

JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER/ MAINTENANCE – BILLABONG ZOO, PORT MACQUARIE

Billabong Zoo is a family owned and operated zoo set on a picturesque ten acres on the outskirts of beautiful Port Macquarie. We have grown rapidly over the past ten years as our collection has diversified from primarily Australia natives to a variety of exotic species including primates and small and large carnivores.

We are a small and dedicated team who are committed to conservation through education and strive to form connections between our guests and ambassador animals during keeper presentations, tours and up close encounters. Although COVID19 has brought much of the formal presentations to a halt for the moment, we are eager to return to presentations as soon as legislation permits. This hands on approach allows our guests to develop a strong appreciation for our native and exotic wildlife and this provides the perfect opportunity for us to encourage our visitors to take action and support the work of our conservation partners and international conservation efforts.

We have an exciting opportunity for a dedicated and passionate keeper to join our team on a permanent and full time basis, working 38 hours per week including weekends and public holidays.

This advertised position is for junior keeping and grounds maintenance. As a junior keeper you would work across the zoo's collection excluding Big cats, Venomous snakes and our Salt water crocodile. The average day will likely include some animal husbandry (feeding, cleaning etc) for a couple of hours in the morning. Then onto grounds maintenance such as raking and gardening. Followed by tasks such as minor construction, landscaping, and painting. The successful applicant must be willing to do it all. Glass cleaning, cobwebbing "the lot". The day may also entail public interactions such as group presentation and personal animal encounters. Needless to say, this position is not for the faint hearted! The successful candidate needs to be confident, capable, physically strong, fit and willing to get their hands dirty.

Essential Criteria:

- Willing to work weekends and public holidays as required.
- Minimum 12 months experience in the zoo industry as a full time keeper.
- Certificate 3 in Captive Animal Management (or higher/ equivalent)
- Practice experience (provide referencing) with species across various taxon's
- C class driver's license
- Demonstrated experience in public speaking and conducting keeper talks.
- Ability to work in a highly physical role
- Excellent problem solving ability in relation utilizing tools and materials for repairs on site (e.g. enclosures, fencing etc)
- Familiar with and ability to use various power tools
- Demonstrates a high level of understanding in relation to Workplace Health and Safety

Desirable criteria:

- Current First Aid certificate
- Short courses and tickets such as tree felling and chainsaw

To apply please email written applications to blake@billabongkoala.com.au with the subject line "Keeping/ maintenance position".

Please include your resume with two work related referees, a cover letter of no more than 1 page and include an additional page addressing the selection criteria. Applications close Wednesday 18th June, 2021.