



**Conservation Volunteers and Parks Victoria are working in partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding to engage the community in a range of conservation programs resulting in an increase to individual and community health and well being as well as benefiting the environment**



Naturewise is owned and operated by Conservation Volunteers and provides ecotourism certified and award winning tourism products that combine visits to pristine areas with conservation activities that are sold and marketed on a commercial international basis.

## Current Parks Victoria Naturewise Program

A Naturewise program is currently running at the Grampians National Park. Volunteers assist rangers in small mammal monitoring. The project has contributed to the rediscovery of the Long Nosed Potoroo and found new populations of the Heath Mouse and Southern Brown Bandicoot. The project has achieved Advanced Eco Certification.



**Since 2005 Naturewise Grampians tours have;**

- **increased from 1 to 7 tours**
- **Involved 123 Naturewise participants**
- **contributed 343 labour days**
- **Provided 300 EFT days of labour saving to the Grampians work centre**
- **contributed to Conservation Volunteers winning the 2008 Victorian Tourism Awards**

## Naturewise Development in Parks Victoria

As a response to the Victoria's Nature-based Tourism Strategy Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers have expanded the partnership to develop appropriate policy and planning surrounding nature based tourism product development and subsequent identification and auditing of potential activities that can form the basis of an ongoing Naturewise tourism program.

### Policy and Planning Activities

- A communications document has been developed to describe the key points of a Naturewise product
- A policy document will accompany the communications document to specify the roles and responsibilities of CVA, Parks Victoria Corporate and Parks Victoria regional
- A product audit process has been developed and trialled successfully involving key representatives from Parks Victoria, Conservation Volunteers and Tourism Victoria
- A presentation will be delivered through Parks Victoria regional Tourism workshops to establish a wider understanding of Naturewise product opportunities

### Product Development Activities

Product Audits have taken place for potential Naturewise products, including; Mt Eccles Koala Management Program; Gippsland Owl Monitoring Program, and; Wilsons Promontory Small Mammal Monitoring Program

Additional Expressions of Interest have been received including; Anglesea small mammal trapping, Mallee pitfall trapping and Malleefowl monitoring, and; Alpine hawk weed monitoring.

Tourism Partnerships are currently working with Parks Victoria Research Division to identify additional opportunities aligned with Parks Victoria management objectives which may also involve external research partners

