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**1968-9**

STOCK BRED DURING THE YEAR

MAMMALS

Number of species and varieties bred: 37

Species	Number	Species	Number
Gelada Baboon .. ..	1	Himalayan Tahr .. ..	4
Entellus Langur .. ..	1	Red Deer .. ..	6
Bonnet Monkey .. ..	3	Fallow Deer .. ..	6
Diadem Monkey .. ..	1	Barking Deer .. ..	5
Pig-tailed Monkey .. ..	1	Sitatunga .. ..	1
Spider Monkey .. ..	1	Blackbuck .. ..	5
Marmoset .. ..	2	Huanaco .. ..	1
Tiger .. ..	4	Red Kangaroo .. ..	2
Puma .. ..	1	Great Grey Kangaroo .. ..	1
Ocelot .. ..	2	Kangaroo Island Kangaroo .. ..	1
Bobcat .. ..	3	Euro .. ..	8
Dingo .. ..	8	Yellow-footed Rock-Wallaby .. ..	6
Raccoon .. ..	2	Black-striped Wallaby .. ..	4
Golden Agouti .. ..	6	Parma Wallaby .. ..	11
Guinea Pig .. ..	many	Dama Wallaby .. ..	1
Rabbit .. ..	many	Bennett's Wallaby .. ..	8
Ass .. ..	3	Red-bellied Pademelon .. ..	1
American Bison .. ..	1	Potoroo .. ..	1
Barbary Sheep .. ..	1		

BIRDS

Number of species and varieties bred: 37

Species	Number	Species	Number
Emu .. ..	1	Indian Ring-necked Parrot (lutino) .. ..	3
Australian White Ibis .. ..	2	Superb Parrot .. ..	6
Black Swan .. ..	2	Princess Parrot .. ..	6
Cape Barren Goose .. ..	6	Red-capped Parrot .. ..	5
Plumed Tree-Duck .. ..	5	Port Lincoln Parrot .. ..	2
Brush-Turkey .. ..	21	Scarlet-chested Parrot .. ..	6
Razor-billed Currawong .. ..	4	Turquoise Parrot .. ..	4
Swinhoe's Pheasant .. ..	3	Pink (Major Mitchell) Cockatoo .. ..	1
Indian Peafowl .. ..	2	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo .. ..	1
Grey Partridge .. ..	8	Yellow Rosella .. ..	4
Plumed (Spinifex) Pigeon .. ..	4	Northern Rosella .. ..	1
Wonga Pigeon .. ..	3	Western Rosella .. ..	3
Diamond Dove .. ..	3	Eastern Rosella .. ..	2
Banded Landrail .. ..	3	Golden-mantled Rosella .. ..	1
Musk Lorikeet .. ..	4	Pale-headed Rosella .. ..	4
Rainbow Lorikeet .. ..	2	Yellow-rumped Finch .. ..	1
Macaw (hybrid) .. ..	1	Star Finch .. ..	1
Golden-crowned Conure .. ..	2	Gouldian Finch .. ..	3
Quaker Parrot .. ..	4		

REPTILES

Number of species bred: 2

Species	Number	Species	Number
Long-necked Turtle .. ..	9	Blue-tongued Lizard .. ..	2

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Early History 1878-1900: Part II

by

Sir John Cleland, C.B.E.

(continued from 89th Annual Report, 1966-67)

The Zoological Gardens were officially opened on Wednesday, May 23rd, 1883, by the Governor, Sir William Robinson, and in the following years development of the Zoo proceeded steadily.

During 1883 many donors gave animals, among them an elephant, a camel and 5 Ceylon elk presented by the President, Sir Thomas Elder. The gardens were largely laid out and the area surveyed. A head keeper's cottage and a refreshment room had been erected in the area now occupied by the head keeper's house, and the new carnivore house (where the present large bear cage now is) was the largest in Australia.

In 1884 Sir Thomas Elder gave the Rotunda and Sir James Fergusson, who as Governor of South Australia had taken such an interest in the Society, presented two young lions from the Bombay Residency where he was now Governor. The elephant had already earned some £52. The list of stock comprised 5 species of monkeys, 16 species of carnivores, 8 of ungulates, 12 of marsupials, a number of birds and several reptiles.

