

Royal Zoological Society of South Australia Inc.
Board Election 2026



Information On Candidates

Peter McCarthy



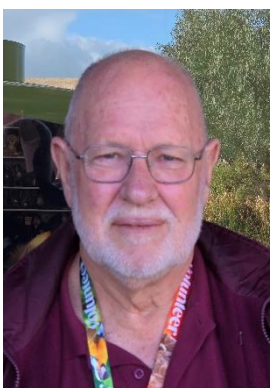
I am a retired medical scientist who spent much of my working career (1966 to 1998) at the Repatriation General Hospital, Daw Park as their Senior Biochemist. I have been associated with the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia Inc. for over 25 years (1999 to the present). In late 1999 a colleague of mine and I, at the request of the then Senior Veterinarian, set up a biochemical laboratory in the new Animal Health and Research Centre. Together we were able to gather equipment which was surplus to the needs of various laboratories around the city. Since then we have provided our Veterinarians with a biochemical service which has aided them in their work caring for our animals. Over the years we have been mentors to many Ph.D. and Honours students. In August, 2003 I was made an Honorary Research Associate of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia Inc. Since that time I have been involved in a number of research projects providing biochemical support. As time proceeded we have been able to recruit a number of volunteers to assist us in the laboratory. In August 2019, the six members of our group were honoured by winning the "Unsung Hero Award of South Australian Science. Research is one of the objectives of the Society. Our rules urge us "to conduct and facilitate research on animals both in captivity and in the wild". The habitats on which they rely are also subject to research activities. The zoo's emphasis is on threatened species. If I am re-elected to the Board it will be my aim to continue supporting such an approach along with the many worthy goals that our Society has. I would like to continue my support of our employees by encouraging such aims. This society has brought me much pleasure and satisfaction.

Christopher Luong



I am pleased to nominate for election to the Board of The Royal Zoological Society of South Australia Inc. As a Life Member, Zoos SA holds deep personal meaning for me. My wife and I chose to spend our honeymoon at Monarto Safari Park, reflecting our genuine connection to the organisation and our belief in its purpose of connecting people with nature and saving species from extinction. I would bring to the Board extensive experience in marketing, membership, communications, fundraising, stakeholder engagement and not-for-profit growth. In my current role as Manager, Marketing and Memberships with the Australian Medical Association, I focus on strengthening member value, engagement and organisational reach. Earlier roles have included national marketing leadership, communications, operations and consulting across charities and community organisations. My achievements include growing donated income from \$350,000 to \$1.8 million in five months, securing significant grant funding, expanding supporter databases and leading business improvement and digital transformation initiatives. I also bring practical governance experience through non-executive, board and committee appointments, including Community Support Incorporated, Nakuru Hope and the Combined Ex-Services Mess. I understand the distinction between governance and management and the importance of sound judgement, accountability, constructive challenge and collective decision-making. Zoos SA has identified marketing as a skill of interest. I would welcome the opportunity to apply my professional expertise, community-sector experience and enduring commitment to Zoos SA to support its strategic direction, membership base, conservation story and long-term sustainability.

Mike Stevens



I am passionate about the aims of Zoos SA having been a Volunteer Guide at Monarto Safari Park for 13 years. I enjoy the opportunity to tell our visitors about the vital work that we do. I have been on the VRG, and assisted as a mentor and trainer for other guides. I have a wide knowledge of what Zoos SA does in our community. I am on the Boards of TADSA (Ageing and Disability), AllKids (Child Welfare) and MOSAIC Adelaide (Multiculturalism), and the Management Committees of Impact100 SA (Philanthropy) and SATGA (Tourist Guiding). I have run my own business specializing in business computing and training, I am a tour guide concentrating on inbound guests to Adelaide. I have an Honours Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Adelaide, a Certificate 4 in Workplace Training and Assessment and a Certificate 3 in Tourism (Guiding). Through my working life and with my involvement in the community I have experience of government relations, major projects, business connections/fundraising and conservation/research, with emphasis on the practical. I will bring a wide range of skills and experiences to the Board and my experience with the Tourism industry has already yielded benefits for Zoos SA. Increasing the awareness of Zoos SA in the whole community and providing our guests with the best experiences are my goals.

Ben Turner



I'm asking for your vote to join the Zoos SA Board. As a Board Member, I will use my experience in governance, risk and leadership to provide even greater support to Zoos SA. Together we can continue to make sound decisions, manage risk effectively and deliver on our important conservation mission. Since 2023, I have volunteered on the Risk and Governance Committee of the Zoos SA Board. This experience has given me a practical understanding of the Society, its fantastic people and its governance responsibilities. I now want to contribute more directly as a full member of the Board. I am an engineer and senior leader with 20 years' experience in project, governance and risk management. I currently serve as Head of Technical Governance and Assurance at ASC. My combination of technical and operational knowledge, leadership experience, and work on complex projects brings a practical and informed perspective to the Board, complementing its existing expertise. I care greatly about Zoos SA and the contribution it makes to our community and to conserving our planet for future generations. My two sons are life members, which has allowed me to follow the progress of the Society through their eyes, and the role it plays in shaping their understanding and connection with the living world. Your vote will allow me to contribute more to an organisation I already care about and further support its purpose to remain a strong and sustainable organisation, connecting people with nature and saving species from extinction.

