

BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER

THREATENED SPECIES DESERVE OUR BEST







WELCOME FROM KATE VINOT

CONSERVATION PARTNER CHAIR, ZOOS VICTORIA

I have always been interested in environmental sustainability, and with a background in civil engineering and economics, much of my career has focused on roles where the environment is core business.

I found I was well placed to take on the role of Chair of the Zoos Victoria Board.

My family and I have always given to environmental causes but once I became Chair, and found myself asking others to join Zoos Victoria in fighting wildlife extinction, I felt it was imperative to put my money where my mouth was.

I have become a Conservation Partner myself and have asked friends and family to match my gift, we call it 'our little consortium'.

It's been a thrilling experience to see what we're able to do together.

The consortium is made up of people that are all passionate about the environment and animals, but by joining as Conservation Partners they have been amazed at the connection they feel to Zoos Victoria.

It's not about writing a cheque and hoping it goes to good acts, we can go out to the zoo or into the field and actually see those acts and feel that we're part of it. We can really see the benefit that our donation is having.

It can be despairing to see what's happening to wildlife in the world at the moment, but you don't feel that way when you are working with Zoos Victoria.

The consortium has been behind the scenes at Healesville Sanctuary, Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo to see what happens in some of the breeding programs. We have talked to Keepers and we have had that one-on-one experience available to a Conservation Partner.

I invite you to join me and my friends and family to become a Conservation Partner and together we will work towards a future rich in wildlife.

Thank you,

**KATE
CONSERVATION PARTNER
CHAIR, 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 150 years of experience in animal care, we have the expertise and ability to keep caring for wildlife for many years to come. Zoos Victoria typically raises more than 70 per cent of our operating budget through zoo-based activities, driven by people like you, who want to experience the animals in our care and see them survive in the wild. We always strive for excellence in animal welfare and to provide environments where species can thrive. Compassionate conservation is a cornerstone of what we do. This means that we ensure that our work is always justified, that we take the most humane approach to fighting wildlife extinction and that we strive to ensure that our approach is effective.

Over the next five years, we will increase our commitment to conservation on all fronts, appreciating that sound financial sustainability is key to success.

We invite you to join us on that journey to help fight the extinction of wildlife close to home and overseas through tangible and effective conservation programs with our partners.

BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER

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.

They are your zoos, and they're an integral part of the community, playing a vital role in education, animal care, wildlife conservation and animal science.

Becoming a conservation partner is so much more than a financial transaction.

It is inspiring others to give, changing animals' lives for the better and could be the difference in helping move species off the critically endangered list.





ANDREW VIZARD

CONSERVATION PARTNER

Andrew Vizard has a long history with Zoos Victoria as a Director, Conservation Partner and as a veterinary advisor. He says Zoos Victoria is an organisation that has a passion for animals and conservation, equalling his own love of wildlife.

“The zoo is full of people who are passionate about conservation. It’s amazing actually, one of the things that I love to come to the zoo for is - not just the animals - it’s actually meeting up with the zoo staff who are really passionate. I mean, this is not a nine-to-five job for them, they’re there at midnight caring for animals when they need their help.”

Andrew also admires the know-how of staff.

“I was looking for an organisation that had technical knowledge, and the zoo has that in spades. I’m a veterinarian, but the zoo vets are fantastically knowledgeable, I like talking to them because I always learn. And likewise they have reproductive biologists, they have physiologists, they have ecologists, they’re all highly skilled with technical skills that are needed for conservation.”

Andrew’s interest in wildlife began at an early age, having grown up on a farm right on the Yarra River.

“I remember as a kid, as a 10-year-old kid just wandering down to the river at sunset and seeing platypus jump into the river chasing yabbies, and echidnas would be walking through the bush, and wonderful bird wildlife around me.”

Andrew knows he was fortunate to have that kind of childhood and he supports Zoos Victoria as a Conservation Partner because he wants to leave that legacy for future generations.

“I’m wanting a world where birds and wildlife are there for them and their grandchildren, and I know with Zoos Victoria, they have that same passion and that same commitment to ensure a conservation future for our children.”

NATASHA BOWNESS

CONSERVATION PARTNER
BOARD MEMBER, ZOOS VICTORIA

Natasha Bowness has been involved with Zoos Victoria since becoming a Board Member and Conservation Partner in 2010. Since then, she has donated towards building the Growing Wild precinct at Melbourne Zoo and also given the lead gift for the Zoos Victoria Endowment Fund.

As with many parents, her zoo journey started when she brought her twin boys, now 18, to the zoo when they were very young.

