



In this edition:

- Touring the region to see project outcomes with DEECA
- Mooramong grasslands planning
- Banksia Award trophies arrives
- Drought support for the south west announced
- Supporting Leadership to learn on Country
- Junior Rangers fun
- It's Frogtober!
- Carbon Farming Outreach Program information workshops
- Have you got good grasslands?

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 5571 2526

Email: ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au

Showcasing the region, projects and people

A recent tour by Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board members, Melinda Knapp and Nikki Gemmill from DEECA Water and Catchments and Cath Jenkins and Tony Baker from Vic Catchments was a great opportunity to get out and see the Nelson and Portland region. The tour focused on visiting infrastructure on the lower Glenelg River that had recently been upgraded to avoid estuary flooding and provide all-year round access for the community. We then visited Tae Rak and got to see how Traditional Owners were returning water to Country, sample some amazing bush foods and visit fish traps older than the Pyramids.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA wishes to congratulate Kevin Sparrow (*right*) on his recent nomination for the Victorian Senior of the Year awards. Kevin is a valued promoter, educator and volunteer for the protection and recognition of the native flora of the Glenelg Hopkins region. Kevin has been an active contributor to numerous local environmental groups in our region including the Australian Plants Society Warrnambool and District branch, Kurri Kurri Co-operative, Tozer Reserve Management Committee, and Friends of Swan Reserve.



Adam Bester
CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

CMA NEWS:

Touring the south west catchment to see projects in action

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board, DEECA Water and Catchments and Vic Catchment recently toured the catchment inspecting project sites at Sapling Creek on the Glenelg River where the boat launch area was upgraded, and Beach Road at the estuary mouth in Nelson where road levels were raised to benefit both the environment and the community - allowing wetlands to naturally fill without impacting access to the estuary. The day also included lunch at Tae Rak and tour of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape .



CMA NEWS:

Planting out grassland species on Mooramong

More plants for Mooramong add to shared history of biodiversity on the estate.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) owned Mooramong Estate is located on Wadawurrung country in Western Victoria.

Within the grounds of the estate is a large wetland nature reserve and a small, fenced plot of native grassland. Several decades ago, conservation botanist Neville Scarlett established one of several threatened species plots within this grassland. Neville worked to establish a series of these plots in secure locations across Victoria to plant and protect some of the state's rarest plants.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners are now leading the recovery of the Mooramong threatened species grassland plot.

Earlier this year in June the site received its first burn in decades, opening up the grassy canopy and exposing several native plant species that were difficult to detect prior, including the critically endangered *Dianella amoena* (Matted Flax-lily). This also allowed invasive grasses to be more easily targeted for control.

Over the coming years, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners will establish a burning regime for the site and lead the monitoring to track the recovery of this important grassland reserve. This project is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust and the Victorian Government's Nature Fund



Banksia Award trophy handed to Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has received the physical Banksia Foundation Award trophy from Vic Catchments.

The combined work of Victoria's 10 CMAs was recognised at the 35th National Banksia Foundation Sustainability Awards earlier this year when Vic Catchments, the peak body for Victoria's 10 CMAs, won the Nature Positive category.

The 10 CMAs agreed the trophy should spend time in each catchment and now, it will spend a few months in our office!



Pictured handing the Banksia Award trophy was (from left) Vic Catchments Executive Officer, Tony Baker, and Chair, Cath Jenkins to Glenelg Hopkins CMA chair Tony Ford and CEO Adam Bester.

CMA NEWS:

Drought support for SW farmers in dry seasonal conditions

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence has announced the \$13.53 million package to help farmers in 11 south west Local Government Areas of Glenelg, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Moyne, Corangamite, Colac Otway, Surf Coast, West Wimmera, Ararat, Pyrenees and Golden Plains who have experienced the lowest rainfall on record over winter, which has impacted stock and harvest and putting pressure on feed and water.

Eligible farmers will receive up to \$5,000 as a co-contribution grant to support water infrastructure upgrades to pipes, tanks, troughs, dams, stock containment areas, and grain and fodder storage.

The package also includes a \$1.43 million investment in counseling and advice for farmers experiencing financial and emotional distress to help them make informed financial decisions and safeguard their wellbeing.

A dedicated Drought Regional Coordinator will be also appointed to make sure support is reaching people effectively.

