

thylacinus

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SAMUEL HERMAN, Australian Reptile Park

BONNIE DOEGE, SeaWorld



FROM THE PRESIDENT Chris Dryburgh

Well our Region is certainly in the midst of the southern winter, which, for our animals sees the onset of torpor, brumation, recalibrating with winter reproductive cycles... and maybe gaining a little extra 'condition'... or maybe that's just me! Zoo Education staff are preparing for school holiday mayhem, accounts departments are frantically fumbling invoices for the end of financial year, and Zoo cafeterias are perfecting recipes for the "hot soup winter specials." For us in ASZK, however, it means a new Committee and developing a program for our industry Membership for the next two-year term, and beyond.

In May, we held our Annual General Meeting inviting attendance from all of our Members, and this year the AGM also held our biennial Committee Election. The result saw the appointment of possibly our largest Committee yet, and with a couple changes in positions held, and a few new welcome faces from the zoos and aquaria of our Region. A special thank you to Graeme Phipps for stepping in as independent chair of the AGM during the election as the outgoing Committee resigned their positions.

Andrew Daly of Taronga Zoo has taken on the Vice President position, with Jenna Hollamby joining us from Perth Zoo on the Exec Committee as our Secretary. Also new to the Committee are David Kelly of Alice Springs Desert Park, Bonnie Doege of Sea World, and Samuel Herrmann from the Australian Reptile Park. We are particularly excited to see representation on Committee from the NT and WA, Government and private sectors, as well as the aquaria side of the professional animal care industry. Together with the new position-holders, we have welcomed back the entirety of the previous outgoing Committee, with no Committee members stepping down at all. With such a broad and diverse Committee encouragingly dedicated to all of you, I know that these next few years will be a vast improvement on the last couple!

We are really looking forward to a great couple of years ahead and I'm absolutely elated with the profile of this Committee and we're looking forward to some of the larger goals we have ahead... the return of Conferences, specialist workshops, webinars, our Strategic Plan, celebrating the work of the Sumatran Sunbear Team when we 'Bowl For Sumatran Sunbears', finalising our online Membership profile, shifting to an updated and environmentally conscious electronic Thylacinus journal, outreach to international and domestic stakeholders, and establishing a more robust membership benefits list.

From me personally, a very warm welcome to all of our Committee, new and returned. I have every faith in the strength of this Committee for the very productive delivery of our goals on behalf of our expanding Membership!

contents

NO. 2 • 2021

Keeper's training pythons, pythons training keepers!.....	3
PASA: the largest association of wildlife centers in Africa that you may have never heard of.....	5
THE DANISH WAY A reflective look at breeding and euthanasia in the modern zoo	9
Aussie Dog	13
ASZK Annual Conference Call for Papers	15
Meet an ASZK Member	16
Bowling for Sun Bears	17
Behaviour Matters	18
Zoo News	20
New Members	25
ASZK Photography Competition.....	26



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Keeper's training pythons, pythons training keepers!

Blaire Bunter - Reptile Coordinator - Moonlit Sanctuary

In November 2020 here at Moonlit Sanctuary we embarked on a new a training journey with three of our keepers and pythons. Ryan, Olly and Hayley had previously worked in our Reptile Team pre-covid and were given a new learning opportunity to create and implement a training program for some of our pythons. Ryan partnered up with Misty, a 5-year-old Water Python with a history of striking when being removed from his enclosure. Hayley teamed up with Basil, an 11-month-old Darwin Carpet Python with a "quiet" personality. Olly was given the task of working with Pedro a sibling of Basil but who had a completely different personality, was very "jumpy" and known to strike. The goal was to not only improve the choice and control our animals had in their life but also for our keepers to learn how to participate and follow the structured training process we had developed here over the last few years.

How we carry out our training programs at the sanctuary has evolved over the years and our current structure consists of a detailed plan which covers a 15-week period, this is then broken down into three, five-week plans. We ask our keepers to list all their short/long-term goals in their detailed plan and then break them down into small approximations which are to be undertaken as part of their 5-week plans. It always fun going out and training animals but we have found that the preparation and planning to be a vital step in staying accountable and engaged when training animals. Olly and Hayley had not previously gone through this process here at Moonlit, Ryan has participated in training some of our other Reptiles such as a Spencers Monitor. Due to this we also incorporated their "learning" as small approximations into our plans.

If you have ever trained a reptile you know progress can sometimes be slow, however we wanted our keepers to keep an open mind and include any behaviour that popped into their heads. We included goals like crate and station training, handling individuals without biting, introduce puzzle feeders, no use of hooks or handling to get out of enclosure- the animal comes out on its own accord, hook desensitization and a variety of environmental changes.

The keepers then picked out one or two approximations towards these goals alongside what they needed to "learn" whether that be listen to a training podcast or a step they needed to do such as updating myself as their coordinator about a step in their plan. They all thrived undertaking these plans, they had some similar goals to achieve but also some differences. At the end of the five-week plan we all sat down alongside our Life Sciences Manager to discuss how they had progressed, how they were feeling about the process and where too next. Sitting down as a group has been extremely beneficial, it has kept each of them accountable because if someone drops behind in completing their training forms it effects the whole group.

We have recently just finished our first detailed plan and I am so proud of what our keepers have been able to achieve with their animals.

Pedro has not struck for over 15 weeks and has been busy exploring some of her new enclosure furnishings such as browse, substrates and cardboard pipes which are changed regularly. Olly has also introduced puzzle feeders which both python and keeper seem to enjoy.

Basil has shown signs of entering and exiting his enclosure by choice, Hayley enjoyed setting up a camera trap to record his behaviour overnight when given new enclosure furniture.

Misty has spent a lot of time being handled out in the sunshine; Ryan has recorded a video SOP which has allowed other keepers to get out Misty safely without any striking so his enclosure can be serviced. It is so rewarding to see not only the improvement in our animal's welfare but the positive impact it has on our keeping staff. We cannot wait to see where the next 15 weeks take us.



