

## CAREER NEWSLETTER

**Week 3 - Term 4, 2020.**

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### FOCUS ON VET PATHWAYS

Vocational education and training (VET) includes traineeships, apprenticeships and TAFE study.

A report, titled: 'Perceptions Are Not Reality: myths, realities & the critical role of Vocational Education & Training in Australia', was released by Skilling Australia Foundation last year. It revealed the following:

- VET graduates earn wages comparable to, if not exceeding, that of university graduates.
- VET graduates have a higher employment rate than university undergraduates. More than 78% of VET graduates are employed after training.
- VET courses have adapted more readily to changing workforce needs.

N.B. There are some occupations that require a university degree (e.g., medicine, social work, law).

Students might also VET study during their gap year (e.g., gap year traineeship or TAFE course) and concurrently with their university studies (if time permits).

Other benefits of TAFE courses include:

- Higher level courses (e.g., Diploma) can provide a direct pathway into university courses with credit
- Can give you the opportunity to trial an industry or career area before you commit to university study
- Can give you a qualification you can use to gain part time work whilst undertaking university study.

Do you know you can study a huge range of vocational courses at TAFE? TAFE provides students with the opportunity to:

- Undertake applied learning
- Gain 'industry ready' experience
- Learn about industries and careers
- Obtain a qualification in a relatively short time frame.

The following are example courses you could consider:

Jane knows she loves working with people, has excellent written and verbal communication skills, is creative, loves thinking outside the box, is highly organised and enjoys solving problems. She explores the following TAFE courses:

- Public Relations
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Professional Writing and Editing
- Broadcast Journalism
- Liberal Arts
- Library and Information Services

Sheridan loves sciences and health and is considering working in rehabilitation, medical sciences or allied health in the future. She explores the following courses:

- Dental Technology
- Nursing
- Massage and Myotherapy
- Allied Health Assistance
- Laboratory Technology
- Pathology Collection

Paul knows he loves helping people and that he would like to work in counselling, case management, or human services in the future. He explores the following courses:

- Community Services
- Youth Work
- Disability Services
- Mental Health
- Alcohol and other Drugs
- Aged Care

To search for TAFE courses, use the following websites:

- Victorian Skills Gateway website - <http://bit.ly/2cPZDUF>
- TAFE NSW - <http://bit.ly/1mgtM05>
- MySkills (Australia wide) - <http://bit.ly/2gWp25g>

It's important to note that many courses have optional or compulsory information sessions that run between now and the end of the year.

You will need to ensure that you attend these sessions and also fulfil any portfolio or selection task requirements.

Key VET websites include:

- VET – VCAA, <https://bit.ly/2CKD9Va>
- 'VET. It's right now', <https://bit.ly/2yhKLdT>
- Skills Road, <https://bit.ly/2P2YazQ>
- SkillsOne, <https://bit.ly/1zCKBUG>
- Myfuture, <https://bit.ly/1t6Uj62>
- Australian Apprenticeship Pathways, <https://bit.ly/2Glf3PD>

Free TAFE for priority courses in Victoria. If you live or work in Victoria, you may be eligible for a fully subsidised course at a Victorian TAFE Institute next year. To check your eligibility and to search for TAFE courses and providers, use the websites:

- Victorian Skills Gateway, <https://bit.ly/2yG6vzc>
- Victorian Government, <https://bit.ly/2nR7NGs>

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## VOCATIONAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS

### Would you like to help people with eye disorders?

You may like to study **Orthoptics**.

These allied health professionals play a crucial role in the early detection and treatment of eye diseases in children and adults. They can specialise in areas such as the following:

- Children's vision/paediatrics
- Eye movement disorders
- Low vision care/rehabilitation
- Cataract care and retinal disorders
- Neurological vision disorders
- Laser eye surgery and corneal conditions

- Driver vision and sports vision

You can study orthoptics at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

For key information about this occupation, visit the Orthoptics Australia website, [www.orthoptics.org.au/](http://www.orthoptics.org.au/)

You may also like to consider **Optometry**.

Often the optometrist is first point of contact for people and they can make referrals to orthoptists. They are health care professionals who can diagnose eye diseases, detect changes in the visual system and prescribe corrective lenses. You can study optometry at Deakin University and Melbourne University in Victoria.

For key information about this occupation, visit the Optometry Australia website

<https://bit.ly/3iOYSeV>

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### **The A-Z of science careers**

If you like science, wading through never-ending Google searches to find 'the one' can be daunting.

