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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Green Sheep Project launch this month marks beginning of national project locally

The CMA is very excited to be launching the Victorian arm of the national Green Sheep Project in Woolsthorpe on May 20.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is delivering the Victorian element of the national project overseen by Sheep Producers Australia.



A launch, producer talks, and paddock walk around Midfield Group's Kuleah farm are part of the activities on the day.

More details: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/greensheep

The project helps support the CMA's focus on emerging natural capital markets, with this particular project focusing on practical tools, real-world demonstrations, and clearer market recognition for environmental stewardship.

Further information on the project can be found in this newsletter.

Adam Bester
CEO

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Drought workforce extended through until October 2026

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's drought employment program has been extended through until October 2026.

Funded through the Victorian Government in recognition of the dry conditions in the region in 2025-2026, the program supported employment for people who had their work impacted by the extended dry conditions, providing them a local employment opportunity undertaking NRM work with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.



Wander on the Wannon for Red Gum Festival success

A wander on the Wannon River drew a big crowd as part of the recently Cavendish Red Gum Festival. The Festival events on the weekend included an environmental forum and river walk along the Wannon River on Saturday.

The forum crowd of 80-odd grew to 120 for the walk with the CMA's Alex Lewis, and local artist Roger Edwards talking river health, riparian habitat and the sculpture walk, before Andrew Skeoch managed to get absolute silence from the group for a sounds of nature experience.



GREWAG visits headwaters of Glenelg River

New and returning members of the CMA's Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group (GREWAG) recently came together to discuss all things environmental water following the induction of new members. GREWAG is an important part of planning for environmental water releases into the Glenelg River. The day resulted in successful discussions around the 2026-2027 Seasonal Watering Proposal, based on current conditions and future scenarios.

This discussion was followed by a field trip into Reach 0 of Gariwerd/Grampians National Park, where agency and community members were able to get up close with the headwaters of the Glenelg.



Woody weeds being removed right around the catchment



Glenaulin Creek

Works to protect the critically endangered Glenelg Freshwater Mussel includes removing Sycamore maple trees from their habitat areas to ensure native species thrive and support clean waterways.

Teams have worked their way through the creekside areas identifying and treating individual weed trees to remove them from the landscape.



Tyrendarra

Weed control works have resumed this week along Killara/Darlot Creek at Tyrendarra with project contractor ArborRowe targeting the masses of Italian Buckthorn, gorse, blackberry, cape broom and ivy on the site. Seasonal conditions will determine some of the locations of works to ensure contractor safety and minimise environmental impacts around softening ground in winter.



Tyrendarra Ivy

The English ivy on the Tyrendarra site is a challenge, having made itself quite at home not just at ground level but also up trunks of trees .

Getting rid of it takes some precision chainsaw work, and some careful chemical application with each stem needing to be cut and treated to ensure the plant is killed without hurting the native host tree.



Heywood

The removal of two invasive woody weeds - gorse and hawthorn - has begun at Heywood on the Fitzroy River/Palawarra.

Both these weeds have established themselves adjacent to the Fitzroy River at Heywood. A control program has been developed to remove them to reduce threat to the surrounding native vegetation along the river.

CMA NEWS:

Platypus and Blackfish habitat goes in rivers around Warrnambool

It was a big day of installation on the Merri River at Woodford recently when 40 pieces of habitat were installed in the waterway at Jellie Reserve for platypus and Southwest River Blackfish.

The installation of natural habitat into the waterway is major component of two projects the CMA is delivering on the waterway and so installing them one day made sense! A total of 20 pieces of habitat were installed specifically for each species to support their recovery.

The installation comes after removal of woody weeds on the banks of the waterway recently. Habitat for the Southwest River Blackfish was funded through Victorian Government's Fish Habitat Improvement Fund project the CMA is delivering on the Merri and Hopkins Rivers. Habitat for the platypus was installed at one of our two Platy Patch project sites. This project forms part of the landmark \$24 million Platy Patch project, a four-year, statewide initiative receiving significant co-funding from the Australian Government, the Victorian Government, and Melbourne Water.



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



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Fish huts go into the water along Brucknell Creek

It was a big week on the Brucknell Creek last month when 60 fish huts were cut, created, and installed for the endangered Southwest River Blackfish by our waterways team, the CMA works crew and drought employment program staff.