Zoos Victoria's ambitious vision to be the world's leading zoo-based conservation organisation inspires Natasha.

"As a family we decided we wanted to support the zoo and help them achieve that goal."

Natasha loves being a Conservation Partner because she gets the opportunity to meet other Conservation Partners, particularly at events, and learn about their passions and why they support the zoo.

"It doesn't matter what size the contribution is: small, medium, or large, but people's passion, their commitment and their advocacy for what we're doing. I find that inspiring as well."

When making the contribution that established the Zoos Victoria Endowment Fund, Natasha and her family were focussed on how the organisation could continue to grow and expand the conservation work it already does.

"We've had an incredible nearly-160-year history and we are going to have many more years ahead of us, so I think the stronger the base we can have, the more incredible the work we can do here at Zoos Victoria."

"We can help to build and create a legacy for future generations to come."



A woman with brown hair, wearing a dark blue blouse with a vibrant floral pattern of yellow and orange flowers and green leaves, stands smiling in a lush garden. In the background, a child is seen climbing a set of stone steps. The scene is filled with various green plants and trees, creating a vibrant and natural setting.

“There’s a saying
in philanthropy:
‘don’t be afraid to
plant a tree that you
won’t sit under’,
and I think that’s
how our family
felt about it.”

- Natasha Bowness

“We support dynamic organisations with really clear and understandable value propositions, and in the environmental space that was clearly Zoos Victoria.”

- John Dyson





JOHN DYSON

CONSERVATION PARTNER

John Dyson and his whole family have been involved with Zoos Victoria for around six years. As a co-manager of the Dyson Bequest alongside his cousin and adult daughters, they collectively chose to support Zoos Victoria because of the conservation work and values of the organisation.

“We support dynamic organisations with really clear and understandable value propositions, and in the environmental space that was clearly Zoos Victoria.”

“We see it as something we can do as a family. All the kids are very actively involved in all the decisions and supporting the charities on an ongoing basis.”

After six years, John’s philanthropic philosophy is simple: “it’s all about finding those people who want to change the world.”

John found this in Zoos Victoria CEO Dr Jenny Gray.

“She has been able to assemble a fantastic group of people around her who are passionate about protecting and saving species. And they make the difference.”

After hearing Jenny talk at Melbourne Zoo’s 150th anniversary about the ethics of fighting extinction and saving species, he became really inspired to support one of Zoos Victoria’s extinction prevention programs.

“We chose to support the Eastern Barred Bandicoot program about six years ago, and that was a five year commitment.”

The family recently decided to commit to helping save another species. This time it is the Mountain Pygmy-possum.

“Our decision to recommit for another five years says everything about the relationship we’ve had with Zoos Victoria and how delighted we’ve been as a family that we’ve had a great outcome.”

To those who may be considering becoming a Zoos Victoria Conservation Partner, John has this advice:

“I think it’s important to support organisations in this area that have scale. They have the ability to go out and coordinate with lots of different partners, because trying to protect and defend a species from extinction is a really complex process.”

DAVID LEE

CONSERVATION PARTNER

David Lee's close involvement with Zoos Victoria as a Conservation Partner began recently.

Though, as a Victorian and growing up in Melbourne, visiting Melbourne Zoo as a child is a fond memory for him. Now a father of two young children himself, and having received an invitation to go behind the scenes with Zoos Victoria's Board Members and CEO Dr Jenny Gray, David started to see Zoos Victoria in a totally different light.

"The more that I got to understand the team, the more I got to understand that they weren't just about animals, but that they were about both animals and conservation. It was something I'd never really thought about before, and I guess that led me into becoming a Conservation Partner."

By becoming a Conservation Partner, David has attended a number of exclusive events and behind-the-scenes experiences with animals, and had a chance to hear more from conservation specialists about the work Zoos Victoria is doing to save 27 local species from extinction.

"The thing that struck me most about Zoos Victoria was Dr Jenny Gray. Even before I met Jenny, everyone I spoke to raved about her, and it wasn't until I met her that I actually understood what they were talking about, and why she was such an inspirational leader."

"It wasn't just about the animals or the people, it was how she brought everyone together as part of the overall journey, and as a leader myself, meeting Jenny and understanding the journey she'd taken the zoos on was something I wanted to replicate."

By moving closer to Zoos Victoria's work, David realised that it is an organisation that thinks broadly in terms of both the environment and the community. And its work spans not only across its three zoos, but also the whole of Victoria.

"I attended an event with Zoos Victoria which gave me a better understanding of the challenges they were having from a conservation perspective, and at the end of the day it just felt like the right thing to do."



