PORT PHILLIP
ecocentre

Corporate Volunteer Program

Activities and pricing 2019

WHO WE ARE

The Port Phillip EcoCentre is a community-managed not for profit organisation that reconnects the local community to the natural world through inspiration, education, and facilitation of practical action.

People from all walks of life visit the EcoCentre to:

• become involved in community environmental projects or programs

• discover sustainable living practices and technologies in action

• attend a specialised training session, workshop or forum

• provide their students with a unique and meaningful learning experience

Since 1999, we have been honoured with over 31 Victorian and National awards for our collaborative, practical programs, many achieved through partnerships and help from community and corporate volunteers.

WHY CORPORATE VOLUNTEER?

Our Corporate Volunteer Program and Teambuilding days allow you to fulfil your company's Corporate Social Responsibility aspirations. Activate your staff with unique, meaningful outdoor activities and connect into the local community, by making a positive impact on the plants and animals that make Port Phillip Bay spectacular.

Fully insured, tailor-made activities suit full or half day programs for your group. Equipment and experienced facilitators provided for groups of up to 60 people.

Proceeds support further marine and ecological research and our youth programs.

THE ACTIVITIES

Pamper the Penguins! Penguin Habitat Improvement project

Our most popular activity! The breakwater at the end of St Kilda pier is home to a colony of over 1300 Little Penguins. Over the last few years, erosion has set in, which threatens the hollows where the penguins build their nests. By reversing the effects of erosion through adding soil, rocks and vegetation, volunteers will help improve penguin habitat, protect their nests and create a suitable home for other seabird species too. Volunteers are likely to spot a penguin or two.

Help the penguins by transporting beach sand and sea weed from the beach to the breakwater. On the breakwater, we will mix the sand and seaweed into a nutrient-rich mix, which will be used as a preparation for planting indigenous plants.

Location: St Kilda breakwater, at the end of St Kilda Pier

Max participants: 25

Full day cost: $2500 plus GST

Marine Biologist for a Day

This activity invites you to become a marine biologist for a day! Help the Baykeeper collect data that contribute to healthier waterways and habitats for our unique biodiversity. You will be doing a combination of the below activities (depending on the weather and tides):

Shoreline shell survey

We will collect shells on the beach, identify them, record their characteristics and learn about the important role of molluscs (shellfish) in the Bay ecosystem. The data collected are used to record long-term changes in population, species diversity, climate change and water quality.

Shellfish Safari

We will catch and dig for live molluscs (shellfish) for identification, measurement and counting. The results of this research are used to record population changes over time and to potentially show a link between mollusc species present and predation by the invasive Northern Pacific Sea Star.

Beach Clean up & Litter audit

Did you know that cigarette butts are the number 1 litter item found on the beaches? And that plastic makes up most of the rogue rubbish in our waterways? With your help the EcoCentre researches litter washed up on the Bay beaches. As litter is a major cause of death for our resident wildlife (like sea birds, dolphins and seals) it is imperative that we research ways to reduce it. You will help us provide solid evidence to inform litter strategies.

Location: St Kilda beaches

Max participants: 16

Full day cost: $1950 plus GST

Build nesting boxes for wildlife!

Despite the urban location, you'd be surprised at the abundance of wildlife located in and around the suburbs of Melbourne. Many of these wildlife require hollows for shelter, but a lack of hollows in the urban environment make it a highly competitive place to live.

You will be tutored in nestbox construction before having a go at constructing your very own nestbox or two. Completed nestboxes will be distributed to private landholders and schools in the local area.

Your contribution will create meaningful change to urban habitat values and you'll also learn a new skill!

Location: Port Phillip EcoCentre, 55A Blessington Street, St Kilda, VIC, 3182

Max participants: 16

Full day cost: $2450 plus GST

Pamper the Penguins and Citizen Science Day

We offer 'Penguin Habitat Improvement' projects for larger groups of up to 50 people combining activities with our 'Marine Biologist for a Day' activity. See activities above.

Location: St Kilda breakwater and foreshore beaches

Max participants: 50

Full day cost: $5000 plus GST

Urban Wildlife Conservation day: Planting and pick up

You will be helping the Port Phillip EcoCentre and their project partner Westgate Biodiversity with litter collections, litter audits and planting of native vegetation in Westgate Park. We will be working on the banks of the Yarra near the Westgate Bridge, where the outflow of (sub)urban litter is very obvious. After all, what happens in the 'burbs, impacts on the Bay and our amazing Port Phillip Bay marine wildlife, which is too precious to lose. We will also be helping to restore Westgate Park for urban wildlife by planting native vegetation, which helps combat erosion and creates healthy habitat for local wildlife species.

Litter data will help us track litter and stop it at the source. The activity includes a wildlife wander through Westgate Park.

Location: Lorimer Street, Port Melbourne

Max participants: 60

Full day cost: $7200 plus GST

Cost includes all materials for undertaking planting with Westgate Biodiversity.
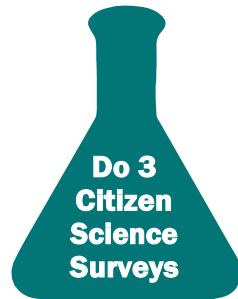
COSTS

The cost per session includes:

- The services of 2 knowledgeable, First Aid trained staff members per activity (4 for the larger activity)
- All preparation, materials and equipment for the number of volunteers per activity
- Liability and personal accident insurance for all volunteers
- Optional: sign up process to enable simple registration

Costs of the activities are based on our staff costs and the costs of running the day. This means that it is up to the client to make sure the maximum number of volunteer spots is filled.

Proceeds go towards penguin monitoring and research activities. From this year, a portion of Corporate Volunteer proceeds also goes toward helping fund our programs for young leaders and disadvantaged youth. This will enable a new generation of volunteers to get involved in the same activities as your volunteers, instilling passion for the environment, educational and employment opportunities.

Your corporate volunteers can:

Help 1300 Penguins

Build homes for 300 micro bats

Do 3 Citizen Science Surveys

Fund young people being mentored

Donate

Love our work? You can donate to the EcoCentre, simply search for our profile on at Good2Give.ngo or givenow.com.au.

LOGISTICS

Itinerary

An example of a typical volunteer day schedule:

9.15 am	Meet at St Kilda pier, sign in and safety briefing
9:30 am	Start activities
11:00 am	Morning tea, resume activities
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Resume activities
4:00 pm	Debriefing and end of volunteer day

The exact schedule depends on the activity, weather, tides and the preferences of the volunteers. We are happy to tailor it to your needs.

Availability

Availability of the projects is year round. We book dates in consultation with your availability.

Lunch options

Morning tea and lunch are not included. There will be lunch options available at each site (cafés), or volunteers can bring their own.

We can mix and match the number of activities as required.

For further information or to tailor make activities to suit your needs, please contact:

Bel Evans

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