

Home at last Jamie First

The journey is finally over for 16-month old Nakuru, who travelled all the way from New Zealand to become Melbourne Zoo's newest attraction.

The giraffe, quarantined at Werribee Open Range Zoo for the past month, passed all the requirements set by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and can now settle into her new home.

Zoos Victoria senior vet Dr Helen McCracken said the 30-day detour was vital to ensure Nakuru was not carrying any infectious diseases.

"We have kept Nakuru under close observation... and we are confident that she is well and can be safely introduced to the two giraffes at Melbourne Zoo," Dr McCracken said.

The young animal was introduced to Makulu, who has been selected as her mate, as well as an older female, Twiga, who has produced four calves.