

The Trainee Wildlife Officer

After receiving his basic training at Head Office, the trainee obtains further experience by working with other Wildlife Officers in the field.

The Wildlife Officer's main duty is to enforce the Wildlife Conservation Act and Regulations. His duties in enforcing the Act and Regulations are many and varied, some of which are listed below:

- (i) Inspections are made frequently of fauna and flora reserves and it is the duty of the officer to ensure that no illegal shooting takes place or the habitat is being destroyed by the dumping of rubbish, removal of soil, vegetation, etc.
- (ii) Patrols are carried out in the areas where illegal shooting is suspected.
- (iii) Licenced bird trappers are checked in their area of trapping to ensure that the strict regulations placed upon them are adhered to.
- (iv) Inspections of all bird dealers and some aviculturists are made to ensure that they comply with the regulations.
- (v) Inspections of all kangaroo skin dealers and processors are carried out on a regular basis, as are inspections of the licensed kangaroo shooter and his equipment.

Regular patrols are made by metropolitan wildlife officers and those stationed in country districts, and it is the duty of the officer to apprehend any person who is committing a breach of the Act or Regulations. He then must compile a detailed prosecution report and give evidence in Court as required by the Department.

The Wildlife Officer is required to do a certain amount of manual work, such as erecting nature Reserve signs, washing and cleaning the Department's vehicles and the care and maintenance of other Departmental property.

Qualifications and Requirements

Education: An Achievement Certificate or the equivalent is required. Higher qualifications would give the applicant preference.

Physique: A minimum of 172 cm (5ft 8ins.) in height and 59 kg (130lbs.) in weight and sound physical health.

Age: 18-25 years.

Knowledge: Preference is given to those applicants who have some knowledge of the fauna and flora of this State. Preference is also given to those applicants who are not afraid of manual work, who can use a four wheel drive vehicle or outboard motor, read maps, use a compass, have camping experience and are able to cook and take care of themselves in the bush.

Character: The applicant must be of excellent character; no person with a criminal record would be considered. The applicant must display above average initiative and be reliable. Past service with the school cadets or scouts is an advantage.

After a satisfactory qualifying period, the trainee will be promoted to a Wildlife Officer when a vacancy occurs. Salary rates range from \$5 803 to \$9 104 as a trainee, graduating in yearly increments. Wildlife Officer's salary ranges from \$5 803 to \$12 767. An additional commuted overtime allowance of 15 per cent is payable on the gross annual salary. A ten day fortnight is worked, with four days off. Days off in lieu for public holidays worked are also allowed.
