

Role Description



Are you passionate about the Conservation of Australia's threatened orchids? Orchid Conservation Volunteers support the conservation priorities of the Orchid Conservation Program based at the Cranbourne site of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Volunteers contribute towards the propagation and maintenance of ex-situ collections of some of Australia's most threatened plants. Volunteers also have the opportunity to participate in reintroductions and surveys at certain times of year. Orchid volunteers at the RBGV work closely with our research and technical staff on the Orchid Program and a vibrant and enthusiastic existing volunteer base. We are looking for three passionate volunteers to join our team of staff and volunteers in the Orchid Conservation Program.

Role details

Role title:	Orchid Conservation Volunteer (3 places available)
Location:	Cranbourne Site, Royal Botanic Gardens
Volunteer hours:	10 am to 4 pm
Volunteer days:	Tuesday
Commitment	We request a minimum commitment of 30 days per year
Start Date	April 2023
Division:	Science
Branch:	Research
Supervised by:	Senior Research Scientist
Applications to:	Please send applications to noushka.reiter@rbg.vic.gov.au addressing the key education skills and attributes below. Applications close 20 th March 2023.

About the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

RBGV is one of the world's leading botanic gardens and a centre of excellence for horticulture, science and education. It incorporates two outstanding botanic gardens: a heritage-listed landscape in the heart of Melbourne and a contemporary native garden set within a natural bushland reserve at Cranbourne. RBGV is also home to the State Botanical Collection (including over 1.5 million preserved plants, algae and fungi) and is a regional hub for plant knowledge, with internationally recognised biodiversity, and management and conservation research programs.

For further information about RBGV, please visit our website www.rbg.vic.gov.au

The Orchid Conservation Program

We aim to prevent extinction by:

- Storing a genetically diverse representation of seed and mycorrhizal fungi
- Propagating suitable numbers of each of our threatened orchids for reintroduction.
- Reintroducing threatened species to protected public and private land where the appropriate vegetation, climate conditions and pollinator are present.

The Orchid Conservation Program undertakes research on all aspects of orchid ecology, including pollination, mycorrhizal associations, propagation, demographics and reintroduction science.

Key activities

- Contribute to maintaining the extensive orchid conservation shade house plants at Cranbourne Gardens.
- Activities includes repotting orchids and moving seedling orchids from laboratory flasks to pots.
- Contribute towards seed orcharding some of Australia's most endangered terrestrial orchids and cleaning and sorting our precious seed stores.
- Assessing seed viability and databasing.

Education / Qualifications / Specialist Training

- An appropriate qualification in botanical or biological science or horticultural experience.

Skills & attributes

- Passionate about the conservation of Australia's precious native orchids.
- Strong attention to detail and excellence in precision.
- Excellent record keeping skills and strong accuracy. Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills and an ability to communicate effectively with other volunteers and researchers.
- Current Victorian Driver's License.
- Our organisation is committed to protecting children and young people from harm. A Victorian Working with Children Check is required after successful appointment to the position as well as participation in a thorough child safety program to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people whilst in our gardens.
- All volunteers are required to comply with the RBGV COVID-19 Vaccination Policy and provide proof of vaccination status.