

## In this edition:

- Fresh delivered to the Glenelg River
- H5N1 Bird Flu information
- Grassland tour success
- Watch the grasslands on ABC TV
- Using drones for woody weed control
- Platycam is back on
- **Portland bat information night Dec 4**
- Snap moths for little bats using your phone!
- Drought support available
- **Woolsthorpe carbon farming workshop Dec 4**
- Irrigator maintenance videos online
- CMA's Hamilton office upgrade - how to find staff.

Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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## SouthWest Victoria Alliance meets to discuss regional environmental issues

I had the pleasure of recently attending and presenting on a Q and A panel at the SouthWest Victoria Alliance – Regional Induction Day, hosted by Warrnambool City Council.

It was a great opportunity to talk about the key strategic issues and opportunities for the region in front of all the new local government councillors that have recently been elected. Local governments included Warrnambool City Council, Corangamite Shire, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Moyne Shire and Glenelg Shire.

I was also joined by Amber Clarke from neighbouring Corangamite CMA and we both spoke to the challenges of climate change impacts especially along our coastlines, particularly sea level rise, extreme events and floodplain management and planning.

It was also a good opportunity to discuss future opportunities with councillors that focused on the natural capital space, recreational infrastructure and sustainable irrigation

**Adam Bester**  
CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA

## Freshening up the Glenelg

The Glenelg River will receive a spring fresh with the delivery of additional flows in the waterway.

Flows have been running into the Glenelg since November 7 delivering compensation flows for landholders and the river.

This pulse of water, known as a fresh, will be released over 16 days to help reconnect sections of river, top-up deep pools and flush out poor water quality.

A connected river supports the cultural values of the waterway, it also supports native fish such as Tupong and Estuary Perch migrate throughout the system and the improved water quality creates a flush of abundant water bugs (macroinvertebrates) which become a food source for some of our favourite species, including Platypus.

These flows also ensure the river is in the best condition possible as we head into the drier months of the year, as the summer holidays attract many people to the river for boating, fishing, camping, bushwalking and swimming.

Once this fresh flow event has been released, environmental water flows will reduce to a 'baseflow' release which maintains connection and water quality.



### Fresh facts

- A total of 2,100ML of water will be released during the fresh event. This will be made up of a combination of entitlements for passing flows, compensation flow and environmental water.
- Most of this release will be made from 5-mile and 12-mile outfalls. This will ensure the flows can reach as far downstream as possible. Previously announced flows are already flowing out of the Rocklands wall.
- The peak release rate will be 200ML/d for two days. This peak will start on Tuesday 26 November. The peak is expected to reach key towns on the following dates\*:
  - December 4: Harrow
  - December 8: Dergholm
  - December 12: Casterton
  - December 16: Dartmoor

\*dates are estimates and may be impacted by environmental factors.

- River height could rise up to 65cm as the peak makes its way downstream.

## H5N1 Bird Flu information

### AVOID RECORD REPORT

**AVOID:** If you find dead or sick birds. Do not touch birds or attempt to move them.

**RECORD:** Take photos of dead and sick birds, and the surroundings. If possible, record the GPS location.

**REPORT:** Emergency Animal Disease Hotline  
**1800 675 888**

### WHAT DO I REPORT?

**REPORT CLUSTERS:**

5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

**REPORT EVEN ONE:**

- sick or dead penguin or pelican.
- sick or dead seagull or wader.
- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles).
- sick or dead black swan, duck or goose.
- sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).





## **Spring on the grasslands tour success**

Almost 40 people joined the tour of the grasslands to see the work of the project team along the Penshurst-Dunkeld Road where scalping works are allowing remnant grassland areas to flourish and where recent burning of roadsides has resulted in an amazing diversity of grassland flowers and plants.

The tour included discussion from Professor John Morgan and CFA representatives on the benefits of a regular burning regime to grasslands, and what recent monitoring discovered on the grasslands.



## **Grasslands on the ABC**

Did you catch the grasslands on the TV? The ABC News recently featured a story on the grasslands which you can now view online at the ABC website.

[\*\*WATCH the ABC news story\*\*](#)

[\*\*READ the ABC online story\*\*](#)



## Technology and contractor partnerships battling weeds

From data capture to targeted spraying: How drones are doing the hard work on Country.

