

E-Workshop – Parasite ID and their Management 2020

PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHIES

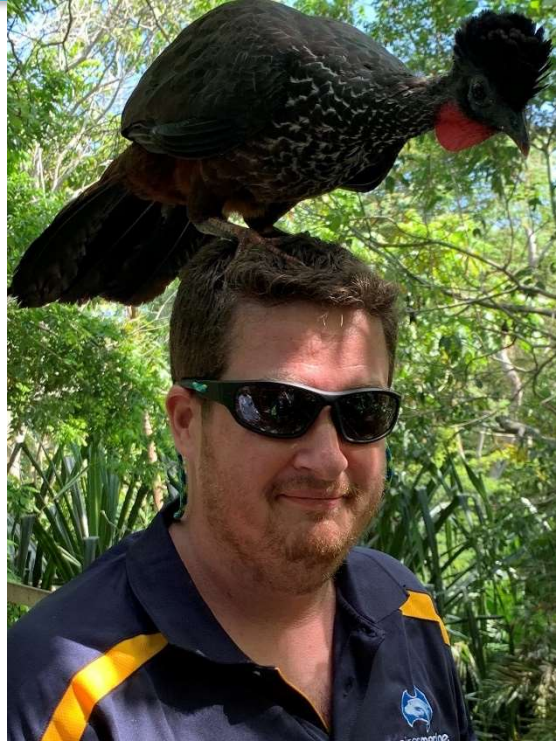


Dr Rob Jones, B.V.Sc (Hons), M.A.C.V.Sc (Aquatic Animal Health), M. Aquaculture (Deakin)

After more than 20 years as a veterinarian and looking for a career change, I undertook a Masters in Aquaculture commencing in 1999. Later that year I commenced at the Melbourne Aquarium. The Aquarium Vet team (3 full-time and 2 part-time veterinarians) now consult to all the Australian and New Zealand's public aquaria, as well as seven aquaria in Asia. Most weeks one of us is going somewhere. We also consult to the largest importer of ornamental fish in Australia (Aquarium Industries), several breeders and hobbyists, as well as several large zebrafish houses. I was a major contributor to the elasmobranch artificial reproduction research that commenced at Melbourne Aquarium in 2004.

During these years, I realized that there was no shortcut to gaining knowledge in the aquarium field and so I developed the world's first online course for people working in the aquarium industry - the E-quarist course™. Initially released in May 2010 it is now an internationally recognized course. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) has recognized the course and we are an AZA Learning Partner.





Barrett L. Christie

Barrett is currently the Director of Animal Husbandry for the Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk in Connecticut, USA. He was educated at Texas A&M University and has worked in public aquariums for 19 years, getting his start at the Moody Gardens Aquarium in Galveston, Texas before overseeing the renovation of one of the world's oldest aquariums, the Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park. He was part of the opening team for OdySea Aquarium in Arizona before relocating to New England to take his current position at the Maritime Aquarium where he oversees the animal husbandry, dive operations, and research and conservation teams.

His research interests include fish parasitology, coral reproduction, cephalopod husbandry, and freshwater mussel conservation. He has authored or co-authored a number of scientific papers, book chapters, and animal care manuals and serves as a referee for several journals. Barrett serves on a number of professional committees including as the Vice-Chair for the AZA Aquatic Invertebrate TAG, on the AZA Animal Population Management Committee, and as an advisor to the AZA Freshwater Fishes TAG, among others.

He also enjoys SCUBA diving, has over 1000 dives and is a certified divemaster and cave diver. When not working he enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, and zymurgy.





Dr Brett De Poister, BSc., BVMS

I am originally from Reading, Pennsylvania in the USA, but now call Australia home. Like many of us that care for animals, my fascination with animals started as a young child. I was particularly drawn towards ectotherms and looked after a large breeding collection of fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

By the age of 15 my passion for herpetology took me to Australia, where I studied with frog expert Michael J. Tyler at the University of Adelaide (eighteen years later, he is the namesake of my son, Tyler). Under the supervision of Michael, I developed a research project that showed various pollutants interfered with normal frog development. My research received local, national, and international coverage and helped spread the message that frogs are bio-indicators, which means that whatever was causing abnormalities in frogs was also hurting our environment.

My studies with animals continued at Stony Brook University in New York, where I developed a special interest in zebra fish research and investigated nerve regeneration. This research resulted in a co-authorship in *Science*.

In addition to my studies and research, my interest in science education lead to my involvement with a start-up company that created customized educational software for university level science courses. After several years in the education industry, I missed being involved with animal work, so a career change was in order.

In 2007 I received the Dr. Jerry Thornton Academic Scholarship and moved to Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands to attend St. Matthew's School of Veterinary Medicine. After a year of study and lots of SCUBA diving the opportunity to move to Australia arose and in 2008 I returned to Australia to study veterinary medicine at Murdoch University in Western Australia.



During my final year of veterinary school, I undertook a placement with The Aquarium Vet which transitioned to joining the TAV team as a consulting veterinarian following graduation. In 2012 I moved to Victoria and practised at Dandenong Veterinary Hospital as a companion animal doctor and surgeon and part time work with The Aquarium Vet under the guidance of Dr. Rob Jones. In 2015 I started fulltime with The Aquarium Vet. Most of my time is looking after the animals at Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium including all of the fish sharks, amphibians, reptiles and penguins. However, I keep busy with overseas animal movements, sea turtle rehabilitation, zebra fish facilities, and the E-quarist course...just to name few projects!



Dr Luke Ross B.S(Hons), B.V.Sc.

Last year I celebrated my 20th year of working in the public aquarium industry. With a background that started as an aquarium hobbyist as a child, it grew. I completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Marine Biology and then completed an Honours year studying Abalone aquaculture. I then worked in several aquaculture farms before accepting a role as an aquarist at the then new Melbourne Aquarium which was just a construction site at this stage.

After some 6 years with the last few as a Senior Aquarist I started a new endeavour of studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science. Whilst completing this degree I worked part time as a Senior Aquarist at UnderWater World (now SEA LIFE Sunshine coast). As a veterinarian for over 10 years now, I have worked with all species of animals including wildlife, zoo animals, fish and aquatic animals.

I now am very happy to be part of The Aquarium Vet team and work full time as an aquarium and zoo vet. I am the local vet for SEA LIFE Sunshine Coast and the Regional Vet for seven public aquariums within SEA LIFE Asia.

