

over story

Not human but very rewarding

er work with children or animals, the old ge says. But if you ignore this advice, and 't fancy tackling kids, there are more jobs king with fins, fur and feathers than you might e thought. **Valerie Khoo** takes a sample.

ON CUE

ne training a cow to run gh the surf. Or a butterfly to n Marlon Brando's thumb. Or o play tug-of-war with a l. That's all in a day's work for l trainer Kirstin Feddersen, er of Kirsko Film Animals, a ss that trains animals for s, television and ads.

rson, 44 red wanted vet she left but get the Instead, idied e and year off ni, working with a man horses were in a movie. my first day on the film set I at. This is where it's all led here was a reason I missed out science. So now I work with y, happy animals instead of ck ones."

rk with animals on a film i be unpredictable and stive

HANDS THAT HEAL

Following a more conventional career, Irene Leong, 25, is a vet with the RSPCA in Yagoona. She can also be seen treating animals on Channel 7's *RSPCA Animal Rescue*.

"Animals are really sweet compared to

people," says Leong (right). "They are very innocent and have no one, apart from us, to help them when they get sick. They really need to be looked after and the sad thing is a lot aren't looked after very well."

Leong knew she wanted to be a vet from a young age. She struck a deal with her mother that if she got the marks to get into a selective school, she could have a dog. The marks were gained; so was the dog.

The young vet turned reality TV star says she enjoys the variety of her job. "When you're a doctor you have to specialise quite early on but if you're a vet you can do



Tapping into an energy field is what animal communicator Simonne Lee (above) has turned into a profession. Like a modern day Dr Doolittle, Lee claims she literally talks to animals. She says she has experienced her fair share of doubters.

"Sometimes, people see me who are very sceptical and they are using me as a last resort because maybe they can't understand why their dog is barking

incessantly," says Lee, who is in her 30s. "They say, 'I don't believe this but I'm desperate'. I don't take offence."

Her clients include pet-owners whose animals are traumatised or have anxiety. "I can find out if the animal is unwell or if they are a bit down. I can explain to people what's happened and why their animal is behaving this way."

other careers before becoming a full-time carer of his children. But the

specialising in the platypus section. "I love the fact we also get to talk to

flinches and manipulates the area, checking for any early signs of