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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

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Celebrating success on the grasslands and across the catchment

This Spring has been a busy time for staff and project partners, as this is usually the best time for fieldwork! There has been lots happening as you can read in this month's newsletter, with some very exciting news about one of our beloved plants on the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

The CMA also has some new positions advertised in the Sustainable Agriculture team, and we are still taking EOIs for the Drought Employment Program.

Also in this edition, read about how you can be part of our CMA advisory groups - we are keen to get community members to join so we can have a broad range of voices and demographics giving the CMA feedback.



ABOVE: One of the germinated Button Wrinklewort seeds. **MAIN IMAGE:** Glenelg Hopkins CMA Senior biodiversity officers, Aggie Steveson and Ben Zeeman with the Lonely Button Wrinklewort plant which is lonely no more. **READ MORE PAGE 2**

Adam Bester
CEO
Glenelg Hopkins CMA

The lonely Button Wrinklewort is lonely no more



In one of the CMA's most closely followed and enjoyed threatened species recovery stories, we are absolutely thrilled to report the establishment of new Button Wrinklewort plants around our beloved 'Button'.

This solitary Button Wrinklewort plant, discovered quite by accident on a roadside in 2019, now has an emerging growing population around it after an experimental seed spreading in June.

This news comes from literally years of dedication, funding, care, and support ... and some people who really and truly have invested themselves in Button, The lonely Button Wrinklewort, notably the CMA Senior Biodiversity officers and VVP champions, Aggie and Ben. The emergence of seedlings is the start of a continued goal of establishing a bigger and self sustaining population.

Where to the waterbugs come from for our displays?

If you have ever wondered how we get the water bugs for our event water bug education sessions, this is how:

We get our waders on and find them in the local waterways wherever we are putting on a display and then return them to their home at the end of the day.

This was Lauryn and Noni collecting the bugs for Casterton Show recently from the Glenelg River.



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



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Applications for CMA advisory group roles open to community

Applications for roles on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Advisory Groups are now open to community members.

The Glenelg Hopkins has two advisory groups which require community members to be part of – the CMA Community Advisory Group and the Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group.

“Our advisory groups form a key part of our community engagement and they are the eyes and ears on the ground, keeping the CMA up to speed on the issues and opportunities in the region,” Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO Adam Bester said.

“The community advisory group provides feedback across the organisation’s programs, while the environmental water group specifically provides feedback on how the environmental water program is delivered for the Glenelg River.

“Every three years we call for members of these groups, and existing members can re-nominate, but we always look to make sure there are a broad range of voices across age, gender and experience from within our communities to provide feedback to the CMA,” he said.

The Community Advisory Group has up to 13 members, while the Environmental Water Advisory Group has 6 community members (3 landholders and 3 community members). The groups meet quarterly and positions are remunerated. Further information can be found in the information packs online at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Applications for the groups are being accepted between November 28 and December 17 with the outcome of the process expected to be completed by end of January 2026.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Advisory Group

- 13 members of community
- Diversity of voices required
- Provides feedback on Glenelg Hopkins CMA strategic goals and direction, major projects
- On-site visits to project and catchment areas to understand outcomes
- Positions remunerated
- 3 year terms

More information including ToR and applications:
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au
Applications close December 19, 2025



Glenelg Hopkins CMA Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group

- 6 local members – made up of 3 landholder & 3 community members
- Diversity of voices required
- Provides feedback on Glenelg River Environmental Watering program & its delivery, outcomes, strategic goals & community outcomes

More information including ToR and applications:
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au
Applications close December 19, 2025

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's advisory groups are funded by the Victorian Government through the Environment Contribution Round 6 and the Our Catchments and Our Communities Program

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



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CMA NEWS:

New blackfish habitat to be placed in Warrnambool rivers

Blackfish habitat to go in the water!

The endangered western Victorian blackfish in Brucknell Creek and the Merri River around Warrnambool are set to have some new habitat after the announcement of the latest round of Victorian Government Fish Habitat Improvement Fund grants.

Our waterways team will be delivering a project which will increase instream habitat for populations of the blackfish in Brucknell Creek and place structure into the Merri River to prepare for the future reintroduction of blackfish.



Come work with us at the CMA

End of the year got you thinking about a new role for next year?

Join the CMA team in roles that will have you working with people, plants, landscapes and more.

