

Media Release

17 December 2013

Volunteers keeping the Australian Alps walking track on track!

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and Parks Victoria are, for a second year, partnering to repair and restore remote sections of the 650km Australian Alps Walking Track in the Alpine National Park. Known as the toughest long distance walk in Australia, the track traverses the Australian Alps, which is an iconic conservation and tourism destination.

Across the 2012-13 summer period teams of volunteers achieved amazing results, contributing 42 staff days and 120 volunteer days repairing 23 km of track, laying 930 metres of rubber matting and installing eight water bars to prevent erosion at locations including The Knobs, Mt Sunday and Mt McDonald.

“We couldn’t get this work done on the Alpine Walking Track without the CVA volunteers and their team leaders. It’s a win-win situation for us and for them; an opportunity to get out into the Alps, help with managing this area and enjoy this beautiful landscape.” says Nigel Watts, Parks Victoria Ranger with the King Howqua Unit of the Alpine National Park.

Ross Grant, Parks Victoria Ranger in Charge, says the volunteers will again be working in some of Victoria’s most spectacular scenic locations on a variety of projects.

“Remote sections of the track are difficult to maintain over time and help is needed to clear fallen timber off the track, install rubber tiling, brush-cut overgrown vegetation and to install crucial signage and symbols to help guide bushwalkers on their adventures in the Australian Alps.”

The first three projects are rated easy walking on the Bogong High Plains but require very fit and strong people to lay rubber tiles and use heavy mattocks for a full day for five days. Volunteers will stay in bunk style lodging at Falls Creek from January 12 to 18, February 2-8 & February 16-22, 2014.

The last three projects are rated hard and are remote camping projects in extremely tough terrain in the Mt Clear/Knobs area of the Alpine National Park on March 2-8, March 16-22, and March 30 to April 5, 2014.

CVA Regional Manager Iain Wilson said for the remote camping projects we are looking for very fit, strong people who are experienced remote campers (no toilets or showers) who are able walk several kilometres carrying approximately 10kg of equipment and operate an 8kg bladed brush cutter or use a rake hoe or mattock throughout each day for five days.

Media enquiries

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“The remote Australian Alps Walking Track projects will be truly physically, mentally and spiritually rewarding for volunteers that love a hard physical challenge and giving to the community”, said Mr Wilson.

For more information please contact Adam Smolak, Volunteer Engagement Officer at Conservation Volunteers on 54440777, 0427507004 or asmolak@conservationvolunteers.com.au

About Conservation Volunteers

Conservation Volunteers was founded in Australia in 1982, and expanded operations to New Zealand in 2006. Involving over 10,000 volunteers every year, Conservation Volunteers is a leader in delivery of practical conservation programs, community involvement and a range of training programs.

Conservation Volunteers has offices in 23 locations around Australia and New Zealand, and offers volunteer opportunities every week of the year. Conservation Volunteers has been recognised with many significant awards including the United Nations' Environment Program Global 500, 6 Banksia Environmental Foundation Awards, and Ecotourism Australia's Ecotourism Award 2009.

Conservation Volunteers Australia is a Registered Training Organisation.

For more information, visit: www.conservationvolunteers.com.au or www.conservationvolunteers.co.nz

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