In 1885, in the Seventh Annual Report, Bishop Kennion regretted the destruction of eagles which, he said, farmers considered helped to keep rabbits in check. His suggestion to introduce the mongoose to eradicate the latter was frowned on, quite wisely, by the Hon. R. D. Ross. An Orangutan, a Malayan Sun Bear, and a Malayan Tapir (the only one apparently in Australia) were important additions. Flamingoes from Egypt had arrived in fine condition.

In 1886 it was reported at the Annual Meeting that blackbirds, which were now numerous, had not developed their song here as in England. It was suggested this might be due to their not having learnt to sing by hearing their parents do so.

The Director, Mr. R. E. Minchin, visited Ceylon, Singapore, Siam and Java on behalf of the Society in 1885-86, and obtained 36 mammals, including a Rhinoceros, 70 birds and 12 reptiles. In his report on his mission he said he was very hospitably received everywhere, and especially in Siam where the King was very generous and Princes of the Royal Family were most helpful. Hearing of the President Sir Thomas Elder's generosity to our Society, the Lord Mayor of Bangkok, Prince Krom Hmun P'attaret Damrong Sak, asked Mr. Minchin to take back with him a pair of elephant's tusks for Sir Thomas.

The year 1887 was marked by the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition, and in preparation for this, and to make the Zoological Gardens as attractive as possible, the Director was again sent overseas to obtain further exhibits, this time to Europe. He acquired 28 mammals and 89 birds. Among the animals he brought back were two Barbary sheep, and the large pyramidal rockery erected for them still stands and is still occupied by members of the same species. Twenty-four new buildings had been erected to house this influx of animals and the Director reported that 'the collection of animals at the present time exceeds by some hundreds that of any similar Institution in the Southern Hemisphere.'

The 1887 Annual Meeting was the first to be held in the Adelaide Town Hall and, through the courtesy of succeeding Mayors and Lord Mayors, this practice has continued to the present day.

For some years the Society had admitted school children free if accompanied by their teachers on account of the educational value of such visits. In 1887 no fewer than 1,470 scholars took advantage of this concession. This also is a custom which is still in force although the numbers admitted are no longer recorded.

In 1888 Sir Edwin Smith replaced Sir Thomas Elder as President. A residence in the Gardens for the Director was completed at a cost of £1,145, the liberality of the Hon. J. H. Angas, M.L.C. enabling this to be done by lending the Society £1,000 without interest. The membership subscriptions amounted to £114, gate-money and elephant rides produced £1,222 and the Government grant was £1,600.

Toward the end of 1888 two official inspections took place, the first in October by the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City Council, and the other in November by Members of both Houses of Parliament. Both inspections passed off well and favourable comments were made on the development of the Gardens. Comment was made that the collection of monkeys deserved better housing and in the custom of the times it was suggested this should be in the form of a Monkey House. The Hon. J. H. Angas replaced Sir Edwin Smith as President in November, 1888.

In 1889 the new Governor, the Earl of Kintore, accepted the position of Patron. Mr. Alfred Bickford, M.R.C.V.S., was appointed Honorary Veterinary Surgeon to replace the late Thomas Chalwin. Amongst the additions during the year were 2 Tigers, 3 Bears, 1 Black Leopard, 3 Orangs, 3 Guanacos, 2 Alpacas, 2 Tasmanian Wolves and 2 Adjutant Storks. Two full-grown Seals had been promised by the Trustees of the Melbourne Exhibition Building in exchange for an Alligator.

At the Annual Meeting in July, 1891, it was announced that through the generosity of the Hon. J. H. Angas, M.L.C., and Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., a 'very commodious and ornamental' Monkey House had been erected at a cost of £700. This Monkey House was converted to a kiosk years later and in fact now forms the nucleus of the present restaurant. An open-air cage for the lions had been made, the cost being borne by Mr. John Roach. A parrot house was another important addition.

