

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



In this edition:

- Heywood & district secondary college tour of Tyrendarra
- Celebrating the 13th annual Lake Bolac Eel festival
- My waterway survey
- Johnny Mullagh weekend fun
- Habitat goes into the Hopkins
- Grange Burn works
- Glenelg fish survey success
- Protecting wetlands on Country
- Helping farmers make lime decisions
- Meet some of our YEP Staff
- Events happening **THIS WEEKEND**
- Have you taken a Sanderling snap?
- Come work with us!

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Autumn is all about events in our region

We are hitting the ground running as we head into Autumn with a huge array of natural resource-oriented community events happening in our region.

It was fantastic to have CMA staff out and about and meet with people as part of the Harrow community's Johnny Mullagh Memorial Championship weekend on the banks of the Glenelg River.

The river was brimming thanks to a flush of fresh water put down to ensure good water levels for the community to enjoy on the long weekend. It was also fantastic to see the Lake Bolac Eel Festival back after two years off for covid – what a great celebration of the traditional eel migration with music, art and culture.

This weekend is one of the busiest for our staff with three further events to attend – a fish habitat workshop in Warrnambool; a drop in session to talk Italian Buckthorn and weeds at Narrawong; and a community planting event in Harrow which coincides with the performance of the stage production - Black Cockatoo.

You can find information about all those events in the newsletter and all of the details are up on our website or social media channels.

Adam Bester, CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Nothing like practical learning in the outdoors

As part of the State Government funded Budj Bim Connections Flagship Waterway Project Heywood & District Secondary College joined Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Senior Waterways Officer, Tania Parker, for an educational tour of the Tyrendarra Streamside Reserve on the Fitzroy River this month.

Year 9 & Year 10 students studying Outdoor Education, along with teacher Mick Doherty, participated in the tour.

Kristy Brewer, Landcare Facilitator for the Portland area also joined the group to talk weeds and landcare.



Above: Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Tania Parker with Heywood & district secondary college outdoor education students.

The class joined discussions of the presence of willows, the control undertaken and response of the native vegetation once light was allowed back in, as well as the importance of remnant vegetation and how birds and wildlife rely on native vegetation for habitat, food and shelter.

The class also learnt about the importance of dead trees for hollows and perching, in stream woody debris for aquatic habitat, revegetation and controlling weeds, and the importance of monitoring the sites to detect changes and response to the work.

The class followed up with another tour of Tyrendarra IPA to discuss cultural values and importance of the landscape to the traditional owners



Left: The amazing landscape of the Tyrendarra reserve which was visited by students this month.

Back celebrating the annual eel migration in Lake Bolac

After the last two Eel festivals being canceled due to Covid-19 it was great to be back celebrating the Eel migration with the community on March 25th and 26th 2022.

Highlights were learning about Eel skin tanning from Josh McClean, meeting Lyn McConnell who won our photo competition with her 'The wetland as home' section, with a photo of a Spoonbill at Fawthrop Lagoon.

It was a great interactive event and an excellent opportunity to promote the Our Catchments Our Communities project currently being undertaken by the CMA for the next three years.

It was such a wonderful sight to see the community out and about enjoying the art, food, educational workshops and live music, we look forward to next year.



Above: Board member Michelle Cassanova assisted on the site to let the community know about CMA activities.



Above: Josh McClean demonstrating eel skin tanning at the festival at Lake Bolac.

Do you love using our local waterways? Have your say on them

Do you use and love our local waterways?

We want as many locals as possible to participate in the My Victorian Waterway Survey so DELWP knows how you use and value waterways in our region.

Survey responses can help inform government policy, decision-making and funding programs.

Complete the survey at: <https://tinyurl.com/VictorianWaterway>



Fun in Harrow for the Johnny Mullagh weekend

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA team had a whole load of fun at Harrow on the March long weekend as part of the Johnny Mullagh Championship activities .

It was great to be amongst the community again and share information about the Glenelg River with lots of locals and holiday makers.

CMA activities included water bug tattooing, wandering the Glenelg River looking for birds to name, paddle boarding and kayaking, and showing everyone what electrofishing is and what lives in the river.

This event is such a wonderful example of how environment, community, culture and sport can bring us all together.



Heaping habitat into the Hopkins

How on earth do you get tonnes of habitat into the Hopkins?

