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CONTACT

Elliot Zirulnik, Communications Manager
321-254-9453, ext. 236
ezirulnik@brevardzoo.org



Brevard Zoo sending aid to Australian wildlife organizations

MELBOURNE, Fla., January 15, 2020 — Brevard Zoo is sending \$1,000 each to five conservation organizations responding to the bushfire crisis that has devastated Australia. The donations come from the Zoo's Wildlife Emergency Fund (WEF), a program focused on providing emergency support to address urgent threats to wildlife.

The beneficiaries include Zoos Victoria, a conglomerate that oversees three zoological facilities and created a Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Fund to provide emergency veterinary care and scientific intervention; Australia Zoo, which is adding a new ward to its wildlife hospital to take in more patients; One Tree Planted, which will plant 1,000 trees in Australia on behalf of the Zoo to counter the loss of natural habitat; WIRES, a wildlife rescue offering national support to groups working with affected wildlife; and Zoo and Aquarium Association, the accrediting body for Australian animal care facilities, which is working to assess the crisis's impact on wildlife and place native animals in rehabilitation facilities.

"The impact that these fires have had on Australian wildlife is almost unimaginable," said Jody Palmer, the Zoo's director of conservation programs. "We're privileged to be able to help, and we look forward to the end of this crisis."

The WEF is made possible through the sale of collectible buttons, which are created by staff and volunteers and sold throughout the Zoo. Over 13,000 buttons were sold in 2019—an increase of more than 2,500 from the previous year.

More information about the WEF can be found at www.brevardzoo.org/grants.

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at www.treetoptrek.com.

The Aquarium Project is a plan to construct a world-class aquarium and conservation center at Port Canaveral. More information is available at www.theaquariumproject.org.