



VNPA Student Placement Program

Role Description: ReefWatch

Supervisor: Kade Mills, ReefWatch 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.

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.

Our projects include the Great Victorian Fish Count, Sea Slug Census and Underwater Weeding.

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 make sure each locally-relevant project is of community value, scientifically valid and matches local management priorities. Refer to our [ReefWatch webpage](#) for more details.

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 reviews 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 your skills and experience.

The program will require successful applicants to work in the VNPA office for **one day per week for a 12-week semester**. There may be an option to extend your placement.

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 demonstrate a strong passion for conservation and the sustainable management of Victoria's natural heritage, in line with VNPA's vision.
- You can 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.
- 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.

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/>