Pedro in a cardboard pipe



Basil returning to his enclosure



Misty having a swim in a puddle



• ASZK • MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

168 FULL MEMBERS

0 FULL PARTNERS
MEMBERS

33 ASSOCIATE
MEMBERS

0 ASSOCIATE
PARTNERS

6 RECIPROCAL

10 CORPORATE

13 LIFE MEMBERS

0 OVERSEAS

2 OVERSEAS
CORPORATE

TOTAL 232



PASA: the largest association of wildlife centers in Africa that you may have never heard of...

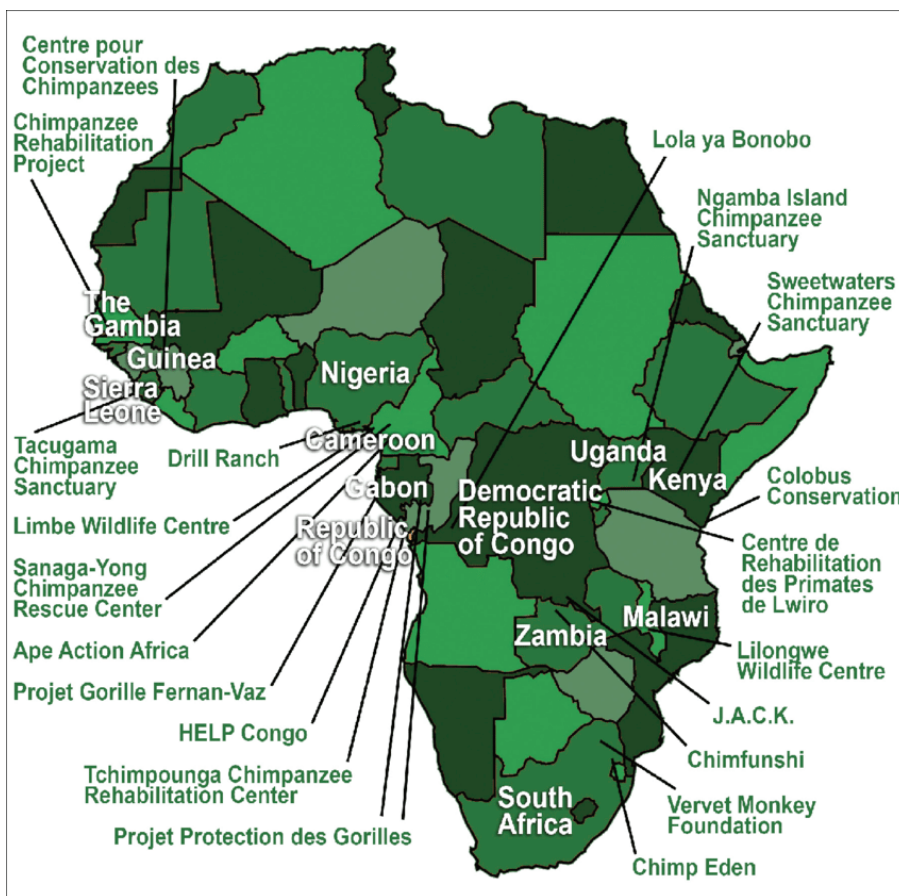
CHRISTINE FLEENER

(Reprinted with permission from AAZK Animal Keepers Forum June 2020)



Mainland Africa is home to 188 species of primate, of which 56.4% are currently threatened by extinction according to a 2018 report by the IUCN Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group. These numbers include the only wild chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas in the world, which are also the last remaining great ape species besides the orangutans of southeast Asia and humans. With such an evolutionary treasure so close to total elimination, it is a wonder that we have not demanded a global state of emergency. Instead, so many of these primates are being killed and displaced at a faster rate than ever before (Estrada et al., 2017; Junker et al., 2012), and the duty to protect and conserve these populations has fallen on a courageous few.

For years, many remote sanctuaries and wildlife centers have emerged across Africa to provide care and rehabilitation for local orphaned and injured animals. At first, they could only offer safe haven for the victims of habitat loss or the illegal wildlife trade, but as the centers grew, they discovered new ways to empower their mission. Every time a critically endangered animal was successfully rehabilitated and reintroduced to the wild, a case could be made to expand protection of lands and national parks, safeguarding hundreds of species for years to come (Cheyne, 2009). With a growing staff, the centers could generate more economic stability for their



Since their inception, PASA has connected 23 organizations across 13 African countries, establishing the largest organization of wildlife centers in Africa.

the rescue of around 216 primates from wildlife trafficking, illegal bushmeat trade, and other threats. Even with their impressive record of reintroduction, they still struggle to find ways to accommodate the rise in orphaned chimpanzees, especially when thousands of great apes are lost from the wild every year (Stiles et al., 2016). In response, PASA members have taken action to protect and monitor wild populations. They advocate for habitat protection, renewal, and law enforcement, and they conduct widespread surveys and research that help improve our knowledge of these species and influence our conservation methods.

communities and improve education and awareness about the animals and ecosystems they were fighting to defend. Their impact could go far beyond their original mission, and they knew they would be even stronger if they reached out and worked together. Thus, the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) was founded.

In 2000, managers from each of the leading primate sanctuaries and wildlife centers across Africa came together to form PASA. This unification helped generate more robust standards for center management and care protocols and amplified their capacity to address and advocate for a broader range of conservation issues on an international scale.

Wildlife Rescue And Care

Currently, PASA members care for over 3,000 primates. They do accept other mammals, birds, and reptiles, but they mostly take in great apes and monkeys, where chimpanzees account for a third of their rescues. Due to the complex life history of chimpanzees, they can be difficult to rehabilitate and even harder to reintroduce to the wild, but PASA centers are the only centers to have successfully reintroduced chimpanzees to the wild. PASA represents an extremely special and critical future for primate conservation.

