



## ASZK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference 19-22 March 2026

### Program

#### **Wednesday 18 March 2026 – Melbourne Zoo**

**Mock Rocking Workshop** (sold out) with Crete Creations – Elephant Barn Melbourne Zoo Day 1  
- 9 am – 4 pm

**Behavioural Enrichment** with Matthew Shackleton (UK) – Rainforest Room 9-4 pm

#### **Thursday 19 March 2026 - Melbourne Zoo**

**Mock Rocking Workshop** (sold out) with Crete Creations – Elephant Barn Melbourne Zoo Day 2  
- 9 am – 4 pm

**Werribee Open Range Zoo tour** (sold out) - buses leave Melbourne Zoo front Entrance 9 am  
return to Melbourne Zoo approximately 4 pm

**Registrations open from 1 pm onwards** till 5:30 pm– Melbourne Zoo – Leopard Lodge

**Behind the scenes tours** 2 pm – 4:30 pm – tours leave from Leopard Lodge

**Conference Icebreaker Leopard Lodge** – 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**9:30 pm Buses depart to take delegates to Rydges Exhibition St Melbourne city from  
Melbourne Zoo back gate.**

#### **Friday 20 March 2026 – Venue Rydges Exhibition St Melbourne**

**8:00 am Registrations**

9:00 am Welcome by Chris Dryburgh President ASZK

9:15 am Brief introduction to Exhibitors

9:25 am *Zoos Victoria global sister zoo partnership program: enabling benefits to people,  
animals and organisations*

**Chris Banks Zoos Victoria**

9:40 am *Enrichment: For physical and behavioural health*

**Matthew Shackleton BSc (Hons) MScVetPhys PGCert PTLIS MIRVAP(VP) (UK)**

10:15 am *The Care of Social Carnivores Post Medical Intervention: Reflections & Applications Across Species*

**Laura Elliott Perth Zoo**

10:30 am *Caring for the Carers: Healing trauma through debriefing*

**Courtney Ross**

**10:45 am Morning Tea and Poster session (presenters to stand with posters)**

11:35 am *Indoor sunshine? An introduction to lighting in animal husbandry*

**Frances M. Baines, M.A., Vet.M.B., M.R.C.V.S. (UK)**

12:05 pm *Branching Out: Putting Animal Choice at the Heart of the Tree Roo Encounter*

**Ana Martins Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary**

12:20 pm *Mastering Methods of Monster Multiplication*

**Jayden White Melbourne Zoo**

12:35 pm *Rising Together: How We Continue to Thrive*

**Sonja Murray Auckland Zoo**

12:50 pm *Evolving Roles, Evolving Success: Keeper-Led Innovation and Collaboration Enabling the First Captive Breeding of the Yule Island Tree Frog (*Litoria congenita*) at Port Moresby Nature Park*

**Joseph Gerson Lame Port Moresby Nature Park**

**1:05 pm LUNCH**

**2:30 pm Workshops – choose 1**

**1. Demystifying Lamps and Light (2 hours)**

Frances M Baines MA VetMB MRCVS

**2. Compassion fatigue workshop with Jean Thomas (3 hours)**

**3. Lameness with Matthew Shackleton BSc (Hons) MScVetPhys PGCert PTLIS MIRVAP(VP)**

**4. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Readiness - Dr Jayne Weller is the ZAA Vet-SAG Co-Convenor (3 hours)**

**3:45 pm Afternoon tea**

**Workshops continue 4:15 – 5:30 pm**

**Conference Dinner – 7 – 11 pm Rydges – “A Touch of Gold” Smart Casual**

## **Saturday 21 March 2026 - Venue Rydges Exhibition St Melbourne**

### **Registrations for Day delegates 8:30 am**

9:10 am Housekeeping and Exhibitors introductions

9:15 am *Gumbuya's Wildlife Student Program: Upskilling the next generation of zookeepers and its value to our Park and Animal Welfare*

#### **Alicia Aitken Gumbuya World**

9:30 am *A Shift in Habitat Design: The South East Asia Precinct as a Case Study for Animal-Centred Habitat Design*

#### **Lindi Louw Auckland Zoo**

9:45 am *Building a Buzz; Facilities that Inspire Invertebrate Awareness and Conservation*

#### **Krystofer Loh Mandai Wildlife Group**

10:00 am *Collaborating to create a better future for Australia's crocodiles. The story of CROC QLD*

#### **Dan Kemp Ballarat Wildlife Park**

**10:20 am MORNING TEA**

11:00 am *25 years protecting critically endangered tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea*

#### **Jean Thomas Tenkile Conservation Alliance**

11:30 am *Unearthing a Buried Treasure - Rearing and Breeding of Critically Endangered Southern Giant Burrowing Frogs at Melbourne Zoo*