These metre-long fish huts - as opposed to the larger fish hotels we have installed in other waterways - are specifically designed for the blackfish to hide, gather, and hopefully breed under in the creek to support the species recovery in its stronghold of our southwest waterways.

The installation of these fish huts, together with the 20 pieces of habitat placed in the Merri River recently, are funded through the Victorian Government's Fish Habitat Improvement Fund project for the Southwest River Blackfish, being delivered by the CMA.

The Southwest River Blackfish is part of the Victorian Fisheries Authority's 10inTen plan, which plans to stock and recover ten threatened aquatic species in as many years, in partnership with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.



CMA NEWS:

Green Sheep Project: Turning sustainability into strength

The national Green Sheep Project supports sheep producers to better understand, measure and communicate on farm sustainability and natural capital.

Led by Sheep Producers Australia, natural resource management and industry bodies, including the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, the project focuses on practical tools, real-world demonstrations, and clearer market recognition for environmental stewardship.

How can you get involved?

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with local farmers to trial and demonstrate, real-world natural-capital reporting solutions for sheep farmers in south-west Victoria.

The project aims to simplify natural capital, build confidence, and help landholders understand emerging opportunities, and ensure the sustainability work farmers already do is recognised and valued.

Farm EOs now open

We are inviting expressions of interest from sheep, mixed farming, wool or lamb enterprises in or neighboring the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region to participate in the project.

Expressions of interest are welcome now.

Information at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/greensheep

Or complete the [Expression of Interest - Green Sheep 2026](#)

For further information

Contact Glenelg Hopkins CMA's GSP project team

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Project launch

May 20

[Click here for](#)

[details](#)



Green Sheep Project (GSP) is supported by the Australian Government through the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust.

CMA NEWS:

U3A members learn about importance of estuaries

The importance, rich biodiversity and intermittently closing nature of our regions estuary mouths were showcased through two recent community presentations in Warrnambool and Tyrendarra. CMA Senior Estuary Officer Jarred Obst presented to the Warrnambool Field Naturalists Club and Port Fairy branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A),



which also included first hand exposure to the importance of adaptive estuarine infrastructure, being the CMAs most recently built floating jetty at the Fitzroy estuary boat ramp. Attendees were extremely enthusiastic and appreciative of the presentations, suggesting that regardless of our age or educational background, there is a lot to learn about these fascinating and highly dynamic coastal ecosystems.

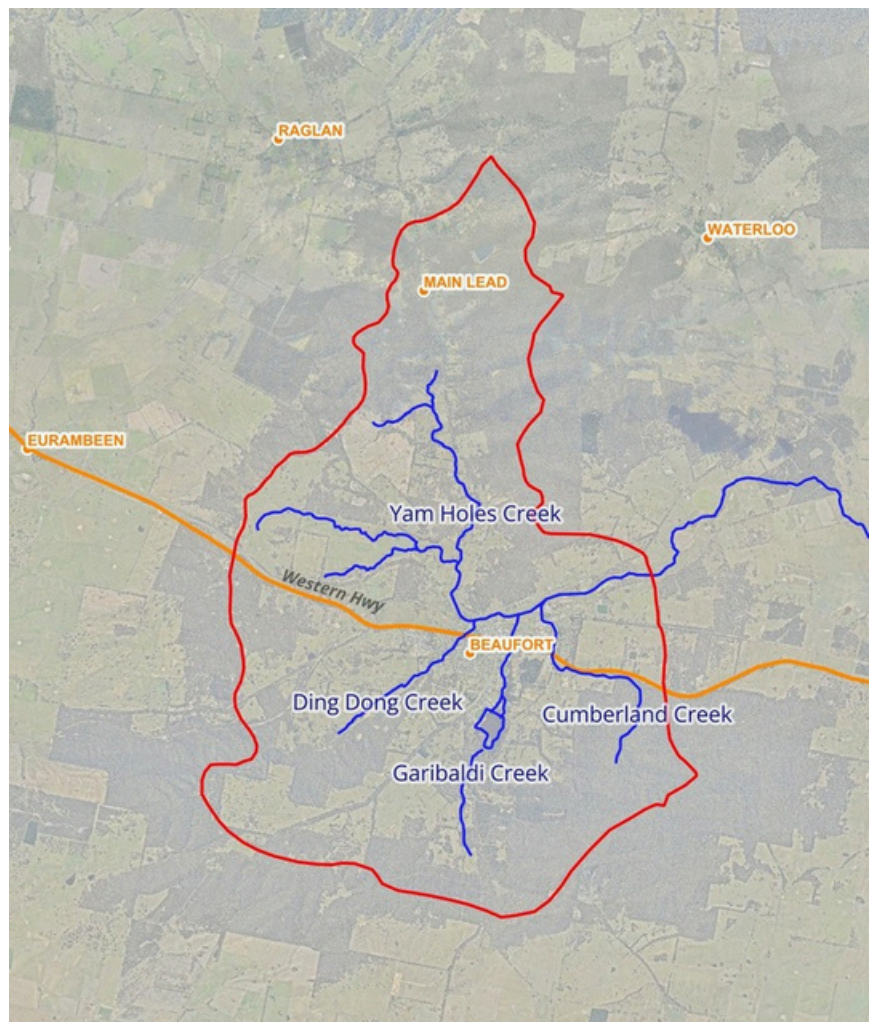
Beaufort flood investigation begins with community consultation

