

Future Hands Fellowship

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL AND
FIGHT WILDLIFE EXTINCTION



Orange-bellied Parrot
Status: Critically Endangered

ZOOS
VICTORIA
Fighting Extinction



A message from Dr Jenny Gray

Zoos Victoria is a family. It always has been. We see our four zoos as a family of incredible staff, volunteers, members and supporters. Just like any family, we are concerned about the future of those 'in our hands'. That means providing a future for the animals in our care and in the wild.

Zoos Victoria is home to around 350 species – everything from Asian Elephants, to Mountain Pygmy-possums and Victorian Grassland Earless Dragons and we love them all equally. Many of our animals are facing a tough time in the wild, as their natural homes come under increasing threat from human activities. However, I am optimistic. I often say, that if we humans can make a problem, we can definitely fix it.

Just like you, I want to continue to help animals into the future and ensure that Zoos Victoria continues far beyond my tenure as CEO. That is why I, along with my husband Richard, decided to join the Future Hands Fellowship, and leave a gift in our wills to Zoos Victoria. We know that the future of wildlife is in our hands and what better way to help than by leaving a gift in our wills.

I invite you to join me and also leave a gift in your will and help us continue to provide joy to our Zoo family, visitors to our iconic zoos, to save the future for animals in our care and fight extinction for years to come.

Thank you,

Dr Jenny Gray AM PSM
Future Hands Fellowship Member
CEO, Zoos Victoria



About

ZOOS VICTORIA

We are a Victorian not-for-profit conservation organisation dedicated to fighting wildlife extinction for a future rich in wildlife. We do this through breeding and recovery programs for threatened species and by working with visitors and supporters to reduce the threats facing endangered wildlife.

With over 160 years of experience, we have the expertise and ability to keep caring for wildlife for many years to come. You can be confident that your gift will be used to help Zoos Victoria fight the extinction of wildlife close to home and overseas through tangible conservation programs and with our partners.

“I think it’s everybody’s responsibility to fight extinction”

– Dr Jenny Gray AM, CEO

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL – THE FUTURE IS IN SAFE HANDS

Zoos Victoria is the custodian of four worldclass zoos all right here in our own backyard; Healesville Sanctuary, Kyabram Fauna Park, Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo. Victoria’s zoos are your zoos. They are as much a part of the community’s life today as they ever were, playing a vital role in education, animal care, wildlife conservation and animal science.



Golden-rayed Blue Butterfly

A gift in your will, will help continue that work well into the future. We will honour your intent and passion for wildlife to create an annual gift for our animals forever.



A gift in your will could help Leadbeater’s Possums have a brighter future.



Gaye Hamilton AM

SAVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

Supporting Zoos Victoria's work has been a labour of love for Gaye Hamilton for more than 20 years. Firstly, as an educator bringing young people closer to our fighting extinction work, then as Director of Werribee Open Range Zoo, as well as serving as a member on Zoos Victoria's Board. It is a hard choice for Gaye to articulate what has been her most cherished zoo experience.

"The most exciting time for me was when I was on the Board and Dr Jenny Gray (current CEO) came along, the planets aligned, and we really consolidated the idea of being a zoo-based conservation organisation."

Having been Director of Werribee Open Range Zoo in the 90s, Gaye has a particularly strong affection for the property. She has seen many great changes and is proud of the Zoo's transformation.

From simple beginnings of four Zoo Keepers, no office spaces and a Safari Bus that only ran on weekends and public holidays from a stop outside the mansion; to today, a thriving, modern, open range zoo with over 600,000 visitors annually and big ambitions for the future.

The decision for Gaye and her late husband, Roy, to leave gifts in their respective wills to Zoos Victoria was a challenge because there had been so many great causes that they had been involved with throughout their lives.

"We wanted to leave something that has a lasting legacy," said Gaye.

"We were thinking of organisations that have had the most impact on our lives and Zoos Victoria stood out as such an important part for such a long time, not to mention that the work that's happening now is just phenomenal."

"We decided to leave gifts in our wills to Zoos Victoria because of the conservation focus, it's really embedded throughout the entire organisation."

"If you have any capacity at all to leave a gift in your will, Zoos Victoria is such an important organisation locally and globally, impacting millions of individuals on a daily basis. If we want to have a chance of preserving wildlife and wild places in the future we need education and the best way to educate about wildlife is via a zoo."

