

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Best of the West and fire recovery funding supports local Landcare facilitators

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the annual 'Best of the West' Landcare event at Gariwerd (Grampians). It was great to catch up with Landcare Facilitators from Glenelg Hopkins, Wimmera and Mallee CMA's, Landcare Victoria Inc and DEECA and also receive a fantastic presentation from Pippa Mott the new CEO of WAMA – The National Centre for Environmental Art.



I also used the opportunity to announce that fire recovery funding has been provided through the CMA to assist two Landcare groups that were significantly impacted by the fires in December and January.

The CMA will be working closely with these Landcare groups to roll out a recovery program over the next 12 months.

Adam Bester
CEO
Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Fields of Featherheads discovered as VVP grasslands protected

A total of 169ha of privately owned high value Natural Temperate grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains have been signed up by landholders under stewardship agreements this year as part of the CMAs Restoring the Victorian Volcanic Plains project.

The stewardship arrangements, whereby landholders contractually agree to protect and enhance grassland areas on their properties, has long been supported by southwest landholders. Site visits in recent months has helped ground-truth the true value of these wonderful grassland areas. This field of Featherheads (*Ptilotus macrocephalus*) is included in a newly found grassland area now protected by a stewardship arrangement.



Woody weed control underway to support bat foraging

A focus of the *Reversing Decline of the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat* project is to improve foraging habitat for Southern Bent-wing Bats (*right*) by reducing the woody weed burden within patches of native vegetation. This year, ten private properties and the Point Danger Coastal Reserve have been identified as suitable for woody weed control.

Italian Buckthorn, Sweet Pittosporum and Gorse will be treated to enhance 176 hectares of native vegetation within the foraging range of the Portland population of the Southern Bent-wing Bat.



Weed control contractors have been engaged and are expected to undertake 40 days of weed control work between March and June this year.

Collecting Bittern boom boxes

With the main calling period for the Australasian Bittern now over, our team have been out collecting Bittern Boom Boxes AKA audio listening devices, to assess what's been heard. Pictured (*right*) is Jacinta Hendriks retrieving a bittern listening device from Walook Wetland, Portland.

The audio recordings will be assessed as part of the Our Catchments Our Communities-funded Bitterns on Farms project with Birdlife Australia.



CMA LANDCARE NEWS:

Best of the West - Landcare facilitators get together in Halls Gap

Last week, the annual catch up of Glenelg Hopkins, Mallee and Wimmera catchment Landcare facilitators and CMA facilitators - The Best in the West - was the chance to talk openly about opportunities, challenges, partnerships and how Landcare works in our regions. It was also the chance support the Halls Gap community after the Summer fires with the gathering held in the Grampians township. Facilitators often work by themselves with local projects that achieve amazing local NRM outcomes, and being able to discuss face-to-face the specifics of the role has many positive benefits. The event was facilitated by Kim Boswell from The Forever Agenda and included strategic discussion with representatives from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Landcare Victoria.



Unsure who your local Landcare facilitator is?

Click here for all the contact information

APPLY NOW! Victorian Landcare Grants

The 2025 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. You can find information, including the guidelines for the grants program and how to apply on our [GRANTS AND FUNDING PAGE](#)

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 16 April 2025

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANT?

The Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) have just opened to Landcare and community environment groups to submit applications.

Project grants of up to \$20,000
Group admin support grants of \$500

Grant guidelines are now available at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Find out the best way to get your project idea off the ground by contacting your local Landcare facilitator.

GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE
APRIL 16, 2025

Want to strategically guide the CMA? Apply to be on our Board!

Expressions of interest are now open for members of the community to join the boards of 18 Victorian water corporations, 9 CMAs and the Birrarung Council. This includes positions on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board.

There will be around 120 board positions available across the state.

Board positions are available to people who have business skills, understand community engagement or experience in land, water, financial and infrastructure management.

Victorians with an understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge of how to manage land and water resources are encouraged to apply.

The selection process will be led by an independent panel with a strong focus on an all-inclusive approach.

Expressions of interests close on Tuesday 8 April 2025.

More information on the process and application through an EOI is available on our website.



