

ASZK 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP PROPOSAL

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Melbourne
19-22 March 2026

Australasian Society of Zookeeping

Who are we?

A group of eight zoo keepers from Adelaide Zoo first formed the Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping (ASZK) in 1976. It was originally called the Australasian Society of Animal Management, which was changed to the Australasian Society of Zoo Keepers in 1980, and finally renamed the Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping in 1991.

The ASZK is primarily a professional organisation which seeks to promote the exchange of information on all aspects of wild animal husbandry, and in so doing provide a platform for ongoing professional development for the broad zoological community.

VISION

THE ASZK WILL BE GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED AS A LEADER IN THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF KEEPERS IN THE ZOO COMMUNITY.

MISSION

THE ASZK WILL:

Promote and disseminate information to support keeper development.

- Provide training and development opportunities to industry personnel.
- Provide Regional and International networking opportunities to support the objectives of the society.
- Strive, at all times, to provide the best possible benefits and service to its Membership.
- Facilitate and encourage Keeper involvement in Conservation Programs.
- Operate a financially responsible and professional organisation with good governance.

CELEBRATING OUR 50TH YEAR IN 2026

ASZK is proudly about to celebrate its 50th year as an association dedicated to improving professional zookeeping practices in the Australasian region. As such we want to ensure this achievement is celebrated and recognised for the important work it has undertaken for zookeepers both in our region as well as contributing to international standards.

Our largest recent conference hit an attendance of 120 participants but with your support we are hoping to have even more keepers from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea participate in this landmark event. Being held in Melbourne we hope as a major centre it will be easily accessible to all who wish to attend.

With a theme of **“50 years of zoos and zookeeping thriving”** we are focusing on how we will ensure we continue this very positive trajectory into the next 50 years. We are proud to present you with the sponsorship prospectus for this 2026 event in asking for support. Your support will help provide much assistance for talented, hard-working, and above all passionate, people to proudly represent their organisations at this forum.

This Conference always leaves participants inspired and empowered in a rapidly expanding industry undertaking vital conservation and animal welfare work as we navigate the changing world we live in.

There are several different categories for you to choose from, each containing a special range of benefits which we trust will be beneficial to your organisation or business. If you are interested in any of the following sponsorship categories, or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Your support ensures we can offer an affordable registration rate as well as providing scholarships for attendance at this important event. We thank you for your careful consideration and look forward to operating closely with your organisation as we work together to get back to connecting for our animals, the public and each other.

ASZK 50th Anniversary Conference Organising Committee 2026

Testimonials

“ ASZK is an important part of the zoo and aquarium profession. For fifty years ASZK has enhanced the animal care and science outcomes in our profession. The work done by ASZK has enriched the lives of the animals in our care and the people who care for them through growth and advancement of animal husbandry practices, shared knowledge and the development of a supportive collegial community.”

Karen Fifield MNZM

Chief Executive, Te Nukuaō Wellington Zoo

President, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

“For 50 years, the Australian Society of Zoo Keeping (ASZK) has championed the dedication and evolution of zoo keepers, from caretakers to conservation leaders. ‘50 Years of Zoo Keepers Thriving’ celebrates their vital role in wildlife care, education, and global conservation. As Melbourne Zoo hosts this milestone, we honour the keepers whose passion ensures the future of countless species. Congratulations, ASZK!”

Jenny Gray

CEO, Zoos Victoria

“The ASZK was born out of a desire to unify and support zoo and wildlife professionals across Australasia. Over its 50 years, it has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration and sharing expertise among animal care specialists. Platforms such as Thylacinus, industry workshops and conferences, have ensured that the society has built an indelible legacy and a community dedicated to excellence in animal care. Having started my career as an Aquarist and Zoo Keeper - I have benefited greatly from these platforms and the networks that ASZK events have facilitated. Its history is a testament to the commitment of the collective of individuals that have dedicated their time in the pursuit of the development of zoo keepers and the betterment of wildlife care across the region.”

Nick Boyle

Executive Director, Taronga Zoo, Sydney

“ASZK has been a really important platform for keepers in our region since it was created in 1975. I have always valued my time as a keeper and I’m delighted that it’s continued to grow and evolve over the years. Here’s to another half century”

Chris Banks - Past President & Thylacinus Editor, ASZK.

Manager Global Conservation, Zoos Victoria

Board Member, Mabuwaya Foundation, Philippines.

Member, Species Survival Commission, IUCN.

“For 5 decades ASZK has been at the heart of zoo keeping, bringing keepers together to learn, share, and grow. Through mentorship, collaboration, and a commitment to Excellence in animal care, ASZK has shaped careers, strengthened our profession, and created a community that supports one another. Marking this milestone at Melbourne Zoo, Australia’s oldest zoo, makes it even more special. Just as zoos have evolved over time, so has ASZK—continuously investing in the people who care for wildlife and drive change in our industry. Here’s to 50 years of passion, progress, and dedication—Congratulations, ASZK!”

Justine Felix General Manager Life Sciences, Zoos Victoria

“The ASZK provides invaluable opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing within our ever-evolving industry.

