

Job Information Pack

(To be provided to applicants)

Position Summary

Business Name:

Gibbs Foundation – Gibbs Farm

Property Summary:

Gibbs Farm is a Sculpture Farm Park owned by the Gibbs Foundation and was recently voted the number one sculpture park attraction in the world.

This aesthetically stunning property comprises 720ha of farmland hosting award-winning sculptures, a commercial farming operation, exotic animals and trees, wetlands and lakes. Further pastoral land of 315ha was acquired 3 years ago for development including the purchase of a 174ha neighbouring dairy farm and 141ha on a 10 year lease.

The farm is being designed to incorporate a commercial lamb finishing operation. The dairy property is being de-constructed and both blocks will be developed to the same high standard of their existing land to continue functioning as both a visual and viable property. As part of the development plan there will be an extension of the current fresh water lakes and supporting eco-systems; currently developing and planting 28ha of wetlands.

There are two stands of exotic trees and a full range of native trees on the property.

From October through to April the Sculpture Farm Park is open two days per month through the seven month period, averaging 1500 visitors on each of these days.

During the wet season May – September the park is closed to visitors.

More information on Gibbs Farm can be found here: <http://www.gibbsfarm.org.nz/>

Position Title:

Livestock General Hand

Position Overview:

As the Livestock General Hand you will report to the Livestock Manager with the key tasks being livestock and general farm work. The farming operation has a strong commercial focus with the added interest of being part of a unique sculpture park.

As part of the properties development plan the de-construction and re-development of the dairy unit and runoff block will include new fencing and water reticulation. Gibbs Farm is also currently in the process of re-building the

woolshed and sheep yards.

The exotic animals have two animal keepers that are fully trained in their field and they report directly to the Livestock Manager, there will be times during busy periods you may be required to help with the exotic animals.

The appointee will have some animal health and welfare knowledge and the ability to be flexible with a can-do attitude. A high level of personal pride and presentation is also essential for this position.

Specialist Skills Required:

- Animal Welfare & Husbandry
- Sheep handling (mustering, yard work)
- Knowledge of water and farming systems
- Excellent time management skills
- Machinery operation (tractor driving skills)
- Good communication
- Good interpersonal skills (team & public interaction)
- Understanding of Health & Safety
- With the park being open-plan and in the public arena you will need to be flexible and be prepared to help as required

Duration of Position:

Full time permanent

Proposed Start Date:

Within 4 weeks of job offer (or sooner if possible)

Staff Structure:

General Manager – Andrew Mills
Livestock Manager – Paul Robinson

- Livestock General Hand – TBC
- Two Exotic Animal Keepers

15 full time staff including:

- Turf Manager
- Arbor-cultural Supervisor
- A full-time Mechanic
- A full-time Principle House Keeper
- Support Staff & Contractors

Lifestyle Information

Accommodation:

Own care, no accommodation available on farm at this time.

Farm Location & Community Information:

- 13km north of Kaukapapapa Township on the Coast Highway. Kakanui is a small settlement, marae and small building.
- Centrally located, it is only 30 minutes to Helensville, Warkworth, Wellsford and Orewa.

Schooling:

- Primary school Kaukapakapa – 10km away. www.kaukapakapa.school.nz
- Secondary schooling in Helensville, Wellsford, Orewa and Warkworth. There are school buses available to all of the secondary schools.

Farm Information

Farm Area (total/effective):

720ha total

- 405ha main sculpture park. Historically 50% has been mown, however with the new property and introduction of a commercial farming operation this will significantly reduce and be used for stock grazing.
- 315ha is the Dairy (purchased) and runoff (10 year lease) blocks that have recently been added.

Contour: (Flats, rolling hill, steep)

Easy rolling property

Soil Type:

There is a real variety of soil, from a small amount of peat, through to sandy loam, northland clay, river flats - sandy alluvial and reclaimed marine land.

Rainfall:

1200ml per year

Subdivision/Fences:

There are minimal fences currently - circa nine paddocks. With the development of the main lamb finishing area there will be more fencing and may include deer fencing. Netting is used when additional fencing is required.

Woolshed/Other Buildings:

The farm is in the process of building a new 4 stand woolshed with a new set of yards.

- Two Implement sheds and workshops
- A giraffe house
- Zebra shelter and yards
- Deer shed (multi-purpose, can be used for cattle work)
- Portable cattle yards

Weeds:

No weeds – property is kikuyu grass and is kept as green as possible all year round for aesthetic reasons.

Water:

Water for stock is all reticulated

Tracks:

- Well tracked around main body of farm
- There is a sealed ring road around the main area of farm
- Further tracks will be developed
- The property is well signed and visitors follow these signs

Machinery:

- Two Tractors
- 6 mowers – of various sizes

- Quads and side-by-sides

Farm Policy & Systems

Production System

Semi Intensive

Stock Policy - Breeds/Number:

The farm suits small footed animals as this causes less pugging on the property.

Commercial

- Currently have 1300 terminal ewes.
- 4000 trading lambs – try to finish everything, dependent on season may sell store.
- 50-80 cattle at present – due to pugging will look at numbers (Watusi, Longhorn) display cattle
- 150 alpacas – these numbers will be increased
- 30 deer – would look at increasing this herd (fallow herd)

Exotic Animals

- 3 Zebra
- 3 Giraffes
- Pitt Island Merino Sheep
- Water Buffalo
- 20 Goats, Saanen and Boer
- Emu's & Ostrich's (females) – looking to expand these numbers, they are free range and interact with public

The animals are there for an interactive experience with the public.

Maternal/Terminal Policy:

Terminal – Polled Dorset Ram

Sheep – Mating/Lambing/Weaning Dates:

Ram out end Feb
Lambing starts early August

Animal Health Practices:

The priority is for best practice animal health and welfare with the Farm Park being in the public eye from October through to April – for 2 days per month.

Photos



Map