The adoption of the Twelfth Annual Report and Balance Sheet, moved by the President, Sir John Bray, who was also the Chief Secretary, was seconded by the Rev. J. W. Cox in such an interesting and revealing way that it is worth repeating here. He said 'it was surprising to see how little people knew about the zoology of this country, and many were astonished at the marvellous facts disclosed at the Zoological Gardens here. In England some years ago he was at a meeting where some Australians were present, and he was asked to say something about the colonies, their external and natural aspect. When he spoke about the marsupialia, which was the country's most abundant fauna, he told them that though they were all marsupial (pouched), yet they had representatives or analogues of almost every other order of mammal found in the other continents of the world—carnivorous, fruit-eaters, root-diggers, and insect-eaters, etc.

'They were astonished at the extent of Australian fauna, and equally so with the flora. One Australian said he never thought there were so many and such peculiar creatures in the country. These were very well known to some, but not to many. One gentleman, who had spent twenty-five or thirty years in the colony before he revisited England, saw in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, the first kangaroo he had ever seen, and told him

(the speaker), with some show of interest, what a funny animal it was (Laughter). He believed that most intelligent people, who had the most liberal education the colony could afford, were very limited in their acquaintance with the fauna and flora of the country. Our Zoological Gardens were beautiful, interesting, and pleasant to walk in, and no gardens of the kind he had seen in other places corresponding with the size were superior to ours, for not only were ours instructive, but they were rich in animal life of a varied character, and furnished us with valuable examples of special forms of life most interesting in this young country. He suggested that a catalogue giving a sort of synopsis of the animals and birds in the Gardens, and conveying the information in an attractive form, should be prepared. In the early days the popular book was "Goldsmith's Animated Nature" which, notwithstanding its errors and immense defects, has not yet ceased to be read in consequence of the beauty of the style. When Dr. Johnson heard that his friend, Oliver Goldsmith, had been engaged by a bookseller to write the book he said, "Goldie knows nothing about Natural History, but he will make it as interesting as a fairy tale." The book was published, and proved so attractive that it was continued to the present day with additions. We wanted something of the kind connected with the Zoo. The year had been a good one and the attendance good and he hoped it would be increased in the future.'

It is interesting to note that even as early as 1890 Australia's urban development was such that people could spend many years in Australia and never see a kangaroo or even imagine what one was like.

During 1892, a bath for the Elephant had been made and a new Elephant Walk established. A white Tiger Cat, showing the usual dark stripes, had been born. The rules were altered to make the Mayor of Adelaide *ex-officio* a Member of the Council, a rule which still stands. The Society was in debt to the extent of £490-16-0. Mr. Henry Scott was elected President this year.

After an illness extending over a considerable period and, it seems to be suggested, contracted in Hong Kong during his visit there on the Society's behalf, the first Director of the Gardens, Mr. R. E. Minchin, died in January, 1893, at the age of 61. After the Annual General Meeting in July, 1893, the Governor, the Earl of Kintore, and others paid well-deserved tributes to his services, 'which had resulted in the establishment of Gardens which should redound to the credit of the Colony and excite the admiration of visitors.' The death was also recorded of Mr. George Boothby, an original member of Council, whose services had been much appreciated.

The Honorary Assistant Director, Alfred C. Minchin, was appointed to succeed his father.

During 1893 a spacious snake pit, containing thirty venomous snakes of South Australia of various species, was prepared. It was regretted that many reptiles had been killed in this pit by malicious persons dropping stones upon them, a practice which continued to the present day, necessitating the high wire fence which now surrounds the enclosure. Lady Kintore had presented four Tuatara lizards from New Zealand, a species, it was pointed out, almost extinct.

The financial stringency of the 1890's was beginning to have its effect on the Society and the Government grant was reduced in 1894 by £300 to £2,000.

On January 3rd, 1894, one of the boa-constrictors swallowed its blanket, and disgorged it on February 2nd, an almost unique performance, which excited an immense amount of public interest. In returning the rug the reptile lost twelve of its teeth, but was otherwise uninjured. The rug was

placed on exhibition, attracting much attention. The compiler of this short history of the Society well remembers the incident. In the Annual Report the death of the Malayan Tapir, purchased only a short while before, was deeply regretted. On the other hand, 6 lion cubs, 4 tiger cubs, 1 leopard cub, 2 llamas and a number of other species had been born and some of these were now available as 'saleable stock'. Admission to the Gardens at this time was sixpence, though Saturday remained a free day.

