

ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

Take a walk around Perth Zoo's historic sites



A QUICK LOOK AT PERTH ZOO'S HISTORY

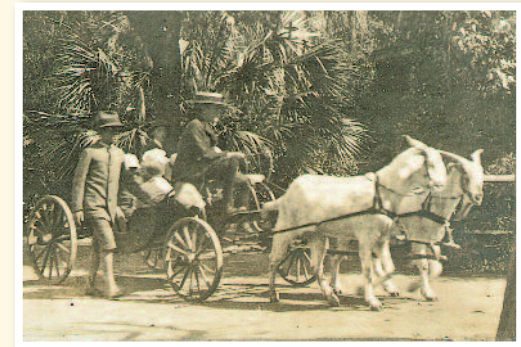
- 1896** Western Australian Acclimatization Committee formed
- 1898** Perth Zoo opened on 17 October
- 1909** Perth Zoo hosts the Australasian Tennis Open
- 1911** Mineral Baths opened to the public in the Zoo grounds
- 1932** Director Ernest Le Souef retired. State Government takes over Zoo under the State Gardens Board and Louis Shapcott
- 1941** Louis Shapcott retired and new Acclimatization Committee formed
- 1947** Present-day Carousel opened
- 1952** Entry fee increased 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 arrived from Malaysia and Sumatran Orangutan breeding program began; first birth in 1970
- 1968** Zoological Gardens separated from State Gardens Board and is administered in its own right. Tom Spence became first director since Ernest Le Souef's retirement
- 1974** 'No Feeding the Animals' policy introduced
- 1982** First Docents started their training
- 1984** Perth Zoo Veterinary Hospital opened
- 1987** Numbat breeding and research program began with first breeding success in 1993
- 1991** African Savannah exhibit opened
- 1995** Makulu, star of 'The Kiss' photograph, became the first Rothschild's Giraffe born in Australia since 1938
- 2006** Zoo-born Sumatran Orangutan, Temara, released into the wild in Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia
- 2007** Tricia the Asian Elephant turned 50
- 2008** Maly – first Sun Bear born in Australia
- 2010** Zoo sustained extensive storm damage to the shop, Vet Department and the 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 has now raised over \$1.7 million since its inception in 2007.

LEGEND

- 1 Bird Feed Shed – 1898**
- 2 Kite Cage – 1898**
The Kite Cage was converted into a café in 2005 (usually open school holidays and some Sundays).
- 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 – 1889**
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**
Not in a public area. Roofline visible from path.
- 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 to become involved in conservation action. 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.

