

ZOOKEEPING POSITION

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 20 years as our collection has diversified from primarily Australian natives to a variety of exotic species including primates and small and large carnivores. With around 100 species and over 270 animals on site, the zoo employs around 35 staff across many departments. The Zoo is currently undertaking some restructuring and have an exciting opportunity for experienced and passionate zookeepers to join our team on a permanent and full time basis. Working 38 hours per week including some weekend days and public holidays.

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, and up close encounters. 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.

The zoo itself is overseen by our two manager who work hand in hand with the directors to push our vision and conservation messaging forward. Our animals and grounds are cared for on average by around 11 zookeepers and two maintenance staff. The zookeeping team is currently led by 4 team leaders that are each responsible for an allocation of the zoos animals. Billabong Zoo has been undertaking a period of re-structuring over the past six months or more and is at this time looking for as many as two new qualified zookeepers to join our team. We are encouraging those with paid experience in the zookeeping industry to apply. In particular if you have experience in the keeping and caring for birds, reptiles (native and/ or exotic), Amphibians, Primates, and/ or Small exotic carnivores such as Meerkats, Fennec Fox, Red Pandas, and Small Clawed Otter. Currently it is across the caring and keeping for these species the zoo is seeking new team members. However in the spirit of restructuring we are encouraging all those with paid zookeeping experience to apply. Outlining in their application the industry experience they have. It may be that in repositioning some of the current wonderfully skilled and talented zookeeping team members we already employ, we could accommodate your specific skill set and experience within our team. We are asking for a minimum of 12 months paid industry experience as a prerequisite. However if you have extensive industry experience we still encourage you to apply as we are open to application and potentially roles within our organisation for those ranging from a junior to a senior level. See below criteria:

Essential Criteria:

* Minimum 12 months+ paid experience in the zoo keeping industry.
* Certificate 3 in Captive Animal Management (or higher/ equivalent)
* Experience conducting personal animal encounters with patrons of a zoo or wildlife park inside and outside animal exhibits
* Demonstrated ability to maintain thorough records in a zoological workplace, both digital and paper based.
* Paid experience any caring for any of the following in a zoological setting: Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds, Primates or small exotic carnivores
* Willing to work weekends and public holidays as required.
* C class driver’s license
* Ability to work in a highly physical role

Desirable criteria:

* Working With Children’s Certificate / Current First Aid certificate
* Ability to drive manual vehicles
* The ability to administer and monitor the administration of medications and treatments provided to captive animals.
* Experience delivering keeper talks to the general public
* Experience leading and training staff in a zookeeping setting.
* Demonstrated ability to service, handle and restrain venomous snakes in a zookeeping setting.
* Experience with Large Crocodilian. Feeding, cleaning and demonstration for the general public.

Please send a written application with the subject line “Zookeeping Position” to [blake@billabong](mailto:blake@billabong)koala.com.au to apply.

Please include your resume with two work related phone contactable referees, a cover letter of no more than 1 page and no more than 1 page addressing the “essential criteria”. If this ad is still live on the ASZK careers page than the role is still open so please apply as soon as you can.

Due to the high quantity of applicants we receive not all applicants with move on to the second round of the recruitment process to be interviewed. But we would like to thank any and all of you that have shown interest in the role. If you do progress you will be asked to attend an interview via Zoom and will receive a link via email. This can be done with most mobile phones, tablets and laptops. Information regarding wages and rostering will be provided during this interview. And any questions you may have about the role can be answered at this time also.

We are excited to receive your application!

Billabong Zoo Management team.