The support package builds on the existing support available for farmers to prepare for and respond to drought, including through providers such as the National Centre for Farmer Health, farmer workshops and field days, and a database of practical information on the Agriculture Victoria website.



For more information on the Drought Support Package visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

Supporting Great South Coast leaders to get out on Country

Leadership Great South Coast participants recently spent a day learning about the history of the region and the connection to Country of the Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners.

Supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA, the day included a tour of Tae Rak and the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape. The tour was a highlight for many of the leadership participants.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA support for the day was with funding through the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program.



CMA NEWS:

Junior rangers find the stories

Storytelling: the vivid description of ideas, beliefs, personal experiences, and life-lessons through narratives that evoke emotions and insights.

Potentially, this makes it one of the first kinds of social media!

Last week, the Windamara Junior Rangers invited Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Tania from Nurture in Nature to create and share stories about healthy catchments and waterways using clay and things we could find outdoors.

What were our stories about?

Rain, flowing rivers, food, shelter.

But you know what the Junior Rangers talked about most?

Finding friends and working together.



It's Frogtober! Hear the calls and record them for researchers

During October Victorians are being invited to connect with nature in their local area by recording frog calls throughout October as part of Frog Month Victoria.

Using the Frog Census App (available free for Android and iOS), participants can record the sounds of frogs and contribute to vital conservation research.

The recordings will help protect local frog species such as the threatened Growling Grass Frog. They will also help researchers understand more about the Eastern Dwarf Sedge Frog, a small tree frog common in Queensland and New South Wales that has recently been introduced to Victoria.

Professor Kirsten Parris from the University of Melbourne said that Frog Month Victoria has been designed with both citizen scientists and researchers in mind.

"Through collaboration with researchers, citizen scientists, and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) across Victoria, the recordings will help to map the locations where our frogs are thriving. The more information we can collect, the better we will understand the habitat of frog species across Victoria and tailor conservation strategies to protect them," Professor Parris said.

Frog Month Victoria is an initiative of EstuaryWatch and WaterWatch Victoria, with the support of Melbourne Water and the University of Melbourne. Data collected during Frog Month Victoria will be shared with the University of Melbourne, Victorian CMAs, participants and the broader public. For more details go to the Frog Month Victoria website. This project is part of the Victorian Government's \$248 million investment over four years (2024-2028) to improve catchment and waterway health across regional Victoria.



Greenhouse gas reporting requirements are changing for farmers

FREE
information
workshops

Learn about these changes Tell us the training you need to adapt

Changes to greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting requirements in 2025 will impact farm businesses. From 1 July, 2026 farmers will need to begin reporting their farm business GHG emissions through supply chains.

This workshop will inform farmers of changes to GHG emissions reporting requirements and help them to identify their specific training to prepare and prosper in a low carbon economy.

Follow-up training events, developed and delivered in partnership with industry experts, will address the specific training needs identified in this workshop.

Workshop discussion topics

The low carbon economy

- GHG emissions and climate change
- Risk and Response – Industry and government
- GHG reporting and supply chains
- Managing emissions – Actions & Opportunities

Adapting your farm to thrive

- The Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme
- Emerging biodiversity markets
- Carbon (GHG) Calculators – Know your number
- **Tell us your training needs**

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

Casterton - October 21
Maroona - October 30
Harrow - October 31
Penshurst - November 8

Visit www.ghcma.vic.gov.au
for specific locations and times

LUNCH/DINNER provided

For more information contact:
Richard Murphy, Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Ph: 0407 516 532
E: r.murphy@ghcma.vic.gov.au

What's in your back paddock might be the grasslands we're seeking

Native grasslands are critically endangered across south-west Victoria's Volcanic Plain. Finding native grasslands on private property and assisting landholders to manage them is a priority for the Australian Government. Glenelg Hopkins CMA currently has funds available to landholders to assist in managing these areas.

Funding is available to manage native grasslands for biodiversity conservation alongside productive agriculture. Activities eligible for funding include:

- Fencing for improving grassland management
- Stock watering to support improved grassland grazing
- Pest plant and animal control
- Burning to maintain low fuel loads

The map (right and below) shows the target area in red for funding and where native volcanic plain grasslands may occur.

If you think you may have native grasslands on your property, please get in touch. For more information contact Aggie and Ben at Glenelg Hopkins CMA by phoning (03) 5571 2526 or emailing: a.stevenson@ghcma.vic.gov.au; or b.zeeman@ghcma.vic.gov.au

