



## Whale Watchers Education Officer 2009 Volunteer Position Description

### Project Title

Watching migrating whales: ensuring the sustainability of a growing whale-watch industry

### Summary

Assist with fieldwork for a project assessing the current whale watching guidelines in Sydney, Australia.

### Background

Whale watching has been promoted as a panacea in lieu of whale killing, yet whale watching may have its own negative impacts on recovering populations. The International Whaling Commission has identified this as of immediate concern. This project will assess tour boat interactions with whales during the migration period for migrating whales off Sydney. This will provide an empirical basis for revised protection measures for whales. In so doing, we will enhance the viability of the whale-watching industry off Sydney and elsewhere in Australia and maintain Australia's prominent position at the forefront of the protection of whales.

Education Officers may be asked to assist with the following project components:

- Participate in marine education programs, particularly providing information on migrating humpback whales at shore based whale watching locations and associated information centres.
- Develop educational materials to enhance individual whale watcher experiences.

This project has received funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grants and is supported by the NSW whale watching industry, particularly Bass & Flinders Cruises and by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

### Project Description

Education Officers will be asked to assist with one or more the following project tasks.

#### *Marine Mammal Education*

A new Whale Information Centre is currently being developed at North Head. Volunteers are required to help establish the centre and staff the centre during the peak migration period. Volunteers will talk to members of the public about whale biology, whale conservation and the Whale Watchers program.

#### *Data Recording*

To facilitate greater public involvement in whale watching research, the Whale Watchers program is developing an online data collection process. Education Officers will be asked to demonstrate this technology to interested parties and to enter the data collected by Whale Watcher Research Assistants.

### Location of Position

Marine mammal education officers will be based in the grounds of North Head National Park.

### Skills Required

Training to undertake each of the tasks specified above will be provided by the Volunteer Supervisor however Education Officers applicants with skills or experience in environmental education will be highly regarded.

**Volunteer Hours**

Marine mammal education works will need to be available between 10am and 4pm.

**Applications**

Applications for the Education Officers should be sent to Megan Kessler at Macquarie University.  
Applications forms are available at [www.gse.mq.edu.au](http://www.gse.mq.edu.au).

Send your application to:

Megan Kessler

Volunteer Supervisor / PhD Candidate

Marine Mammal Research Group

Macquarie University NSW 2109

Ph: 0418 420 608

Email: [mkessler@gse.mq.edu.au](mailto:mkessler@gse.mq.edu.au) (include the position title in the subject line)