



Plenty of work ahead for volunteers

What is NatureWatch?

NatureWatch volunteers gather much-needed information about the health of Victoria's natural environment.

This information is then used to help land managers make more informed decisions about how we manage our natural environment.

NatureWatch is a great chance for volunteers to be part of Victorian conservation efforts and help protect some of our less well known species, such as the delicate Golden Sun Moth and our beautiful Grass Trees.

So what are you waiting for? Find a NatureWatch monitoring project that suits you. Full training is always provided, so you don't need to be an expert, just ready and willing to help!

A great start to the year

Highlights for NatureWatch so far this year have included Grass Tree monitoring with the Friends of Brisbane Ranges in the Brisbane Ranges National Park.

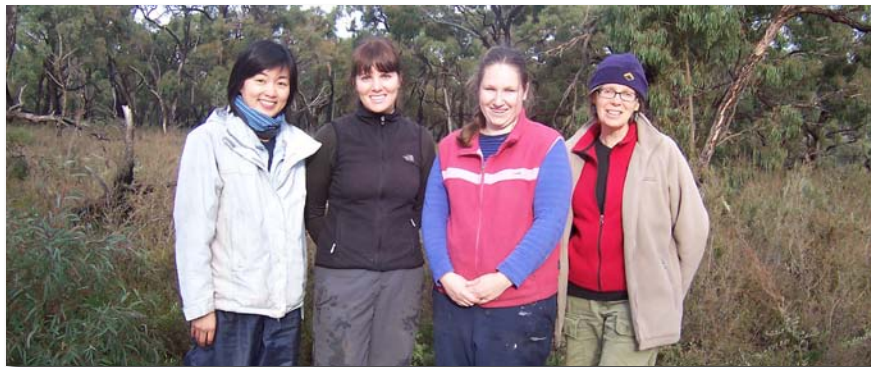
Another highlight was small mammal monitoring in the Grampians National Park.

We're adding more species to our monitoring list!

While volunteers have been busy over the past few years counting Golden Sun Moths as part of our grassland community monitoring project, this year will see such work take in many more threatened grassland species.

Biosis Research have been working with us to develop monitoring techniques for threatened, rare and uncommon grassland species.

Keep an eye out for the chance to monitor populations of the Grassland Copper Butterfly, Striped Legless Lizard and Plains Yam Daisy!



Volunteers enjoying brisk starts and late afternoons checking mammal traps in the Grampians.
Photo: Tsai Yi Ying

Grampians fire and fauna monitoring

A small group of volunteers headed to the Grampians National Park in last month to help with post-fire monitoring of small native mammals.

Rachel Woods from Deakin University and volunteer team leader Christine led a small group that checked mammal traps and carried out vegetation assessments.

The project, run by Deakin University and Parks Victoria, is looking at the impact of the 2006 wildfires on small mammals.



These threatened species can be found in grasslands in the broader Melbourne area and we will need all the help we can get for on-ground monitoring work such as counting individuals, setting traps and taking measurements.

In addition, a report on the 2008 and 2009 Golden Sun Moth monitoring season will soon be released. So if you have been out with us at Derrimut or Ravenhall Grassland, stay tuned.

And if you'd like to be kept informed about future monitoring opportunities make sure you are on the NatureWatch email list by emailing caitling@vnpa.org.au.

Grass Tree monitoring

Volunteers have been monitoring and assessing the health of Grass Trees in the Brisbane Ranges.

The Friends of Brisbane Ranges were also involved in this effort, and

our volunteers were led by great NatureWatch team leaders. Thanks to Bryant, Ned, Nic and Carolyn!

Friends of the Prom have also begun Grass Tree monitoring at Wilsons Promontory and will continue their work in September this year.

Looking ahead

NEW!! Grassland monitoring of additional threatened/rare/uncommon species, as well as:

- Golden Sun Moth counts.
- Grass Tree monitoring.
- Team leader training.

Thanks again!

Thanks to all of our volunteers, team leaders and NatureWatch partners and supporters for your contributions over the past six months.

To get involved and receive regular email updates on NatureWatch events join our email list by emailing caitling@vnpa.org.au.

