

Walkabout Wildlife Sanctuary – Calga NSW



Position #1 Ranger / Keeper

Position #2 Lead Ranger / Lead Keeper

The animals: We look after 200+ animals across 25+ families/60+ species. Most are Australian native mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians; as well as small farm animals including goats and alpacas; and meerkats, with another exotic species about to arrive. Most of our animals are in regionally managed breed-for-wild-release programs or are un-releasable rescues (from the wild or from untenable private situations).

The workplace: A privately-owned visitor-funded working wildlife sanctuary on 80 acres of fox-/cat-/dog-proof native bush with free-ranging introduced kangaroos, emus and wallabies; naturally occurring wild wildlife; and animals in around 25 enclosures and camps; all on Heritage Listed Country with ancient Aboriginal sites.

The animal-care team: 10 qualified Rangers (including 2 vacancies). 3 Sections each caring for a variety of mammals, reptiles/amphibians and birds. Rangers are assigned to a section but support each other across sections to balance workloads. Our Rangers are assisted by volunteers including TAFE students, local community, university interns and residential international guest-volunteers.

The work: Our Rangers look after the animals, do presentations for guests, and run structured adult-education workshops. Our rangers also look after the guest amenities. Our guests include local and interstate visitors, schools and community groups, overseas tourists, overnight guests in our cabins and campsite, groups doing environmental and Aboriginal cultural training with us, and residential volunteers living on-site and enrolled in our education programs and/or working with the Ranger team.

Employment terms: Individual employment terms are negotiable. Most Rangers are on permanent staff and work 8 to 10 shifts per fortnight; from 8am to 5pm with occasional early start (6am), late finish (10pm), or 4-hour shifts; working changeable days including weekends.

The culture: We are ZAA accredited and maintain an exceptional positive animal welfare score. Our animals' and our team's welfare are our highest priority. We respect each-others' differences. We strive to be a workplace where everyone feels welcome and valued. We recognise this is an ideal that takes effort, so we're proud to be a team where everyone feels safe and included.

Why are we recruiting? Workplace and staff changes have created new opportunities. In response to our team's suggestions, we are reorganising work activities, rewriting procedures, and recruiting two new Rangers. The aim is to bring in new ideas and a different perspective, reduce workload pressure and increase capacity to do more team development, guest education, animal enrichment and habitat restoration.

Where we are: We're in Calga, an hour north of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and 15 minutes south-west of Gosford. We're easy to get just off the M1 motorway. There is no public transport so a reliable car is essential.

About you: You have a Certificate III in Wildlife and Exhibited Animals (previously Captive Animals) and at least 2 years' full-time experience in a zoo or similar environment where you looked after a wide array of animal species. For the Lead role, you have experience leading a small team. Other qualifications and/or experience that complements your animal husbandry skills will be an advantage. You are in Australia and you are an Australian resident or you have a working visa valid for at least 2 years. Your rabies titers, covid vaccinations, First Aid Certificate and Working with Children check are all current.

How to apply: Email your resume and cover letter before 3rd April 2023 to the General Manager at director@walkaboutpark.com.au.