

Call for Presentation,
Workshop & Poster
Abstracts – Submission
Guidelines

ZAA
Conference
2026

4-7 August 2026

Auckland, New Zealand



**Zoo and
Aquarium
Association**
Australasia

Auckland
ZOO

Conference Overview

In celebration of our diverse membership, the 2026 Annual ZAA Conference **Foundations First: Strengthening What Matters Most** will focus on the essentials for zoos, aquariums, and wildlife parks operating in this current landscape. Hosted by Auckland Zoo in New Zealand, the conference week includes a central two-day hybrid programme that aims for maximum in-person and online accessibility. The hybrid programme will feature a range of sub-plenary streams, endeavouring to present content relevant for all. Please review the submission guidelines before submitting your abstract proposal for the core programme, via the Whova platform.

1. Presentation, Workshop and Poster Topics

Submissions should align with one or more of the following themes.

- Animal welfare
- Animal encounters / best practice AVIs
- Business systems, leadership, marketing / comms, and operations
- Community education and engagement
- Community research
- Conservation
- Crisis management
- Exhibit design and execution
- Initiatives that have been tried, tested, and should be shared as unsuccessful
- Operational problem solving – getting ahead of operational challenges
- Research relevant to zoos and aquariums
- Small scale successes: making the most of what is available
- Species360 maximising ZIMS for operational efficiency
- Sustainability
- Technology and AI
- Visitor experience

2. Presentation Formats

I. Plenary Presentations – 12 mins

- 12 mins presentation
- Accepted short presentations will be combined into a themed block with other presentations, with Q&A for all at the end.

II. Panel – 45 minutes

- 40 mins panel with 5 mins audience Q&A at the end
- Submission should include profiles of the moderator and all panellist speakers

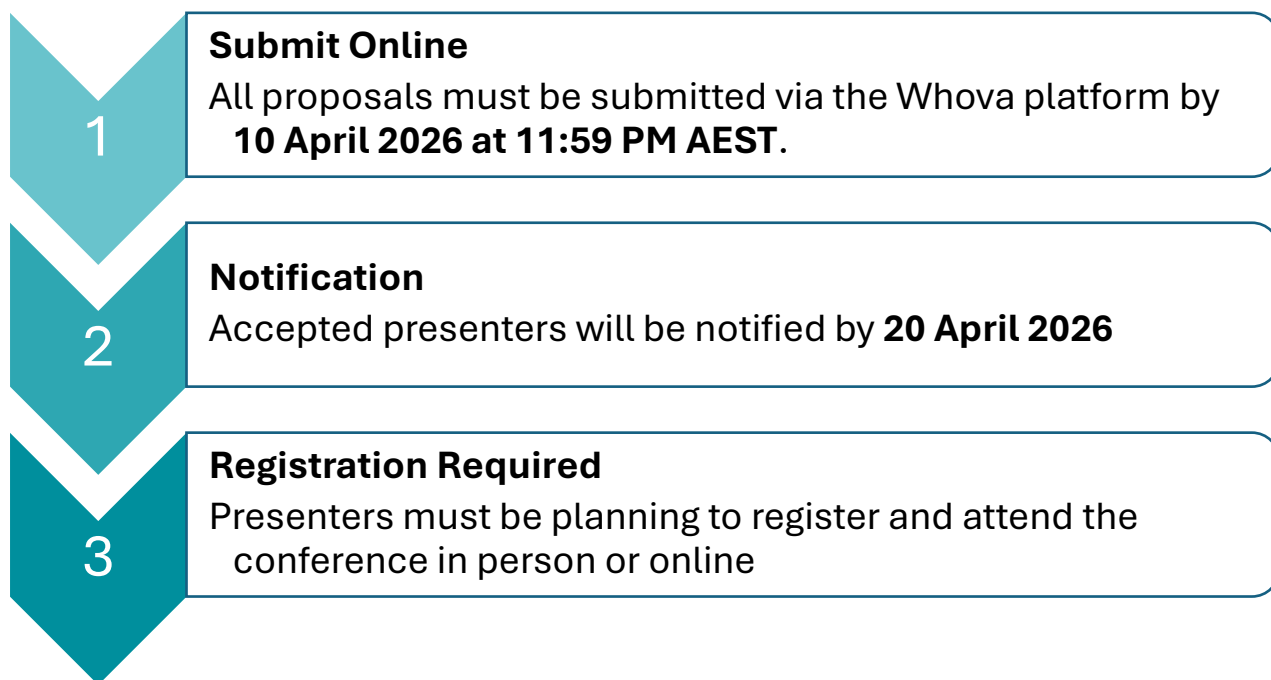
III. Workshop – 90 minutes

- Workshop proposals must demonstrate hands-on audience interactive sessions designed to provide attendees with practical skills / solutions to relevant projects / challenges.
- Please indicate if your workshop can also be facilitated to an online audience. NB. At this hybrid event, in person and online workshops will be facilitated separately. If your workshop is applicable to both audiences, it will need to be delivered twice.

IV. Poster – physical and/or video format

- Posters should be related to conservation, animal welfare, sustainability, education, and further areas related to progressive zoos and aquariums.
- Poster specs:
 - Dimension A0 (119.2cm x 84.4cm)
 - Portrait (vertical) layout
 - Size the title and the text so it can be easily read, avoid large sections of text, and use images, charts, figures and bullet lists where possible

3. Submission Process



4. Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be reviewed by the ZAA Conference Working Group – evaluation criteria include (but not limited to):

Relevance to Theme

How well the proposal aligns with the core themes of the conference.

Relevance to Membership

Relevant to the broader membership

Private Regional Submissions

Submissions from Private Regional Members are highly encouraged

Clarity & Structure

The quality of the writing, organisation, and overall coherence of the submission.

SUBMIT NOW

Begin your submission journey by visiting the ZAA Conference website –
www.zooaquarium.org.au/Conference