

# The International Zoo Educators Association IZE journal

49 - 2013



***The IZE is an association dedicated to expanding the educational impact of zoos and aquariums worldwide. Its mission is to improve the education programs in the facilities of its members, to provide access to the latest thinking, techniques, and information in conservation education and to support excellence in animal care and welfare.***

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# Journal of the International Zoo Educators Association Number 49 - 2013

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**Submissions:** The IZE welcomes articles by zoo and aquarium educators from across the world at any time. Final deadline for the next issue is 31<sup>st</sup> March.

To submit an article please contact the appropriate regional editor. Contact details on the back cover.

Editor: Stephen Woollard

**Contact IZE:** For general enquiries please visit the IZE website: [www.izea.net](http://www.izea.net) Members can also contact their regional representatives - as listed under the 'Board Members' page of the website.

**Membership:** Please see the website [www.izea.net](http://www.izea.net) for an application form and current membership rates.

## From the IZE President, Rachel Lowry

The 2012 IZE membership survey highlights that the **IZE journal** is highly valued by our members. Upon reflecting on this year's publication, it's easy to see why. The IZE journal provides a unique insight and snapshot into our industry each year, capturing many of the zoo-based education milestones and challenge of our time.

Having recently reviewed the past 5 issues, it is evident that as a collective we are recognising that we are one of the single most powerful conservation education movements across the world. What other industry has the face to face reach that we do? What other industry has the privilege of connecting people to some of the world's most rare and precious species in the ways that we can?

I'm incredibly excited to be President of IZE at this point in time, and proud to be working in an industry that strives to not only connect people with nature, but influence them to protect it.

As the IZE board prepares for the **2014 conference to be hosted by Hong Kong Ocean Park**, we're working to ensure that the composition and quality of the speakers, workshops and papers will help us tackle some of the big questions of our time. What does a successful zoo-based learning experience look like? Can they be fun, meaningful and financially sustainable? How do we evaluate whether we are influencing the right attitudes, knowledge and behaviours? How do we make the best use of technology and social media? And are we really building a social movement that benefits wildlife? Should we? Could we? I'm really looking forward to seeing you all in Hong Kong next year to participate in the next wave of discussions, networking and inspiration that as zoo and aquarium educators we can't get by without! See you there?!

I hope that you find lots of inspiration in this journal, and wish you all the very best as you identify innovative ways to support the **United Nations Decade on Biodiversity**.

Congratulations must go to Stephen Woollard, our Journal Editor, and the talented team of regional representatives that have helped bring this journal to our membership.

Please do continue to renew your membership as an institution or individual, your support really does help to build a more effective and united zoo and aquarium-based education network.

I look forward to working with you in upcoming years. We certainly have a lot to look forward to as we continue to minimise our ecological footprints and utilise education as a tool to fight extinction.

