



Victorian National Parks Association  
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ABN 34 217 717 593

# Parks Protection Advocate

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Parks Protection Advocate / Nature Conservation Campaigner</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>'Green Building' at Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Permanent</b>
<b>Hours:</b>	<b>0.8 – 1.0 FTE (negotiable)</b>
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Conservation Officer Grade 3 (Year 1 to 8) – subject to skills &amp; experience</b>
<b>Salary Range:</b>	<b>\$81,406 – \$89,390 + Superannuation (2021-2022)</b>
<b>Probation:</b>	<b>A three-month probation period applies</b>
<b>Reports to:</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>
<b>Direct Reports:</b>	<b>None</b>

## About the VNPA

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has been one of the State's leading nature conservation organisations for 70 years. We have been instrumental in the establishment of Victoria's national parks and conservation estate and is equally concerned with the management of this system as well as the conservation of nature across the whole state.

Our vision is for Victoria as a place with a diverse and healthy natural environment protected, respected and enjoyed by all. In addition to conservation programs and advocacy the VNPA runs programs to encourage enjoyment of nature through bushwalking, tours, community education, citizen science and other means.

We are a not-for-profit, membership-based, community organisation and registered charity. The Association is supported by a small number of professional staff and a large base of volunteers, members and supporters.

## About the Role

The Park Protection Advocate will work with the VNPA team and partner organisations to develop and implement conservation campaigns across land and sea, all ecosystems and tenures, with a focus on Victoria's core protected area systems, which covers approximately 18% of the state in range of tenures.

This position requires a competent ecological advocacy generalist, and involves a combination of science and policy, community campaigning, strategic planning, project management, policy development and research, activity coordination, and delivering strategic policy change. The position reports directly to the Executive Director and works within the conservation team and with other staff and volunteers.

## Position Responsibilities

- Be a key advocate for the protection of nature in conservation planning and policy across all Victorian ecosystems, particularly national parks and the broader conservation estate. This will include monitoring and advocating for:
  - Increased community understanding and appreciation of protected areas
  - Evidence-based parks planning and management processes
  - Understanding of the impacts of feral species, enhanced control methods and programs
  - Ecological and social assessment, and advocacy around inappropriate developments and activities in protected areas
  - Enhanced core protected area funding
  - Improved fire management and mitigation programs
  - Increased understanding and appreciation of Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community aspirations, and arrangements for management of protected areas and public land.
- Monitor and provide input into nature conservation policy and program initiatives state-wide, especially as they relate to Victoria's protected areas.
- Act as an articulate and leading spokesperson on issues as they arise in media, government, industry, community or other forums.
- Provide high quality, timely briefing papers, submissions, and other written material as required.
- Implement conservation objectives in VNPA's Strategic Plan and other organisational policies.
- Facilitate and organise discussion forums, events, seminars, workshops and meetings that increase community support for nature conservation initiatives.
- Write and produce relevant VNPA communication material including media releases, organisational newsletters, Park Watch magazine articles, website and social media content.
- Undertake research and coordinate development and implementation of nature conservation projects and activities.
- Provide Strategic advice to the Executive Director as required and assist in producing the Executive Directors report, other VNPA Council or committee papers, and meetings as requested.
- Assist in the preparation of funding applications and supporter development in consultation with the Executive Director, and the Fundraising, Digital Engagement and Communications Teams.
- Other duties as required by the Executive Director.

## Position Selection Criteria

- A demonstrated knowledge of relevant government programs and processes, including:
  - state-wide conservation issues and/or policy,
  - the role, governance and management of national parks and protected areas.
- Demonstrated experience in advocacy planning, processes, and activities, as they relate to national parks and protected areas.
- A demonstrated knowledge of management and conservation issues, especially as they relate to management of prime protected areas.
- Understanding and appreciation of Traditional Owner and Aboriginal community aspirations and arrangements for management of protected areas and public land.
- Excellent knowledge and confidence in working with the media and social media; ability to write media releases and associated communication social media material.
- Demonstrated project management skills.
- Ability to work individually, with volunteers and as part of a team.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including the ability to produce clear, concise public and policy materials to tight deadlines.
- Demonstrated experience in community liaison and community organizing.
- Excellent organizational, administrative ability and computer knowledge e.g., Office 365 and CRM systems etc.
- Demonstrated commitment to the objectives and values of the organisation.
- Demonstrated advanced knowledge or relevant tertiary qualification in disciplines such as ecology, environmental science, public policy, natural resource management, marine & coastal planning, journalism, environmental law.

## General conditions

All VNPA staff and volunteers are required to:

- Act in accordance with the VNPA Code of Conduct
- Observe relevant OH&S procedures and organisational policies and procedures
- Work collaboratively with all staff, volunteers and contractors
- Support a child safe organisation by being respectful to children and young people and to comply with relevant legislative requirements.

Staff are subject to:

- Probationary period of 3 months at commencement of employment
- Performance review as part of the VNPA Performance Appraisal Process (currently annual)
- Feedback from Manager and key relationships relevant to position.

## Diversity & Inclusion

We respect and value the diversity of our workforce/ staff. We are committed to creating an environment that values a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences and uses these to maximise our impact. We welcome applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, workers of all ages, people with disabilities and people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

## General information

Our office is located on traditional land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We offer our respect to Elders past, present and future.

The position will be based at the VNPA Melbourne Office, which is in the award winning 'Green Building' at Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton. Location of place is negotiable in Victoria and subject to government health advice. The position reports to the Executive Director however works within the campaign team and with other staff and across the organisation.

VNPA staff work under an Enterprise Employment Agreement. VNPA is a flexible workplace. There is no provision for payment of overtime, however, time off in lieu is offered for any additional hours worked up to 10 days. The VNPA Agreement provides for 4 weeks annual leave. Additional 'shut-down' leave is offered between Christmas and New Year.