

Two Bays January 2010 Science and Monitoring Program

Project Title: Sea Search – Mangrove Monitoring

Lead Agency / Scientists: People & Parks Foundation - Jacqui Pocklington

Purpose:

- To connect people to Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries through exploring and learning about the diversity of marine plants and animals found in Victoria's Marine Protected Areas during monitoring events held in the marine environment.

Background:

- Sea Search is a citizen science program that anyone can participate in by volunteering in Victoria's wonderfully diverse Marine Protected Areas.
- Volunteers learn scientific skills including flora and fauna identification methods and are able to collect important data on marine biodiversity and seasonal changes over time in their local MPA's. Whilst benefitting from learning new scientific skills, Sea Search volunteers are also contributing to the management and knowledge of their local marine park.
- By establishing a community based monitoring program, People & Parks Foundation, partnered by Parks Victoria and sponsored by ExxonMobil, are building strong links with local communities and providing members with a hands on opportunity to be involved in managing Victoria's MPA's.
- The good news is; you don't have to be a scientist to be involved, any member of the public can become a Sea Search volunteer, it doesn't take up too much of your time to make a real difference and it's lots of fun.

Outline of Program:

- Mangrove monitoring: For the first time ever, volunteers will be trained as community scientists by collecting information on the health of mangroves in Westernport bay.

For Further Information:

www.peopleandparks.org/programs/marine-connections/sea-search

Image:

Sea Search volunteers use scientific techniques to collect data to improve knowledge within Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