#### **Ryan Moes Melbourne Zoo**

11:45 am *Port Moresby Nature Park's Tree Kangaroo Keepers: Ambassadors of Papua New Guinea Conservation*

#### **Felix Raguna Port Moresby Nature Park**

12:00 pm *Creating a natural existence for captive cheetah in Australia for rewilding to South Africa*

#### **Ben Britton Wild Cat Conservation Centre**

12:15 pm *From little ideas big plants grow*

#### **Boyd Watson Melbourne Zoo**

**12:30 pm ASZK Annual General Meeting – all to attend**

**1:15 pm LUNCH**

**2:15 pm Buses to Gumbuya World**

**6:00 pm Dinner and Silent Auction Gumbuya World**

**10:00 pm Buses leave Gumbuya World for Rydges Melbourne City**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 - Venue Rydges Exhibition St Melbourne**

**9:00 am Registration for day delegates**

9:20 am Housekeeping and Exhibitors Introductions

9:30 am *Navigating Hip Dysplasia in a young Dingo: Documenting the Care, Decision-Making and Recovery*

**Hannah Minto Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary**

9:45 am *Open the door to open the mind – Are free-flight birds the key to the future of conservation education?*

**Abbey Gambrell Territory Wildlife Park**

10:00 am *The Koala – Past, Present and Future*

**Dylan Rielly Maru Koala and Animal Park**

10:15 am *The Long Journey Home - Dryococelus australis*

**Rohan Cleave Melbourne Zoo**

10:30 am *Keeplympics: Using competition to highlight keeping skills, strengthen teamwork and improve culture within the Life Sciences team at Healesville Sanctuary*

**Claire Spadoni Healesville Sanctuary**

**10:50 am MORNING TEA AND POSTER SESSION**

11:30 am *Keeping the Pride Together - Supporting Mum to raise her cub*

**Katie Ness National Zoo and Aquarium**

11:45 am *Thirty Years of Tiger Island and the Shift to Protective Contact*

**Philippa Blum Tiger Island Dreamworld**

12:00 pm *Breeding for the Wild: Plains-wanderer Conservation from Captivity to Release*

**Malinda Delahant and Meagan Thornton Werribee Open Range Zoo**

12:15 pm *Reading between the fibres: Faecal Fibre Length as an Indicator for Optimizing Husbandry Practices in Geriatric Southern White Rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)*

**Georgie Byrne Auckland Zoo**

12:30 pm *Towards selection of optimal foliar nutrients for the Koala *P. cinereus* health with the use of hyperspectral and chemical analysis*

**Chloe Thomas WILD LIFE Sydney Zoo & The University of New England**

**12:50 pm LUNCH**

2:00 pm *Reimagining Space for Non-releasable Raptors*

**Lucy-Mae Gunders Dreamworld**

2:15 pm *From Heartbreak to Heart-Warming: Rebuilding a Gorilla (Gorilla gorilla gorilla) Family at Melbourne Zoo*

**James Chiefalo Melbourne Zoo**

2:30 pm *Resilient Zoos: Climate Preparedness, Emergency Response, and Staff Wellbeing*

**Holly Thompson Perth Zoo**

2:45 pm *Approaching 50 years in human care: one elephant's story and a testament to progress in elephant husbandry and welfare at Zoos Victoria*

**Jasmine de Milliano and Phoebe Allen Werribee Open Range Zoo**

3:00 pm *Comparative locomotion in marsupial gliders: Implications for enclosure design, behaviour and rehabilitation*

**Kieran M Baughan University of New South Wales**

3:15 pm *Towards recovery of lowland Leadbeater's possums: 13 years of conservation breeding in the face of extinction*

**Kim Miller Healesville Sanctuary**

**3:30 pm AFTERNOON TEA - finalise voting for papers and posters**

4:15 pm Presentation of best paper and poster prizes and photo competition and other announcements.

5:00 pm **CLOSE** – bar downstairs open!

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

9 am- 3 pm **UV Lighting and Heating workshop** Dr Frances Baines – The Rainforest Room at Melbourne Zoo

9 am – approx. 4 pm **Moonlit Sanctuary and Lilydale High School Reptile House tour** – leaving front gate Melbourne Zoo 9 am.

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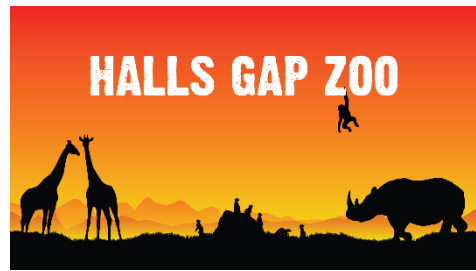
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