Over the last year alone, PASA members helped facilitate

Conservation And Community

Beyond rescue and rehabilitation, the formation of PASA has commanded a louder voice in a global conversation on conservation. PASA now organizes conferences that connect governmental agencies, law enforcement, NGOs, and care centers to establish long-term strategies and training programs for broader-reaching anti-poaching campaigns. Once officials are familiar with the resources and facilities that are available for rescued wildlife, they are far more likely to pursue investigation and recovery of illegally traded animals. PASA also pursues individual rescue cases to ensure the safe confiscation of wildlife and the prosecution of those responsible.

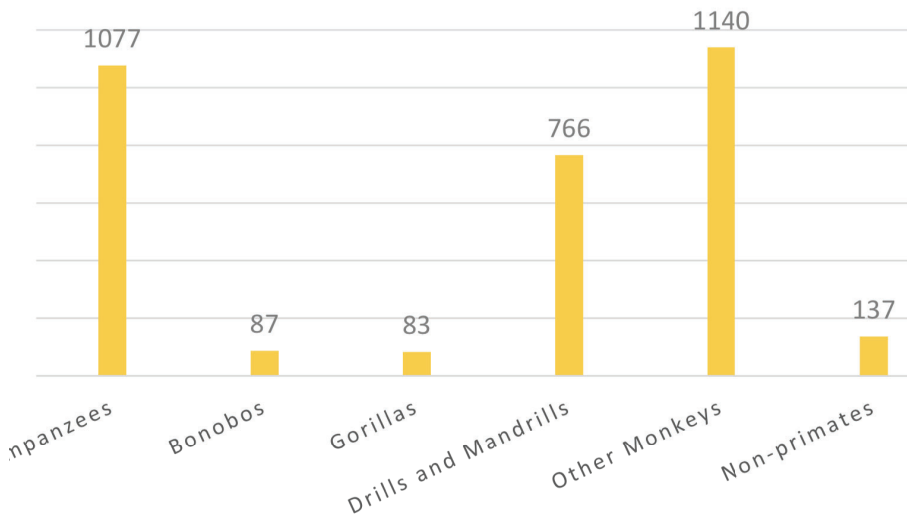
Wildlife centers that were once bound by isolation are now connected to a global community that shares veterinary skills and management techniques. PASA organizes annual Primate Care Training Programs and Veterinary Workshops that update best practices for care staff and prepare centers to accommodate more complicated patients. PASA holds an annual Strategic Development Conference where center representatives can share their insights for long-term planning and where future leaders can seek mentorship.

PASA offers resources, supplies, and emergency support

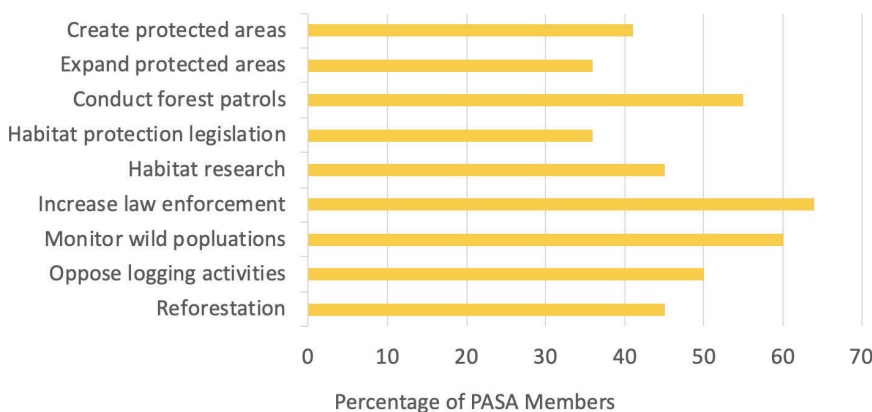




Animals Cared for by PASA Members



How PASA Members Protect Wildlife



for wildlife centers following natural disaster or crisis. When fires and floods damage facilities, war devastates a region, or outbreaks of disease endanger the animals in care, PASA is there to help rebuild and protect.

PASA is far more than the animal care that they provide. They are a pivotal stronghold in the fight to preserve wildlife, which connects their efforts to local communities and a universal message of stewardship. PASA introduces dozens of educational programs and community development projects that foster pride in local wildlife and create alternative livelihoods that reduce the exploitation of wildlife and their habitats. Today PASA member centers employ over 800 local people, contribute over \$3 million to local economies, and impact over 500,000 people with their community programs. From teaching bee-keeping in Malawi to growing sustainable cashew trees in Guinea or writing children's books and producing inspirational films in Cameroon, PASA and its member organizations forge collaboration between the people and their environment rather than conflict.

Get Involved

While PASA's 23 member centers work hard to preserve the lives of vulnerable wildlife across Africa, the effort is a global one that relies on a large international network of experienced marketing specialists, graphic designers, computer scientists, tech support, legal support, primatologists, veterinarians, zookeepers, and more. Donors keep PASA in the fight to protect endangered wildlife, and zookeepers across America have taken a lead role in supporting PASA's mission.

From sponsoring training programs to donating supplies or visiting the

centers themselves, members of AAZK are instrumental. Many AAZK chapters have organized their own fundraising events to support PASA sanctuary staff and programs, and you can get involved too by organizing your own fundraiser, sharing information about PASA's effort, helping write and apply for grants, or by donating veterinary supplies and used uniforms. If you are interested in visiting one of PASA's care centers in Africa, please go to <https://pasa.org/volunteer-africa/> for details on current volunteer opportunities and reach out to the sanctuaries directly so they can match you to the right position.



PASA's headquarters are currently based in Portland, Oregon and lead by Executive Director Gregg Tully. Please contact Gregg at gregg@pasa.org or +1 (971) 712-8360 with any additional questions and thank you so much for your support.

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THE DANISH WAY

A Reflective Look at Breeding and Euthanasia in the Modern Zoo

Kåre Thomas Jensen
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LIONS FEEDING ON GIRAFFE IN COPENHAGEN ZOO PHOTO: FRANK RØNSHOLT

In 2014 a giraffe was euthanized in Copenhagen Zoo. While standard procedure in Denmark, an international outcry and a zoo ethics and animal welfare debate followed. Several more cases, including lions in Odense Zoo and brown bears in Aalborg Zoo have caused similar uproar abroad. The debate on whether or not to use euthanasia for population management purposes is one of the most important discussions regarding the modern zoo, and while cultural gaps make it difficult, this paper is meant as a perspective on the discussion as seen from the eyes of a Danish zookeeper.