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– Gaye Hamilton AM, Future Hands Fellowship Member

“Zoos Victoria has given me joy, it’s my happy place!” – Kerry

“As a child I remember one holiday seeing a platypus in the wild. I sat quietly on the riverbank in the dark for what seemed like hours. To see an animal I had no idea even existed was amazing!” – Sue

“The dedication and passion to conservation and the welfare goals for the animals within the zoo are the reasons why I’ve chosen to leave a gift in my will. I think that Zoos Victoria is constantly evolving.” – Karyn

Kerry, Sue and Karyn

MEMORIES, FRIENDSHIP AND WONDER



Bonding over orangutans, Asian elephant observations and a passion for volunteering, Kerry, Sue and Karyn knew they had found lifelong friendships. Meeting as volunteers at Melbourne Zoo and now as members of the Future Hands Fellowship, their shared compassion for the future of wildlife lead them all to making the decision to leave a gift in their wills to Zoos Victoria.

“I have currently been volunteering at Melbourne Zoo for nearly 18 years (and I hope many more to come), and I wanted to continue my support after I have gone, as it has given so much to me. Zoos Victoria has given me joy, it’s my happy place! I thought when I pass, I want to leave a gift in my will and know that I am helping in some way,” explains Kerry.

“The dedication and passion to conservation and the welfare goals for the animals within the zoo are the reasons why I’ve chosen to leave a gift in my will. I think that Zoos Victoria is constantly evolving. They are providing wonder, as well as securing a future rich in wildlife for future generations. It is incredible to be able to see animals up close, and be aware of the welfare of the species in the wild, and the individuals of that species at the zoo,” said Karyn.

“As a child I remember one holiday seeing a platypus in the wild. I sat quietly on the riverbank in the dark for what seemed like hours. To see an animal I had no idea even existed was amazing! My Dad passing away recently made me think about what I might be leaving behind. By leaving a gift to Zoos Victoria after I am gone, I will be able to help animals in the wild in some small way,” said Sue.



In dedication to Kenneth Weeks

Thanks to the generosity of the late Kenneth Weeks, Zoos Victoria will continue to make a lasting impact on the future of all Big Cats. In 2024, Zoos Victoria celebrated a significant milestone thanks to his generosity via a gift in his will, the largest philanthropic gift in the Zoos history.

Kenneth's passion for animal welfare and deep concern for the plight of endangered species, especially tigers, drove his extraordinary philanthropic commitment. Kenneth's legacy, The Kenneth & Judith Weeks Big Cat Fund, aims to tackle these challenges and ensure the long-term survival of these majestic creatures. In 2018 Kenneth said "It bothers me that the big cats are in so much trouble in the world... I want to see all animals survive," reflecting his deep-rooted passion for conservation.

Because of his commitment, in perpetuity Kenneth's legacy will fund four essential pillars within the Zoos Victoria Endowment Fund. Fighting Extinction, Nurturing Animals, Bringing Nature to our Community and Investing in our Intelligence.

The Fund will grow over time through intelligent investments and additional contributions, donations and bequests. As the Endowment's capital base grows, so too will the income stream available each year, so that his support will make an indelible mark in the future.



Vanessa Russell

INSPIRED BY SAVANNAHS

A deep love of big cats has been at the heart of many decisions for Vanessa, including a gift in her will to Zoos Victoria.

I grew up in the UK with a passion for big cats. It was always my dream to float high over the savannahs of Kenya in a hot air balloon. When I was diagnosed with (a rare slow form of) motor neuron disease in 2006, I left work and put the super disability payout towards achieving my dream. I booked my trip to Kenya and Tanzania, an adventure that was the start of an all-consuming passion for appreciating animals in their natural habitat.

Zoos Victoria provides education to so many, young and old, about securing a future rich in wildlife, especially the endangered ones. The animals at Zoos Victoria are valued ambassadors of their species, enabling future generations to see their beauty and the important role we all can play in their preservation.

Zoos Victoria puts forward a strong ethic towards conserving species in need of help. Through their many conservation breeding programs, this goal is not just a pipe dream, but a possibility.

I have made the choice to leave a gift in my will to Zoos Victoria to do my part to further the preservation of each and every species. I trust their ethics.

I am most proud of the Zoos Victoria priority on animal welfare, the work to bring species back from near extinction, and the direction Zoos Victoria have chosen with the development of the savannah experience at Werribee, allowing people to see these animals living in an open natural environment and educate them to support preserving and saving these species in the wild.

"I have made the choice to leave a gift in my will to Zoos Victoria to do my part to further the preservation of each and every species. I trust their ethics."

