



2019 VNPA Student Placement Program Role Description: NatureWatch

Role: NatureWatch Student Placement
Supervisor: NatureWatch 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.

NatureWatch Program

NatureWatch is our land-based citizen-science program. It started in 2007 and trains community volunteers to collect important information about Victoria's animals and plants. We currently carry out two biodiversity monitoring projects:

- Communities Listening for Nature
- Caught on Camera
- In development: new projects around key biodiversity areas and our current campaigns for parks and environmental protection.

Over the years our NatureWatch volunteers have:

- Found Brush-tailed Phascogales in the Wombat state forest and Southern Brown Bandicoots in the Bunyip State Park.
- Recorded months of bird call data to analyse and contribute to Museum Victoria's online collections and species recognisers.
- Tracked the changes of a key urban population of growling grass frogs in Epping
- Monitored the impacts of Phytophthora dieback on vulnerable grasstrees

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 [NatureWatch webpage](#) for more details on our four projects.

What will you be doing?

- Work under the supervision of the NatureWatch Coordinator.
- Assist with data entry, consolidation and analysis, including species identification from motion-camera images and bird call recordings.
- Assist with data archiving and upload to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Conduct research and scientific literature review for the generation of resources and informational materials.
- Develop project promotional materials for scientific, government or public audiences.
- Assist with the coordination and implementation of outreach events, for example NatureWatch community training days or public events.
- Organise, maintain and care for monitoring equipment.
- Liaise with stakeholders: volunteers, local community groups, land managers and scientists.
- Assist with developing project maps (GIS skills an asset)
- Provide administration support (filing, data backups etc) and other tasks as required.

The program will require successful applicants to work in the VNPA office for **one day per week for a 13 week semester**. Days available include Mondays, Thursdays or Fridays. Within these days, placement can be flexible as required to accommodate major assignments, exams etc. 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 [NatureWatch 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, communicative and able to work both independently and as part of a team.
- You possess excellent organisational, administrative and computer skills.
- You have experience managing and interpreting ecological data and scientific writing.
- Knowledge of Victoria's flora and fauna is highly regarded (e.g. mammals, birds, bird calls).
- Previous involvement in an environmental citizen-science or volunteer program is preferable but not essential.

Program guidelines

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