Marius the giraffe was a young male (two years old) living in Copenhagen Zoo. He had been rejected from the group by the resident bull and was now living alone. The breeding coordinator in charge of the giraffe EEP could find no home for him, and his genes were deemed not valuable. He was euthanized quickly and humanely, and visitors to the zoo were allowed to view the subsequent dissection at an educational presentation with the zoo's veterinarian staff. After the presentation pieces of the meat were fed to the carnivores living in the zoo.

What happened to the giraffe known as Marius was nothing new or out of the ordinary. Zoos in Denmark have been performing educational dissections and been managing their animal populations in this way for decades. The policy of breeding and euthanasia is a common and openly accepted practice in Scandinavian zoos and occurs frequently with all kinds of animals. In the last couple of years species used for educational dissections have included giraffes, lions, antelopes, bears, camels, penguins, sharks, snakes and more.

The most important arguments in favor of this practice are:

- **Lifespan:** The Nordic animal welfare perspective focuses on quality over quantity, and the lifespan of an animal cannot be used as an indicator of welfare. Simply because an animal has lived a long life does not mean that it has lived a good life. A high-quality life of two years is preferable to a sub-standard quality life of twenty years. A quick and humane euthanasia is considered a viable option, if a high-quality life cannot be ensured.

- **Contraception:** Contraception in exotic animals is poorly tested and not fully understood. Unwanted and often seen side effects include hormonal disturbances, physical ailments (such as weight gain) and reduced fertility later on. The research done on contraceptives in animals is very limited. Even in humans, contraceptives can come with unwanted side effects, but with animals, unlike humans, we don't have any way of communicating these and adjusting accordingly. For some animal species putting them on contraceptives or even simply keeping them from breeding for a number of years, can halt their



LIONS EATING A ZEBRA IN ODENSE ZOO PHOTO: SIGNE ANDERSEN

reproductive system in such a way that they cannot ever breed again. For animals with small founder populations (such as the visayan warty pig), removing individuals from the breeding programme because their offspring cannot be housed at the moment can have serious consequences for the conservation efforts of the entire species.

- **Enrichment:** Another reason for population management by euthanasia is that euthanasia, however ironic it may sound, also leads to higher individual welfare. Breeding behavior is one of the most important aspects of an animal's life and denying them this rules out one of the best environmental enrichment options we can provide for them. There is no enrichment devised by keepers that can compare to the 24/7-hour job of raising offspring. No tire swings, kongs or puzzle feeders can emulate constant stimulus given to an individual or social grouping of animals when there are young ones in the group. After an eventual euthanasia even in death the animals provide enrichment when used in feedings for carnivores as new taste and texture sensations.

- **Education:** Dissections of animals such as frogs and rats are common practice in many schools around the world, as important tools to teach biology and anatomy. In a zoo setting these lessons can be given to a wide audience, showing the anatomy in context to the living animals at the zoo. Animals can be dissected individually or even next to each other to create a theme, such as in the case where a lion and sable antelope were used as examples of carnivore and herbivore anatomy.





One of the core philosophies behind this breed and euthanasia policy is that all animals on an ethical level have the same intrinsic worth. It is striking how certain animals, such as tigers, giraffes, bears and lions, cause international outcry when euthanized and used for educational purposes, while nothing is said regarding the dissections and feedings using boas, emus, camels and pigs. If we want true and meaningful conservation we must educate our visitors on how habitats and environments work and how they require a whole range of biodiversity to stay healthy. If we only teach our guests to care for the cute and cuddly ones we represent a false and distorted image of how the natural world works. While there is nothing wrong with using flagship species to garner attention, we must ensure that conservation efforts center around whole environments including the non-cuddly and cute animals that live in them



*TAPIR BEING USED FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION IN ODENSE ZOO
PHOTO: KÅRE JENSEN*



GIRAFFE BEING PREPARED BY ZOOKEEPER AS FOOD FOR CARNIVORES IN REE PARK SAFARI (PHOTO: RENÉ RYHOLL)

kills millions of animals a day. The natural world is a game of eat and be eaten and if our zoos try to hide certain aspects of our daily operations it may lead to public distrust in the zoo as a scientific establishment and further anti-zoo sentiment.

The zookeepers in Denmark are proud to take part in this practice of animal population management and feel like they are doing important conservation work while providing the best possible care. It is important to them to be a part of the animals' welfare from start to finish and to take responsibility for them at the end as well as the beginning. It also means a lot to the keepers that their animals not go to waste but rather are useful in feedings, education or scientific research.

This paper is meant to build a bridge between opposing viewpoints. There are many who have accused the Danish zoos of starting controversy simply for attention. Having read this I hope you will know that we do what we do because we believe it is the right thing, for educational, practical, environmental and ethical reasons. While our methods of population management may differ, our goals are the same, and come from the same fascination of the natural world.

This paper was originally presented at the International Congress on Zookeeping in 2018.

The main goal of these policies is to promote a healthy view of nature in our guests, in which life and death both play their part. The survival of biodiversity long term is the goal, and the preservation of individual animals should not take precedence over this. If we are not careful in avoiding showing a “Disneyfied” version of nature, where all animals live forever and none of them eat each other, we are failing as educational institutions.

It is also important that we remain honest and scientific. While some zoos may claim that they would never euthanize a healthy animal, it happens at every institution working with live animals. Even if a zoo never euthanizes animals from its collection, it purchases meat products for the carnivores to eat, all made from healthy animals euthanized in their youth. Modern agriculture, even that which produces plants,



CAMEL BEING USED FOR AN EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION PHOTO: SOFIE BERG





As we've all been living under the threat of the Covid 19 since late 2019, there hasn't been a great deal happening in the world to make anybody feel good, so as the manufacturer of enrichment toys and devices, we hope the following will bring a smile to your face. We have put couple of anecdotes together about things we do, and the people out there, who really care for animals and do rather unusual and indeed amazing things from the heart, for enjoyment of animals all over the world!

