



A Day in the Life of... Gary Bostock, Maintenance Attendant

In this fast-paced world of job-hopping, 17 years in one organisation seems like a lifetime. But for one Perth Zoo maintenance attendant, the years have whizzed by and brought with it a lot of change.

Gary Bostock has worked at Perth Zoo since 1989. Back then, he was the friendly face behind the wheel of the Zoo train.

“People still come up to me because they remember me from the train days,” Gary says.

While the train has long since retired, Gary still works at the Zoo. As a maintenance attendant in the Facilities and Environmental Services section, Gary works in all areas of the Zoo on all sorts of different jobs.

“I used to work weekends when I drove the train and I kept those shifts when I changed jobs in the Zoo,” Gary says. “Back then, I was the only maintenance attendant that worked on the weekend. Now there’s a team of us who work weekends, which is great.”

“In a job like mine, you need all the hands you can get.”



7am

When everyone in our team arrives, we split up and cover different sections of the Zoo to get everything tidy for the 9am opening. This covers everything from cleaning barbecues to high-pressure cleaning. There are a lot of little things to do before we open.

9am

From nine o’clock onwards, there is a mix of different jobs that need to be done. Some are regular while others might be once off. All the left over gardening waste, including branches and leaves, is collected, put into the chipper and recycled.

At the Zoo, we try to set an example with our waste disposal so we recycle such things as plastic, metal and cardboard. Recycling is a large part of our job. We collect the rubbish from the recycle bins and sort all this out. It helps when visitors put their rubbish in the correct bins.

We’re also the fixers. Different sections place work orders which can cover just about everything from fixing fences to building new exhibits. We were even called on to help lift the Galapagos Tortoises for weighing and, recently, we had to lift one out of the mud—and those tortoises are heavy.

3.30pm

The work never stops. If we finish one job, there’s always another to be getting on with and we work through all sorts of weather. While the work can be hard, the Zoo’s still a great place to work. For me it’s like a little oasis next to the city.