Woody weeds including Italian Buckthorn, Gorse and Cape Wattle are spreading around the steep rocky embankments above a wetland complex at Tyrendarra, but physical access to control them across the 100ha site has been very challenging. As part of the Budj Bim Connections Flagship project we undertake targeted weed control, and to help in this situation, we turned to technology and contracted Australian UAV to develop a survey method to GPS reference and map the location of each type of weed across the site.

A multi-spectral drone was used to capture data in various light spectrums of each weed, and data from that was converted to a prescriptive spray file for Australis Biological to load into their DJI T40 drone for a very specific chemical application.

The end result is that technology and some pretty handy contractors have combined to protect this significant site within the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape without anyone tumbling down an embankment, or non-target species being impacted by chemical application.



After an upgrade, a clean and new battery ...

**Platycam is  
back online!**

[www.platycam.com.au](http://www.platycam.com.au)



## Platycam back online after an upgrade

The world's only livestream of platypus in the wild is back online! Platycam has had a little upgrade after delivering us the views of the Grangeburn almost non-stop for the last 2.5 years! We can't wait to see our resident platypus swimming around, along with the other regularly viewed animals on Platycam.

**You can find platycam's livestream at  
[www.platycam.com.au](http://www.platycam.com.au)**

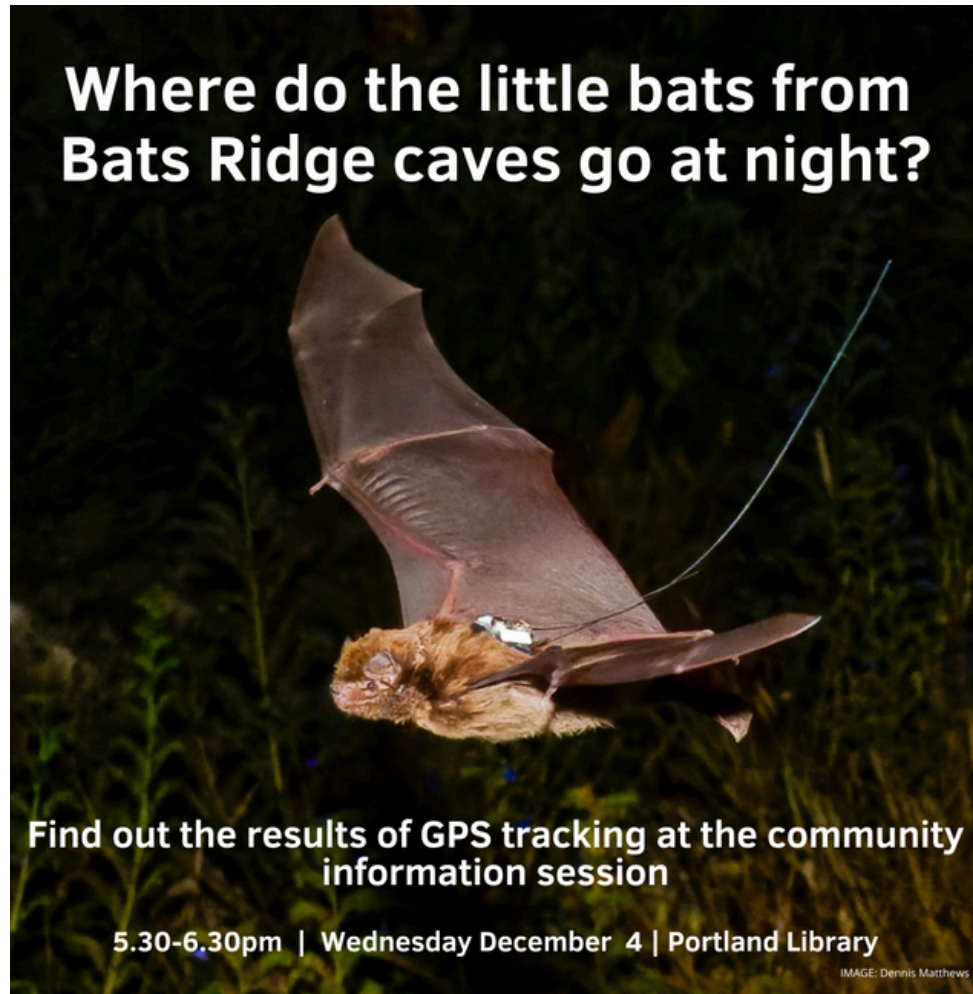


## **Community information session on where the Portland bats fly**

Over the last 12 months, researchers from the Arthur Rylah Institute have been GPS tracking the Southern Bent-wing Bat around the Portland area to find out where they go each night. Residing in the caves in the aptly named Bats Ridge, the tracking of the bats will show how far afield they fly to forage for food and help us understand where we need to make sure they have food available.