The poster features the Glenelg Hopkins CMA logo at the top, which includes the text 'Glenelg Hopkins' and 'CMA' with a stylized water droplet icon. Below the logo, the text 'Join our Board!' is written in a large, blue, serif font. The background of the poster is a scenic aerial view of a wide river flowing through a lush green landscape. In the bottom right corner, there is a white circular callout box containing the following text: 'Interested? Expressions of interest are now open become a Board member of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Applications close: Tuesday 8 April. More information at ghcma.vic.gov.au'.



The poster shows a large, mature tree with dense green foliage in the foreground, with a mountain range visible in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. At the bottom of the image, there is a light green rounded rectangular box containing the following text: 'How do you value nature and what the CMA does? 2025 Glenelg Hopkins CMA community engagement and nature survey Scan the QR code or visit www.ghcma.vic.gov.au'. To the right of the text is a square QR code.

Tell us your thoughts on nature and what we do at the CMA

The CMA does lots of projects on the ground and we work with lots of people but sometimes we like to check in with the community about how we are engaging and communicating with them.

We do this in a few ways, this year we are taking it all online, and are asking people to complete a quick, 20-question survey to find out how they learn about what we do at the CMA, how much they value our local biodiversity, what they think the most pressing issues relating to our natural environment and conservation are ... As well as understanding how everyone finds out about what we do, whether its following us on social media, via the radio or this newsletter every month!

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS!

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Seeking southwest landholders to plant red-tail habitat areas

Are you a landholder in the South-west corner of Victoria?

If so, you may be within the distribution of the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Greening Australia are currently looking for landholders to help with the recovery of this species through the revegetation of feeding habitat.

If you own land in the area highlighted in red on this map and would like to have habitat for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo revegetated on your property, we want to hear from you. This includes areas south of Harrow, west of Coleraine, north of Portland and east of the South Australian border.

For more information, or to register your interest please contact either Ben Zeeman at the Glenelg Hopkins CMA (0411 311 328, b.zeeman@ghcma.vic.gov.au) or Dave Warne at Greening Australia (DWarne@greeningaustralia.org.au).

This project is funded through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust Program



MAY 3: Time to look up for the annual Red Tail Cocky count

It's time to begin thinking about what you're up to on Saturday, May 3 and if you need to register for the annual Red-Tail Cocky Count!

All volunteers interested in participating in the annual count for the cockatoo are required to register their interest.

There are around 60 sites in stringybark forest to be covered on the day from Keith to Mount Gambier in South Australia and from Little Desert National Park to Nelson in Victoria.

Landholders within the Red-tail range are also welcome to survey their own patches of stringybark on the day.

**To register, go to: www.redtail.com.au
or phone 1800 262 062**

Supporting the Glenelg River in a dry season

We have experienced another dry month across the Glenelg Catchment putting stress on the Glenelg River and surrounding communities.

Environmental water was able to keep the river connected but, in some locations, the desired volume was not achieved. This under performance was due to the drought conditions and lack of natural flows. Combined with increased evaporation, vegetation uptake, and seepage. The environmental water team has adjusted flows accordingly to ensure baseflows achieve their target volume.

What's happened in the river this month?

Streamflow at Balmoral (Reach 1a) fell short of its fresh (larger pulse of water) target. Although the dry conditions have played a part, this is a common occurrence at Reach 1a. This reach is managed conservatively to prevent flooding on private property because of sand build up at the bottom of Frasers Swamp. Similarly to Balmoral, Dergholm (Reach 2) also didn't reach its fresh target, reflecting the widespread impact of the dry conditions. Even though flows did not hit their target in these reaches, they were still successful in driving down salinity and protecting water quality. This is particularly important for protecting water quality dependent species such as Blackfish and the Glenelg Spiny Cray.

Further downstream at Dartmoor (Reach 3), the summer baseflows are usually met with natural inflows from tributaries. However, with such low rainfall, these tributaries have not been contributing much flow.

The gauge at Harrow is still under maintenance, which continues to impact our ability to monitor flow levels accurately at this site. The flows however, were well received by visitors to Harrow on the March long weekend (see below)



Did you know?

