

OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Koala Hospital has operated a very successful overseas volunteer program for many years, hosting people from all over the world.

Places are limited and structured so that the overseas volunteer works mainly in peak periods where their services will be of great value to us. Overseas volunteers must appreciate and accept that there will be periods where it does not suit the Koala Hospital to take on extra staff, and normally we do not take overseas volunteers “on the spur of the moment”. We prefer to take on volunteers who have not only prior knowledge of our scheme but who have contacted us some time before to apply for this programme. Many overseas volunteers apply twelve to eighteen months prior to commencing.

As we are a charity we cannot supply accommodation, food or wages, but we do put on a good morning tea!!

The overseas volunteer’s stay is for a period of one month. The volunteer is entitled to work as many days in the week as they wish.

The Hospital shift starts at 8am and finishes around 10 or 11 am depending on the amount of koalas in care. There is another shift in the afternoon from 2.30 pm till 4.30 pm, but usually this is reserved for the local volunteers (who we respect greatly as most have been working at the Hospital for many years) only. The only time the afternoon shift is available to overseas volunteers is when there is a shortage of local staff.

The volunteer can be involved in yard and intensive care ward duties such as changing the leaf, cleaning and feeding the koalas. The volunteer can assist in rescues and releases of koalas. Observation of treatments, surgical procedures (limited due to space), post mortems and other koala rehabilitation work is encouraged and supported by our staff. We have a strong education team that deals with the general public. Many of our overseas volunteers have been most helpful in talking to visitors about the Koala Hospital in other languages.

Our local staff are friendly and supportive of our overseas staff, and always make them most welcome to “each shift”.

All overseas volunteers must fill out the application form, pay the application fee prior to commencing, and must respect the rules and regulations of the Koala Hospital.

The Koala Hospital Supervisor.

PORT MACQUARIE KOALA HOSPITAL
OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

March 2007

The Port Macquarie Koala Hospital is situated in Port Macquarie on the NSW Mid North Coast. We are situated approximately half way between Sydney and Brisbane. There is an airport, coach and train services available. The Koala Hospital has been operating since 1973 and not only cares for sick, diseased, injured and orphaned wild koalas, but is also heavily involved in research working in conjunction with Universities and other Institutions.

The Koala Hospital is run mainly by volunteers, receiving no Government funding relying on the generosity of the general public. It is not the biggest Koala Hospital in Australia anymore (that is in Qld), admitting around 250 – 300 patients per year. The Koala Hospital is only a Class 3 Veterinary Hospital, so is not licensed to undertake major surgery on site. All surgery is performed at our Superintendent Veterinarians establishment not far from the Hospital.

At certain times, the Hospital will accept overseas volunteers to work for short periods. Potential applicants must read the following before completing this form.

- 1) We do not have any paid positions at all.
- 2) We do not have Intern positions that are paid.
- 3) We do not supply accommodation or food (see list of recommended establishments)
- 4) All applicants **MUST** have a current Tetanus shot before applying.
- 5) All overseas volunteers are required to stay for **ONE** month, as it takes approximately one week to train new staff.
- 6) All volunteers must realize that these are **WILD** koalas, not captive bred, and therefore are quite capable of inflicting injury, and are **NOT** to be handled, cuddled, etc.
- 7) Overseas volunteers can be involved in rescues, releases, and observe medical treatments, but **MUST** obey instructions from permanent staff.
- 8) The Koala Hospital requests that the overseas applicants **MUST** have a good grasp on the English language. For the safety of any applicant, The Koala Hospital will not accept people only learning the English language.
- 9) All applicants must be aware that there can be quiet times, with not many patients, and very little to do. Therefore, volunteers may only have a few hours work each day, or rarely- not at all.
- 10) Unless the Hospital is extremely busy, the overseas volunteer's work hours are from 8 am until 10 or 11 am daily.
Port Macquarie does have some of the most beautiful surfing beaches in Australia, plus beautiful scenery, lots of shops, reasonable night life and other "touristy" things to do, so on quiet days, most people make good use of these facilities.

**PORT MACQUARIE KOALA HOSPITAL
OVERSEAS VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM**

Please print clearly or type answers. ALL questions must be answered. Fill in appropriate sections or write N/A (not applicable) if it does not apply to you.

NAME AND PERSONAL DETAILS:

Title: _____

Name in Full: _____

Address:

Street Number and Name: _____

Apartment Number: _____ Building Name: _____

Zip Code or Post Code: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Country: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above)

Post Office Box No: _____ City: _____

Zip or Post Code: _____ Country: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Area Code: _____

Fax No: _____ Area Code: _____

Email address: _____ Age: _____

Dates of arrival/departure: _____ to _____

Next of Kin _____

I have read the explanatory notes and agree to the terms and conditions as listed. I also agree to abide by the rules and regulations as laid down when becoming a member of the Koala Preservation Society of NSW Inc (including The Koala Hospital). I agree to work as directed by the Hospital Supervisors and the Team Leaders always keeping the interest of the Koalas well being, health and security as my main priority.

Signed: _____ dated: _____

Post to:

The Supervisor

Koala Preservation Society

PO Box 236

Port Macquarie 2444 NSW

AUSTRALIA

LOW COST ACCOMMODATION FOR OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS

When making a booking please tell the hostel you are working at The Koala Hospital.

Beachside Backpackers
YHA
40 Church Street,
Port Macquarie 2444 NSW Australia
Phone: (61) 2 65835512
(10 minute walk from Hospital)

Ozzie Pozzie Backpacker,
36 Waugh Street,
Port Macquarie 2444 NSW Australia
Phone: (61) 2 65838133
(20-30 minute walk to Hospital)

Lindel Backpackers,
2 Hastings River Drive,
Port Macquarie 2444 NSW Australia
Phone: (61) 2 65831791
(20-30 minute walk to Hospital)

Flynns Beach Caravan Park,
22 Ocean Street,
Port Macquarie 2444 NSW Australia
Phone/Fax: (61) 2 65835754
(5 minute walk to Hospital)

There are other motels, caravan parks and private facilities available for accommodation, which are more expensive, but are available through this web site:

Port Macquarie Visitors Information Service:

www.portmacquarieinfo.com.au

Remember we have peak tourist times here in Australia, particularly over the Christmas period and Easter time, where all places are not only heavily booked out, but are much higher in price. Hope this helps you find what you need – and good luck!!