Ongoing regional collaboration is key to conservation success. It enables us to learn from each other and collectively work towards better welfare outcomes, improved standards of care and new ways to actively educate and advocate for wildlife.

Perth Zoo has had the privilege of hosting the annual conference several times, most recently in 2024, and we are proud to have many of our staff actively involved in ASZK.”

David van Ooran – Executive Director, Perth Zoo

“For 50 years, ASZK has played a really important role in helping zoo and aquarium professionals improve the way we care for animals. The workshops, conferences, website resources, Thylacinus journal, and the connections made through the ASZK network have all helped raise the bar for animal husbandry across the region.

ASZK has created spaces where keepers and animal care teams can share ideas, learn from each other, and stay up to date with best practice in animal care and welfare. That kind of grassroots, peer-to-peer learning is incredibly valuable—and it shows in the quality of care being delivered in our zoos and aquariums today.

ZAA values the long-standing relationship we have with ASZK and appreciates everything the society has contributed to our community. Congratulations on 50 years—your impact is clear, and your work continues to matter. We look forward to continuing to work with ASZK and its Members.”

**James Biggs Director of Conservation and Population Management,
Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA)**

Sponsorship Opportunities



Platinum Partner - \$10,000

We are excited to offer this Partnership opportunity for the first time due to the significance of this 50th year of ASZK.

We are looking for partners who recognise and support the value that ASZK has contributed to assisting thousands of zookeepers in their continuing thirst for knowledge of continuous improvements in husbandry and welfare for the animals in their care. Not only this but the incredible contribution zookeepers have made to conservation by mastering skills in breeding threatened species as part of conservation programs.

This category of partnership offers the following benefits:

- A specialised VIP zoo experience for four people tailored to your preferences
- Your Logo on conference t-shirts/satchels
- Exhibition stand if requested with provisions for catering for 2 staff or alternatively two tickets to the conference dinner.
- Display logo with a link to your organisation's website and acknowledgement of sponsorship of 2026 annual conference on ASZK homepage
- Promotion of your support on our social media with over 12,500 followers
- 1 x 12-month Corporate Membership of the ASZK
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Placement of your promotional material in the conference packs
- One full-page advertisement in the quarterly journal during the following 12 months
- Name/logo featured on rotation on main conference presentation screen
- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels if required

Gold Partner - \$5,000

- Display logo with a link to your organisation's website and acknowledgement of sponsorship of 2026 annual conference on ASZK homepage
- Promotion of your support on our social media with over 12,500 followers
- 1 x 12-month Corporate Membership of the ASZK
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Placement of your promotional material in the conference packs
- One full-page advertisement in the quarterly journal during the following 12 months
- Name/logo featured on rotation on main conference presentation screen
- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels if required

Silver Partner - \$3,000

- Acknowledgement of sponsorship in the conference program
- One half page advertisement in the quarterly journal for 12 months
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship on the ASZK website with link to your website
- Promotion of support on our social media with over 12,500 followers
- Name/logo featured on rotation on main conference presentation screen
- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels if required

Bronze Partner - \$1000

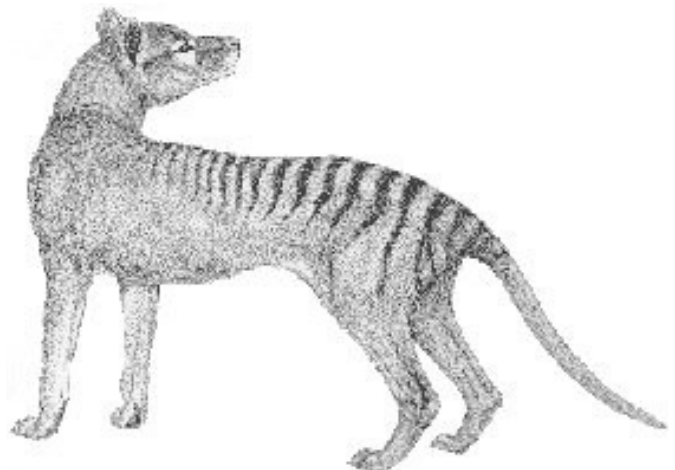
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship on the ASZK website with link to your website
- Promotion of support on our social media with over 12,500 followers
- Acknowledgement of sponsorship in the conference program
- Name/logo featured on rotation on main conference presentation screen
- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels if required

Advertiser/ Satchel Insert - \$300

- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels

Like to be an Exhibitor - \$800

- Exhibit space for trade display
- Sponsor literature/collateral in conference satchels
- Opportunity to provide a short presentation to delegates
- Sustenance for one staff member to attend all sessions and conference dinner. Extra staff will be charged as per costs.



Other help or donations!

We are open to suggestions to other ways we can work with supporters and sponsors if you would like a variation on the above.

We would be grateful of any support offered to this non-profit society. The aim is to reduce registration costs so we can maximise attendance at this year's conference.

This will aid us in achieving our goals and thus increase efforts of zoos in the region in areas such as the conservation of threatened species and animal welfare.

To register your interest please contact Liz Notley - ASZK Conference Committee – email eo@aszk.org.au or phone 0419 791 254 to discuss



ABN 25054237099