Data obtained for this newsletter update is publicly accessible from Victoria's Water Measurement Information System (WMIS) website: <https://data.water.vic.gov.au/WMIS>

CMA NEWS: Water for the Environment update

Where is the environmental water released from?

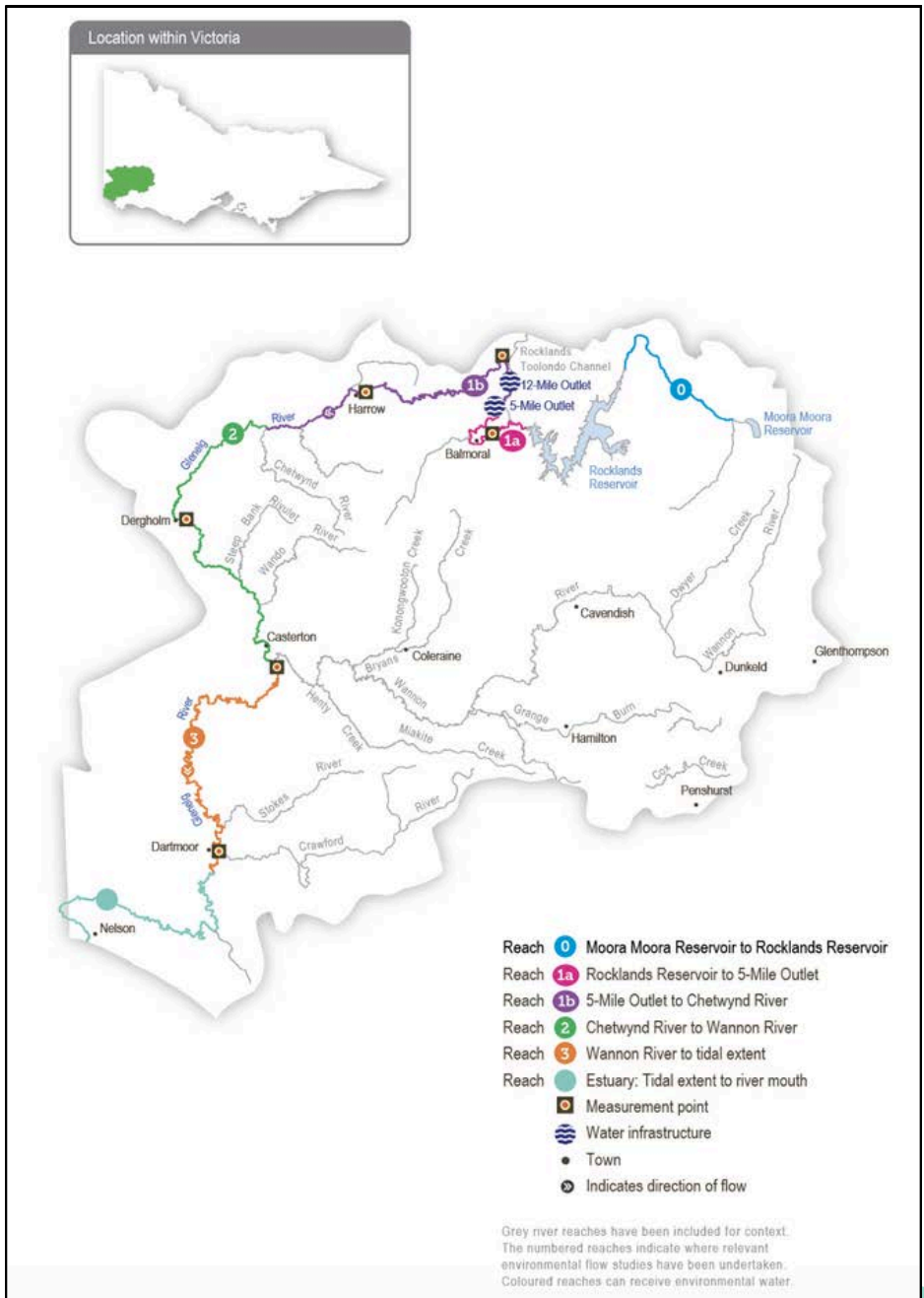
Environmental water is released from up to three outlets at any one time along the Glenelg River, which can be independently managed, with different levels of water released from each point. You see the 'reaches' monitor identified on the map below.