Through project funding and increasing scopes of work, applications for the following positions with the CMA are now open:

Regional Landcare Coordinator - job share, 12 months, 0.4FTE

Senior Land Health Officers x 2 - 1yr contract role @ 0.5FTE; 2yr contract role @ 1.0FTE.

See www.ghcma.vic.gov.au for position descriptions and details of the roles.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA Annual Report released

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's annual report has been released following its tabling in the Victorian Parliament.

The annual report gives an overview of the CMA's operations for the 2024-2025 financial year including projects, organisational structure, costs, and staffing.

The report was endorsed by the CMA Board prior to being forwarded to the Government for tabling.

To read the Annual Report [click here](#) or scan the QR code



CMA NEWS:

Bioblitz snaps a whole lot of catchment species

The Great Southern Bioblitz has crunched the numbers and this year's blitzing in the catchment found a whole lot of birds and plants, a few insects, a bat, a snail, and one frog.

If you snapped and uploaded during the Great Southern Bioblitz between October 24 and 27 - THANK YOU - for helping us know what is where in the catchment, but also what can be found in the southern hemisphere of our planet!

Remember that iNaturalist is super useful all through the year, not just at bioblitz time, to identify species and to log their presence in a place (but also, if its super special, you can hide the exact location!)

The app is free to download and use.



Drought support services extended across the Southwest region

Wellbeing counselling is available through the Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West to provide free 1:1 emotional and wellbeing support to farmers, working alongside financial counselling.

Additional Victorian Government support has been provided to extend a wellbeing counsellor role through to 31 December 2026 in the south west.

How to I connect?

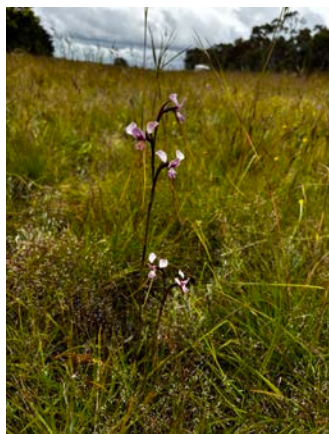
Contact RFCS Victoria West at wswrccs.com.au or call 1300 735 578.

Other services available:

To view the full range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available to drought-impacted farmers visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or phone 136 186.



Grasslands tour visits threatened species hotspots



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



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www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Checking in with one another about working together

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Wannon Water have many synergies with the geographical, environmental, administrative and water projects they deliver, which is why we have a formal Partnership Agreement with each other. Working together from our regional bases to deliver landscape scale projects individually, and together or alongside one another where possible, helps support not just regional outcomes, but also our staff and organisations overall.

Recently, we all caught up in Hamilton to check in on a few of our key strategic priorities, and see the outcome of the CMA's recent office improvements... after many of our Hamilton staff had based themselves in Wannon Water's Hamilton office during renovations.



Access to On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebates for farmers

Farmers across Victoria impacted by kangaroos competing for pasture and crops can apply for the On-Farm Kangaroo Control Rebate.

Farmers who hold an Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) can access a rebate to hire authorised professional harvesters who have accreditation from the Game Management Authority.

Eligible farmers can access up to 3 rebates of \$450 each (ex-GST) with a 25% co-contribution.

This rebate is part of the wider Victorian Government Drought Support Package which was updated in November 2025.

For more information and to apply for the kangaroo rebate visit: <https://go.vic.gov.au/4eRWVxa>.

For information about other support available, including household rebates, rural financial counselling services and events for farmers, visit: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186



ENVIRONMENTAL WATER UPDATE:

2025-2026 Environmental Water flows begin to support Glenelg River and landholders along the waterway after low run off

The Spring/Summer environmental watering season has begun, which means water releases into the Glenelg River has started at the beginning of December.

These flows also mean it is a perfect time to get out on the river and enjoy some recreational activities!

Environmental water releases began on December 2 and will continue throughout the summer season. These flows will fluctuate between baseflows and fresh events, with timed gradual increases occurring throughout the season, where the river will increase in streamflow.

Releases will commence at 40ML/d. This will ramp up to a of 220ML/d on December 9 before then dropping down to a baseflow release again in late December.

What will this look like on the river?

River users will likely see an increase in river height by about 50cm. This fresh will provide important water quality improvements and connectivity to native fish, allowing them to swim upstream. This is a great time to get out on the river and enjoy recreational fishing, bird watching, kayaking and other water activities with family and friends over the school holidays!

