



# I work for the environment

**Find out what environmental scientist Joanne Ocock loves best about her work at OEH.**

## What I do

I do a lot of fieldwork which is mostly walking around counting things in wetlands and forests, during the day and at night, which is rather awesome. I then help with data analysis, and write reports and scientific papers on what we have found and what it means.

I mostly work in the field of environmental water in NSW. We also provide advice on a particular animal or wetland area. Sometimes I get to work in the lab dissecting and counting very small things.



## Who inspired me

Jonathan Baillie, now head of Conservation Programs at the Zoological Society of London, was a great mentor – he was my boss when I worked on Mongolian freshwater fish. He was a nice, genuine guy who got great things done and inspired me to want to do the same things.

## Where I studied

I'm from Christchurch, New Zealand. I studied at Canterbury University in Christchurch and did my PhD at UNSW, Sydney. My studies have opened the door to being in a position where I enjoy my work, I get to see very special places and amazing animals, and feel like I'm making their life a little bit better and more secure.

## Things I've done

I've travelled throughout Australia and around the world. I haven't always been paid for it, but there have been amazing experiences along the way. I've been to Mongolia and become an expert on the conservation of Mongolian fish. I've identified new species of freshwater invertebrate in New Zealand, radio-tracked frogs around marshes, flown around in a small aeroplane and canoed through wetlands to count birds, hung out in Thailand studying frogs and dissected tadpoles to see what they eat.

## People I've met

Through my work I've met a lot of people who are passionate about wetlands, animals, and securing a better future for them. I work with a diverse range of people from other scientists and natural resource managers to landholders, school kids and people who are just passionate about supporting local wetlands.



## Best bits

The best part of my job would be wading through water at night, listening to lots of different kinds of frogs calling all around me. It's also great when I see people become more interested and engaged in frogs, waterbirds and wetlands. Even better when local landholders start to tell me about the different frogs they see by their correct names rather than just green ones and brown ones.

Find out more at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

Photos:

Page 1: Joanne Ocock radio-tracking frogs in Macquarie Marshes, D Herasimtschuk/OEH. Broad-palmed frog (*Litoria latopalmata*), J Ocock/OEH.

Page 2: Egret chicks (*Ardea alba*), D Herasimtschuk/OEH. Green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*), D Herasimtschuk/OEH.

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