

Wildlife Volunteer Program

Wildlife volunteers at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary play an important role in assisting keepers to efficiently complete daily tasks. Applicants should have a genuine passion for Australian native fauna and be someone who understands that being a wildlife volunteer can sometimes be challenging and hard work but can also be a lot of fun and extremely rewarding.

To become a Wildlife Volunteer, you must:

- be 18 years or over
- be enrolled in tertiary studies within the wildlife field or someone who is considering a career in animal keeping
- have a high level of physical fitness, be on your feet for long periods of time and be able to perform tasks that involve a lot of bending, lifting and twisting
- be able to work well independently and with others
- be responsible and reliable
- be friendly and outgoing
- be happy to work outdoors in any kind of weather including heat, high humidity and rain
- be comfortable being exposed to dust, various types of vegetation, insects and animals
- have a very good level of English comprehension (written and verbal)
- have very good listening skills and be able to follow verbal and written instructions
- have regular access to email

Wildlife Sections

At Lone Pine there are various wildlife sections with strict daily schedules. Wildlife Volunteers are responsible for being in the correct area at the correct time.

Wildlife Volunteers will start the program by assisting with the birds and macropods sections only, then the barn and mammals sections, next followed by the koalas section then lastly, the reptiles and raptors sections. Advancement to each new section will be based on keeper assessments.

A mandatory induction session must be completed prior to starting the Wildlife Volunteer Program at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. These sessions are run once per month (on a Sunday at 2:30pm). *Bookings for these sessions are essential.*

Please note: All volunteers are subject to a probation period of four working days. Supervising wildlife keepers and volunteer coordinator will assess and determine whether the volunteer is successful to continue with the volunteer program.

LONE PINE KOALA SANCTUARY WILDLIFE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



Wildlife Volunteer Duties

Husbandry

Wildlife keepers spend a large part of their day cleaning animal exhibits and making sure they are well maintained. Wildlife Volunteers help with the following:

- cleaning poo
- raking and sweeping
- hosing
- removing cobwebs
- weeding
- mulching
- putting sand and other substrates into exhibits
- removing old substrates
- cleaning glass/windows
- painting

Food Preparation

Preparing food for animals is another major part of a wildlife keeper's day so Wildlife Volunteers assist with:

- cutting up fruit, vegetables and meat
- washing dishes
- collecting browse (leaves, grasses, flowers)

General Sanctuary Duties

Wildlife Volunteers may be asked to assist with the following tasks around the sanctuary:

- monitoring visitors in our 5-acre kangaroo reserve
- tidying and cleaning around the sanctuary (including rubbish pickups, weeding gardens, clearing drains, cleaning signage and ledges of exhibits, mulching gardens, cleaning paths)
- assisting visitors from all over the world, helping them with any enquiries they might have, assisting them with photo opportunities and making them feel welcome

Wildlife Volunteer Availability

- Wildlife Volunteer Program runs every day including Saturday and Sunday
- Wildlife Volunteers may apply for any day that suits them
- The minimum requirement is **one day per week for a minimum of 6 months**
- International volunteers can apply for a block of time and can volunteer full time with a minimum of 4-5 days per week for 6 weeks and up to a maximum of 12 weeks

Places are strictly limited; therefore, days and dates are due to availability.

Wildlife Volunteer Daily Schedule

- Day begins at 8:00am and finishes at 2:30pm
- 20-minute morning tea break and a 30-minute lunch break each day.
- Discounted food and drink can be purchased at food outlets inside Lone Pine
- BYO food and drink is permitted
- Wildlife Volunteers have allocated seating in a dedicated volunteer room (near the bird aviaries).

If you are unable to attend on any day you must email the volunteer coordinator, Sandy sandymc@koala.net or call 07 3378 1366.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I volunteer in the animal hospital?

No. Our wildlife hospital is not equipped to accept volunteers.

Will I be handling the animals?

No. Volunteers cannot be trained in any animal handling.

Do I need any experience?

No prior experience is necessary but for health and safety reasons a high level of English comprehension (written and verbal) is essential. Priority will be given to applicants with wildlife experience and applicants who are enrolled in tertiary studies within the wildlife field.

Is there any cost involved?

No. Shirts are provided for Wildlife Volunteers at the start of the program at no cost. However, the uniform issued is the property of Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary and shall always remain the property of the Company. Shirts must be returned upon completion of the program.

What should I wear?

- You will be provided with Wildlife Volunteer shirts at the start of the program
- Wear your Wildlife Volunteer shirt with something that is comfortable for you to work in (jeans, long pants, leggings or shorts)
- Shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh; pants, jeans, leggings must not have rips, mesh or tears which expose undergarments; must not be "low rise" i.e. sit too low on your hips
- When choosing which shorts or pants you would like to wear, please be sure to select ones which you don't mind getting dirty
- Due to the nature of some of the work, we ask that volunteers do NOT wear skirts
- Fully enclosed shoes are compulsory – sneakers (runners/joggers), hiking/work boots
- Hat
- Raincoat for wet weather
- Sunglasses
- We do have sunscreen and insect repellent available for you to use, but if you have a particular type which you prefer, please feel free to bring it with you

Do I need health insurance?

Lone Pine cannot be responsible for the costs of any accidents or injuries that may be incurred during your time during the program. If you are not covered by the insurance policy held by your university, school or organisational group, you are advised to take our private travel or health insurance.

Does Lone Pine provide accommodation or transport?

No. Regarding transport, Lone Pine has free car parking onsite. You can also catch one of the Brisbane City Council buses which stops at the Lone Pine bus stop onsite. For more information, please visit: www.translink.com.au.

Is there free WiFi?

Yes. There is free WiFi throughout the sanctuary.

Are there lockers?

Yes. Lockers are available for use at no cost. Please bring your own padlock with you each day to store and secure any personal items throughout the day.

Can Lone Pine help with visas / sponsorships?

No. Lone Pine is not responsible for any insurance or Visa requirements you might have so before you arrive from overseas, make sure you have arranged all these details yourself.

How do I apply?

Simply complete and sign the [Wildlife Volunteer Application Form](#) and email **Sandy** at sandymc@koala.net. You will be advised of your acceptance via email. No follow up calls or emails please.

Sandy McStay

Head of Birds | Wildlife Volunteer Coordinator

E: sandymc@koala.net

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