

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - BIRD KEEPER 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 ten 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. We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced and passionate zookeeper 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 operated by its two directors and two management staff. Our animals and grounds are cared for on average by around 11 zookeepers and two maintenance staff. The zoo keeping team is led by 4 team leaders that are each responsible for an allocation of the zoo animals. We are currently seeking expressions of interest for new zoo keeping staff on our bird department. At the present the bird team services around 30 species of birds, inclusive of around 55 individual animals, that are by-in-large all on display. However some of our birds kept for demonstration are in off display enclosures. These animals are also largely maintained by the bird team. In addition to this the bird team also leads our food preparation area. The team prepares diets on a daily basis for not only the bird species, but many of the other zoo animals, rotating animal food/ produce stock, ordering products and more.

Billabong Zoo is seeking expressions of interest for any experienced zookeeper that has a demonstrated ability in working with and maintaining a diverse collection of birds in a zoological setting. The role as it has been described is not at this stage rigid, and does have the ability to be moulded to the candidate if Billabong Zoo does see further potential in an applicant's abilities such as a more senior position and or expanding into other species if the candidate has adequate experience. Whilst this position is already inclusive of maintaining species and breeding programs for threatened and endangered animals such as the Orange bellied parrot, Glossy Black Cockatoo, and Southern Cassowary. The Zoo has been perusing multiple NSW state government "save our species" breeding programs. If successful in establishing government endorsed breeding program for an avian species. These responsibilities would also fall under the umbrella of tasks for the successful candidate.



## **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

- High level of experience with the husbandry requirements of diverse collections of native and exotic birds
- The ability to administer medications and treatments to Avian species where needed
- Willing to work weekends and public holidays as required.
- Minimum 18 months+ paid experience in the zoo keeping industry.
- Certificate 3 in Captive Animal Management (or higher/ equivalent)
- C Class driver's license
- Demonstrated ability to maintain thorough records in a zoological workplace

## **DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

- Experience breeding Avian species and supporting the neonatal requirements of breeding animals
- Experience artificially rearing Avian species
- Experience delivering keeper talks to the general public
- Experience conducting personal animal encounters with patrons of a zoo or wildlife park both inside and outside animal exhibits
- Experience leading and training staff in a zoo keeping setting.
- Working With Children's Certificate / Current First Aid certificate
- Knowledge of diets and supplementation across taxa and various nutritional requirements.
- Chainsaw and/or tree felling ticket

**Please send your written application with the subject line "Bird Keeper Position" to [blake@billabongkoala.com.au](mailto:blake@billabongkoala.com.au) to apply.**

Please include your resume with two (2) work related phone contactable referees, a cover letter of no more than one (1) page and no more than one (1) page addressing the "essential criteria" listed above. We are looking to fill the position in an immediate sense and are looking within our organisation also at the potential of promoting individuals for the role. If you are interested in submitting an application or would like to discuss the role in more detail. Please reach out via email. We would be happy to arrange a ZOOM interview or even chat via phone.

Please note that due to the high quantity of applicants we receive, not all applicants will move on to the second round of the recruitment process to be interviewed. But we would like to thank all 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