About 12 years ago we received a phone call at Aussiedog, from a lady in South Australia. Rose Richards, saying she would like to buy some toys for Panda bears, to take to china as a present for them! A bit unusual I suppose, but when you get requests for a tug toy for a Komodo dragon from London zoo, amongst other odd request from zoos around the world, then its not that surprising after all! But after talking to her for a while, it was clear that she was an exception, and she was very knowledgeable about them, and a lady making a private purchase from Aussiedog as a present, she has a passion for Pandas.

Over the years that followed, whenever she went on trips, she would arrange to take a ball with her for her beloved Pandas, wherever they were in the world, thanks to her! Pandas in America, San Diego National Zoo in Washington, and throughout Europe, and Asia all have a Panda Ball that we made especially for them with guidance from this lady Rosemary. the funny thing is we have never met her, although everyone at Aussiedog knows her, whenever she emails or rings.

This all changed last weekend when she came up to Melbourne to see 'Come From Away' and I asked if she would like to come out to the factory and then lunch. We spent a few hours or so with this delightful lady it was like meeting up with a long lost friend the rest is history.

So if you're ever in Adelaide, drop into the zoo and see the Pandas Fu Ni and Wang Wang, and if you're lucky Rosemary will be your guide! Thanks Rosemary for all you have done in spreading the Aussiedog word, you are welcome anytime!



BUILT SAFE, BUILT TOUGH... LET'S PLAY

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram!
aussiedog.com.au



As many of you are aware, Aussie dog enjoy supporting the ASZK, and we usually donate several items for their silent auction during the annual conference's, and it's interesting to see who the successful bidders are, we noticed Halls gap zoo had made several purchases over the years, out of curiosity I rang Vron Gordo from the zoo, and she gave me the most unexpected answer.

She said "we are a private facility, the keepers work together to help fund enrichment and other items for our animals that are outside the basics. The cost will be split across 10 people, so I pay the initial cost and they chip in what they can!"

I must admit I was stunned. A few months prior, Aussie dog started manufacturing a range of large balls, 440mm, 770mm, and 970 mm, in diameter! And these needed to be tested. After offering them free of charge to one of the major zoos with no success, I emailed Vron at Halls gap, and said that I had noticed they had acquired a rhino, Kapamba, a 23 year old male, and would they like a 770 mm ball for it to play with, it was worth around \$800, if she would like to organise the freight up to the zoo, they could have it! Vron was rather ecstatic, in this case she put it to the owners and they paid for the freight. So a great result of happy keepers, happy rhino!

The larger 970 mm, I made a quick phone call to Paul Whitehorn, (General manager, Wildlife and facilities) National Zoo and Aquarium in Canberra, my exact words were "Hi Paul how would you like a one meter ball for rhinos to test for me?" He laughed and said "is there any keeper worth his salt that would say no!" So we arranged for one of our associates (Rodney Goochy) who was going up to Canberra to take it up.

There are many happy incidents like this that have occurred over the last 20+ years, of individuals or organisations working away quietly for the betterment of animal and their existence, supporting sanctuaries as keepers or volunteers throughout the world, many of them were young people embarked upon a life with animals as members of the ASZK and are now keepers all over the world.

Our thanks to the zoos and sanctuaries that have supported Aussiedog over the years by purchasing Aussie made, especially during the Covid 19 where two zoos in particular, National Zoo and Aquarium, and New Sydney Zoo, who took advantage of the recent government grant for the enrichment of the animals.

We at Aussiedog would like to thank the ASZK in particular. For the support, Help and friendship they have given our Aussie company over the years, to enable us to entertain and enrich the lives of animals not just at home in Australia but around the world.



BUILT SAFE, BUILT TOUGH... LET'S PLAY

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram!
aussiedog.com.au





ASZK Annual Conference 2021
10 - 12 September 2021
Cronulla, Sydney

Call for Papers Now Open

ASZK are inviting abstract submissions for papers, posters or workshops related to zookeeping or the conference theme for its upcoming conference.

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be no longer than 600 words in MS Word® format.

If you would like to lead a workshop which focuses on developing animal keeper skills that include but are not limited to safety, husbandry, enrichment, welfare, ethics, training, or enclosure design, please send a short description of the workshop along with an explanation of your expertise in this area.

The abstract should include:

The paper or poster's title

Presenter's name, title and a short biography and a photo (attached separately)

Presenter's institution

Presenter's email address

No more than 600 words summarizing the intent of the paper.

Presentation of papers must not exceed 15 minutes.

A complete copy of the presentation paper suitable for publication (in Word format) must be submitted at the time of the paper presentations. Please ensure graphics are submitted as separate graphics files (i.e jpeg, tiff) and are of the highest possible quality. Full presentation papers will be published in upcoming issues of "Thylacinus".

Please submit abstracts to Liz Notley – eo@aszk.org.au

Submissions close 10 August 2021



• MEET AN ASZK MEMBER •

Bonnie Doege

MARINE MAMMAL TRAINER
SEA WORLD



For how long, and whereabouts, have you worked in the Zoological/Aquarium Industry?

I have worked at Sea World as a Marine Animal Trainer for nearly six years. Prior to that I worked with native Australian animals at Wild Life Sydney Zoo and Sydney Aquarium, whilst also volunteering in the marine department at Taronga Zoo.

What is your favourite animal, and why?

Definitely dolphins, they have taught me so much. They are all so unique and I love building relationships with the different individuals. I am so honoured to work with them and I cherish the relationships I have built.

What is your favourite thing about your workplace.

The passion within the marine sciences team is infectious. Everyone is so dedicated to the welfare of the animals in our care, and the way the whole team pulls together if there is a rescue. The team is always ready to go, regardless of what time, day or night it is (or how cold it may be!).