– Vanessa Russell,

Future Hands Fellowship Member



Tracey Gaffney

LIVING HER VALUES AND LEAVING A LEGACY

Tracey Gaffney has been visiting Melbourne Zoo since she was a child. A member since the early 90s, she belongs to a family where living your values is second nature and caring for animals is a way of life. The decision to leave a gift in her will to Zoos Victoria was in the end a very easy one for her to make, with husband Bernie.

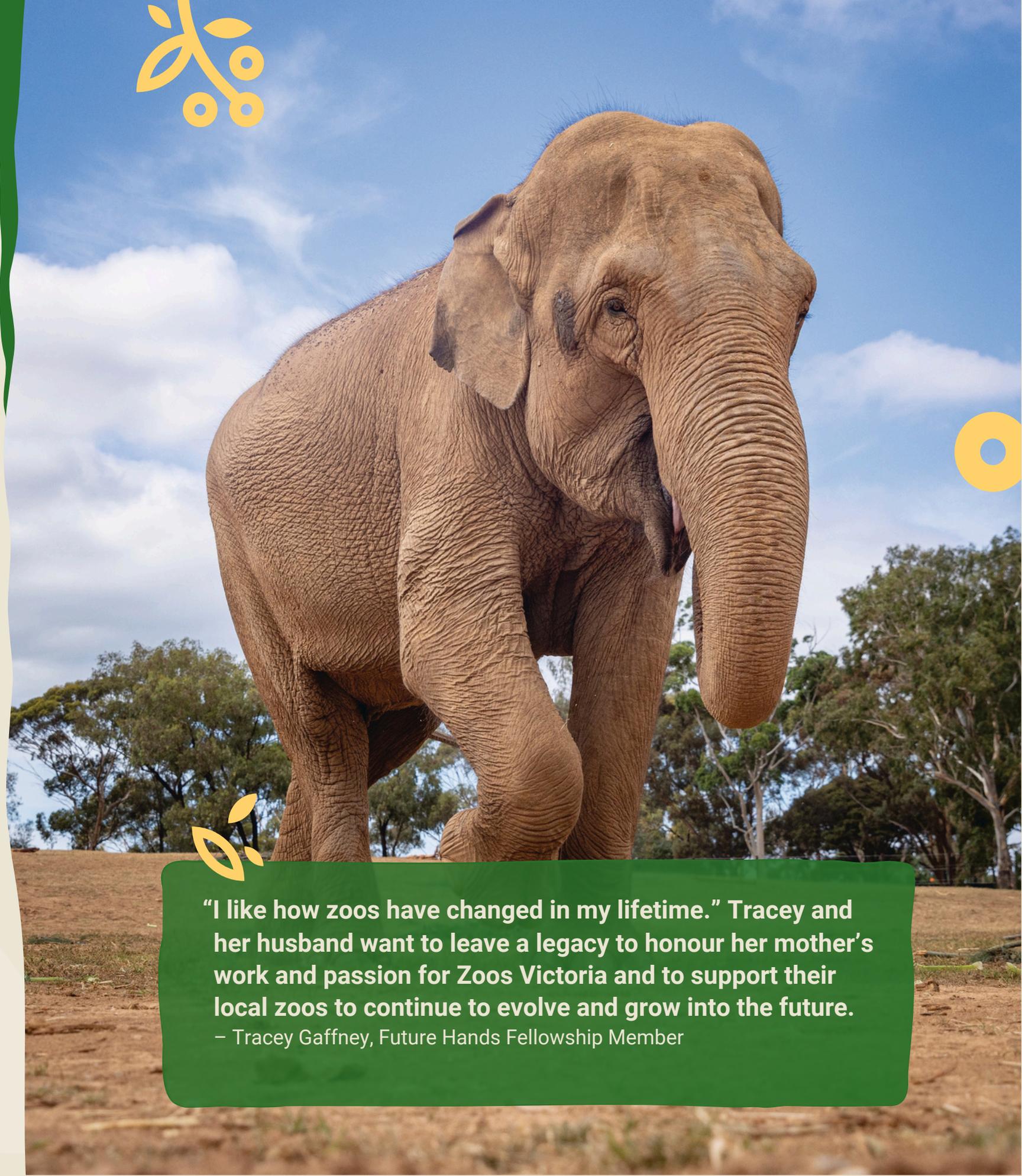
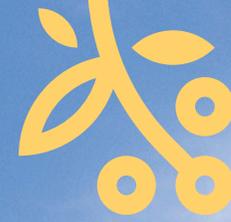
“My sister led the way for generosity, in our family. We reached a point where we decided not to leave everything in our wills to each other and decided we wanted to be more philanthropic. Zoos Victoria was an easy decision because of our mum’s connection.” Tracey’s mother, Merle Fisher, was a volunteer at Melbourne Zoo in the 80s working with many species. A stay-at-home single mother, once Tracey’s younger sister left school, Merle took her passion for conservation to the next level and became a volunteer zoo guide with the elephants at Melbourne Zoo. This was the beginning of an almost twenty-year love affair with the iconic animals that have won Tracey’s affection too. “I have to say the Elephants are my favourite animals. I genuinely love them. I just think they are amazing creatures. I am old

enough to remember the elephants before they opened the Trail of the Elephants at Melbourne Zoo. It is exciting to see the herd move to Werribee Open Range Zoo where they can roam the expansive habitat.”