Predating on moths, our project, aims to understand where the bat flies, how many moths are around for it to eat, and where we should be revegetating with moth-friendly plants in our catchment.

You are invited to learn about what the tracking found at the Community Information session on December 4 at Portland Library.



**Where do the little bats from Bats Ridge caves go at night?**

**Find out the results of GPS tracking at the community information session**

**5.30-6.30pm | Wednesday December 4 | Portland Library**

IMAGE: Dennis Matthews

## **Want to help the little bats? Snap the moths so we can map them!**



**Got moths around your verandah light?**

Once the cricket's done on the TV, during the innings break, or even while the next batter gets to the crease, why not duck out and see if you've moths around your verandah light.

Got some? We'd appreciate it if you take a photo of it and upload it to the iNaturalist app. You'll be helping participate in project research #mothmapping without even leaving home and still enjoying the cricket #multitasking #winwin

Snap that for



little fat bats

[www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

One of the easiest ways people can help support the Southern Bent-wing Bat is by helping us understand what sort of moths and insects are currently in their home ranges and you can even do it while the cricket is on!

It is really simple – it just takes a second or two to snap a photo of the moths you find at your own back or front door! If you have moths that flutter around your house lights, grab a photo of one landed and upload it to the iNaturalist app! The iNaturalist app is free to download from the app store for your apple or android phone and will even suggest identification of the moths so you don't even need to know what you are taking a photo of!



## CMA NEWS:

# Drought support for SW farmers in dry seasonal conditions

The Victorian Government 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.



For more information on the Drought Support Package visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons)

## Final Greenhouse Gas emission workshop: Woolsthorpe, December 4

Carbon Farming Outreach Program

**Adapting your farm to thrive in a low carbon economy**

**FREE** information workshop  
**Woolsthorpe**  
**December 4**  
9.45am-2.30pm

Learn about Greenhouse Gas reporting changes and the training you need to adapt your farm for the future.

**EVENT DETAILS:**  
Woolsthorpe Hall, 15 Manifold St, Woolsthorpe  
Lunch provided - RSVP for catering  
Register via QR code or online at [ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://ghcma.vic.gov.au)

**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**

**For more information contact:**  
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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA | Carbon Farming Outreach Program | Natural Landcare | VIC CATCHMENTS | Glenelg Hopkins CMA

## Irrigator maintenance videos online

The CMA and Agriculture Victoria have released a series of videos to assist irrigators in maintaining their spray irrigation system with simple checks to ensure the system is working at maximum efficiency.

**[To view the videos, visit the Glenelg Hopkins CMA YouTube Channel](#)**





## CMA NEWS:

# Glenelg Hopkins CMA Hamilton office temporary closure

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Hamilton office will be closed for renovations from December 2, 2024 to allow for much needed building renovations to take place.

“Our building on French Street is pretty aged and requires an update to be more user friendly and a more occupationally safe workspace and to do that our staff are moving to a hybrid working model while the renovations are being completed,” Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO Adam Bester said.

Local building firm, Ultrabuild, has been selected as the preferred tenderer for these works following a competitive tender process. Builders will be onsite from December 6.

It is anticipated the renovation works will be completed by mid-2025 with staff expected to move back into the office in July.

If you need to meet with CMA staff in person, they will still be available, however, the meeting location will need arranging. Staff are working either remotely from home or in a hybrid working arrangement with Wannon Water from the Wannon Water Hamilton Office in Gray Street.



**We are  
still at  
work!**

**How to get in touch  
with CMA staff  
while office  
renovations are  
being completed:**

Telephones will be diverted to staff so you can still **phone (03) 5571 2526**  
Email us at **[ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au)**  
or the staff member directly  
Check updates on the website:  
**[www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)**