

A Day in the Life of...

Kristi Pasqua, Security Coordinator



Kristi's Diary

It is really difficult to pin down what I do each day as it can vary in so many ways. I can go from providing first aid to a child to writing a report for the Zoo Board, to participating in an occupational health and safety committee meeting to servicing two-way radios. I liaise with building contractors and locksmiths as it is important that we know who is inside the Zoo and what they are doing behind the scenes.

If we have any new staff or contractors, they need to see me before they start work to organise access. I also provide security inductions for them.

The Park Management Officers and I patrol the car parks, in conjunction with City of South Perth rangers. We feel that increased presence is important and it also helps us in monitoring the correct use of ACROD bays and the like.

Part of my role is to oversee the emergency procedures and update them annually. I train staff and volunteers in what to do in case of an emergency. I also spring emergency drills on unsuspecting staff several times a year.

Our working day is often longer than 9–5 as we open and close the Zoo after everyone has gone home. We stay on to provide security for night functions and also act as senior security for the big concert events that we hold. That provides a great opportunity for us to work with others in the security industry and to show them what we do here.

Long hours, wide responsibility, late nights on-call and a never-ending to-do list...would I work anywhere else? No way, you'll have to drag me out.

Perth Zoo Security Coordinator, Kristi Pasqua, enjoys diversity in her work as the senior security officer at the Zoo. Whether it's working on the Zoo's new perimeter fence project, liaising with external groups for events such as the annual Red Bull Air Race, developing new emergency procedures or undertaking regular administration and operational duties, Kristi says there is always plenty to do.

"I started working at Perth Zoo in 2002 as a part-time security officer. I worked in that role for two years before becoming the Security Coordinator in 2004," Kristi says.

"Soon after I joined, the Zoo introduced Park Management Officers who handle the day-to-day security matters of the Zoo which partly frees me up to focus on more strategic work.

"Our daily duties include opening and closing the Zoo, looking for lost children, first aid and the occasional reprimand. When someone does something wrong we want to point it out to them but we also want to educate them."

Working with all sections of the Zoo, Kristi is involved with many exciting projects such as the design and level of security for new animal exhibits including surveillance cameras and locking and alarm systems.

"So far the absolute highlight has been seeing the Zoo's new perimeter fence come to fruition after so many years of planning. It's been a dramatic change but a change for the better. It provides excellent security but I'm also pleased with it aesthetically. It has given the Zoo a real facelift."

During Kristi's years at the Zoo, she has built up strong relationships with local emergency services such as FESA, the police and community ranger services.

"This has meant a great level of response when these services are required. We also work together so everyone is aware of what is going on in the community and at the Zoo. It's all about promoting community togetherness and it makes sense considering the Zoo plays such a big role in the community."

