



SENIOR KEEPER REPTILE/BIRD DEPARTMENT

Here at Oakvale we are committed to providing exciting conservation initiatives through education, research programs and through our growing threatened and endangered species breeding programs as well as through our recently launched 'Save Our Wildlife' Program.

The right applicant will possess a professional and positive approach, the right personality to fit with our team coupled with the passion and knowledge to make improvements to the department.

Oakvale is heading in an exciting new direction and this newly created, full time position is part of the restructuring here at the park. The aim of this position is to bring further growth and development to the department and to assist the Curator and Management throughout the process.

Selection Criteria:

- Possess sound knowledge and understanding of the animal husbandry related practices, including capture and restraint, dietary requirements, reproduction etc. relating to the species kept in the Reptile/Bird Department at Oakvale. Species such as a wide variety of Pythons, Lizards, Monitors, various species of Crocodylian and Australian coastal birds and parrots.
- Experience working with exotic reptiles will be advantageous.
- Exceptional knowledge and experience in positive animal training techniques, conditioning & enrichment.
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong customer service skills
- An ability to prioritize workloads and instruct staff and volunteers to reflect those priorities.
- WHS awareness and the ability to identify safety concerns in the workplace.
- Possess a good understanding of Microsoft word, excel and power point.
- Exceptional presentation and public speaking skills.
- Sound time management skills.
- A flexible, positive and professional attitude.
- A passion to grow and develop a Department within a zoological institution.
- A drive for educating others on the importance of high husbandry standards.
- A minimum of 3 years' experience in the industry or in a similar role.
- A minimum of Certificate III in Captive Animals or equivalent university studies.
- Holding a Certificate IV in Captive Animals or the capacity to undertake studies will be highly regarded.

Please forward your cover letter and resume highlighting the necessary skills and knowledge outlined in the selection criteria as well as the attached position description to lachlan@oakvalewildlifepark.com.au

Applications close: Monday 12th November 2018



JOB TITLE Senior Keeper - Reptile/Bird Department
CLOSE DATE Monday 12th October 2018
REPORTS TO Curator

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Remuneration Amusement, Events and Recreation Award
Grade considerations will be made for applicant with the required experience.

Position purpose

- **Caring for animals with minimal supervision from Curator.**
- **Ensuring animal enclosures and welfare are maintained to a high standard within your department.**
- **Ensuring all record systems and databases are kept up to date and current.**
- **Developing enrichment strategies and improved husbandry practices for your department.**
- **Possess a willingness to learn and grow in the business as well as establish new initiatives and converse with the Curator on Reptile/Bird Department improvements, strategies & outcomes.**
- **Supporting the objectives and business directives of the company**

Main tasks

Core objectives include:

- To ensure high standards of animal welfare are maintained at all times
- Coordinating a team of volunteers and staff within your department.
- To ensure the husbandry routines and general health of the animals are maintained to a high standard and improved where required.
- Research and deliver quality and informative educational talks on a range of species with a delivery style that is relevant to the audience.
- Improve, maintain and deliver detailed and accurate records.
- Support section protocol and policy development
- Contribute to the development of your section.
- Adhere to Oakvale's Workplace Health and Safety policies and procedures
- Support your section's development of health and safety documentation.
- To ensure that all equipment that you use is kept in good working order, is well maintained and is stored suitably
- Ensure a well presented personal appearance at all times
- Interact and share experience with visitors and guests

- Understanding of all relevant company policies and procedures
- To complete all relevant reports and tasks when asked to do so by the Curator on the welfare of our animals.
- To ensure the husbandry routines and general health of the animals are maintained to a high standard and in a timely manner in your department.
- Ensure any concerns relating to the animals or facilities are directed to your Curator.
- Contribute to the development and direction of the park.
- Assist in the training of skills and knowledge with keepers on staff.
- To ensure that all equipment that you use is kept in good working order, is well maintained and is stored suitably
- Commitment towards training opportunities provided by Oakvale.
- Liaise with the Curator on issues of animal health, conditioning and training.
- To motivate your keeper team and lead by example with daily schedules and tasks.
- To hold other keepers in your department accountable with time management and train/retrain where required.
- Complete all requested assignments given by the Curator in the time frame allocated.
- Liaise with the Curator of all maintenance of all animal care areas and implement improvements as required.
- Possess a high level of ability to train others in all aspects of care for the animals within the division.

The above list is not exhaustive and the role may change to meet the overall objectives of the company.

Other Duties

Fulfill other duties as required by management and other department personnel as requested/required.

A thorough understanding of handling techniques for a range of native reptiles and birds.

Essential qualities

- Professional approach.
- Ability to work under pressure and autonomously.
- Organisational and time management skills.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Good communicator with a diverse customer base.

Necessary competencies

- Analytical thinking.
- Initiative.
- Business awareness.
- Tenacity.
- Strategic thinking.
- Positive approach to change.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications

- Minimum Cert III Captive Animals and working towards Cert IV in Captive Animals.
- Classification C Manual Drivers License

Experience

- Interest and commitment to animal welfare and conservation

- Minimum of three year's zoo or wildlife husbandry experience with a range of native Bird/Reptile species (not including volunteer experience).
- Experience in the husbandry of the departments collection species.
- Experience with working with children of all ages and delivering on conservation and animal content in an exciting and engaging manner.

Knowledge

- Good knowledge and understanding of relevant government Acts and animal welfare legislation.
- Foundation knowledge and understanding of positive reinforcement and animal training/conditioning techniques.
- Advanced knowledge in the handling and husbandry of a range of native and exotic species of birds and reptiles.

Skills & competencies

- **Customer service focused:** committed to providing exceptional face to face customer service.
- **Communication:** the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, varying communication style depending upon the audience.
- **Attention to detail:** excellent attention to detail and observation skills particularly in attending to animals needs.
- **Teamwork:** willingness to assist and support others as required and get on with team members.
- **Time management/organisation:** accomplish objectives effectively within time frame given, and carry out administrative duties within portfolio in an efficient and timely manner.
- **Positive attitude:** Enthusiasm for the role and Oakvale's mission and vision. Positive approach to change

Physical requirements

- Be aware that you will be required to work in all weather conditions, including, sun and rain, hot and cold climates, indoor and outdoor work.
- Physical requirements include but are not limited to:
 *Walking *Carrying *Lifting *Reaching
 *Bending *Pushing *Pulling *Squatting
 *Sitting *Standing *Twisting *Repetitious movement

This job description serves to illustrate the scope and responsibilities of the post and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of duties. You will be expected to perform other job related tasks requested by management and as necessitated by the development of this role and the development of the business.