Hit up the Careers With STEM list of every science-related job option they can think of. Some you would have heard of, but loads will surprise you! <https://bit.ly/2SQi5Cj>

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### **Do you love the outdoors?**

Have you considered studying outdoor education or outdoor recreation? You can study outdoor recreation at TAFE institutes, private providers and via a traineeship at outdoor education centres such as Camp Coolamatong, Victoria and Outward Bound, NSW.

You can also study outdoor education and outdoor recreation at university. The following are examples of courses you can explore:

- Victoria University - Footscray Park: Bachelor of Outdoor Leadership, <https://bit.ly/2QIzurf>
- La Trobe University - Bendigo: Bachelor of Outdoor Education, <https://bit.ly/2N1qoLr>
- Federation University - Ballarat and Gippsland campuses: Bachelor of Outdoor and Environmental Education, Bachelor of Sport, Physical and Outdoor Education, <https://bit.ly/2TbHFlu>
- Charles Sturt University - Albury-Wodonga: Bachelor of Applied Science (Outdoor Recreation & Ecotourism), <https://bit.ly/2Frkuyo>

For information on future job prospects for outdoor adventure guides, go to <https://bit.ly/2x1meYP>

For information on careers in:

- outdoor education
- outdoor recreation
- bush adventure therapy, and
- nature tourism etc.,

Check out the Outdoors Victoria website at <https://outdoorsvictoria.org.au/>

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### **Discover your career in health at Monash University**

Explore your course and career options in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences through the 'Future Careers in Health' website, <https://bit.ly/2Mcr7xi>

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### **Demand for 'soft skills' in future workplaces**

The next ten years will see a shake-up of the mix of skills required by the Australian workforce, with workers needing to deepen their existing skill sets, or acquire new ones. Soft skills are becoming more important than ever.

A recent Deloitte report found that soft skill intensive occupations will account for two-thirds of all jobs by 2030, compared to half of all jobs in 2000. You can download the report at this link - <https://bit.ly/2ITJbLL>

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### **Interested in forensic science?**

- Web series - Afterlife is a web series that explores what goes on behind the doors at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and the Coroners Court of Victoria. Join Meshel Laurie and Catherine McClements as they interview Melbourne's real Silent Witness and meet some of Australia's top forensic and legal experts, including forensic pathologists,

anthropologists, toxicologists, odontologists, molecular biologists, physicians and coroners, <https://bit.ly/3eC56xc>

- Forensic Science Careers - Explore careers in forensic science and study pathways at <https://bit.ly/2TbU4WS>

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### University & TAFE Scholarships

- Land surveying and spatial science, <https://bit.ly/2TcrF2R>
- Nursing and Midwifery, <https://bit.ly/31muXVA>
- Students from a farming background, <https://bit.ly/34dlRez>
- Regional and remote students, <https://bit.ly/35XEB1T>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Cyber Security

AustCyber Canberra Innovation Node has partnered with the University of Canberra to deliver a FREE cyber security careers showcase which will:

- Unpack the skills cyber security employers look for when hiring
- Provide insights into a 'day in the life' of a cyber security professional; and
- Showcase career pathways in the dynamic and rapidly growing cyber security sector.

Date: Tuesday 27 October

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3nSVS5h>

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### Defence Force – Virtual Career Events

Defence Careers virtual career information event, 28 October.

You can watch past sessions on the following topics

- ADF Careers Information Session
- Royal Military College
- Navy Officer
- Navy Technical Trades
- General Entry
- Women in Defence
- Army Careers

For information, to register your place, and to watch past webinars, go to <https://bit.ly/2MpyMUj>

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## JOB SPOTLIGHT

Zoo Keeper from [StudyWorkGrow](#)

### What do Zookeepers do?

Zookeepers care for animals living in captivity and on display to the public for the purposes of conservation and education. They carry out the jobs associated with the animals daily care including feeding and training. They're also responsible for keeping enclosures clean and stimulating, supporting breeding programmes and helping to carry out any necessary vet work.

Loving animals isn't really enough, if you'd like to be a zookeeper you'll need to be dedicated and devoted to building relationships and caring for animals. If you're practical, able to remain professional and maintain high standards of safety and care for the benefit of all, then a career as a Zookeeper could be worth exploring.