What changes or improvements would you like to see in the future of zookeeping/aquarists?

Shared learning between facilities. As more zoos and aquariums are focusing on animal training for cooperative animal care and preventative medicine, we could all learn a lot from each other. I believe our knowledge and experiences are often transferable between species.

It would also be nice to see more opportunities for professional development within facilities, and more opportunities for keepers to progress in their careers.

What is your greatest animal achievement thus far?

Building a trusting relationship with the animals in my care, and training various cooperative husbandry behaviours, such as voluntary mouth checks, body checks, ultrasounds and blood samples. It's pretty humbling when an animal chooses to participate in a session, despite the fact they can choose to move away at any time. Imagine if your dog walked up to the vet and presented its paw for a needle without flinching, it is of course possible, but it takes a lot of training and trust.

What is your most memorable experience with wildlife?

Completing a research internship in south Africa, radio tracking and researching wild cheetah, elephants, and wild dogs was simply awe-inspiring.

What is your most embarrassing zoo/Aquarium moment?

When I looked at myself in the mirror after my interview at Wild Life Sydney Zoo and realised I had done the whole interview with chocolate powder from my coffee between my eyebrows, so I essentially had a chocolate mono-brow for the whole interview. Thank fully I got the job anyway!





BOWLING

For **Sun Bears**



15th-21st November 2021

If you would like to assist in running a fundraiser for your zoo or area please contact our bowling coordinators Melvin and Karen at fundraising@aszko.org.au. More information will be available on the web also at www.aszko.org.au



BEHAVIOUR matters



PROBLEM SOLVING THE 'STING' OF THE HAND INJECTION IN FRANCOIS LANGURS, *TRACHYPITHECUS FRANCOISI*.

Amy Carter

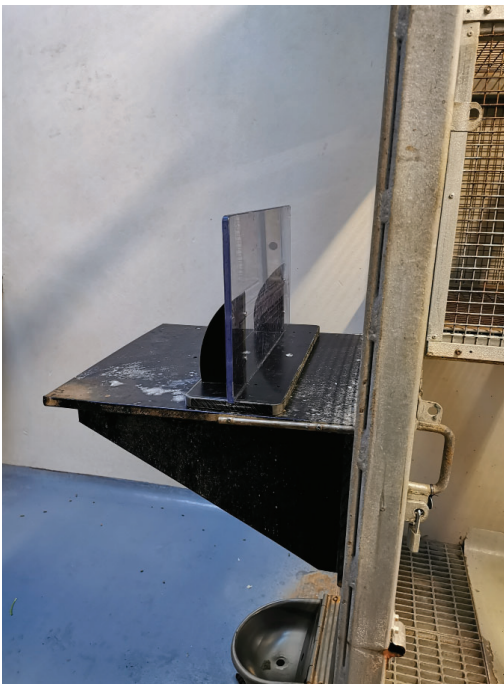
Training animals under human care for voluntary hand injections is a crucial part of responsible zoo management. Behavioural husbandry is key to ensure positive animal welfare. Primates are one of many taxa that commonly require general anaesthetic to enable regular health check-ups and movement around facilities. By teaching the animals to present a body part (leg or arm) for a hand injection, the stress of such procedures can be greatly reduced. Most primate species are protected contact (through mesh - right), meaning that the only alternatives to provide anaesthetic are dart guns or netting, which carry high levels of risk and stress.

A successful hand injection requires the animal to stay in position while the entire dose of drug is administered. One challenge that has been observed here at Taronga Zoo when hand injecting Francois langurs, is that on several occasions in the past year the animals have jumped back without receiving the full dose, resulting in a second hand injection being required. Luckily in all cases the langurs have made their way back to the station to receive another voluntary injection, but this is risky as they may not get back if they experience the effects of the injection. When training this voluntary behaviour, firm pressure is applied to the area, but this does not replicate the 'sting' of the drug that may be administered. In other primate species training, sometimes a sharp needle will be used for training or even sterile water may be injected. However, when the actual drugs are administered to the animal often a pull-back can be observed, suggesting that the content being injected feels different



To overcome this challenge, an additional removeable barrier was added to the stations of the langurs to prevent the animals from pulling back during hand injections (below). This technique is often used in large cats with logs, or otters in small tubes, but a first for use in primates here at Taronga Zoo. This equipment will not only improve the success of hand injections in the species, but also streamlines the training time of the husbandry behaviour for the keepers as the langur no longer needs to learn to present a body item.

By making the gap between the mesh and barrier only wide enough for the width of the animal, the hip will naturally be presented without any effort required other than desensitising the equipment itself. Ultimately, this also means that the behaviour can be achieved much easier and quicker, making keeper time more efficient which can always be appreciated in a time/resource limited environment.





CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Our Reptile and Amphibian team is making fantastic progress with the Kroombit Tinkerfrog Program. Our Tinker-tadpoles feed on a silt substrate that is collected from Kroombit Tops National park and sterilised. Due to the exceptionally small mouthparts of these tadpoles the keepers also need to grind and sieve the silt before pipetting it into the tadpole rearing enclosures. With this silt preparation we are now raising healthy tadpoles with full intestinal coils. Unfortunately using the procedures established from our experience with the Liem's Tinkerfrog our tadpoles initially failed to thrive, so we are very pleased that this change in process has had such a significant result. Sadly we will see the demolition of our Rainforest aviaries in the near future. These aviaries were originally built in the late 1980's to accommodate hospitalised wild birds, but were later adapted into an exhibit. Time has taken its toll on these aviaries and while it will be sad to see them go it does make space for a very exciting project, our new Kroombit Tinkerfrog Recovery Headquarters! This project received funding from the Federal Government and will allow us to custom build a facility for the breeding of this critically endangered

species! Our Reptile and Amphibian Team Leader Michael Vella has now taken on the role of Tinkerfrog Coordinator and is hard at work designing the new facility. We are hoping that the build will start very soon. With Michael focussing on Tinkerfrogs, Chris Halliwell is now overseeing our Reptile and Amphibian Department and is doing a fantastic job!



