



VNPA Student Placement Program NatureWatch Role Description

Supervisor: Dr Sera Blair, NatureWatch Coordinator
Location: Victorian National Parks Association
Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton VIC 3053

VNPA

The Victorian National Parks Association is an effective and influential nature conservation organisation. We've led the creation, protection and defence of Victoria's natural estate for over 70 years.

VNPA advocates for evidence-based policy to safeguard wildlife, habitat and protected areas. We inspire connections with nature through citizen science, activities, community action and education.

We're an independent, non-profit, non-government, and membership-based charity. We're an incorporated association with membership open to all like-minded people.

Our Vision: Victoria is a place with a natural web of life that is protected, respected and enjoyed by all.

NatureWatch Program

NatureWatch is our land-based citizen-science program. It started in 2007 and trains community volunteers to collect valuable information about Victoria's animals and plants. We work with local groups, scientists, and land managers to make sure each locally relevant project is of community value, scientifically valid and matches local management priorities. Please visit the [NatureWatch webpage](#) for project details.

Over the years NatureWatch volunteers have:

- Monitored wildlife recovery after large bushfires in Bunyip State Park and East Gippsland
- Located threatened species like such as Brush-tailed Phascogales in Wombat State Forest and Southern Brown Bandicoots in Bunyip State Park
- Recorded months of bird call data to identify bird populations and distributions that contribute to land management across Victoria and add 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.

Student placements will assist with our current biodiversity monitoring projects including:

- Spotlight on Wombat State Forest - wildlife surveys with motion-sensor cameras and spotlighting
- Life After Fire - Central West Campaign – wildlife surveys around Mt Cole and Pyrenees areas

- DIY Citizen Science – developing training resources to support community groups doing citizen science.

What will you be doing?

Students will assist the NatureWatch program in a range of ways which may include:

- Work under the guidance of the NatureWatch Coordinator.
- Assist with data entry and analysis, including species identification from motion-camera images.
- Assist with data archiving and uploading data to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas.
- Develop citizen science training resources.
- Research wildlife species or conservation topics for education resources.
- Develop project promotional materials (e.g event advertising, educational brochures, social media posts, articles, or content for ParkWatch magazine).
- Assist with the coordination and implementation of events, for example training days or public events.
- Organise and maintain wildlife monitoring equipment.
- Provide administration support (filing, data backups etc) and other tasks as required.
- Potential to join fieldwork expeditions based on availability and logistics.

The program will require successful applicants to work **one day per week for a 12-week semester**. Work will be conducted in the VNPA office in Carlton or online if required.

Days available include **Tuesdays or Thursdays**. Placement is flexible to accommodate major assignments, exams, personal circumstances etc.

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 can demonstrate a strong passion for conservation and the sustainable management of Victoria's natural heritage and national parks, in line with VNPA's vision.
- You can 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 some experience in managing data sets (Excel), interpreting ecological data, scientific writing.
- Knowledge of Victorian animals and plants is highly regarded (e.g. mammals, birds, bird calls).
- Previous involvement in an environmental citizen-science or volunteer program is an asset.

How to apply

You can find more information about our student placements and a form to apply at:

<https://vnpa.org.au/give-your-time/student-placement-program/>