With a conservationist mother and being a strong animal lover herself, Tracey feels a deep connection to Zoos Victoria’s work and is proud of the change she has seen since she was a child. “Mum would have been very excited to witness the elephant herd grow and follow their move to Werribee Open Range Zoo where they can enjoy a much larger and more stimulating environment.”

Tracey and her husband want to leave a legacy to honour her mother’s work and passion for Zoos Victoria and to support their local zoos to continue to evolve and grow into the future.

“I like how zoos have changed in my lifetime and definitely for the better, so whatever funds they can get to keep moving in that direction the better that is for the zoos, the animals and for the future visitors to the zoo. Hopefully, people can become better educated about how the things they do can cause so much damage to wildlife.”



“I like how zoos have changed in my lifetime.” Tracey and her husband want to leave a legacy to honour her mother’s work and passion for Zoos Victoria and to support their local zoos to continue to evolve and grow into the future.

– Tracey Gaffney, Future Hands Fellowship Member

Join us

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL AND JOIN THE FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP

The Future Hands Fellowship is an honorary and exclusive membership that brings together like-minded supporters of Zoos Victoria.

It does not involve any fees or responsibilities.

The Future Hands Fellowship members receive a Certificate of Appreciation, a membership pin, are invited to exclusive Zoos Victoria events and are kept up to date with what is happening across our zoos and in the field as we fight extinction.

If you choose to join the Future Hands Fellowship, you will join other donors planning a future gift in their wills to help us fight extinction for a future rich in Wildlife.

“We want a future that still has quirky, amazing, weird little animals like Lord Howe Stick insects. That’s the kind of future we want!”

– Dr Jenny Gray, CEO

A gift in your will could help Lord Howe Island Stick Insects thrive in the wild.



Leave a gift in your will

LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL TO ZOOS VICTORIA

Through leaving a gift in your will you have the power to make our zoos stronger by securing the future for our animals for many years to come.

All gifts are greatly valued and help in our future planning.

Having a valid will is the only way you can ensure that your wishes will be met as a will needs to be regularly updated and reviewed to reflect your current circumstances.

When creating your will, consider a lasting legacy to Zoos Victoria.

LET US HELP YOU

If you are passionate about a specific zoo, a particular species or conservation program, please contact us so we can discuss how your gift can be used in a way that is tailored to your passion.

We can help you with drafting words that will clearly outline your intent in your will. Similarly, should you wish to

make a significant gift in your will or to our Zoos Victoria Endowment Fund we would be happy to discuss appropriate acknowledgement.

A GIFT CAN TAKE MANY FORMS:

Residuary

The remainder of your Estate after specific gifts have been disbursed.

Percentage

A percentage of either the residue or the entire Estate.

Pecuniary

A specific gift.

A specific Asset Real estate, shares or other particular items of value.

A gift to our Endowment Fund

A gift that is invested with other gifts from donors and bequestors to form a more powerful gift, where the interest keeps on giving into the future.



How to:

Consult your legal advisor to ensure the option you have chosen best reflects your intentions.

Discuss your decision with your family and loved ones. This will ensure they understand and support your reasons for choosing to help Zoos Victoria in such a special way.

Once you have made the decision to give a gift in your will to Zoos Victoria, please let a member of the Philanthropy Team know. You do not have to tell us, but we would love the opportunity to thank you and welcome you into the Future Hands Fellowship.

By becoming a member of the Future Hands Fellowship, you will be invited to special events that will help you see how your future gift will help fight extinction for a future rich in wildlife.

Contact our friendly Philanthropy Team on 03 9340 2720 or email us at philanthropy@zoo.org.au

We would love to hear from you and we're here to help ensure you have all the information you need. All calls will be treated in confidence.





Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving
a gift in your will to Zoos Victoria to help us fight
extinction for a future rich in wildlife.

Front cover photo: Jo Howell

1300 966 784
donate@zoo.org.au
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fellowship/

Zoos Victoria
PO Box 74
Parkville VIC 3052

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