Kroombit Tinker Tadpole

We will commence building new enclosures for our Eastern Bristlebirds soon which is very exciting as we have reached capacity at CWS. These new enclosures were also funded by the Federal Government and will be located at a new property that was generously gifted to the National Trust Queensland. We will provide more information about that exciting project next time!

Recently we installed a Microchip pet door into both our Red Panda exhibits (right). These doors provide the Red Pandas with access into their feeding boxes while preventing scrub turkeys, possums and rodents from accessing their food through the day and night. The panda's took a little bit of time getting accustomed to pushing through the door flap (particularly our old boy Pasang) but now show no hesitation at all. Unfortunately the doors don't come in a larger size, so we are still in a constant battle with free-loading wildlife (got to love them, except when you really, really don't...) for many of our other species!

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary launched a new experience recently, our Breakfast with Koalas. Visitors can now have a breakfast like no other at the Koala Habitat precinct! Surrounded by Koalas, you can indulge in a gourmet breakfast, chat with keepers, enjoy a Koala encounter, and capture the moment with a professional photographer. After breakfast, you can explore the sanctuary for the rest of the day.

And finally I included a great photo of our Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies (previous page). This joey Rocko is now independent and Mum has a new foot young joey so they are proving to be a very productive pair!

Saskia Lafebre



Momo using the microchip pet door

MONARTO SAFARI PARK *Carnivores*

LIONS

Our lion cubs celebrated their 1st birthday back in February. Unfortunately not long after that we lost Khari the only male cub in the litter to a chronic health complication. This was a difficult time for all who involved in his treatment and care.

We made the decision to contraceptive Nia one of our females after some ongoing health and fertility issues. For future breeding we will look to use our other 2 females Makena and Husani.

HYENA

Hyena cub twins are now six months old, both of which are now confirmed as female. They have been named Fahari meaning magnificence and Mahali meaning place.

PAINTED DOGS

Our painted dog female Bulu has had a litter of puppies in a den constructed in our main carnivore exhibit. So far it is going well with Bulu showing very positive maternal behaviours. The pack are also showing good signs and are supporting Bulu and the puppies.



The female hyena cubs are now six months old

CHEETAH

Unfortunately we recently lost two males (Saadani and Lion) in quick succession to health complications. Milele, one of our Monarto born cheetah was recently transferred to Darlings Downs Zoo in Qld. We currently have seven female cheetah in our collection while we await some male options for future breeding.

Primates

CHIMPS

Over the last few months, life at Monarto's Chimpanzee habitat has slowly been getting back to normal following the implementation of varying Covid restrictions. Crowds are returning, much to the delight of our two little infants Hope and Zola, as well as our charismatic five year old Enzi, who love to interact with (human) youngsters through the windows. Hope (now just over two years of age) and Zola (currently ~ 20 months) are a delight for visitors, (and keepers alike), due to their almost never ending bouts of play and curiosity. As their mothers Hannah (Hope) and Zombi (Zola) take a much needed rest break, Hope and Zola can be observed playing with Enzi, being looked after by big sister Zuri or interacting with our adults and having a game of tickle or chasey. In addition to our little ones, the last few months have also continued to see our female Galatea gain full swellings (consistently and for 10+ days!), and our males hot on her tail! At this time there appears to be a constant shift between our two lowest ranked males Sandali and Gombe, as Tsotsi maintains his now 10 year position as alpha, and Boyd (our 42 year old resident) keeping his "quietly respected" rank at number 2! Unfortunately keepers have not observed many matings between our two breeding males (Tsotsi and Sandali) and our female Galatea so far, so will continue to wait patiently for any new potential pregnancy.

LEMURS

We are well underway with progress on our 3.5 hectare Lemur walkthrough, with electrics completed and shelter pods under construction. Our breeding male Hendrix has completely recovered from his skin graft surgery and appears to have maintained a strong bond with Akondro over the last few months. Recently, we have started to see a shift within our group of 7 females, and as a result, have been undertaking some daily introductions and reintroductions to minimise any specific targeting towards individuals. Although this has assisted us to some degree, it has also meant that the group have been in split groups over the past couple of weeks. As a result, we are looking to undertake some new introductions in the near future involving our males to see how this may assist in reconnecting the group. Watch this space.....



Hannah, Hope and Sandali



Zombi and Zola

BALLARAT WILDLIFE PARK

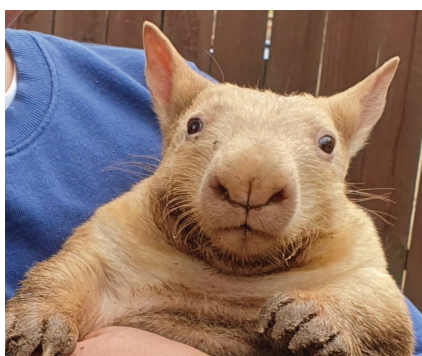
Born at the park this year to parents Nulai and Willy, Honey Bun is our second successful Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat breeding.

A beautiful and rare Golden colour she is Ballarats golden nugget! We are pleased that mum Nulai is looking after her, as last year we had to make the decision to handraise her brother “Piggy Wom” whom keepers found thrown out of the pouch. Luckily he was in the straw and alive. Piggy was only 1.4kg when Curator Julia Leonard took him to bottle feed. He is now a healthy and thriving 16kg! Needless to say it was relief that Honey Bun is being fed and cared by her Wombat mum.

Both are a big attraction to our guests to the park especially Honey Bun due to her golden colour and now have their own Instagram page @piggywom.honeybun We are all very proud to be involved with this very important breeding and hope we continue with our success.



Piggy Wom with Park owner Greg Parker above and Honey Bun below



TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO

The Black Rhino team here at Taronga Western Plains Zoo have just welcomed a critically endangered Black Rhino calf. The little female was born just before sunrise at 5.45am on the 24th February 2021 and is the 4th calf for experienced mother Bakhita. She has just recently been named ‘Sabi star’ (Sabi) by keepers after the beloved and hardy flower found in Zimbabwe. The flower is known for thriving in harsh climates and symbols the resilience of herself and her wild counterparts as well as being found in the same country as where Southern black Rhinos are found.