### About you:

- Committed to caring for animals around the clock, you'll need to be a great team player and embrace hard work

- You'll need to be physically fit and have lots of stamina
- Creative and great at solving problems
- Able to remain calm in any situation and happy to perform repetitive tasks on a daily basis

#### **The job:**

- Check on the animals and observe them, looking out for any abnormal behaviour or signs of illness and injury
- Prepare diets to strict guidelines, clean and disinfect indoor and outdoor enclosures, ensure water and other essentials are supplied
- Feed the animals and consistently carry out any training routines
- Provide enrichment and exercise for the animals in their enclosures and watch to see how the animals respond
- Chat to zoo visitors, perform public talks and displays with the animals
- Write up reports, move the animals between indoor and outdoor enclosures, ensure the animals are secure at all times
- Respond to and help out with any emergency and medical situations

#### **Lifestyle Impact: Medium**

- Part Time opportunities: Low ( only 31% of Zookeepers work part time – Source: joboutlook.gov.au)
- Average hours for full-time workers (they average 42 per week)
- Zookeepers salary (average) \$52,000\* per year (Source: gov.au) \*salaries vary between locations, level of training, and experience
- Future career growth: Strong (Source: joboutlook.gov.au)
- As a Zookeeper you'll have to work outside 9-5 hours, including shifts over weekends and holidays, as the animals need to be cared for every single day. It can be physically demanding work, which you'll need to be on site to carry out and in all weather conditions too.

#### **Zookeepers are most in demand in these locations:**

There are zoos across Australia, the majority are located in New South Wales and Queensland.

Zookeepers are limited as to where they can work, you'll have to live near to a zoo and be prepared to compete for a job as they are very highly sought after.

You could consider one of the many alternative careers working with animals as a back-up, there's more about that in our FAQ section.

#### **How to become a Zookeeper in Australia**

Most Zoo's in Australia require that you have completed a minimum of Certificate III in Captive Animals through an RTO and have proven experience with animals.

**Step 1** – Take Biology at high school, work on gaining confidence with public speaking and consider completing a [Certificate II in Animal Studies](#) in addition to your other studies.

**Step 2** – Get experience working with animals and learn about a wide range of animals in as much detail as possible.

**Step 3** – Complete relevant tertiary qualifications e.g.:

[Certificate III in Captive Animals](#)

[Diploma of Animal Technology](#)

A degree in a related field could put you ahead of the competition, prepare you for more senior positions, or give you options in other careers to consider. E.g.:

[Zoology](#)

[Animal Science](#)

[Wildlife and Conservation Biology](#)

[Environmental Management](#)

[Biology](#)

[Ecology and Environmental Biology](#)

**Step 4** – Consider specialising or up-skilling, as career progression is an option working in zoo's. For example: you could start working as a Volunteer or Trainee, qualify to become a Keeper, move up to after years of experience to a Senior Keeper position. After that becoming a Supervisor, Curator, or Director are options to pursue.

Find out more here –

<https://www.zooaquarium.org.au/>

<https://wildlifewarriors.org.au/>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- **How long does it take to become a Zookeeper?**

It takes 1 year to complete the Certificate III in Captive Animals which is the minimum qualification preferred by most Zoos.

- **Do I need to go to university to become a Zookeeper?**

A university degree isn't a requirement to work as a Zookeeper, but it could make finding a job easier and open up other career avenues.

- **What are 3 things I can do right now to work help me become a Zookeeper?**

If you're at high school and you'd like to find out if a career as a Zookeeper is right for you and start learning skills and gaining experience, here's a few things you could try:

1. It's really important to build up as much paid or unpaid experience with animals as possible. Work or volunteer at a vet clinic, wildlife park, RSPCA, animal welfare organisation, dog training, wildlife rescue agency, kennel, animal breeder, pet shops, or animal groomer. Seaworld, Dreamworld and WIRES are examples of other organisations to consider too.
2. Practise your public speaking, most Zookeepers are expected to interact with the public and do presentations
3. Get fit, you'll need to be physically capable of doing the work and it is hands on. In Victoria you have to be on a [Preferred Keepers List](#) to be considered for jobs and it's a requirement that you pass a [physical test](#).

## Alternatives to becoming a Zookeeper

Lots of people are interested in becoming a Zookeeper and there are limited positions available. So if you're really passionate about animals, wildlife, education and conservation, it might be worth looking into similar careers that could be just as rewarding. There are lots to think about including:

- Field Researchers
- Animal Trainers (this could be for pets, the Army, Police, Guide Dogs Association or other assistance animals)
- Animal Adoption Counsellors
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Workers
- Pet Sitting
- Dog walking
- Doggie Daycare
- Animal Handler
- Animal Rescue
- Wildlife Photographer
- Animal Control
- Animal Breeder
- Marine Biologist
- Conservation Land Managers
- Parks and Wildlife Rangers

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