



ROYAL
Zoological
SOCIETY
of S.A. Incorporated

Royal Zoological Society of South Australia Inc. Board Election 2020

Information On Candidates

Dr David Martin



I am a life member of the Adelaide Zoo, and have spent many pleasant days at both Frome Road and Monarto, often in the company of my four children as they learned how wide and wonderful the animal kingdom can be. My very first job was as a part time keeper in the old Children's zoo in the 1970s. I know how important organisations like the zoo are to help educate society in the preservation of biological diversity.

I have been an orthopaedic surgeon for the last 28 years, and have held many positions in the Australian Orthopaedic Association, culminating in the role of president in 2019, and being awarded an OAM last year. I have board experience, particularly in the areas of finance, risk management, strategic planning and governance and I think these

skills would be valuable for the ongoing management and future development of the Society, especially given the many extra complexities thrown to all of us in 2020

I have had the opportunity to travel extensively and have visited nature reserves and zoological gardens in many countries, gaining valuable insights into both good management practices, and also some of the problems faced by organisations worldwide. I have an abiding love of animals, and am passionate about environmental preservation. I believe my skills and experience would complement others on the board, and would be very grateful if the members would grant me the opportunity to serve on the board of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia.

Selga Tucker



I believe that my skills and experience in digital media, including my current role as Digital Content Manager for the Premier of South Australia, are a perfect match for driving engagement in the age of short attention spans. Digital media is a constantly evolving medium and – when used effectively – it is a powerful tool in connecting organisations with past, present and future members, and achieving strategic objectives.

As a mother of two young children who have active grandparents, I have spent many years enjoying Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park. These insights and experiences

make me well placed to help your organisation better connect with intergenerational communities.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 global pandemic has impacted businesses, communities and families in ways we've never seen before. Now, more than ever, organisations like yours need to keep members educated, inspired and engaged. There is a real appetite, and a renewed sense of enthusiasm, to rediscover the things that are important to us.

Zoos SA has a big role to play in this.

Dr Eleni Papadopoulos



I am interested in nominating for a board position for the Royal Zoological Society. Since becoming a mother, I have realised more than ever the importance of institutions that assist with the education of our children and the community.

The Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park are iconic to Adelaide. I am passionate about being able to progress the opportunities and future of these businesses while keeping conservation and education as their core function.

Skills that I feel will be beneficial to the board include my extensive experience working in multidisciplinary teams to deliver

technical project scope for execution. My strengths are in collaboration and delivery through team work.

Working in a production environment, I also have experience managing operational budgets and managing the government compliance for these programs.

I believe there is opportunity to develop more interest for the Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park by appealing to all age brackets and I would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity.

Dr Bianca Warnock



I am passionate about plant science, food and community. I've involved myself in organisations and groups such as the North Adelaide Country Women's Association, set up fundraisers during the 2019/2020 Australian Bush-fire crisis and coordinate volunteers to help spread the passion for science. I co-founded Sciren, a science translation company designed to help the public understand scientific content, particularly sharing my passion for plant science.

ie: Why is wombat poop glittery!? How can teachers teach "Science as a Human Endeavour"? Why does Tasmanian Mountain Pepper turn pink when crushed in oil...?

Science is everywhere and we can all understand it, so long as we feel included. By translating the science, everyone is involved; from teachers to the media, and

most importantly, to kids.

In a past role, I created Why Waite for the University of Adelaide. Over the past 5 years, we encouraged over 20,000 children and adults to see themselves in the future of science. I also trained and learnt from our future's great science communicators.

Zoos SA represents our ecological past and future on Earth. It holds many fond memories for my young family and I have so many exciting dreams to share with the Zoo community. I hope to hear your voice and express your desires to help the community of Zoos SA reach forth into the future, for many years to come.

I do hope you vote for me in the Zoos SA Board, and that I match your expectations for the committee community.

Miriam Whitford



I am an experienced non-executive director and graduate of the AICD Company Director's Program. However, it my extensive strategic and consumer technical expertise that I can deliver my greatest value.

My experience in the tourism industry includes working with both local and national clients, and creating marketing strategies that went global. At my core I have a passion for understanding consumers and communicating with them in a way that resonates and influences with a variety of consumer groups. Understanding; Why they purchase? Engage? What drives their loyalty? What resonates with a variety of generations in a market that is already flooded? It is through finding consumer

insights and strong strategies that drives greatest success.

I am currently the Managing Director of my own consulting business Whitford Thinking. I have created and executed strategies to deliver improved economic outcomes and long-term sustainability to a variety of South Australian and national businesses.

The Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park are both places of community, experiences and sustainability. Both are cultural SA icons with exciting plans for the future.

I am highly motivated by the potential to become a key member and collaborator of these plans and more.

Dr Susie Robinson



I have significant experience in corporate governance, being a current Zoos SA Board member, having served 5 years on the board of a major South Australian charity, Novita Children's Services, and been elected for three terms on the Governing Council, University of Adelaide. I bring strong competency in oversight of financial management, strategic planning, organisational restructure and service improvement.

I have distinguished academic credentials, including a PhD from Cambridge University (UK), in the field of veterinary/medical science, and a postgraduate business management qualification.

Having held senior roles in the UK and South Australian government sector, I have a shrewd appreciation of how government works, with the insights and networks to assist in enhancing the Zoological Society's

government relations.

I currently lead a national research infrastructure facility, operating out of University of Adelaide, CSIRO and the Australian National University, supporting globally leading research and innovation in agriculture and food. In this role I have further honed my skills in strategic planning, business performance and analytics, external engagement/ partnerships, and organisational positioning.

A mother of school-aged children, our family has enjoyed many years' zoo membership. We have a passion for the zoo as an institution of great importance to both the local community and visitors.

Known for my personable manner and practical approach, I believe I would be a valuable representative for Society members.

Peter McCarthy



In late 1999 a colleague of mine and I set up a laboratory in the new Animal Health and Research Centre at the Adelaide Zoo. Together we were able to obtain equipment from various laboratories. Since then we have provided our Veterinarians with a biochemical service. Over the ensuing years we have served as mentors to many Ph.D and Honours students.

In August 2003, I was made an Honorary Research Associate of the Royal Zoological Society of SA and in August 2019, the six members of our group were honoured by winning the Unsung Hero Award of South Australian Science.

Around the year 2000, the Board worked hard to increase the research activities of the Society and to make them better known. Our rules urge us "to conduct and facilitate

research on animals both in captivity and in the wild, and the habitats on which they rely, with particular emphasis on threatened species."

At times staff and volunteers have combined their efforts by working together on research projects. I believe that it is time for such collaboration to be strengthened by giving those scientifically qualified members of the zoo's staff, the opportunity to use their qualifications in scientific endeavour. What better way for management to motivate such people by showing an interest in their work and giving them an opportunity to establish their scientific careers.

If I am elected to the Board, it will be my aim to create an environment that achieves such a goal.