Kendall Richardson



Kendall Richardson FCIPS GAICD is an experienced Non-Executive Director, business founder and commercial executive with more than 18 years' experience across government, healthcare, defence, education, emergency services and the not-for-profit sector. Kendall brings specialist expertise in strategic procurement, grants, governance, risk, financial stewardship and stakeholder engagement. Through Mindset Procurement and Mindset Grants, she supports organisations to navigate complex commercial decisions, strengthen governance and achieve sustainable outcomes. Her career has included leading high-value, high-risk procurement programs, advising government agencies and helping not-for-profit organisations improve capability, compliance and long-term value. Kendall is a Non-Executive Director of LGA Procurement and Co-Founder and Director of Able AI. She previously served as a Director and Treasurer of Villagehood Australia, where she chaired the Finance and Audit Committee, supported successful grant funding and contributed to a 50 per cent increase in services delivered. Her volunteer leadership includes founding Adelaide Women in Procurement and serving as its Treasurer, as well as chairing the South Australian Branch of the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply. Through these roles, she has built partnerships, grown member engagement and created professional and charitable initiatives delivering meaningful community impact. A Zoos SA member since childhood, Kendall has a longstanding personal connection to Adelaide Zoo and now enjoys sharing it with her own children. She would bring commercial acumen, collaborative leadership and a genuine commitment to helping Zoos SA advance its conservation, education and community objectives.

Kate Hartwig



I stood down as Zoos SA Secretary at the last AGM thinking that, after twelve years, it was time to do so. Recent events have convinced me otherwise. It is time to step back up. Zoos SA has a dual purpose — to connect people with nature and save species from extinction. I worry this duality is out of balance. Our conservation purpose is vital and well championed; it is the first half of our purpose that needs a stronger voice at the Board table. Members, Volunteers, and Visitors — these are my priorities. Members are the heart of this organisation which, literally, belongs to them. Volunteers are its backbone — we cannot function without them. Visitors are our lifeblood and the living proof of our purpose: connecting people with nature, sharing the joy and wonder of the natural world, cultivating future conservationists. I will champion these three groups to restore and maintain that essential balance. Others may have different views. Good. The boardroom is not supposed to be cozy. It is a place for the contest of ideas, rigorous debate, and tough questions. A diversity of views should be celebrated. Achieving balance requires it. I am a Life Member and a governance professional. I have served as Board Secretary and a Monarto Guide. I know this organisation — its Constitution, its values, its people, and its potential. I have a great deal to say. Please give me a voice.

Kathryn House AM



Kathryn House AM is an experienced board director, community leader, social entrepreneur and philanthropist who is passionate about conservation, education and creating opportunities for people to participate, contribute and thrive within their communities. For more than four decades, Kathryn has held senior leadership and governance roles across the education, association management, business administration, aged care and not-for-profit sectors. She is widely recognised for her ability to build strong partnerships, connect people with purpose, and lead collaborative initiatives that deliver lasting social impact. A passionate advocate for philanthropy, Kathryn has played a leading role in growing South Australia's culture of giving. She currently serves as Chair of Impact100 South Australia, a collective giving organisation that has awarded more than \$3 million in grants to grassroots South Australian charities. In 2021, she founded Young Impact, a collective giving program for school students, inspiring the next generation of philanthropists and community leaders. Kathryn has volunteered with Catherine House for more than 20 years, serving in governance, fundraising and ambassadorial roles, including as Chair of the Catherine House Trust. Her longstanding commitment to community service was recognised with her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours for significant service to the community through charitable organisations. As a Life Member and President of Zoos SA, Kathryn is committed to strengthening the organisation's strategic direction, sustainability and impact as a leader in conservation, education, research, animal welfare and visitor engagement, inspiring people to connect with nature while protecting biodiversity for future generations.

Kent Wilson



I am an experienced business leader, finance professional, educator and governance contributor with more than 30 years of commercial and community experience. As a Fellow of CPA Australia, Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Registered Business Valuer, CFO and business adviser, I bring strong financial, strategic, governance and commercial capability. My experience spans business, higher education and the not for profit sector, with a focus on financial sustainability, strategy, risk management and informed decision making. I currently serve as a CPA Australia South Australia Divisional Councillor and hold professional and industry committee roles. I am also National Treasurer of an ACNC registered charity and have previous experience as an independent director, providing practical experience in board governance, financial stewardship and organisational oversight. Education has been an important part of my professional life for more than 20 years. I have taught at university level in Australia and internationally and value the role organisations can play in education, engagement and strengthening communities. Zoos SA also has personal significance for me. Adelaide Zoo has been part of my life through family visits, and that connection now continues with the next generation. My grandchildren are Zoo members, and it is rewarding to see the enjoyment, curiosity and sense of discovery Zoos SA creates for young people. I would bring an independent and considered perspective, strong financial and governance skills, strategic and commercial experience, and a genuine commitment to supporting the Society's long term sustainability, impact and conservation mission.