



SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium

Hope Nugent

Assistant Curator



Question - How long have you worked looking after animals for?

Hope - 20 years

Question - How old were you when you decided you wanted to work with animals?

Hope - 5 years old

Question - What inspired you to work with animals?

Hope - I have always loved all animals and always been fascinated by the animals that people feared most such as sharks. I have also always loved the ocean and always knew that I wanted to work with marine animals.

Question - What is your favourite part about your job?

Hope - Diving and hand Feeding Sharks

Question - What is the smelliest part about your job?

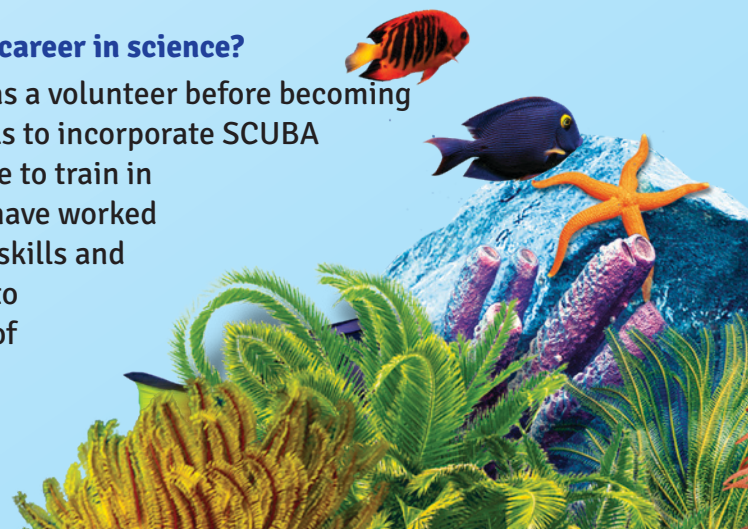
Hope - Cleaning Artemia (Brine shrimp similar to sea monkeys)

Question - If you can be any animal what would you be and why?

Hope - A shark, they are majestic, graceful and beautiful as well as an Apex predator with so many species and so many diverse and fascinating attributes.

Question - Do you have any advice for girls wanting a career in science?

Hope - If you want it you can do it. I started my career as a volunteer before becoming an entry level aquarist. From there I diversified my skills to incorporate SCUBA diving and became an instructor. From there I was able to train in shark feeding techniques and become a senior diver. I have worked across three different aquariums and learned valuable skills and experience from each. A positive and friendly attitude to working with a diverse team of people is probably one of the most valuable skills to learning and progressing within our industry.





SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's **Kim Evans**

Aquarist



Question - How long have you worked looking after animals for?

Kim - 7 Years

Question - How old were you when you decided you wanted to work with animals?

Kim - 12 years old



Question - What inspired you to work with animals?

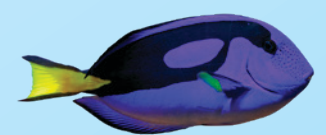
Kim - Personally, I just always loved my pets and I have always been surrounded by animals. It progressed from there really! I think it is a really rewarding thing to care for an animal, building relationships with them, see their personalities (even fish have personalities!) and be the one to know that I am looking after them to the best possible standard.

Question - What is your favourite part about your job?

Kim - It's so hard to pick, we are so lucky to have this job, it changes all the time! Anything from diving, being in their environment, forming relationships with the animals to the challenges of designing new exhibits.

Question - What is the smelliest part about your job?

Kim - Burping the Wobbegong shark, you can smell it underwater.

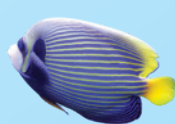


Question - If you can be any animal what would you be and why?

Kim - The short-finned eel in fish tank, he gets lots of attention and targeted food to make sure he is ok. We do this to all of the animals but especially him!

Question - Do you have any advice for girls wanting a career in science?

Kim - Just do the subjects at school that you are interested in and passionate about. Don't let anyone or anything make you think that you can't do what you enjoy and think is awesome to learn. And remember, a geek is someone who just really likes things!





WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo

Ashley Wombey

Zookeeper



Question - How long have you worked looking after animals for?

Ashley - I have been a zookeeper for almost 2 years now.

Question - How old were you when you decided you wanted to work with animals?

Ashley - According to my parents I was two years old when I first told them I would be an animal person when I grew up. We went to every zoo we could on every holiday we went on when I was little. I read every book on animals I could get my hands on. It was only recently that I discovered my own passion for zookeeping, whilst I was completing a volunteer work placement at a zoo, for my Bachelor's Degree in Animal and Veterinary Bioscience at The University of Sydney.

Question - What inspired you to work with animals?

Ashley - We share this world with incredible creatures and I wanted to make a difference for those who can't speak for themselves.

Question - What is your favourite part about your job?

Ashley - My favourite part of being zookeeper is being in a position to educate and inspire the public, and connect them to the incredible animals that call Australia home. I love making magic and creating special memories for children, and seeing expressions of happiness and wonder on their faces.

Question - What is the smelliest part about your job?

Ashley - Definitely having a male koala scent mark your shirt.



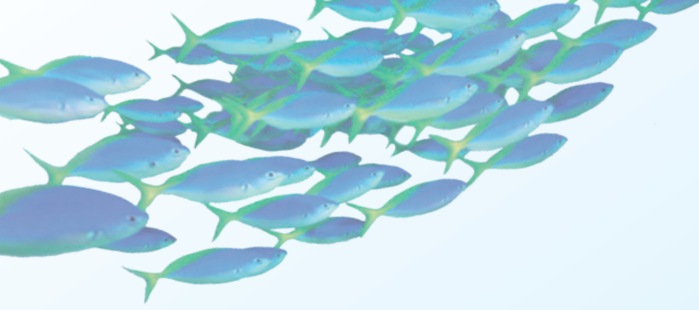
Question - If you can be any animal what would you be and why?

Ashley - I would be a penguin. Penguins are extremely resilient and are able to survive in some of the harshest environments and unusual climates. They are also excellent swimmers and I love being underwater. I am also fairly clumsy and can fall over walking on flat surfaces, just like a penguin.

Question - Do you have any advice for girls wanting a career in science?

Ashley - I always loved and was fascinated with science when I was at school. So my advice to any young girls who also feel the same would be; don't be afraid to follow that interest and fascination wherever it may lead. Take every opportunity that arises and if you find a cool fact, write it down and one day you'll have your very own book of your favourite facts.





SEA LIFE Sunshine Coast

Carla Haskell

Mammal Manager



Question - How long have you worked looking after animals for?

Carla - For over 16 years

Question - How old were you when you decided you wanted to work with animals?

Carla - From a very young age I knew I wanted to work with animals. From memory I think I was about six years old.

Question - What inspired you to work with animals?

Carla - I have always appreciated and felt comfortable around animals. My inspiration came from observing animals and being in total awe of their beauty and personalities. Whenever I would see marine mammals they would inspire me that little bit more.

Question - What is your favourite part about your job?

Carla - Being up close and personal with the animals, to the point that you develop a relationship with them. Also working alongside team members that have the same goals and passions as yourself.

Question - What is the smelliest part about your job?

Carla - At the end of the day we are pretty smelly, working with the animals and preparing their diets, most of it ends up on our clothes. So at the end of the day...we smell.

Question - If you can be any animal what would you be and why?

Carla - That's a tough question- I would love to be a dolphin to be able to swim the depths of the ocean and propel through the water with my powerful tail.

Question - Do you have any advice for girls wanting a career in science?

Carla - Do it and never give up!!!! It's one of the most rewarding careers.

