnambool's Bromfield Street weir has been entirely removed from the Merri River this month.

Built in 1907 this decommissioned weir was first identified as a major fish movement barrier in the waterway as far back as 1999.

This has been a long term project in returning the Merri River to a natural flow state and another major step toward opening the waterway up for both fish migration and recreation activities.

With the weir now gone, the next step is revegetation of the banks and allowing the waterway to find its natural levels again.



Glenelg River mouth opened

On Thursday 18 April staff from Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria and DEECA Forest Fire Management undertook an authorised river mouth opening on the Glenelg River estuary at Nelson. Works were coordinated in response to current and future flooding impacts, and to balance the environmental, social, economic, and recreational values of the estuarine system.

The Glenelg River estuary had been closed over recent weeks, which is a natural feature of this intermittently closed estuarine system. The CMA had been monitoring the system closely, with the hope that a natural estuary opening would occur. Unfortunately, this did not happen, as challenging autumn swell and tidal patterns created a very large sand bar/beach berm at the mouth which posed significant flooding and safety impacts on the estuary.

Opening conditions were safe, appropriate and Effective; and works were undertaken under state legislation and Victorian Waterway Management policy delegation.



**[WATCH VISION OF THE OPENING
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE HERE](#)**

CMA NEWS:

Beach Road works finishing up - fish and traffic access return

The Beach Road project at Nelson is nearing completion ... ironically the final stages were held up a bit due to naturally elevated water levels in the Glenelg estuary ... which is basically the main reason we are raising the road!

This project is essential for improving access and managing the natural estuary in the area by ensuring that the public can enjoy the natural values throughout the year.

The fish-friendly culvert assembly provides native fish access to over 700 ha of freshwater wetlands of the Long Swamp wetlands complex.

Specially designed baffles make sure the water doesn't gush through the outlet and assists fish passage.

Beach Road is currently open to the public with reduced speed controls in place.



Victorian CMAs win coveted Banksia Award !

Vic Catchments was announced the winner of the Nature Positive category of the 35th National Banksia Sustainability Awards! recently.

"For over 25 years CMAs have been at the forefront of working with communities and partners to deliver incredible results for catchments across Victoria and it's a delight that we have been recognised by such a prestigious organisation," said Cath Jenkins, Chair of Vic Catchments (pictured right receiving the trophy.) Partnerships are one of our biggest strengths and we share this success with everyone – Traditional Owners, partner organisations, community and government.



"Partnerships are one of our biggest strengths & we share this success with everyone."

Cath Jenkins - Vic Catchments Chair

CMA NEWS:

Bat tracking at Bat's Ridge completed

The Arthur Rylah Institute has completed its second and final round of Southern Bent-wing Bat GPS tracking at Bats Ridge, Portland.

This work is part of our Reversing Decline of the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat project, funded by the Victorian Government. The tracking data is now being analysed ahead of the findings report being prepared.

Once the report is finalised, ARI will present its findings to the local community in Portland later this year.



PICTURED RIGHT: Lindy Lumsden (ARI) weighing bats and fitting GPP Tracking Devices.

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](#)



Community engagement at Cavendish Red Gum Festival

The Cavendish Red Gum Festival on Saturday 13 April enjoyed near perfect weather, which helped draw a large crowd. Scheduled to open at 10am, the Landcare and Glenelg Hopkins CMA display table was busy repsonding from 9:30am to an almost constant stream of enquires from attendees on matters of soil, soil testing, native grasses, trees, birds, frogs, wetlands and waterways, water critters and, of course, red gums.

PICTURED RIGHT: Richard Murphy answering community questions at the Cavendish Red Gum Festival.



Winda Mara junior rangers holiday catchment activities

Over the April school holidays the Water Resources Team spent a day with the Winda-Mara Junior rangers. We spent the day at the Tyrendarra IPA where the Junior rangers learnt about food chains/webs, what makes up a healthy waterway, they made their own "Mini-Catchments" out of clay and came hunting for water bugs.

The weather held off which also allowed for a walk around the IPA to look and discuss some of the cultural sites with the Budj Bim Rangers.



Orange-bellied Parrot workshop

Date: 10am - 2pm, Sunday 26th May 2024

Location: Portland Business Hub, 13 Richmond St, Portland

RSVP: 20th May to dan.lees@birdlife.org.au with any dietary requirements

Come along to our Portland Orange-bellied Parrot workshop and learn all about these Critically Endangered birds from Avian Monitoring Service's renowned expert Bob Green. You will learn how to identify them, the threats they face, and how you can help protect them!



©Deepak Kumar



birdlife.org.au

CMA NEWS:

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.

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



**To register please visit
www.redtail.com.au
or email redtail@birdlife.org.au.**

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

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

or find us on social media under: Glenelg Hopkins CMA