“...it just felt like the right thing to do.”

- David Lee





ELIZABETH FINKEL

CONSERVATION PARTNER

Writer Elizabeth Finkel, a former research scientist and editor of *Cosmos* magazine, has a long relationship with the zoo, going back to when she visited Melbourne Zoo as a child nearly every weekend with her father.

Now a mother herself, Elizabeth spent a lot of time at the zoo with her children when they were young. But, it wasn't until she returned with them as adults to attend 'Roar n' Snore', the overnight camping adventure at Melbourne Zoo, that she saw how the zoo had changed.

"I think it was the beginning of my realisation that this was not the zoo of my childhood."

It was a transformative experience for Elizabeth who realised that the stories of the Keepers who hosted the camp needed to be written down, and as a writer she knew just how she could make that happen.

"On the drive home, my husband and I hatched a plan of how we would trigger such a book, and within the space of a week I had brought together Zoos Victoria's CEO Dr Jenny Gray with publisher Black Inc. and various other editors, and we started hatching a plan for this book."*

Via this association and collaboration, Elizabeth got to know Jenny and started to move closer to the conservation work that the zoo undertakes, and decided to become a Conservation Partner.

"As I became more acquainted with the zoo, through conversations with Jenny and her telling me, 'indeed, no we are no longer a zoo, we are a conservation organisation based in a zoo.' I realised this is a profound transformation of the zoo and over the last 18 months I've been able to appreciate the depths of that transformation."

As a Conservation Partner, Elizabeth became closely connected to the work we do, both inside our zoos and in the field through behind-the-scenes experiences where she has been very close to our work.

"Being a Conservation Partner with the zoo feels very immediate, very hands on. I've always supported conservation societies, but they often feel fairly remote. The zoo acts on so many levels, and it takes a while to get your mind around the incredible reach of Zoos Victoria, but it makes it very satisfying as a Conservation Partner."

* The book *Ninja Bandicoots and Turbo-Charged Wombats: Stories from Behind the Scenes at the Zoo* is now published and available for purchase in our Zoo Shop.



JOIN US

BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER

Move closer to our work by making a gift to one of our projects and make a real difference for some of the world's most endangered animals.

Giving a major gift is much more than a financial transaction, it is inspiring others to give, changing animals' lives for the better and helping move species off the critically endangered list.

Working alongside one of our personalised Relationship Managers, we can help you tailor a meaningful gift that also reflects your passions.

You will receive invitations to our exclusive events for Conservation Partners and behind-the-scenes experiences that will take you backstage at the zoo.

Annual Levels of Support

\$5,000 - Fighter

\$10,000 - Champion

\$25,000 - Hero

\$50,000 - Influencer

\$100,000 - Leader

\$250,000+ - Visionary

WHY WILL YOU BECOME A CONSERVATION PARTNER?

The effects of climate change and habitat destruction are deeply felt in our natural world and Zoos Victoria works locally and globally to make wildlife conservation possible.

Our goal is to be the world's leading zoo-based conservation organisation.

We are involved in conservation programs in six countries, eight grass-roots community conservation campaigns, and more than 50 research projects.

We inspire communities to commit to the conservation of wildlife and wild places by connecting people and wildlife.

Our Wildlife Conservation Master Plan 2019-2024 and our Zoos Victoria Bushfire Response and Recovery Plan are dedicated to the recovery of 27 threatened native species, outlining the work and projects we will undertake to save these species from extinction and excite our communities to fight for a future rich in wildlife.

Each project has been identified and developed to benefit both ecological communities and key species.

The list is long and our work is urgent.

Zoos Victoria runs and delivers more captive breeding and recovery programs than any other institution within Australia. Our people are passionate and focused on the conservation of our wildlife for future generations.



Photo: Rick Hammond

OTHER WAYS TO FIGHT EXTINCTION

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.

“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

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THREATENED SPECIES DESERVE OUR BEST

Move closer to our conservation work by making a gift to one of our projects and make a real difference for some of the world's most endangered animals.

**Contact our Relationship Managers on:
03 9340 2720 or donate@zoo.org.au**

We would love to welcome you as a Conservation Partner.

At Zoos Victoria we are fighting wildlife extinction. Every day our team of scientists work with wildlife experts and communities to save endangered species here at home and internationally. Join us and help us to run the breeding and recovery programs for species right on the brink of extinction.

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zoo.org.au/donate/conservation-partners
donate@zoo.org.au

ZOOS
VICTORIA
Fighting Extinction