CV/ Resume

Contact Details

Name: Eliska Blattner-de Vries

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D.O.B: 07/10/1995

Skills

* Fauna monitoring and handling of threatened or critically endangered species (Asian black bear, kakapo, hihi, short-tailed bat, Archey’s frog, Mahoenui Giant Weta)
* Collecting and processing bear samples (hair, blood, tooth, etc.)
* Preparation and maintenance of darts and needles for tranquilisation
* Some experience of gun handling, safety and usage
* Radio collar maintenance and management (mostly VHF beacon)
* Scat analysis
* Radio telemetry tracking
* Lifting heavy weight including bears and bear traps
* GIS: ArcGIS and QGIS
* GPS, compass use and map reading (2 years)
* Navigation in rough terrain and thick bush
* First Aid certificate
* Full drivers license (New Zealand, Japanese)
* Nine months experience manual driving
* Accurate data organisation
* Setting animal kill traps (possums, rats, stoats)
* Setting and checking bear capture drum traps
* New Zealand GroSafe certificate for qualified use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides
* Weeding: by hand, with tools, spraying, cut and paste, grid-searching
* Poison baiting for animal pests
* High fitness level, endurance and strength
* Ability to lift and/or carry fairly heavy objects
* Usage of tools eg hammers, knives, saws, etc.
* Awareness of health and safety precautions/procedures
* Radio communication
* Research skills including note-taking, sampling, designing and conducting experiments
* Research experience: bear behaviour, hibernation study, fruit and nut surveys etc.)
* Freelance writer -Report writing, creative writing, articles
* Computer literacy (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint etc.)
* Quick learner
* Hardworking
* Proactive
* Effective communication
* Ability to work independently/without supervision for extended periods of time
* Ability to work in isolation
* Negotiation skills e.g. with stakeholders, members of the public
* Teaching or guiding
* Teamwork/cooperation
* Able to improvise when necessary
* Japanese language
* Working and living with people of various backgrounds and cultures
* Logical, coherent
* Observant
* Leadership skills when appropriate
* Friendly
* Open-minded
* Problem-solving
* Time management skills
* Both a global and localised outlook
* Honest
* Responsible

Education

* TEFL Teaching English certificate
* Double major BA in Ecology & Biodiversity and English Literature, minor in Japanese
* Victoria Study Abroad at Akita International University, Japan
* Victoria University Institute of Modern Letters Creative Writing course (limited entry 12 students)
* NCEA Levels 1-3 (Kerikeri High School)
* IGCSE (Springbank School)
* 7 months of Year 6 education in Spain (British School of Valencia)
* Rawene Primary School

Other

* Recipient of Summer Research Scholarship with Department of Conservation New Zealand (could not accept due to traveling overseas)
* Recipient of Victoria Achievers’ Scholarship 2014
* Recipient of Victoria Abroad Scholarship
* *Community involvement*:
* Toshinkai Karate, Nagano Japan
* Basketball club, Nagano Japan
* Akita International University Rock Band Club
* Akita International University Futsal Club
* Victoria University WTF Tae Kwon Do Club
* Victoria University Japanese Conversation Club
* Rawene Soccer Club
* Hokianga Sailing Club
* *Volunteering*
* Akita International University Supporter Club: selling goods and doing educational trips to raise funds and awareness for 2011 Tohoku Japan Earthquake and Tsunami
* Victoria University Tae Kwon Do Club Equipment Sales Manager
* Victoria University Class Representative
* Victoria University International Buddy
* Victoria University Language Learning Buddy
* Kerikeri High School Childrens’ Reading Buddy
* Kerikeri High School Peer Support Leader for Year 7s
* Outward Bound Mind Body Soul Winter course:

This 3-week-long outdoor education course teaches a variety of life skills such as teamwork and confidence, through an intense series of hiking, kayaking, running, sailing, rock climbing and a high ropes course; all while being isolated from technology

Work Experience

* **Asian black bear conservationist and Nature Tour Guide, “Picchio” (2019-current):** Working for NPO Picchio Wildlife Research Centre in Japan. We capture bears near town with drum traps and tranquilise, take samples and measurements, then relocate them into the mountains with releases including bear dog barking/chasing, human shouts, bear bells and more to teach bears to fear humans and stay away. We herd bears away from town when required (bear dogs/human shouting from vehicles), help locals to install prevention methods such as fences; train interns, and educate local schools.  
  While I am not a bear dog handler, I have spent my spare time going for walks with the dogs, and especially inquiring about the puppy training, what not to do with young dogs-in-training, and watching processes such as sniffing out bear parts. I’ve also trained my own dog since she was a puppy (a Jack Russell mix-breed) in basic obedience training and to do tricks. I studied from professional dog obedience trainers’ handbooks in order to do so.

The other half of my job is being a Nature Tour Guide for nocturnal flying squirrels and forest walks. The tour content changes as the seasons do, so my ability to learn a lot of flora and fauna ID and remember quickly is essential. It’s also crucial to be a staunch observer in order to spot wildlife and plants.

* **English teacher in Japan**
* **Freelance Writer, Blogger, Photographer (**[**https://elisooker.wordpress.com/**](https://elisooker.wordpress.com/)**)**
* **Ranger (Pest and Weed Control) Department of Conservation New Zealand:** I worked as a Ranger for the government in two different contracts for a total of 9 months.  
  The first 3-month contract was for specific weed work (with occasional opportunity to help monitor endangered species e.g. kakapo, hihi) on bird sanctuary **Little Barrier Island**. I lived constantly on the island for the 3 months with just 9 other inhabitants (the island’s purpose is conservation, especially for endangered and/or flightless birds, so quarantine is very strict and only conservationists can live here). The island consists of steep cliffs and rough bush and we spent 7 hours a day hiking, so mental endurance and fitness were crucial. Occasionally rock climbing with prussocks was necessary.

My second contract was in **Pureora Forest Park** for 6 months. Included animal pest (stoats, rats, possums etc.) and weed control operation and planning and occasional monitoring of endangered species (short-tailed bat, Archey’s frog, Mahoenui Giant Weta). Similar to the island we spent up to 6 hours hiking and bush navigation per day and/or cutting down invasive trees, setting traps, maintaining tracks etc. Driving off-road and rough camping for up to a week was also often necessary for isolated spots.

* **Plant and Food Research:** Working with plant biologist/geneticist to select trees for sampling, collecting and sorting leaf samples, basic laboratory tasks e.g. cutting, stoning fruit, and watering plants. Approx 3 weeks, 2016
* **Panmure Orchards:** Packhouse worker 2016-17 (cherries, nectarines) including operation of machinery and unsupervised work
* **English Conversation Partner in Japan**
* **Gardening/outdoor cleanup**
* **Leafee Café Wellington**
* **Dog walking**
* **Private house cleaning**
* **Schooner Café Omapere**
* **Opononi Four Square**

Hobbies/Interests

* Nature
* Conservation
* Science; biology and ecology
* Tae Kwon Do
* Outdoors e.g. camping, hiking, sailing, kayaking
* Reading
* Spending time with friends
* Travel
* Listening to, playing, and making music
* Culture/s
* History

References

* Junpei Tanaka (Picchio, Japan)

junpei@picchio.co.jp

* Howard Matthew (Pest Team Supervisor, New Zealand)

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