

2012

67<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
OF WAZA  
MELBOURNE  
7-11 OCTOBER



**ZOOS**  
VICTORIA

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## WAZA 2012 MELBOURNE

Dear Colleagues

You are invited to join us in Melbourne, Australia from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 for WAZA 2012.

In October 2012, Melbourne Zoo will celebrate 150 years of operation. We are honoured to host the WAZA conference in the month of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and we extend an invitation to all delegates to stay after the conference and attend our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration party on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

Melbourne was recently awarded the title of 'The World's Most Liveable City', and there is no doubt that you will enjoy your visit and conference in this amazing city. The weather can be variable but the mood is always vibrant.

The Conference Theme is "Fighting Extinction" and offers all zoos and aquariums a chance to showcase their work to protect the world's most vulnerable species, work together to save species and contribute to in situ conservation. The conference has been structured to allow for the first two days focus on technical papers linked to the conference theme. The call for papers will identify the themes and we encourage Zoo and Aquarium Directors to consider submitting papers on these topics.

- Saving / protecting species in human care;
- sustainable populations;
- Breeding for release;
- Field work;
- Community Conservation;
- advocacy and actions;
- Research;
- Marketing and fundraising

The conference proceedings include an ice breaker at the Melbourne Zoo, drinks at the Melbourne Aquarium and a half day visit to Healesville Sanctuary, the home of Australian wildlife. Dinner in the Yarra Valley at an award winning wine farm, will appeal to all WAZA delegates and partners.

The partner program will minimise travel and maximise the opportunities of this world class city. With plenty of food, shopping and cultural experiences within the heart of the city there will be activities that suit all participants.



The conference is being held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, a recognised world class conference facility right in the middle of the city of Melbourne on the beautiful Yarra River. Three hotels have been selected to cater for a range of budgets all within walking distance of the Convention Centre.

For delegates able to stay for the Melbourne Zoo 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday party on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October there are a number of day options for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of October, such as the Philip Island Penguins, the Great Ocean Road and the Werribee Open Range Zoo.

In journeying to and from the conference a number of side trips are available. Australia is an easy country to navigate and we suggest that delegates take some time before or after the conference to explore part of this diverse country. While we will be making suggestions and can offer advice we will not be providing pre and post conference tours.

In travelling from Europe I suggest that Directors consider visiting Hong Kong Ocean Park. Their Halloween experience is exceptional and they will have opened a new arctic exhibit which promises to be worth visiting. On the way home Singapore Zoo and Night Safari is always worth the visit with so many innovative experiences.

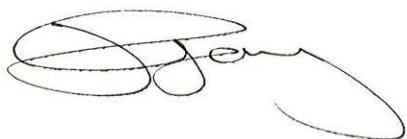
Taronga Zoo in Sydney is a world class facility and would welcome any delegates who have time in transit through Sydney. Located on the spectacular Sydney Harbour the zoo is an easy commute by train and ferry from the airport.

Registrations will open in May, but please set aside time in your calendars now.

Early Bird	29 March -31 May
Regular	1 Jun-31 July
Late	1 Aug – mid Sep

There will be 150 reasons to come to the 2012 WAZA Conference. We especially look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in October 2012.

Regards



Jenny Gray  
Chief Executive Officer



Kevin Tanner  
Director Melbourne Zoo