INTERNATIONAL ZOO NEWS

VOL. 23.3 APRIL/MAY 1976 NUMBER 135

INTERNATIONAL ZOO NEWS

A magazine providing an intelligence service of news from and about zoos of the world.

Published by ZOO-CENTRUM – LONDON, ENGLAND
Proprietor: JOHN ASPINALL
Editor: G. St. G. SCHOMBERG F.L.S. – SCOTT HOUSE, BUNGAY, SUFFOLK NR35 1AF
Advisory Editor: G. Th. VAN DAM

The rate of subscription is to be prepaid and the subscription will continue automatically from year to year until cancelled by the subscriber.
Annual Subscription: £10.00, U.S. $26.00, DM 62.50
Please make cheques payable to Zoo-Centrum and post to:
I.Z.N. Subscription Dept., 73 Molesworth Street, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 7DS, England.
Zoo-Centrum's bankers: Hambros Bank Ltd., 67 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, England.

International Zoo News is copyright throughout the world. No article may be produced in whole or in part without the written permission of the editor.

I.Z.N.'s International Standard Serial Number is NE ISSN 0020 - 9155.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The editor is not responsible for the accuracy of any advertisements in this magazine.

Contents

April/May 1976

EDITORIAL 3

MISCELLANEOUS 5

ANNUAL REPORT: Taronga Zoo 10

FEATURE ARTICLES

A SOUTH AMERICAN ZOO
by Professor Glover 17

LEOPARD STUDBOOKS
by Alan H. Shoemaker 19

BREEDING OF THE CAPE PENGUIN
by Y. Ota 20

ANIMALS AND MAN EXHIBITION
by Pierre Brouard 23

BOOK REVIEWS 27

SURPLUS AND WANTED STOCK 30

CONSERVATION 31

INTERNATIONAL ZOO NEWS 35

Printed by: Quintrell & Co. Ltd. Wadebridge, Cornwall



Photo : Bruce Hamilton

Mr. Donald Maclurcan (left), Chairman of the Zoological Parks Board of N.S.W., welcomes the newly appointed Director, Dr. Peter Crowcroft.

Annual Reports

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

(From the Annual Report, 1974-75)

About Taronga

The principal activity of the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales is the operation of Taronga Zoological Park. After some fifty years on its beautiful site beside Sydney Harbour, a radical programme of redevelopment was drawn up in 1967 and, thanks to annual grants from the New South Wales Government, Taronga Zoo is rapidly changing. Thus, for some years to come, there will be one or two areas in process of demolition to make way for the new zoo.

The zoo is a complex institution, of which animal exhibits are only a part. Each year we aim to advance on three fronts: exhibits; support facilities; visitor facilities. It is a massive task we have undertaken, but we hope that within a decade at most we will have brought Taronga to the forefront of world zoos.

About the Western Plains Zoo

The Board is also currently engaged in the construction of the large open-range zoo at Dubbo in central New South Wales. This will be the largest zoo in Australia and the first major display of exotic animals to be established in this country for nearly a century. It will be a unique and major tourist attraction. Visitors will be able to travel through the zoo in their own cars and park and walk along paths which will provide views of the animals, bushland and lakes.

Redevelopment: The first stage of the flamingo exhibit and a number of essential buildings and systems were completed during the year. Extensive improvements to the reptile houses were carried out.

The animal-waste treatment plant was completed, although the distribution system has yet to be finished. The electrical reticulation system was largely completed during the year, including the erection of a new stores and sub-station building. The work on the barn/bulk store was completed to the upper floor level.

Work commenced on a new West African swamp exhibit in an area previously occupied by the Pere David deer.

General: Taronga Zoo continued to be a refuge for sick, injured and surplus birds and animals brought in by the general public for treatment and accommodation. During the year we received 572 birds and animals which were given the necessary veterinary treatment. This essential community service occupies a good deal of staff time and facilities, and Taronga Zoo is thus performing an important supporting function to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

We also receive, generally at short notice, birds, mammals and reptiles as confiscated specimens from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Customs and Excise. These unplanned animal arrivals place considerable strain on our quarantine and holding facilities and on our zoological staff. Members of staff are also made available to assist organisations whenever requested.

