

Polarised Pictures at Scienceworks



What is Polarised Pictures?

Polarised Pictures is a volunteer supported activity for visitors to the *Colour* exhibition at Scienceworks.

Visitors create secret messages and colourful artworks, uncovered through the science of polarised light.

Sticky tape is applied to a clear plastic sheet. When laid on top of the white screen of an iPad and viewed through polarised lenses, colourful patterns appear.

This is a flexible, drop-in activity that visitors can join and leave at any time during their visit to the *Colour* exhibition.

What is the role of the volunteer?

The volunteer is responsible for setting up and packing down the activity table and materials at the beginning and end of their shift.

They engage visitors in the activity by explaining what to do and help them discover the science behind the colourful effects.

Does the volunteer need to be an expert in the science behind polarised light?

Absolutely not! The primary aim is to inspire curiosity rather than deliver in-depth scientific content. Volunteers offer the visitor a basic explanation of polarised light and are provided with guidance notes and instructions on how to do this.

What is the age of the visitors participating in the activity?

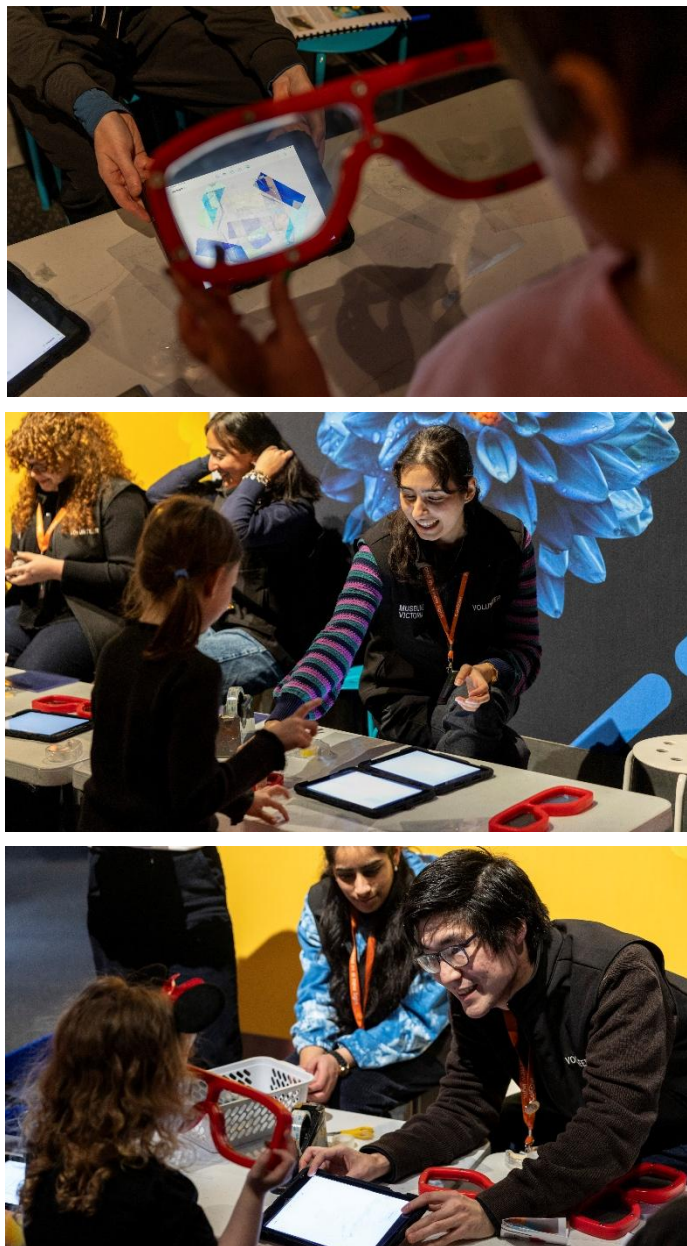
The *Colour* exhibition is designed for families with children aged 6 to 14 years. The visitors who engage with the Polarised Pictures activity are mostly children who are primary school aged or younger.

Is training provided?

Yes. Clear instructions and facilitation notes are provided to help volunteers feel confident in their role.

When are the volunteer shifts available?

Polarised Pictures volunteer shifts are offered 7 days per week during the summer school holidays, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm and are subject to availability.



Volunteers Facilitating the Polarised Pictures Activity

Source: Museums Victoria / Photographer: Rodney Start