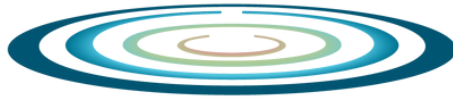


# Glenelg Hopkins



CMA



## In this edition:

- eDNA testing in the Glenelg River
- Removing Coast Wattle for bat habitat
- Precision ag field day success
- 10 years of Forgotten Woodlands
- Koroit carp fishing comp success
- Bream Classic on Hopkins draws lots of entries

Glenelg Hopkins



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## Biodiversity across borders and into the future

I recently had the pleasure of attending and presenting at the 10th Biodiversity Across the Borders Conference on 7th June at Federation University Australia, Ballarat. This event is usually well attended, with over 550 attendees present.

The overarching theme for the conference was "Biodiversity Conservation: Drawing from the Past to Foster Hope for the Future." This theme was chosen with a clear purpose, to counterbalance the prevailing narrative of environmental challenges with a focus on projects and achievements that might inspire hope.

The focus of my presentation was '*25 years of Integrated Catchment Management – what's next?*'.

Victorian Catchment Management Authorities have been in place for over 25 years and in that time have worked with a range of partners to deliver significant land, water and biodiversity improvements across Victoria. Key partners have included agencies, NGO's, Traditional Owners, Landcare, industry, academic institutions and community groups who have helped deliver 21 million ha of pest plant and animal control, constructed 18,300 km of fences, undertaken 136,700 ha of vegetation enhancement and engaged with over 1.8 million people at events.

*Continued overleaf ...*

**Adam Bester CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA**



# Biodiversity across borders and in the future

*Continued ...*

Improvements in natural resources take time and we are just now seeing noticeable biodiversity outcomes from these works.

Support for Eastern Barred Bandicoot recovery efforts since the 1980s has resulted in the bandicoot being the first Australian animal to move from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered in 2022.

Long-term funding support for threatened birds has resulted in population increases in species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot, Hooded Plover and Plains Wanderer. Large-scale river restoration and water recovery projects have resulted in range expansions, population increases and new local populations established for species such as the platypus, and numerous threatened and recreational fish species.

The presentation also focused on the key future challenges (climate change, reduced government funding) but also the opportunities (TO involvement in Integrated Catchment Management and Natural Capital markets) and key learnings over the 25 years that will still be important in the future.

These include the importance of regional and integrated planning and delivery, partnership model, creating resilient systems with long term projects, creating security/insurance populations and greater Traditional Ecological Knowledge incorporated into projects.



***Biodiversity improvements, like the ones seen with the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (above and below) take long term investment***





## CMA NEWS:

# eDNA finding out what's in the water of the Glenelg

The Environmental Water team has been out and about in all the reaches of the Glenelg River collecting water samples for eDNA testing. The DNA from animals present in the water (or using the water) is collected in filters. It's an easy and effective way to see if fish are further upstream than we expected, not present downstream where we would anticipate them, or where there's land based animals accessing the river. It also helps us see if the works and projects we are undertaking - like delivering environmental water - is having a positive impact in the river.



## Coast Wattle removed to improve bat habitat

Works to remove Coast Wattle from within the Point Danger Coastal Reserve at Portland to improve endangered bat habitat have begun.

Around one hectare of Coast Wattle from an area that is close to a particularly sensitive area of high value native vegetation is being removed as part of the works.

In addition to a briefing regarding the high conservation values of the area, the contractor crew were provided with a cultural induction to the site by a Gunditj Mirring Cultural Heritage Officer prior to commencing works in mid-May.

It is anticipated that with on-going control of emergent Coast Wattle seedlings, and supplementary revegetation, the site will return to a more vibrant, diverse coastal heathland that will support a wider range of fauna including Southern Bent-wing Bats. The CMA will continue to work with the local Committee of Management to optimise rehabilitation of the site and demonstrate the capability of the CMA and the Committee of Management to work collaboratively and responsibly to effectively manage the reserve.



*Before (above) and after (below) the removal of Coast Wattle*





## GMA NEWS:

# Bracing against the cold to learn how precision agriculture supports cropping and wetlands

It might have been cold in the paddocks, but it didn't stop plenty of farmers and agronomists coming along to our field day on June 14 showcasing the data behind using precision agriculture techniques to get good yields from crops by going around the wetlands in paddocks. Our trial to see if using all the technology now available to make better farming choices that benefit both the business bottom line and the environment is progressing well with crops now emerging from the ground - even with the dry seasonal conditions!





## CMA NEWS:

# Celebrating 10yrs of forgotten woodlands so they are remembered

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has had an integral role in helping to establish a group of likeminded people who were becoming increasingly concerned about the declining numbers of keystone woody species across the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

Friends of the Forgotten Woodlands Inc. is a group of volunteers working to rebuild numbers of Silver Banksia, Drooping Sheoak and Sweet Bursaria and other woodland species across the VVP. The group officially formed in 2014, and they recently held a Banksia forum at the Mt. Sturgeon Woolshed to bring participants up to date on recent research and on ground efforts which FOFW have completed and co-funded.

In the last 10 years the group has achieved the following:

- 38,155 trees planted across the VVP bioregion (this number includes total plants grown and planted, some of these being replacements)
- 18,364 of these have been planted into seed production areas (SPAs)
- 19,791 of these have been distributed to landholders across the VVP
- 32 seed production areas and seed orchard sites have been planted across the VVP
- Plants to landholders have gone to 109 sites
- 9 seed production areas have Climate 2080 match provenances other than VVP provenances, including 4 Banksia, 4 Sheoak and 1 Bursaria.



## Ridding the waterways of carp one reel-in at a time

Koroit Angling Club hosted their 2024 Carp Classic Fishing competition which was co-sponsored by Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

The event attracted 94 keen anglers and was hosted on the Hopkins River and Mt Emu Creek across May 17-19.

A total of 52 Carp were caught, totalling 150 kg, with the heaviest single fish a 7.12 kg monster (pictured right). All carp were taken by a local Cray fisherman to be used as bait.





## CMA NEWS:

# Fishing for Bream on the Hopkins

The success of the Vic Bream Classic fishing competition on the Hopkins River continued this year with another great catch and release competition held in Warrnambool on June 15 and 16.

The event was another great roll up of people enjoying our amazing waterway and benefitting from all the works we have done to support the fish and the river recently. Recreational fishing really is one great way to enjoy the environment and the great outdoors.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's partnership with this event recognises the significant support the recreational fishing community gives to our projects.

From helping build fish hotels, to supporting tree planting, to just getting out on the waterway and letting us know when things are better or worse, its the recreational fishers who are the ones to notice and lend a hand.

To find out the winning team (the ones who bagged almost 6kg of Bream for the weekend!) and other images, visit [vicbreamclassics.com.au](http://vicbreamclassics.com.au) or find them on social media.

