

SOUTH WEST NATURAL CAPITAL FORUM



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 2025
WARRNAMBOOL GOLF CLUB

UNLOCKING THE OPPORTUNITIES



[www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/
naturalcapitalforum](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/naturalcapitalforum)

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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Natural Capital opportunities, drought employment and an upgraded work space

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is proud to be hosting the inaugural Natural Capital Forum for the southwest in October. Being held in the amazing natural space of the Warrnambool Golf Club, this event aims to deliver some real insight as to how landholders, Traditional Owners and ag industry people can make the most of this emerging space.

Speaking of spaces, the CMA's workspace renovations have been completed! After an extensive and long-planned renovation, the Hamilton office on French Street now meets safety and accessibility requirements for offices. **The CMA office will be back open to the public from Monday, September 8,** The upgrade includes some really great features, like recycled timber and recycled materials to support energy efficiency gains, and it was entirely completed by locally-based trades and businesses. This upgrade to our office space was funded through specific building funds, and not taken away from project works and its pleasing to be able to continue our works out in the catchment and then have our staff return to a much safer, accessible and efficient office.

Despite the rain the catchment has recently received, we know it hasn't broken the drought conditions. For farmers, farm workers, or ag industry employees who need to access off-farm income, EOIs remain open for our drought employment program..

Adam Bester
CEO

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Natural Capital forum - what is it and what's in it for the south west region?

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the South West Natural Capital Forum at the Warrnambool Golf Club on the 8th of October, with special thanks to the support of Rabobank and Warrnambool City Council.

The forum aims to bring together land management, farming, environment and finance sectors to explore the latest trends and emerging opportunities in natural capital and nature-based markets. The day will explore what natural capital means, how it benefits land management (including profitability, resilience and opportunities to diversify income), emerging finance and market opportunities, and why southwest Victoria is well placed to take up these opportunities.

There is a great range of speakers lined up, including:

- Prof. Hugh Possingham (Fellow of the Royal Society, Accounting for Nature, University of QLD, Biodiversity Council of Australia)
- Angela Hawdon – Farming for the Future
- Jonathan Jenkin – respected livestock producer and PhD candidate University of Melbourne in carbon and emissions
- Dr Anthony O'Grady – CSIRO forest function team
- Rabobank sustainability team,
- Regional managers and supply-chain experts
- and more to be announced.

Tickets are limited, so get in fast - you can find out more information on the [CMA website here](https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/naturalcapitalforum)

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**Book your
Natural Capital
Forum tickets
here**

Supported by:

Rabobank



Australian Government



Students help create Platy Patches on the Merri River

More than 120 school students from Warrnambool's Emmanuel College and Woodford Primary School got the job done planting on the banks of the Merri River in glorious sunshine recently.

The students raked, dug, planted, guarded and staked hundreds of locally indigenous native trees and grasses on the banks to both support the riverbank, and provide shade over the water and limbs for additional river habitat in the future for platypus.

The riverbank habitat was planted as part of a wider project supporting the local Platypus population around Jubilee Park by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Warrnambool City Council. It has included removal of introduced tree species, placing of habitat logs in the river, and now, extensive riparian plantings, as one of the 14 sites in the Platy Patch project across Victoria.

The Platy Patch project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, the Victorian Government, and Melbourne Water.

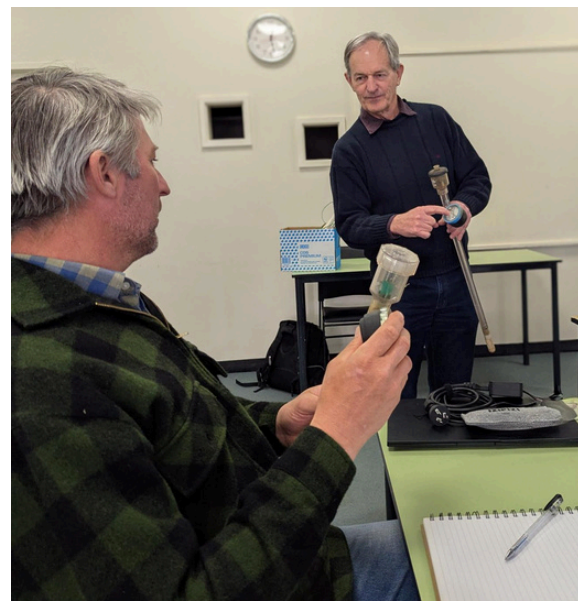


Irrigated learning - did you miss the workshops?

Another round of irrigation workshops was recently held with Peter Smith from Sapphire Irrigation Consulting, providing another fantastic group of land managers with some important skills ready for this spring and summer season.

The key message of these workshops was: HOW do you know when to turn the water on and turn the water off? If you want more information on the importance of soil testing moisture probes and satellite monitoring of your crop growth, subscribe to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Irrigation Info email list for news, courses and resources.

[Sign up to receive the CMA's sustainable irrigation information and keep updated about the next workshops here](#)



Join the Great Southern BioBlitz this October 24-27

The Great Southern BioBlitz is an opportunity for all Southern Hemisphere countries to record organisms during Spring and showcase our beautiful biodiversity to the world. The event is run by a grassroots network of keen citizen scientists from across the globe. The Great Southern BioBlitz for 2025 will run from October 24th-27th. Participants in the event will then have a further 14 days to upload and identify all of their observations made during this period to the iNaturalist platform. Anyone in the world is eligible to take part in the event. All you have to do is upload observations of wildlife to the [iNaturalist](#). Observations, however, must be made somewhere in the southern hemisphere during the event time frame.



Keep up to date with what we're up to at the CMA!



