

# LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL AND FIGHT WILDLIFE EXTINCTION

ZOOS VICTORIA GIFTS IN WILLS PROGRAM



**ZOOS**  
VICTORIA  
*Fighting Extinction*





## A MESSAGE FROM DR JENNY GRAY

FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

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

Zoos Victoria is home to around 300 species - everything from Asian Elephants, Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans to Mountain Pygmy-possums and the Lord Howe Stick insects, 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,

*Jenny*

FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP MEMBER  
CEO, ZOOS VICTORIA

Photographer: Cormac Hanrahan

# 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 150 years of experience in animal care, 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.

## LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL - THE FUTURE IS IN SAFE HANDS

Zoos Victoria is the custodian of three world-class zoos all right here in our own backyard; Healesville Sanctuary, 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.

A gift in your Will, will help continue that work well into the future.

We will honour your intent and passion for wildlife well into the future by investing your gift so that it will create an annual gift for our animals forever.



"I think it's everybody's responsibility to fight extinction"

- Dr Jenny Gray, CEO



Photo: Alex Storer



# GAYE AND ROY HAMILTON

FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP MEMBERS

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 work, then as Director of Werribee Open Range Zoo and most recently as a Zoos Victoria Board Member. It is a hard choice for Gaye to articulate what has been her most cherished zoo experience.**

"Probably the most exciting time was when I was on the Zoos Victoria Board when Jenny Gray (current CEO) came along, the planets aligned, and we really consolidated that view of being a zoo-based conservation organisation."

Having been Director of Werribee Open Range Zoo in the 1990s, 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 including open paddocks full of 'over flow animals' from Melbourne Zoo or Healesville Sanctuary, 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 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 thought we would like to leave something that is a lasting legacy," said Gaye.

"We were thinking of the organisations that have had the most impact on our lives and certainly 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 their education programs and right across the community. It really is such a worthwhile cause."

"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."



# APRIL ALBRECHT

FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

A LASTING LEGACY



**April started supporting Zoos Victoria around thirty years ago, returning to the Zoo as an Animal Adopter.**

"I heard someone speaking about how you could adopt animals and I thought that might be a nice idea. I rang up and got all of the information, it was really easy," said April. "And I love the big cats so I decided to sponsor the Jaguar and Clouded Leopard at the time."

April has a memory of visiting Melbourne Zoo in the 1930s and like many zoo visitors of the time, had the opportunity to ride on the back of Queenie the elephant.

Although trips like these were infrequent, "My parents worked, we didn't have a car so we had to go by public transport everywhere. People just didn't go to the other side of town to visit things in those days and we didn't have excursions from school."

Over the years April was a busy professional, working between Melbourne and London in both the airline and advertising industry. As she had no children she didn't think she had a reason to return to the zoo until she retired and she started to see the place in a different light.

"I hadn't been so sure about zoos in the past but of course now I realise everything has changed and thank goodness for that! They have much better conditions and the conservation side of it is wonderful."

As a long time animal lover and supporter of good causes related to animals and children, preparing her lasting legacy was an easy decision for April.

"I've only got a nephew in Sydney and so I thought I'll give it all to good causes."

"Everybody at the zoo is really, really nice. People who have things to do with animals are usually lovely people. You really feel that you are accomplishing something good in this world by leaving a gift in a Will."

"It's not a difficult process and I just told the solicitor what I wanted."

Now the process of preparing a gift in her Will to Zoos Victoria is complete, April can enjoy her life, her cat and her regular visits to the zoo as a member of the *Future Hands Fellowship*.



# KENNETH WEEKS

ENDOWMENT DONOR AND  
FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

"I JUST WANT TO SEE ANIMALS SURVIVE"

**Kenneth Weeks is a genuine animal lover and 'whisperer' but it is his love for cats and in particular 'Big Cats' that has been a lifelong passion.**

Kenneth loves tigers in particular, "I think they're in big trouble, really big trouble, so they deserve to be rescued and this is the only way you can rescue them is in the zoo, so whatever I can do I'll do."

Kenneth has been coming to Melbourne Zoo since he was a young boy and has seen a lot of changes for the good over that time. He describes the Zoo now in this way "it's like a botanic garden for the animals and as long as that keeps going that way that's fine, that's how it should be."

Kenneth supports a gift in his Will to Zoos Victoria because he says, "I just want to see animals survive."

Photo: Rick Hammond



**"I have to say the elephants are my favourite animals at Melbourne Zoo. I genuinely love them."**

- Tracey Gaffney, Future Hands Fellowship Member



## TRACEY GAFFNEY

FUTURE HANDS  
FELLOWSHIP MEMBER

LIVING HER VALUES AND LEAVING A LEGACY

**Tracey Gaffney has been coming to Melbourne Zoo since she was a child. A member since the early 90s she comes from a family where living your values is second nature and caring for animals a way of life. So, 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.**

"I think my sister was really the trailblazer but we sort of reached a point where we decided not just to leave everything to our brother and each other and decided we wanted to be a bit more philanthropic. The zoo was an easy decision because of mum's connection. "

Tracey's mother Merle Fisher became a volunteer in the 80s. She was a stay-at-home single mother and once Tracey's younger sister had left school Merle decided to take her passion for conservation to the next level and become a volunteer zoo guide, specifically with the elephants at Melbourne Zoo. This was the beginning of an almost twenty-year love affair with the iconic animals that Tracey loves too.

