

# ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

Take a walk around Perth Zoo's historic sites



## A QUICK LOOK AT PERTH ZOO'S HISTORY

- 1896** Western Australian Acclimatization Committee forms
- 1898** Perth Zoo opens on 17 October
- 1909** Perth Zoo hosts the Australasian Tennis Open
- 1911** Mineral Baths open to the public in the Zoo grounds
- 1932** Director Ernest Le Souef retires. State Government takes over Zoo under the State Gardens Board and Louis Shapcott
- 1941** Louis Shapcott retires and new Acclimatization Committee forms
- 1947** Present-day Carousel opens
- 1952** Entry fee increases for the first time since the Zoo opened: adults from six pence to one shilling and children from three pence to six pence
- 1968** Four orangutans arrive from Malaysia and Sumatran Orangutan breeding program begins; first birth in 1970
- 1968** Zoological Gardens separates from State Gardens Board and is administered in its own right. Tom Spence becomes first director since Ernest Le Souef's retirement
- 1974** 'No Feeding the Animals' policy introduced
- 1982** First Docents starts their training
- 1984** Perth Zoo Veterinary Hospital opens
- 1987** Numbat breeding and research program begins with first breeding success in 1993
- 1991** African Savannah exhibit opens
- 1995** Makulu, star of 'The Kiss' photograph, becomes the first Rothschild's Giraffe born in Australia since 1938
- 2001** King and Queen Norfolk Pines reach 100 years of age
- 2006** Zoo-born Sumatran Orangutan, Temara, released into the wild in Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia
- 2008** Maly – first Sun Bear born in Australia
- 2010** Zoo sustains extensive storm damage to the shop, Vet Department and Australian Wetlands
- 2012** Perth Zoo becomes the largest solar site in Perth with the completion of its huge solar pergola. Renewable solar power generated on-site reduces the Zoo's draw on the grid
- 2013** The Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action program for the conservation of threatened species in the wild raises over \$1.7 million since its inception in 2007
- 2016** World-first laying of Orange-bellied Frog eggs at the Zoo
- 2020** Perth Zoo closes its gates for the first time ever during the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2021** Launch of Perth Zoo Master Plan 2040, setting the Zoo's development for the next 20 years
- 2022** Tricia the Asian Elephant passes away aged 65

## LEGEND

- 1 Bird Feed Shed – 1898**
  - 2 Kite Cage – 1898**
  - 3 Bear Caves – 1898**  
Take a walk to Perth Zoo's award-winning Sun Bear exhibit in the Asian Rainforest for a comparison between the past and the present.
  - 4 Limestone Wall – 1959**
  - 5 Tennis Shelters – 1903**  
Located on the main lawn, the shelters are a great place to stop for a rest or to have a picnic.
  - 6 Hay Shed – 1898**  
The Hay Shed is now the entrance to the Rainforest Retreat. Enjoy the tranquility of a cascading waterfall amid the sounds and smells of a real rainforest.
  - 7 Pump House – 1957**
  - 8 Carousel – 1947**  
This historic carousel still offers rides to children. It is open from 10am to 4pm.
  - 9 Train Station – 1989**  
While there is no longer a train, visitors can go on a personal tour of the Zoo in a Zebra Car. Enquire at the Information Centre.
- The following sites are inaccessible from inside the Zoo grounds:*
- 10 Mineral Baths – 1918**  
Now the home of the Perth Zoo Docent Association.
  - 11 Gate to Zoo Residence – 1960s**  
This gate can only be seen through the fence on Mill Point Rd.



Goat cart rides at Perth Zoo circa 1900.

# PERTH ZOO 1898 TO TODAY

Perth Zoo opened on 17 October 1898 under the Zoo's founding Director, Ernest Le Souef.

Early exhibits included a reptile house, bear caves, a guinea pig castle, aviaries, monkey and mammal houses. In its first year, the Zoo was home to an impressive 488 animals including an orangutan, two monkeys, a pair of lions and one tiger.

Thousands of visitors poured into the Zoo but it wasn't just the animals that made it so popular. The gardens were beautifully laid out and arguably the best in the state, featuring plants from all parts of the British Empire.

Perth Zoo was – and continues to be – a centre of social recreation. Evening concerts, cricket and tennis matches, animal rides, picnics and even beautiful baby competitions were just some of the activities taking place which made Perth Zoo an important part of the community.

Perth Zoo's journey was not always easy. During the Depression and following World War Two, the Zoo struggled to remain open with many exhibits falling into disrepair.

However, with strong community and State Government support the Zoo survived. As a modern zoo, Perth Zoo provides visitors with the opportunity to experience the natural world and inspire them to take action for wildlife conservation. Along with advancement in animal care, management and exhibit design, Perth Zoo is striving to ensure the continued survival of animal species in their natural habitat.