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Getting Bat printy in Portland this November

The Southern Bent-wing Bat project has shifted from the skies to the art room with a series of community engagement events in the form of lino-printing workshops.

Local artist Vicki Reynolds will guide participants from Portland Bay Press, Portland Primary School, Portland High re-engagement group and Winda Mara junior rangers in cutting and / or lino printing designs of the Southern Bent-wing Bat. The prints will be exhibited at the Upwelling festival (1 November).

The Southern Bent-wing Bat is a critically endangered microbat, that is only found in south-western Victoria and south-eastern South Australia in a limited number of caves.

The bent-wing name comes from its unique anatomy – with the last bone of the third ‘finger’ of its wing being four times longer than the middle one, giving a bent appearance.

Find out more about our Southern Bent Wing Bat project on our website [HERE](#).

Braving the elements to revegetate Mooramong

Last week in some pretty horrendous weather conditions, 300 Silver Banksia, Drooping Sheoak and Sweet Bursaria were planted around two of the National Heritage Trust's tiny houses on the NHT's Ballarat region property, Mooramong.

In a fabulous collaboration effort between Friends of the Forgotten Woodlands Inc. and Wadawurrung TOAC and National Heritage Trust staff, the 300 plants were in the ground before lunchtime and watered in by some welcome rain ... and everyone could retreat from the outdoors! This revegetation work was undertaken as part of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Restoring the Victorian Volcanic Plains Program which is funded through the Australian Government's National Heritage Trust program.



CMA NEWS:

Become a frog steward! EOIs close September 12!



The CMA currently has a project to help boost Growling Grass Frog populations in our region through improved land management on private land, protection and restoration of priority habitat.

Once common throughout south-east Australia, Growling Grass Frogs, Growlers or GGFs, are nationally listed as 'Vulnerable' and are identified as priority species in the Threatened Species Action Plan: Towards Zero Extinctions 2022-2032. The GGF is still locally common in south-western Victoria.

GGFs are bright to olive-green in colour, have a warty back (with brown blotches in the adult), and a distinct ear (tympanum). The Growling Grass frog has a distinctive call that can be heard in the calling and breeding season between August and April. Males will begin calling from August, when temperatures are warm enough.

They are usually found in freshwater wetlands or slow-moving pools of water, basking in the sun on the leaves of floating plants, or foraging for insects and spiders in open grassy areas. They also like to hide under rocks and in soil cracks. You might say these frogs prefer a diverse range of microhabitats. Migration between populations is essential for the long-term survival of this species – they often travel hundreds of metres searching for breeding habitats in the landscape. Land clearing, draining of wetlands and high intensity grazing can irreversibly damage GGF habitat. Other threats include barriers to movement between wetlands, chytrid fungus and introduced predators like Mosquitofish (*Gambusia*), carp and redfin.

The Growling Grass Frog Stewardship project is calling on landholders with freshwater wetlands or slow-flowing creeks to help manage and protect this valuable habitat.

What is the Growling Grass Frog project offering?

- Site-specific best-practice management advice for private landholders
- Funding to implement management actions like fencing to regulate/prevent stock access to wetlands, alternative stock watering, predator control and/or revegetation
- Yearly stewardship payments to support wetland management for GGFs
- Wetland restoration (where appropriate).



If you've got a wetland and are keen to know more, get in touch with the project officer Jacinta Hendriks ph (03) 5571 2526 OR email j.hendriks@ghcma.vic.gov.au by Friday 12 September. Read more about our project, and about other ways you can support frogs on our [project page](#)

Replanting the Merri after drought takes its toll on 2024 works

When the four Rotary Clubs of Warrnambool and CMA staff unite, trees on the river bank get planted!

Recently the four Rotary Clubs of the town - Warrnambool, Warrnambool East, Warrnambool Central and Warrnambool Daybreak - came back together at the site of the old Bromfield Street weir to plant some more plants.

It wasn't the first time the crew were onsite, some 2000 plants were established on the site last year, but drought conditions meant some didn't make it through the summer season.

So the Rotary team were back at it at the end of this winter replacing plants ... moving as an effective Rotary planting pack, replanting the area in one morning's work!

This planting session also included one of the CMA family's youngest members who got her hands dirty getting very involved with the tree planting!



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Employment opportunities to off-set the impact of drought in SW Victoria

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA, through the Victorian Government's Drought Employment Program, is offering casual employment opportunities through until June 2026 for people experiencing hardship because of dry conditions. These positions can work around seasonal farm commitments or existing reduced employment.

The CMA Drought Employment Program provides a way for farmers, farm workers and workers from farm-related industries impacted by hardship due to drought conditions in the Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite CMA regions to earn an income, increase their skills and build confidence in future employment opportunities by undertaking a range of different catchment health works, like fencing, revegetation and pest and weed control.



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for roles within the Drought Employment Program
Interested participants will need to complete an EOI found at
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code

For further information, contact Craig Reid
on (03) 5571 2526 or email: craig.reid@ghcma.vic.gov.au



H5N1 Bird Flu Information

AVOID RECORD REPORT

AVOID: If you find dead or sick birds. Do not touch birds or attempt to move them.

RECORD: Take photos of dead and sick birds, and the surroundings. If possible, record the GPS location.

REPORT: Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** or via the **ONLINE FORM**

WHAT DO I REPORT?

REPORT CLUSTERS:

5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

REPORT EVEN ONE:

- sick or dead penguin or pelican.
- sick or dead seagull or wader.
- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles).
- sick or dead black swan, duck or goose.
- sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).

HOW DO I REPORT?

**Emergency Animal
Disease Hotline
1800 675 888**

**Complete the
online reporting
FORM HERE**

**Visit
birdflu.gov.au
for more info**