When Sabi was first born she weighed approximately 35kg. Now at just over a month she is weighing 93kg, gaining 20kg in just over a week! As well as Sabi growing bigger, we are seeing more and more behaviors from her. At the moment she is spending a lot of time running around and exploring her yard. She follows Bakhita wherever she goes, whether she is sleeping or in a mud wallow. She is starting to mouth at all sorts of solid food and is very confident towards keepers in creep sessions. Sabi star is the 4th calf born here at Taronga Western Plains Zoo in the last 6 years. She is also the 15th Calf born in total since the breeding program begun in the early 1990’s. When Sabi is older she will be a vital part of the breeding program by continuing her genetics to build a stronger captive population for her species.



Regent Honeyeaters

The first breeding season for the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater has finished at Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo with 33 chicks born in total to six pairs of birds.

“We had a 100% success rate with all six pairs producing two or three clutches, which is an amazing result for our first breeding season for this critically endangered species,” said Regent Honeyeater Keeper, Kara Stevens.

There is estimated to be 350 Regent Honeyeaters remaining in the wild, so these chicks are vital to help booster the zoo-based insurance population for this critically endangered species, and may one day be released into the wild.

At the end of the breeding season all 33 chicks underwent a veterinary health check at the Zoo’s Wildlife Hospital. This involved each individual chick being weighed and measured, having an overall body condition assessment and a blood and feather sample taken for DNA testing. They were then released into to a flight aviary at the zoo.

This allows birds to learn behaviours necessary for the wild such as foraging, flight training, interactions with other species and predator awareness.

“There are now 56 Regent Honeyeaters in total including the 33 chicks in our flight aviary, which is also home to a couple of Malleefowl and White-winged Choughs.”

After such a successful first breeding season we are now turning our attention to the next breeding season and we will start pairing off birds in June this year with the hope of achieving similar success for this species.

The Regent Honeyeater Recovery Program is supported by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (NSW), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria), Australian National University, Bird Life Australia and a number of zoo and wildlife parks in Australia.

DOLPHIN MARINE CONSERVATION PARK

The start of 2021 has been a flurry of activity at Dolphin Marine Conservation Park (DMCP), with the Christmas and Easter holidays bringing visitors from across Australia. The slight relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions has meant guests have more freedom within the Park and there has been positive feedback on the Marine Discovery Presentation as well as animal interactions. School groups have also returned to engage in the ‘Ed-venture’ programs, with lessons focusing on biology and conservation of marine species.

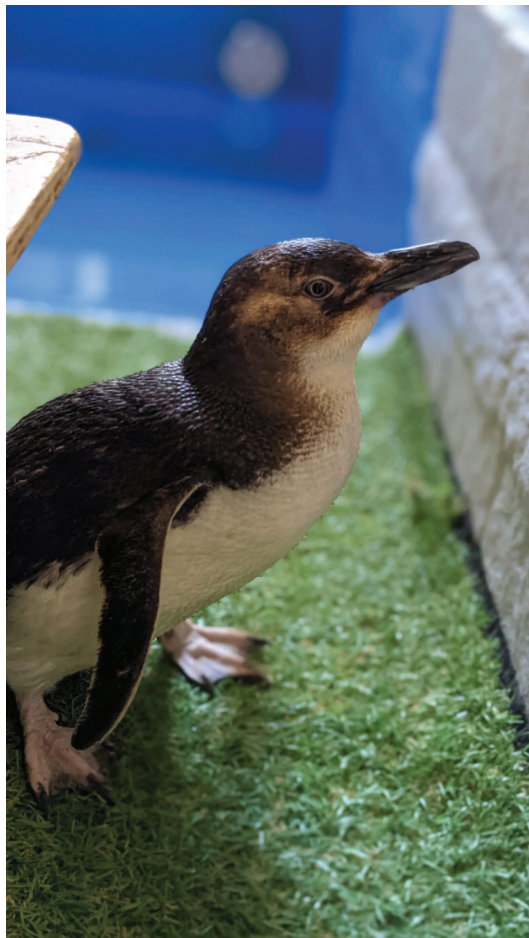
March was a wet and windy month for many places across Australia and Coffs Harbour was no exception! DMCP was forced to close its doors to guests on a few occasions due to heavy rain and flooding. The Park is thankful to the dedicated staff who worked tirelessly through the rain to continue to provide the highest care for all the animals – including the Life Support team who maintained the water quality despite not being able to pump from the nearby ocean creek for a few days! The Park is very grateful to those visitors who braved the weather to come and learn about Australia’s marine animals.

So far this year, DMCP’s rescue and rehabilitation hospital has been busy, with intakes including both freshwater and marine turtles (including hatchlings!), as well as a Little Blue Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*). Staff are currently getting ready for an influx of shearwater chicks as the birds start to fledge and leave their nests at the local Muttonbird Island.



*Hatchling sea turtles rehabilitated and released by DMCP
Credit: Dolphin Marine Rescue*

Two of DMCP's Little Blue Penguins, Dennis and Ramon, were transferred to Sea Life Mooloolaba as part of the Australian Species Management Program. The two boys will join the colony at Sea Life with the hopes of finding girlfriends and producing offspring of their own! The staff at DMCP would like to wish the boys luck on their new adventure and it is known they will be cared for to the highest standard.



A little blue penguin, currently being rehabilitated at DMCP. Credit: Tani Karaka

• ASZK • NEW MEMBERS

*The ASZK Committee
would like to
welcome the following
new members*

FULL MEMBERS

LOUISA TODD
Taronga Zoo

AMY LAWRIE
Halls Gap Zoo

BROCK TARANTO
Sydney Zoo

JUDY WILSON
Sydney Zoo

EUGENIO SOLA MARCILLA
Sydney Zoo

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

KARLA SALMON e

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