"I have to say the Elephants are my favourite animals at Melbourne Zoo. I genuinely love them. I just think they are amazing creatures. We're so lucky to have had babies at Melbourne Zoo. And, I probably get a bit emotional about that because it's sad that my mum never got to see them have the baby elephants, she would have been so excited.

But then I like to think maybe her spirit is there watching, seeing the developments and seeing the babies born."

With a conservationist mother and being a strong animal lover herself Tracey feels a deep connection to the work Zoos Victoria does and is proud of the changes she has seen happen at zoos since she was a child.

"Probably the changes that have happened in my lifetime are, sort of, inspirational I suppose. I do remember coming to the zoo when I was a child and all the animals were very constrained. Over the years I remember the gorilla exhibit being opened and how ground breaking that was at the time. All of a sudden you could see the primates without any bars."

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. "



## 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.



## CASANOVA

THE WILD MOUNTAIN  
PYGMY-POSSUM

ANIMAL AMBASSADOR FOR  
THE FUTURE HANDS FELLOWSHIP

**You would not know it to look at him but this Mountain Pygmy-possum is a real casanova!**

Born in the wilds of Mt Buller in 2009, he arrived at Healesville Sanctuary in 2011 to join the founding captive breeding program for the species, adding his very valuable wild genetics into the mix.

Casanova wasted no time getting to work and sired two litters in 2012 - seven young in total!

In 2013, he was involved in a wild trial release where he, along with a mix of other genetically suitable male and female possums, was released and tracked with tiny collars to learn about their movements, survival and breeding success. This was the first-ever release of Mountain Pygmy-possums from captivity to the wild and overall the trial was very successful.

Back in his old stomping ground, Casanova spent his time exploring. We tracked Casanova over great distances, moving from one boulder field to another in extremely steep and rocky habitat. He covered many kilometres gallivanting in the wild and likely meeting many new possums on his search for possum love!

Casanova returned to the Sanctuary's breeding program and sired a further litter of four before being retired from the program, as his genetics were considered well represented at this point.

Casanova's contribution to the future of his species was incredibly valuable and the tiny possum was able to retire a very proud and happy possum.



Photo: Rick Hammond

# HOW TO

## 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.

### 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.

## 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 Endowment Fund we would be happy to discuss appropriate acknowledgement.

**“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

# LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

## CONSULT YOUR LEGAL ADVISOR TO ENSURE THE OPTION YOU HAVE CHOSEN BEST REFLECTS YOUR INTENTIONS

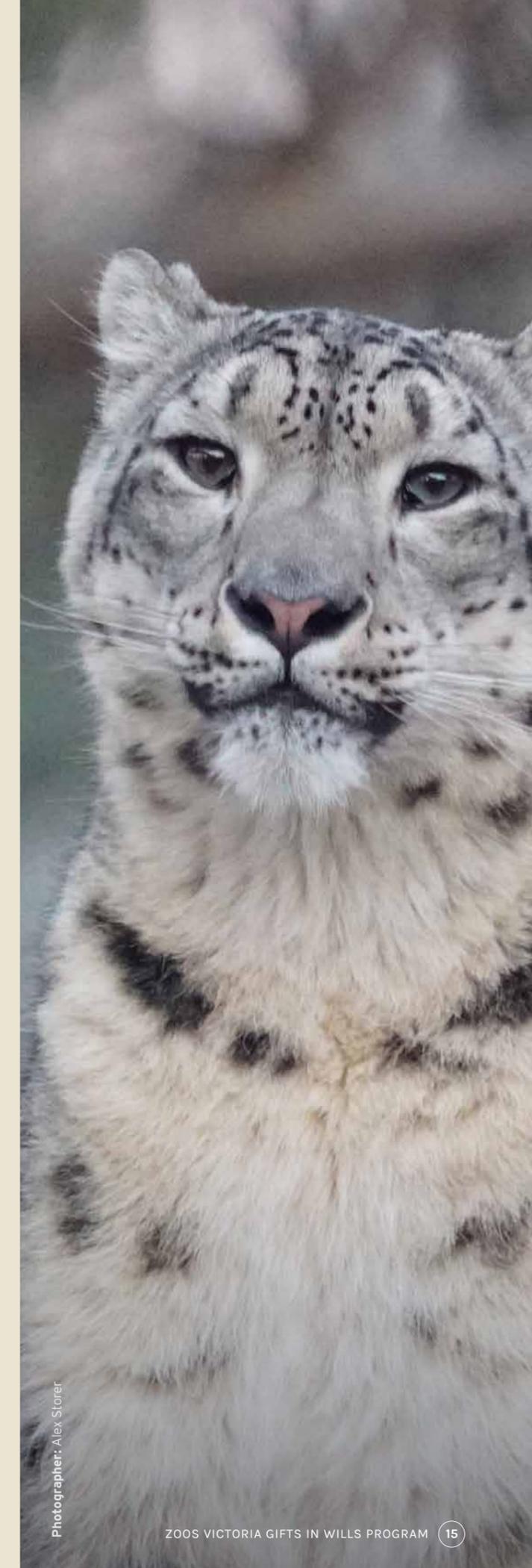
Discuss your decision with your family and loved ones. This will ensure they understand and support your reasons for choosing to help Zoos Victoria in such a special way.

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: [donate@zoo.org.au](mailto:donate@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.



Photographer: Alex Storer

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: Cormac Hanrahan

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