Well, it's an intricate balance of gathering habitat, having big excavators on river banks, little excavators on floating barges and some fencing contractors from Tim Treloar Fencing in the river making sure the bits of wood are tied together and held down properly.

As fencers, they also like the habitat installations to be in a nice straight line ... we are not sure if the fish prefer them this way or not ... we will get back to you on that.

These habitat works in the Hopkins River are behind Deakin University Warrnambool Campus and are being installed by Glenelg Hopkins CMA with funding through the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program.



Improving waterway health on the Grange Burn

Waterway health improvements are continuing along the Grange Burn within the Hamilton urban precinct - thanks largely to the cooperative efforts of organisations.

Recent activities include large scale mulching behind Kennedy Ovals, preparation for tree planting opposite Terrill Drive and woody weed control along the town banks.

If you have been wandering down that area or playing cricket around the Kennedy ovals, you might have noticed the piles of wood chip mulch. Australian Bluegum Plantations (ABP) donated two truckloads of wood chip mulch, Port Haul delivered it on site for us, Southern Grampians Shire Council graded the site, and Wannon Water provided funding to make the site works happen.

That has been a great example of how partnerships help get projects done!

These works align with a larger project across the Grange Burn landscape supported by the Victorian Government which will see additional works over the coming months including over 6000 native trees and shrubs planted for the benefit of local biodiversity.



Above: Woody weeds along the Grange Burn have been removed as part of the project.



Above: Wood mulch delivered to site thanks to a cooperative effort from companies, will to improve the river bank.

CMA NEWS:

Survey finds fish loving the flows in the Glenelg River

The annual Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP) fish survey was undertaken in March by Arthur Rylah Institute staff and it seems the fish are enjoying the flows of the Glenelg River. The electrofishing surveys, together with vegetation assessments and water-quality measurements are conducted to monitor the success of environmental water flows in rivers.

A total of 2135 fish (12 native and six exotic species) were captured or observed with River Blackfish and Variegated Pygmy Perch the most abundant species. A total of 244 River Blackfish were captured, with relatively high numbers of juvenile fish (age 0+ and 1+) indicating river conditions during Spring 2020 and 2021 were well suited to spawning. Two species which naturally occur within the Murray-Darling Basin - Freshwater Catfish and Carp Gudgeon - were also captured as part of the surveys.

This survey data shows water for the environment is having a positive impact on native fish species, as it is intended.



ABOVE: Found during the surveys of the Glenelg River were (from left) a juvenile Freshwater Catfish; Shiny Swamp Mat; and adult Tupong. **IMAGES:** Arthur Rylah Institute

Seasonal wetlands: How they can win with farming and culture

Charlie and Jan were out recently with Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation staff and landholders talking about seasonal wetlands, and how they can co-exist in productive farming landscapes and still have their ecological and cultural values retained.

Learn more about the Our Catchments Our Communities on-ground stewardship project [HERE](#)