A major arrival, on February 25, was a male Pygmy Sperm whale which had been found stranded on Garie Beach and then was taken to Taronga Zoo. Pygmy Sperm whale strandings are rare and little is known about these animals. The animal appeared to be in obvious distress, requiring extensive veterinary care and constant attention in the pool by Keeping staff and other zoo staff on a 24-hour basis. However, despite these valiant efforts by all concerned, the whale died in the early evening of March 4, and a preliminary investigation into the death found massive worm infestation in the right ear and strangulation of the intestine.

At the request of the Department of the Special Minister of State, Taronga Zoo received six Australian sea lions in April for the purpose of quarantining them for three months prior to their departure for the Australian Exhibit at Expo 75 in Okinawa.

Western Plains Zoo: Considerable progress was made with the construction of the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo. Expenditure was $360,395, and a total amount over half a million dollars in grants and loan funds from the N.S.W. Government has now been absorbed.

On November 22, 1974, the Minister for Lands and Tourism, the Hon. T. L. Lewis, unveiled a plaque on the site to commemorate the establishment of the zoo.

The perimeter of the zoo site was fenced at a cost of $79,450 and the garage/workshop and barn/food store were completed. Work progressed satisfactorily on the exhibit areas, service roads and water supplies, and contracts were let for the construction of the main buildings. The first consignment of animals from Taronga was sent to Dubbo on May 14, 1975, and two senior keepers were transferred to care for them.

It was anticipated that the opening date for the zoo would be approximately August 1976, but owing to the escalation in costs, this will not be possible.

Exhibits Division

Mammal Department: The off-exhibit area of the Nocturnal House has been successfully converted to a marsupial breeding area, with a self-contained unit included for photography and research.

The African swamp exhibit in the old Pere David yard will display swamp animals and plants from tropical West Africa.

Aquarium: Work was commenced on the design of a new aquarium on the site of Taronga Wharf. The building will incorporate a new wharf and a harbour-side restaurant. In this regard, the Curator of Fishes made a world study tour and the scheme being developed will bring to Taronga one of the most advanced aquariums in the world.

Bird Department: The inventory of June 30, 1975 discloses 1,628 birds in the collection, representing 309 orders and 65 families.

Four families were lost during the year (goshawks, Fantail fly-catchers, Cuckoo shrikes, Monarch fly-catchers). The hawks, which are received regularly as injured donations, were loaned to a falconry project at the international air terminal. The remaining three families were represented by only one individual. Two new families were added during the year (darters, starlings), and eight additional species over last year. The collection is down by 100 in numbers from last year. Part of this is a deliberate reduction in large numbers of overcrowded birds, and part is the result of being unable to replace birds that have been lost by attrition.



Photo : H. Millen

Most important birth of the year at Taronga Zoo was 'Cody' a Black rhino. The perpetuation of Australian rhino stock may well depend on this little fellow.

The programme for improving exhibits by refurbishing the wire and frame, etc., and then by landscaping, was continued by the bird keepers early in the year. An outstanding swamp exhibit for rare waterfowl was created in the old penguin pond and a new aviary was constructed by our staff for the Mandarin ducks, a new exhibit.

In the current restricted economic climate, only the most basic keeper work is being done. This prohibits any significant expansion of the collection; more importantly, it presents a constant problem in preventing deterioration.

Two collecting trips were undertaken during the year. In October 1974, the Curator spent a month in the Cape York Peninsula on a research expedition. Two rare parrot species, nine birds in all, were brought back for the collection. In January 1975, the Head Keeper of Birds spent four days at Lake Cargelligo and returned with several new species for the collection, particularly Great Crested grebes and darters.

