



VNPA Student Placement Program

Role Description: ReefWatch

Role: ReefWatch Student Placement
Supervisor: ReefWatch Coordinator
Location: Victorian National Parks Association
Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

VNPA

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) is Victoria's leading nature conservation organisation and has been at the forefront of conservation campaigning for more than 60 years. VNPA is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, which exists to protect Victoria's unique natural environment and biodiversity through the establishment and effective management of national parks, conservation reserves and other measures. We achieve this by facilitating strategic campaigns and education programs, developing policies and by running hands-on conservation work, bushwalking and outdoor activity programs which promote the care and enjoyment of Victoria's natural heritage.

ReefWatch Program

ReefWatch is our underwater marine citizen-science program. It started in 2002 and trains community volunteers to collect important information about Victoria's marine life.

We currently carry out four major projects: Great Victorian Fish Count, Plate Watch, Reef Cam and the Port Phillip Bay Sea Slug Census.

Our hard-working ReefWatch volunteers have:

- Confirmed the sighting of numerous fish species never before seen or rarely seen in Port Phillip Bay including; Western Blue Groper, Yellowfin Leatherjacket, Spotted Grubfish, Silver Dory and the Shortnosed Boarfish.
- Identified the introduced nudibranch *Thecacera pennigera* as well as the range extension of the very hairy nudibranch (*Bursatella leachii*)

We work with local groups, scientists and land managers to ensure each locally-relevant project is of community value, scientifically valid and matches local management priorities. Refer to our [ReefWatch webpage](#) for more details on our projects.

What will you be doing?

Students will:

- Work under the supervision of the ReefWatch Coordinator.
- Assist with data entry, consolidation and analysis, including species identification.
- Conduct research and scientific literature review for the generation of resources and informational materials.
- Assist with the coordination and implementation of outreach events, for example the Great Victorian Fish Count.
- Organise, maintain and care for monitoring equipment.
- Liaise with stakeholders including volunteers, local community groups, land managers and scientists.
- Provide administration support and other tasks as required (e.g. research permit applications, upload of data to Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, GIS and mapping), depending on the student's skills and experience.

The program will require successful applicants to work in the VNPA office for **one day per week for a 13 week semester**. There may be an option to extend your placement after the 13 week period.

Please note this is an office based placement. Field related activities for volunteers are available but are outside the scope of a student placement. To receive updates on field based volunteer opportunities, subscribe to the [ReefWatch mailing list](#).

Who are we looking for? i.e. Selection criteria

- You are currently undertaking a course in the field of ecology, biology, environmental science or other environmental studies.
- You are able to demonstrate a strong passion for conservation and the sustainable management of Victoria's natural heritage and national parks, in line with the VNPA vision.
- You are able to commit to one day a week for the semester duration.
- You are reliable and communicative and able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- You possess excellent organisational, administrative and computer skills.
- You are able to use your skills and knowledge to manage and interpret ecological data.
- Knowledge of Victoria's marine life is also highly regarded.
- Previous involvement in an environmental citizen-science or volunteer program is preferable but not essential.

Program guidelines

For further information regarding this role please refer to the [VNPA Student Placement Program Guidelines](#).