

A place to horse around Jamie First

Dressing up in 1850s attire, riding horse-drawn carts and talking to strangers in old English is hardly your average job.

But for the more than 330 people who work at Sovereign Hill, it's the norm.

With sound and light shows, street theatre performances, gold pouring, guided tours and period shops, the re-created goldfields township has been recognised as Australia's best major tourist attraction.

Horse operations manager Rikki Wagstaff said it takes a great deal to keep the 25 hectare property running.

"It's quite a hard job and requires a lot of physical labour," she said.

Caring for the 27 horses on site, Rikki has worked at the outdoor museum for four years.

"I'm in charge of the cleaning, feeding, shoeing, general health and training."

In search of people to join her team, she said equine appreciation and riding experience was mandatory.

"I have grown up with horses and have a genuine love for them ... I expect those who apply feel the same.

"You also need to be accomplished and quite-skilled before you come here."

With 500,000 visitors to Sovereign Hill each year, Rikki said it was about getting the animals desensitised to the day-to-day activities.

HR payroll coordinator Taryn Heinrich said the last time a job was advertised was in January 2013.

"It's not very often that we hire," she said.

More than 30 candidates have already applied for up to four positions and Taryn said age and gender is no barrier.

"We will take people from anywhere, but it is built for those who love everything about horses and can talk to people about their love."

Submissions close midnight on Sunday, April 27. To apply, visit sovereignhill.com.au/sovereign-hill/careers-at-sovereign-hill.