Rocklands Wall: (pictured right)

Water released from Rocklands Wall primarily flows into the upper reaches of the Glenelg River between the Wall and Balmoral (Reach 1a).

5 Mile Outlet: (pictured below)

This is the main outlet used over summer as it can support the greatest length of river. It can do this by avoiding the choke point at Frasers Swamp and releasing downstream of Balmoral. The water released here can support the entire river through to Dergholm (Reach 2).



12 Mile Outlet:

Water from the 12 Mile Outlet is directed downstream towards the Reaches furthest from Rocklands, from Harrow (Reach 1b) to Dergholm (Reach 2) and beyond to Dartmoor (Reach 3). Its only really used during fresh releases (pulses of water) to maximise efficiency of the larger releases.

Releases from each outlet help to maintain target baseflows and freshes, which are critical for the health of the river, especially during periods of low rainfall and drought conditions.

CMA NEWS:

Fert\$mart course for Dairy farmers begins April 9

The Fert\$mart course equips farmers with the knowledge to make informed, cost-effective fertiliser decisions.

This course provides each farm with five free soil tests and a comprehensive nutrient management plan to strategically use fertiliser on farm across the seasons.

Fert\$mart begins on Wednesday 9 April from 10am-2pm and is for farms in the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment area.

It is a four-day course, with three days held over two months in April and May and a final day at the end of the year. Participants will complete a Fert\$mart course to better understand soil properties, constraints and nutrient management option. As a participant each farm will receive five soil tests and a comprehensive nutrient management plan. Other topics include:

- effluent management
- soil carbon
- soil acidity
- farm biodiversity
- soil biology
- visual soil assessment
- Landcare in the region.



WestVic Dairy Dairy Australia

Fert\$mart
Nutrient management course
Begins Wednesday 9 April
Delivering *for* Dairy

Register now: [CLICK HERE](#)

This project is supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust.



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



CMA NEWS:

Fun at Harrow on long weekend

The Harrow community's annual celebration of Johnny 'Unaarrimin' Mullagh was another great opportunity to also celebrate the Glenelg River, with free kids activities including waterbugs and canoes and kayaks, electrofishing demonstrations on Sunday, March 9.



Irrigation scheduling and crop mapping workshops POSTPONED

After feedback from irrigators who are currently juggling on-farm demands like autumn calving, feeding, and the on-going dry conditions, we have decided to postpone the irrigation training sessions until later in the year when we're not asking farmers to squeeze something they really would like to attend into their already packed work schedules.

The workshops are designed for the region's farmers and ag employees, so its important we work around their needs. It is anticipated they will be shuffled back in the calendar around August. To be kept in the loop for the updated dates, future courses, you can register to our sustainable irrigation subscription - no spam, just the important stuff <https://forms.office.com/r/swLtDveTyk>



Irrigation Scheduling Workshops

Planning when and how much water to apply to a crop to achieve maximum crop production or a particular crop quality is a key management action for achieve the best irrigation performance in the most cost effective and water efficient way.

Find out the best tips and tools at our next irrigation workshop

Warrnambool Session	Hamilton Session
Wednesday 9th April 2025 10am - 3pm Venue: Deakin University Further location details provided upon registra	Thursday 10th April 2025 10am to 3pm Venue: Hamilton Institute Rural Learning

Registration:
via the QR code or link below:
<https://forms.office.com/r/1igIXQV3HD>



Cost: Free (valued over \$1300)

Trainer: Peter Smith- Sapphire Irrigation Consulting.
Peter delivers irrigation training courses nationally and has a strong commitment to building skills for a resilient irrigation sector.



FREE ONLINE TRAINING

Satellite monitoring of crop water use for irrigation and rain-fed crops


Tuesday 22nd April 10:30 - 11:30am

FREE online training of IrrisAT - a free web tool that uses weekly satellite images to track crop water use and crop health.

Use IrrisAT to monitor crop health and growth plus... of our irrigated or rainfed crops... training.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/swLtDveTyk> \$4P88d

For more info contact Noni: 03 5571 2526 | n.brisling@ghcma.vic.gov.au



EVENTS POSTPONED