Assisting farmers to make lime-making decisions

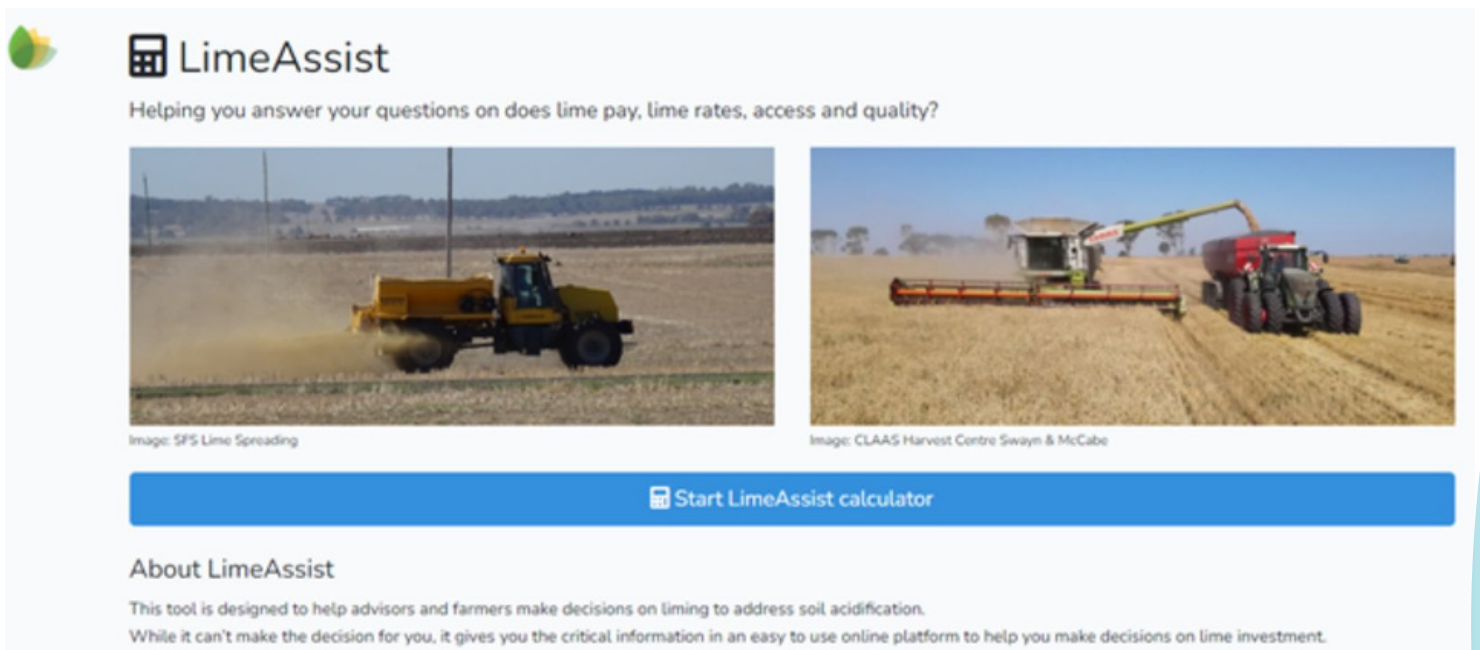
Southern Farming Systems have developed a new lime decision tool called “LimeAssist” designed to help advisors and growers calculate the economic returns from lime applications.

It uses a simple discount cash flow model, which is the best analysis to use when evaluating lime benefits and costs over time. An Excel version of the economic calculator was first developed by Kerry Stott, an economist at Agriculture Victoria, which was then converted into an online version by the Centre for Excellence in Research Digital Innovation (CeRDI) team at Federation University.

At this stage, the calculator only runs the economics of treating the surface soil (0-10cm) due to insufficient data to confidently calculate the yield penalty of deeper acidity.

While other similar calculators exist in other states, this one is based on yield responses and acidification rates in the high rainfall zone of the southern cropping region, including south-west Victoria, Gippsland, SE of South Australia, Kangaroo Island and Tasmania.

LimeAssist is available [HERE](#)



The screenshot shows the LimeAssist website. At the top left is a logo with a green leaf and a calculator icon. The text reads "LimeAssist" and "Helping you answer your questions on does lime pay, lime rates, access and quality?". Below this are two images: a yellow tractor spreading lime in a field and a CLAAS harvester in a field. A blue button says "Start LimeAssist calculator". Below the button is the heading "About LimeAssist" followed by a paragraph: "This tool is designed to help advisors and farmers make decisions on liming to address soil acidification. While it can't make the decision for you, it gives you the critical information in an easy to use online platform to help you make decisions on lime investment."

Southern Farming Systems is delivering this project through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the GRDC with collaborating partners Federation University (Ballarat), Glenelg Hopkins CMA, MacKillop Farm Management Group and Agriculture Kangaroo Island.



Above: The Batesford lime quarry

Look on the YEP side of life

by Erinn McNeilly, YEP Community and Media Officer

The Victorian Government's Youth Employment Program, or what we like to call YEP, was established to provide young people with the opportunity to kickstart their careers and develop skills for the future. These positions in the public service will give young Victorians, including people who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus, paid work that supports our community for a period of nine months. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's nine YEP staff started in September 2021. As the YEP employees' contracts come to an end in May, and before they spread their wings for their next adventure, let's find out what they've been up to.

Rhiannon Fischer has been part of YEP working as a Biodiversity program support officer. Before starting with the CMA, Rhiannon had completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science at Deakin University.

In her time with the CMA, she has worked on a variety of projects involving waterway health and fish barriers, grassland flora surveys, coastal vegetation assessments, woodland revegetation works and assisting with the Eastern Barred Bandicoot monitoring in Hamilton.