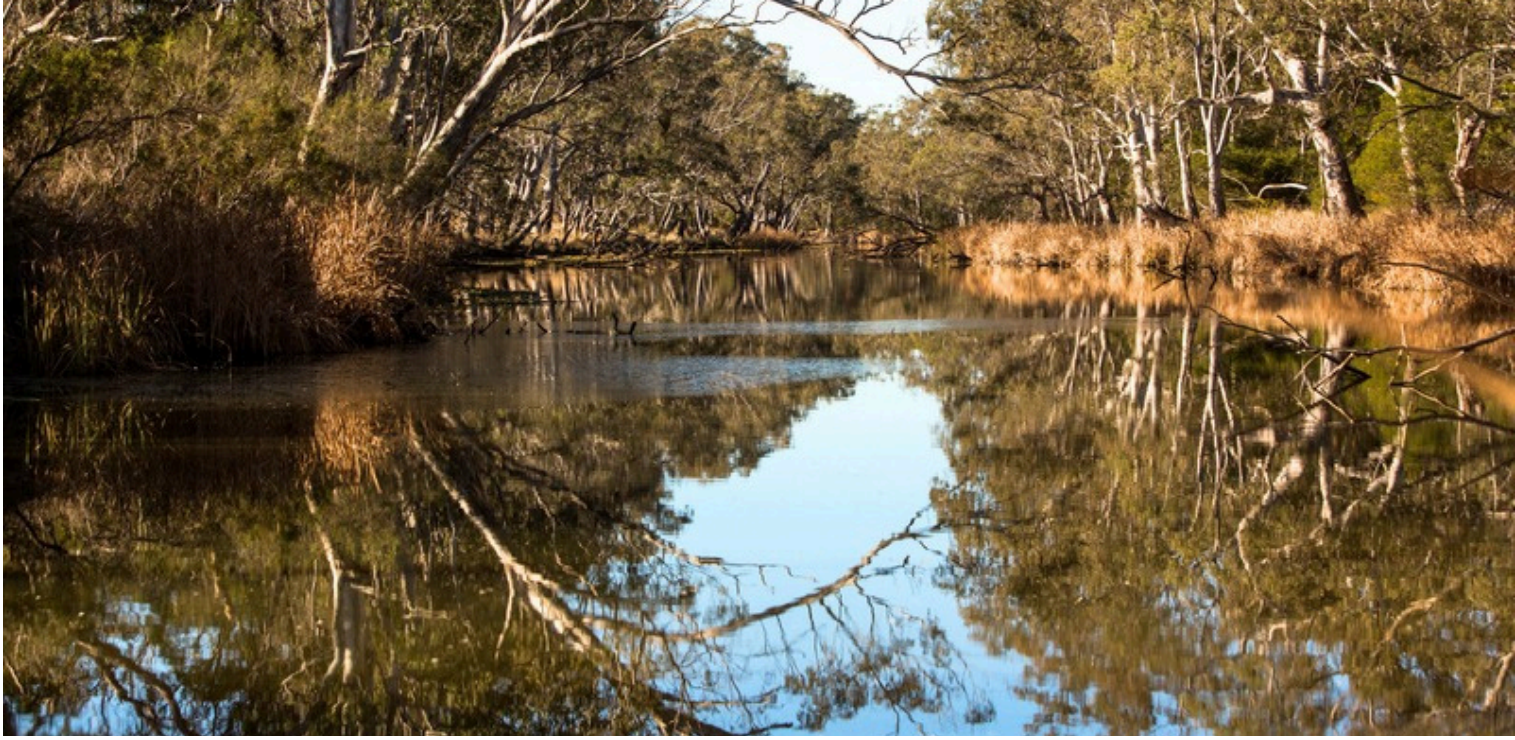
The CMA's Floodplain team got the Beaufort Flood Investigation on the go during February with the first working group and community meetings held. Existing flood information is from 2008 with a mitigation review from 2013 in the area identified in the map (right).