Although December rainfall is looking above average in some areas of the catchment and some farmers are reporting a welcome relief with the recent rainfall events, the catchment is very much still in need of additional rain. Through conversations with farmers, we are aware that there is still a high dependence on good quality water in the Glenelg River. These freshes and compensation flows will maintain the water quality and reduce any recently accumulated salinity, which we know is vital for both native animals and livestock.

When will the flows arrive in my stretch of the river?

Balmoral: December 9

Harrow: December 12/13

Dergholm: December 16/17

Casterton: December 20/21

Dartmoor: December 24/25

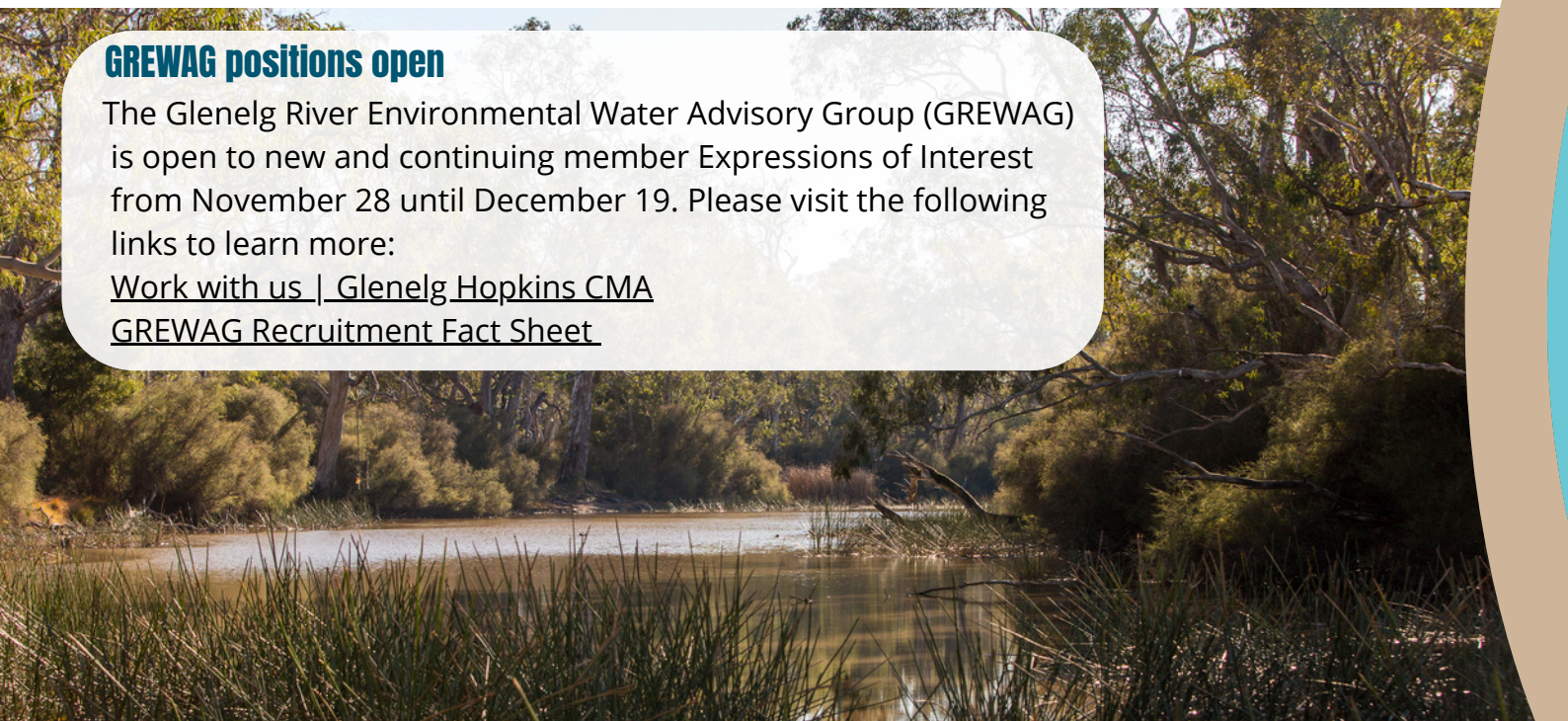
* These dates are approximate and may vary

GREWAG positions open

The Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group (GREWAG) is open to new and continuing member Expressions of Interest from November 28 until December 19. Please visit the following links to learn more:

[Work with us | Glenelg Hopkins CMA](#)

[GREWAG Recruitment Fact Sheet](#)



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**

