

## Craig & Ooola – Zoo

By Martin S. Beckley

Hello, my name is Craig and I am four. My best friend is an alien who looks like a banana. I had forgotten how much monkeys love bananas, until yesterday when we went to the zoo.

We saw the elephant show first. Ooola used her silver translator disc, which hangs around her neck, to thank the elephants for a wonderful show. After the sea lion show, Ooola spoke to Spencer the sea lion. 'Spencer do special trick for us,' Ooola said. Dad, Ooola and I watched Spencer swim to the bottom of the pool. 'Run,' whispered Ooola and we left Dad there. Spencer shot out of the pool, flipped over and splashed into the water. Dad got soaked and we laughed.

We ate lunch and Dad dried off. Then we went to see the monkeys. They were having a lazy day sleeping in the shade. All except for the baby monkey who wanted to play. We watched him on the tire swing. Then suddenly the baby monkey saw Ooola. His eyes and mouth opened wide in surprise and he fell off his swing. He ran toward us screaming and all the other monkeys looked up and ran over as well. 'What are they saying?' I asked Ooola. She said, 'Big banana. Lovely banana. Yum yum.' The noise grew louder as the monkeys started fighting. Ooola was worried. 'They fighting over who should eat me!' she said. Just then the zoo keeper came along and asked us to leave because we were upsetting the monkeys. As we walked away the zoo keeper entered the monkey cage with a box of fruit to calm them down. The monkeys pushed him aside and

escaped. They chased us up the path. Ooola saw the zoo train and ran for that. The driver was at lunch, so Ooola climbed in the drivers cab and started the engine. As the train drove past me I jumped into the last carriage. The monkeys ran after us. 'Faster, they are catching up!' I shouted to Ooola. 'It no go faster,' Ooola called back. We swung around the corner of the Hippo house and Ooola sounded the horn making the people leap out of the way. The monkeys could almost touch the back of the train. 'Craig, you drive, me idea,' called Ooola. I climbed along the train and took over from Ooola. 'Drive back to monkey cage,' Ooola said. She turned and saw the monkeys climbing onto the train and making their way toward us. Ooola sang to the monkeys in their own language - they stopped clamming and settled down into the seats. By the time we arrived at the monkey cage, all the monkeys were asleep. The zoo keeper helped us carry them into their cage and he locked the door. 'That was cool, I didn't know you could sing monkey lullabies,' I said. 'Me not know. Me sing how you make peanut butter on toast with banana.' The monkeys licked their lips in their sleep.