This new flood investigation will update flood risk information for the area, account for more recent major events (2011 and 2022) and investigate future risk as a result of climate change.

The team and consultants are currently seeking information from the community relating to previous flood events.

Find out more on the CMA website here: [Beaufort Riverine & Stormwater Flood Risk Investigation](#) or provide info directly to the project here: [Beaufort Flood Risk App](#).





Short-lived reprieve for waterways as dry continues

Over the month of March, the Glenelg River has continued to experience rainfall that was near average or below average. Although, many of you would have noticed a peak in rainfall at the start of the month that pumped up streamflow on the back of the fresh event in February and continued baseflows. However, for the remainder of March, we experienced overall dry conditions, which continues to be a consistent pattern within the catchment.

Flows at Balmoral

Ongoing baseflows of 15ML/d continued to support Balmoral throughout March on the back of the last February Fresh for the season. A natural spike in flows occurred due to rainfall at the start of March, bringing streamflow up to 38ML/d, which was a welcome for all water users. With the combination of these releases and natural rainfall events, baseflows continued to track above the Summer/Autumn target right through to the end of March.

Flows at Harrow

The gauge at Harrow is currently malfunctioning and undergoing maintenance.

Flows at Dergholm

Similar to Balmoral, Dergholm received a welcome rainfall event at the start of March, pushing streamflow up to 165ML/d, this coincided with the managed releases to extend the Fresh for an extra few day. Streamflow gradually declined after this event, sitting at around 50ML/d all the way through until the end of March.

Flows at Dartmoor

The Dartmoor February fresh peaked at 138ML/d on March 6, which was enhanced by a natural rain event before dropping back to 80ML/d for the duration of March. This natural rainfall event was also on the back of March baseflow releases of between 54-57ML/d. It is fantastic to see some variation in the river level based on natural rainfall events.

Read the detailed eWater report at: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/enviowater

CMA NEWS:

How do you value our waterways?

HAVE YOUR SAY:

Click here



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How do you use and value our waterways in south-west Victoria?

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is calling on community members to share their thoughts, ideas and hopes for the region's rivers, wetlands and estuaries as work begins on a new Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy.

The strategy will guide how waterways are cared for over the next decade, and community voices are essential in getting it right.

"It's important that this strategy reflects community aspirations and what's achievable," Glenelg Hopkins CMA Executive Manager Waterways, Simone Wilkie, said.

"In ten years, we want to look back and see that we've delivered most of what we set out to do. That will mean in some cases we need to be selective and smart about what we include in the strategy."

The strategy would build on past work and projects already happening in the region, leverage on the efforts

of partner organisations including Traditional Owners, community groups, and landholders, and be considerate of the changing nature of the region.

Ms Wilkie said waterway values can mean many different things to many different people.

It might be the native plants and animals that rely on healthy rivers and wetlands, or it could be a favourite fishing spot, a peaceful place to walk the dog, or somewhere that simply helps them feel calm and connected to nature, she said.

Traditional Owners have cared for the waterways in the region for thousands of years and continue to practice culture and share knowledge to care for living waterways.

Waterways also support farming, tourism and local businesses, and they play a vital role in the environment by supporting biodiversity and helping to keep landscapes healthy.

"The waterway strategy aims to balance all of these uses and values of waterways," Ms Wilkie said.