"My time at the GHCMA has helped me build my skill set and develop network connections within the environmental sector. Feeling like I have now had some real-world experience in the industry, I feel more confident heading out and applying for other VPS employment opportunities in the future." Rhiannon said.



Above: Rhiannon Fischer releasing a Eastern Barred Bandicoot



Above: YEP staff (from left) Claudia Nheu, Rhiannon Fischer and Jordan Lahy

Claudia Nheu has been working as a waterway planning support officer. Before joining GHCMA Claudia had completed a three month internship with the Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Claudia said her time at the CMA has been immensely beneficial to both her professional and personal development, working on extensive mapping projects, to providing responses to a diversity of referrals relating to floodplain management within the Southwest.

"My experiences at the CMA has exposed me first-hand to the CMA's effort to manage and conserve protected species and local waterways, and thereby helped me discover new interests and pathways I can take within my own career. I have always had a special interest for environmental protection and my time at the CMA has only strengthened this passion," Claudia said.

CMA NEWS - UPCOMING EVENTS

Fish habitat workshop - Saturday, April 2

How do you create high quality habitat for happy fish and healthy waterways?

Learn from industry experts how to make habitat and sink it when the Australian Trout Foundation & the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, together with the Victoria Fisheries Authority and Arthur Rylah Institute, host the Warrnambool Fish Habitat workshop on April 2nd.

Hosted at Deakin University's Warrnambool Campus from 9.30-4.30pm

Registrations and information [HERE](#)



Forage crop workshop - Wednesday April 6

Rising costs of fertiliser, fuel and feed cut into farm profits and a workshop on April 6 aims to help farmers make the most of forage crops while improving farm soil health.

As well as putting more money in your pocket, multispecies forage can fill a feed gap and slow grazing rotations to improve pasture persistence, soil health and the environment.

To register (for catering) or for more information contact: Basalt-to-Bay Landcare facilitator Lisette Mill, by phone: 0408 712 713 or email: facilitator@basalttobay.org.au



Italian Buckthorn session- Saturday April 2

Join the Narrawong community's weed event on how to manage Italian Buckthorn from 10am-12pm Saturday, April 2, at the Narrawong Esplanade (south end of Albert Street).

Hear Robin Adair talk about how to monitor, treat and manage Italian Buckthorn for the long haul, then from 10:30am to 12pm connect with locals from groups interested in supporting the establishment of a woody weed working group for the Narrawong district.

You can also chat with Landcare Facilitator Kristy Brewer & Tania Parker from Glenelg Hopkins CMA about catchment health and on-ground project opportunities for your property.

More details on the event [HERE](#)





THIS SUNDAY MORNING FROM 10am

Help turn this



Into this...



Join the Glenelg Hopkins CMA to revegetate the riverbank by taking away the rank phalaris and planting low growing native grasses to improve the Glenelg River on Sunday morning (Sunday, April 3).

FREE

bacon and egg roll
breakfast for every
person planting!

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

Meet at the Harrow War Memorial,
Blair Street from 10am

Follow the signs to
the planting site (approx 100m walk)

*Please wear sturdy footwear and weather
appropriate clothing*



Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning



CMA NEWS - UPCOMING EVENTS

Sanderling photo competition still open

Our competition to win an original Jimmi Buscombe artwork for taking a photo of a Sanderling with a leg tag continues until the end of April.

All photographs submitted to Glenelg Hopkins CMA between 1 January, 2022 and April 29, 2022, will be in the running to win the major prize of an original artwork, *pictured right*, valued at approx. \$1100.

Winners will be chosen from all the images with readable leg flags emailed to glenelgramsar@ghcma.vic.gov.au by 5pm Friday April 29 2022.

More information about the competition is [HERE](#)



Come work with us!



**RCS & MER
Coordinator**

Location: Hamilton - with flexibility to work from Warrnambool or home
Part-time (0.7 FTE)
Contracted role until April 7 2023

APPLICATIONS CLOSE:
9am Monday April 4, 2022

MORE INFORMATION:
www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Glenelg Hopkins
CMA

Want to work with and around all of this?



We are looking for a Biodiversity Manager

Details: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au | Applications close: COB Thursday, 7 April



facebook.com/GlenelgHopkinsCMA

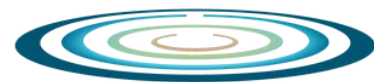


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