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Subject: SURVEYORS WANTED

## Snorkel Surveys—Volunteers Wanted!

[NCMG's](#) snorkel surveys of local marine life are important contributions to the Batemans Marine Park database of what is in our waters. This program will become more important next year, with the Group having won an \$8000 grant to carry this work forward. Participants are entitled to part reimbursement of their equipment costs (eg wetsuits, mask or fins).

Andrew Green is compiling a list of likely participants. We are aiming to survey 9 sites two times a year when the water is warmer - January and May-June. The surveys involve doing three transects at each of nine sites which are both in and outside the Marine Park. Each transect involves the following:

- \* laying a 30 metre weighted line and identifying and counting all the fish within 2 1/2 metres of the line while swimming along it;
- \* identifying and counting mobile invertebrates within 1 metre on one side of the line;
- \* identifying the bottom cover under each one metre point along the line.

The work is done in teams, with different snorkelers carrying out separate tasks. So you do not have to be able to identify many species and you soon learn the common ones.

We are looking to get more people involved in this program. Because of weather conditions, the surveys are often set up at fairly short notice. If we have a larger pool of snorkelers, it will be easier to ensure that we do not miss good weather opportunities. We will train interested people in the methodology and ID skills necessary to participate in this program.

It is not all that difficult and can help you build up a knowledge of our marine life and marine ecology. It is also fun to visit a wide range of nice places up and down our coast.

If you haven't already done so, interested parties should contact Andrew as soon as possible so we can spend the grant budget -- phone 4474 2886, email <ajhgreen@gmail.com>

regards  
Jenny Edwards