

outdoors

Does the thought of an office job make you wanna go AWOL to the beach? We've sussed out some hot careers for nature-lovin' girls!



If you love the country, why don't you become a... jillaroo
 Okay, it's not exactly like McLeod's Daughters ... jillaroes are

female station hands who work on cattle and sheep stations and are involved in activities such as caring for livestock, maintaining equipment, fences, gates and yards and farming work such as cultivation and haymaking. It involves a lot of physical work, but you'll get fit in the process! You can work as a jillaroo without formal qualifications – you'll probably get some informal training on the job – or you can become a jillaroo through a traineeship in Agriculture. For more details, call the New Apprenticeships Referral Line on 1800 639 629 or visit www.ruralskills.com.au or www.rtca.com.au.

If you're into science, why don't you become a... botanist

A botanist studies the biology of plants, and the job includes both lab and field work, such as collecting and documenting plant types and numbers in particular areas. To become a botanist, you usually have to study science at university with a major in botany, horticulture or plant sciences. To get into these courses, you'll need to complete your HSC or equivalent and have good results in maths, chemistry and/or physics. Different universities have different subjects and cut-off scores, and some have flexible entry requirements, so contact the universities you're interested in for more information.

If you've got a green thumb, why don't you become a... park ranger

Park rangers supervise and manage national parks, scenic areas, historic sites, nature reserves and other recreational areas. But

park rangers also work in environments such as snow fields, rainforests, coastal regions and desert-like areas. You can work as a park ranger without formal qualifications, but it may be easier to get a job if you have qualifications and/or work experience. To work as a park ranger with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, you usually need a university degree with relevant subjects, such as botany, environmental science, geography, natural resource management and park management. To get into these courses, you will need to complete your HSC or equivalent and have good results in English, maths and at least one science subject. Contact universities in your state for info.

If you're a bit creative, why don't you become a... landscape gardener

Landscape gardeners design and construct garden landscapes or renovate existing gardens. They use a wide range of gardening skills to create a landscape that looks fantastic as well as being useful. Landscape gardeners work on private gardens, public parks and reserves, indoor facilities and new housing estates and industrial complexes. They may also have to construct fences, trellises, pergolas, ponds, feneries, barbecues, play structures and garden furniture – get into practice by helping out in the backyard! You can study to become a landscape gardener through a traineeship in Horticulture (Landscape). Contact the New Apprenticeships Referral Line on 1800 639 629.

best job to score:

Combine a job outdoors with working on TV. Most of the cast on shows like *Backyard Blitz*, *Burke's Backyard* and *Ground Force* studied and trained as horticulturalists and landscape gardeners before becoming stars of the small screen.



For more info on any of these jobs or courses, go to www.myfuture.edu.au



PROFILE: LIFEGUARD
If you're a strong swimmer and love the beach, how about becoming a lifeguard or a lifesaver?

NAME: Emma Richards
AGE: 19
How long have you been a lifeguard for?

"This is my first year as a lifeguard, but I've been a member of my local surf club for six years."

How did you qualify to become a lifeguard?

"I had to get my awards [Bronze, Silver and Gold Medallions] and pass the lifeguard trial, where I had to do an 800 metre swim, and then a 400 metre run, 400 metre swim, 400 metre run and 400 metre paddle in under 25 minutes."

Bad bits?

"Nothing really, except for a really bad cossie tan line that's hard to get rid of!"

What do you enjoy?

"I get paid to be at the beach!"

Ever had a scary situation?

"I haven't had to do a rescue while I've been a lifeguard, but when I was on patrol (as a volunteer) there were a few scary situations. I've also helped in a few rescues where people have been unconscious, but I haven't had to perform the rescue myself. I do have to treat first aid cases, however the majority of these are either stings or small cuts."

Lifeguard vs lifesaver

A lifeguard is employed by councils, national parks and resorts. They must have a Bronze Medallion, Silver Medallion, a Senior First Aid Certificate and an Advanced Resuscitation Certificate. A lifesaver is a volunteer who has their Bronze Medallion or a Surf Rescue Certificate as a probationary surf lifesaver. To hold a Bronze Medallion, you must be over 15, and to earn a Surf Rescue Certificate you must be over 13. Want more info on becoming a lifeguard or a lifesaver? Log on to www.slsa.asn.au