In the Annual Report presented in July, 1895, the arrival of two female zebras 'brought here for acclimatisation' is noted. The increase in the number of exhibits was causing the grounds to be cramped and had necessitated some of the paddocks being subdivided, which was undesirable. The deaths of Dr. Mayo, Sir William Milne and the Hon. G. C. Hawker, Members of Council, were recorded. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. S. J. Way, Chief Justice, presided and made a long and interesting speech as had been his custom at earlier Meetings when he was President of the Society. He outlined its activity concisely and often humorously. Among other things, he mentioned that there had been probably 100,000 attendances, half of them paid for. He emphasised that the acclimatisation side of the Society was not responsible for the introduction of such pests as the sparrow and rabbit and now the fox, which seemed to be fast pressing in on boundaries. He reminded them that however beneficial an animal or bird might be in a country in which it had its habitat and natural enemies, when transferred to another country it might become a pest, and he desired, therefore, to remind them that the Acclimatisation Society had nothing to regret in this respect.

The Society today has wisely dropped the word 'Acclimatisation' from its title and many must regret that it introduced the Blackbird.

The Chief Justice suggested the possible extension of the Gardens by a bridge to the north side of the Torrens. It is interesting to note that now, some 70 years later, this proposal for a bridge across the Torrens has again been mooted. Perhaps it may even eventuate before another 70 years.

Little to record happened during the next few years but in 1898 a plan of the Gardens was included in the Annual Report. In this Report the President, Mr. Henry Scott, compared very favourably the number of animals in the Adelaide Zoological Gardens with those in Regent's Park, London. In Adelaide they had 536 animals (i.e. mammals) compared with 792 in London, 980 birds against 1,362 and 62 reptiles against 431. Recent additions included a female Jaguar, a male Ocelot and a pair of Whooper Swans. The Chief Justice, the Right Honourable S. J. Way, P.C., in proposing that Mr. Henry Scott be re-elected President, said that 'he hoped in the near future the bounty of the Government to this institution would include funds for the purpose of fencing in land in the hills for the protection of native animals.' This suggestion or a similar one was repeated by the Director of Lands and the Auditor General in 1963 and can possibly be considered to have now been fulfilled by the creation of the Cleland National Park.

## RULES

of the

# Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, Incorporated

1. The Society shall be called the "Royal Zoological Society of South Australia, Incorporated."

### OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Society shall be:
  - (a) The establishment and maintenance of Zoological Gardens and other areas and the procuring of specimens therefor by purchase, gift or exchange.
  - (b) The establishment and maintenance of colonies of native animals and birds whose numbers are becoming seriously depleted in South Australia.
  - (c) The holding of periodical meetings and the publication of reports and proceedings of the Society and such other activities as may be desirable for the furthering and spreading knowledge of zoology.
  - (d) Co-operation with other learned societies and organisations.

### MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

3. The Society shall consist of the following categories of Members:
  - (a) Honorary Life Members.
  - (b) Ordinary Members, including Ordinary Life Members.
  - (c) Junior Members.

Any person rendering special services to the Society may be elected by the Society at any annual meeting as an Honorary Life Member, but no such election shall take place unless such person shall first have been nominated by the Council for election as such Honorary Life Member.

Any person desiring to become a Member of the Society in categories (b) and (c) shall apply in writing to the Secretary on the prescribed form, who shall submit the application to the Council at its next meeting, and if a majority of the Council present, and voting at such meeting, shall approve the application the applicant shall be deemed to be duly elected.

The privileges of Junior Members shall be limited to attendance at the Society's Gardens and scientific meetings.

Any person under the age of twenty-one years may be elected as a Junior Member. Upon a Junior Member attaining the age of twenty-one years, he or she shall cease to be a Junior Member of the Society at the expiration of the period for which his or her current subscription has been paid, but may apply for election as an Ordinary Member.

The Council shall from time to time determine the amount of all subscriptions including Life Membership subscriptions.

The annual subscriptions shall be payable in advance, and shall become due on the 1st day of July in each year, on which day the financial year shall be deemed to begin. Members (other than Life Members) elected after the 31st day of December in any year shall pay one-half of the amount of the annual subscription in respect of their membership during the remainder of such year.