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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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Activity around the catchment as projects launch, deliver and inspect on the ground

As Autumn comes to a close, our project teams have been busy around the catchment with delivering on ground activities. This newsletter is jammed packed with updates on recent events and projects, but also upcoming events that people can get involved with.

We have had a number of projects bring hands-on learning to school children, on Country and on their local waterways. These are always great opportunities to promote the nature and biodiversity of our local area.

Looking forward on the calendar there are agriculture-related activities our catchment farmers might like to be aware of including a cattle grazing management workshop and a cropping Precision Ag workshop, along with a couple of opportunities to be involved with some leading trials into natural capital.

There is also still time for community members to have their say on shaping the new Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy. This strategy will help guide investment into the region's waterways over the next 10 years.

Adam Bester
CEO

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Green Sheep Project has Victorian launch in Woolsthorpe

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has hosted the Victorian state launch of the national Green Sheep Project in Woolsthorpe, with more than 70 producers attending the launch and paddock walk at The Midfield Group's farm, Quamby East on Wednesday, May 20.

The launch included producer talks and paddock walks with Agfluencer Tara Farms highlighting the importance of the farmers being seen for what they do and how her videos reach 100 million people a year; discussion around the current levels of industry understanding of natural capital and how The Midfield Group is implementing environmental sustainability lessons learned from dairying operations into lamb and beef production enterprises.

"The project is about working out how farmers can maintain market access and get an economic return on the good stewardship of their land, water and biodiversity in the markets they supply," Glenelg Hopkins CMA Land Health Manager, Bernadette Northeast, said.

"Finding the right tools to measure that, understand what farmers know now and what they need to know, and what it all looks like in the paddock and for farm businesses is what the project will deliver over the next three years."



Find out more about the Green Sheep Project
ghcma.vic.gov.au/greensheep

Launch day speakers included Tara Farms (TOP RIGHT); Nuffield Scholar and Cavendish farmer Johnny Gardner (RIGHT); Glenelg Hopkins CMA Green Sheep Project Manager, Bernadette Northeast (LEFT).

The event also included a paddock walk with The Midfield Group (BELOW) by the 70 attendees.



Country Hour broadcasts from Green Sheep Project launch

The Green Sheep Project Launch at Woolsthorpe on Wednesday, May 20, was broadcast live across Victoria with the ABC's Country Hour presenter Warwick Long interviewing attendees right in the shed as the launch happened. This included Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Land Health Manager, and Green Sheep Project manager, Bernadette Northeast (*pictured right with Warwick Long*) together with Sheep Producers Australia, The Midfield Group, and a number of producers who were there on the day from the sheepmeat and wool industries.

[Listen to the Victorian ABC's Country Hour broadcast from the Green Sheep Project launch online here](#)



Cattle, soil and biodiversity workshop in Woolsthorpe

Join our Grazing Management Workshop on June 10 and cover all the aspects of livestock management, from animal health to pasture and soil management. Focussed on cattle production, this workshop will have discussion around all aspects of cattle including management, feed, genetic, animal health, plant health and soil health.

Supported by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust, the day will include lunch. so RSVPs are required for catering purposes. This workshop will be held on-farm at Ballangeich Angus, Woolsthorpe and as such, farm and weather appropriate closing is required.

RSVP directly to Mary Knight at the CMA via phone 0417 513 724 or email m.knight@ghcma.vic.gov.au for more information, visit our website www.ghcma.vic.gov.au



GMA NEWS:

School on the banks of Brucknell Creek

The kids from Cudgee Primary School joined our waterways team, works crew and drought employment team to learn about what's in the waterway just near their school recently. A fyke net with fish, some water bug identification and learning about fish huts for the endangered Southwest River Blackfish were all part of the program of hands on and outdoor learning.



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



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CMA NEWS:

Volcanoes and culture collide on Country for Casterton students

A day on Country was a great way for year 8 students from Casterton Secondary College to learn about volcanoes and the range of features and cultural values present within the Budj Bim World Heritage listed Cultural Landscape.

Guide Jayden spoke to students about the history of the traditional landscape both before and after colonisation, then spoke about the Gunditjmara who lived on the land for thousands of years. Students visited Lake Surprise, the crater lake at Budj Bim, where some were surprised to be told they were standing in a dormant volcano!

A visit to Tae Rak to learn about kooyang (eels), their life cycle and migration to the Coral Sea was then followed by a visit to Kurtonitj Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). At the IPA, students learned about the traditional seasonal calendar, saw fish and eel traps that have been dated to 6600 years old and learned how they were made before viewing the smoking tree where eels had historically been smoked and preserved for hundreds of years.



Sustainable Ag workshop in Hamilton for cropping farmers

Join us for a free workshop discussing immediately applicable precision agriculture options for cropping farmers in the Western District.

This workshop on Friday, June 5, will have Ben Fleay, Precision Ag speaking at it to discuss practical tools you can apply straight away in:

- Soil & nitrogen insights;
- Variable rate strategies;
- Subsoil constraint tools.

Register via the QR code or via the Southern Farming Systems form [HERE](#)

For more information, contact Southern Farming systems
Isabelle Fox E: ifox@sfs.org.au M: 0412 080 162



CMA NEWS:

CFA volunteers come to region for planned burn activities

Grasslands around the catchment have had controlled burns undertaken to remove thick themeda build up and to support grasslands regeneration.

The CMA has been working with CFA Vegetation Management Officer Tanya Nagorka for about 18 months to try to coordinate burns on sites which took place in May. The CFA Taskforce, which is made up of volunteers from across the state, came to the southwest to conduct burns which local brigades didn't have time for, after a massive season of planned roadside burning. These volunteers came from as far as Kangaroo Ground to help out with some ecological burning on the VVP.



Supporting a grassland looked after by farmers for generations

The grasslands team have been back out checking hand sown grassland sites recently. Threatened species were sown in June 2025 into this site at Tabor. Well over 1000 seedlings were counted on this site in October 2025 monitoring and this month found many species had survived and re-sprouted after rain following a long dry summer period.





Researchers seeking SW Vic farms to measure natural capital

La Trobe University's Research Centre for Future Landscapes is seeking farmers wanting to be involved in biodiversity & natural capital research in southwest Victoria.

Speaker at last year's CMA Natural Capital Forum and La Trobe University Research Fellow, Alex Maisey, said the project was seeking to put some data behind management practices on farms.

"We're seeking farmers across south-west Victoria to take part in the Pathways to a Higher Biodiversity Future in Agricultural Landscapes project," he said.

"This research is exploring how different management approaches - particularly fertiliser use and grazing strategies - influence biodiversity and ecosystem condition at the paddock scale," he said. Alex explained the research would be undertaken around farming activities to avoid interruption to the farm business.

"A small research team will visit your farm a few times during spring 2026 and undertake ecological surveys (plants, invertebrates, soils) and we'll work around your schedule to minimise disruption to farm operations."

In return, landholders will receive all the information and data gathered as part of the research including:

- Detailed insights into your paddocks (native plants, beneficial insects, soils)
- Information on how your management is influencing ecosystem condition
- Early knowledge of approaches supporting natural capital accounting and sustainability reporting

"Farmer involvement will help build the evidence base for nature markets, certification schemes, and farm sustainability, ensuring farmers are recognised for good biodiversity stewardship," Alex said.

If you are interested in being involved or would like to discuss what participation would look like on your property, please contact: Alex Maisey, La Trobe University. Ph: 0430 616 622 or e: a.maisey@latrobe.edu.au

Green Sheep Project: Turning sustainability into strength



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 EOIs 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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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.