A number of new birds have been obtained during the year and the following are particularly noteworthy: 3 Great Crested grebe, 1 Reed warbler, 8 Australian darter, 5 Black-backed wren, 5 Bluebill duck, 3 Variegated wren, 6 Marshall's Fig parrot, 2 Lesser Blue-eared starling, 1 Red-cheeked parrot, 3 Red-headed Parrot finch, 3 Little grassbirds, 3 Mandarin duck, 3 Banded wren.

Reptile Department: The collection of freshwater turtles of the family *Emididae* increased by 1 species and 14 specimens due to donations of confiscated turtles by the Department of Police and Customs. The turtles are exhibited in a fibre-glass tank which is newly decorated with living plants and proved to be a noticeable attraction.

A new method of moulding peat-moss into miniature landscapes, ornamented with living plants, in reptile exhibits is presently being investigated. The venomous snake terraria have been partitioned by removable slides, ensuring safe feeding and cleaning of snakes.

The operation of the new nursery annex which houses the giant snakes and, in an air-conditioned room, amphibians and the rare New Zealand tuataras, was successful during the past 14 months.

Research

The Curator of Fishes has completed his work on the investigation of a host-parasite relationship between an isopod and various File fishes *(Fam. Balistidae)* from Sydney Harbour.

The aquarium's facilities were being used in research on crocodilian physiology by researchers of Sydney University.

The Curator of Birds' study on Malurus wrens is continuing, one paper currently being published in the *Avicultural Magazine*, and three new species being added to the collection during the year. A joint study on Marshall's Fig parrots and Red-cheeked parrots is currently being conducted with Mr Joe Forshaw.

The veterinarian continued his investigation into the prevention and treatment of necrobacillosis in macropods and chlamydiosis of birds. The survey of *Capillaria sp.* and coccidia of Passeriformes is continuing. Herpesvirus in marsupials has been commenced as a major research project.

The Curator of Mammals is engaged in joint supervision of three research programmes being carried out at Taronga:

1. 'Social Behaviour of Chimpanzees' (jointly with Biological Sciences, Macquarie University).
2. 'Behaviour of Echidnas' (jointly with Zoology, University of New South Wales).
3. 'Production of Artificial Insects' (jointly with Food Technology, University of New South Wales).

The work on reproduction in small dasyurids is continuing.

Births and Hatchings: Mammals: 182 born, 149 raised. Birds: Species recorded laying 85, species recorded hatching 62, species raised to independence 57, total birds raised to independence 296.

The following young raised are particularly notable: 2 Swinhoe pheasant, 4 Northern rosella, 6 Little quail, 8 Turquoise parrot, 7 Black-breasted quail, 3 Red-backed wren, 1 Torres-Strait pigeon, 3 White-winged wren, 1 Flock pigeon, 2 Yellow-tufted honeyeater, 50 White-breasted Ground dove, 5 Gouldian finch, 3 Nicobar pigeon, 1 Blue-faced Parrot finch, 1 Long-billed corella, 4 Red-headed Parrot finch, 2 Red-capped parrot, 1 Red-bishop weaver.

Reptiles (unsexed): 4 Tree skink, 6 Cunningham's skink, 2 Desert skink, 4 Bearded dragon, 7 Eastern Water dragon, 6 Common iguana. Total: 29.

Stock at June 30, 1975: Mammals 128 species, 902 specimens (including 17 species IUCN rare); Birds 309 species and sub-species, 1628 specimens (including 11 species IUCN rare); Amphibians 14 species and sub-species, 49 specimens; Reptiles 116 species and sub-species, 288 specimens; Fishes 106 species, 770 specimens; Invertebrates 32 species, 116 specimens.

ZOOPLAN ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONSULTANTS FOR
ZOO DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION
•Theme Development •Exhibit Design
•Feasibility Studies •Operational Studies
•Master Plan Studies •Problem Solving
SUTTON PLACE • 209 EAST WILLIAM • WICHITA, KANSAS U.S.A.