



TOUCAN TALK

The Newsletter of
the Zoological Society
of Florida, a non-profit
organization supporting
Metrozoo

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Boomers, Flyers, and Joeys Join Koalas on Australian Exhibit

By Michael Gertlach
METROZOO ZOOLOGICAL
SUPERVISOR

The lush, new exhibits on either side of the koala display will soon be home to our red kangaroos (presently exhibited across from the Baird's tapirs) and our new arrivals, Bennett's wallabies.

In the months to come, a species of tree kangaroo will be added to the west exhibit which has been designed and landscaped for these arboreal marsupials. At that time, the wallabies and red kangaroos will be combined, creating a mixed species exhibit.

Marsupials are unique to the animal world. The members of the kangaroo and wallaby genus *Macropus*, meaning "large foot", are the largest members of the marsupial order. Most female marsupials have a forward opening pouch for carrying their young. With the exception of the opossum, marsupials are native to



William Wallace

the areas of Australia, New Guinea, Tasmania, South America, and the Bismark Archipelago.

Kangaroos and wallabies have small, short, front limbs with heavy claws, used mainly for grooming and holding food. Their hind feet are long and very powerful. The fourth digit on the hind foot is elongated, with a large nail that is used very efficiently when fighting with an opponent. The tail is long and heavily muscled for use in balancing when hopping, or as a third leg when standing. In captivity, the proper method of handling the majority of kangaroos (except the large male red kangaroo) is to restrain them by clutching the tail. This maneuver allows the keeper to guide the animal in any direction.

Easily frightened, kangaroos can attain speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour during short bursts and have been known to leap 25 to 35 feet in a single bound. Their normal cruising pace however, is about 8 miles per hour, covering 12 to 14 feet with each leap. The pelvic development of wallabies and kangaroos does not allow the back legs to move independently of each other, therefore it must "hop" in order to propel itself. It is able to make slight turning adjustments but only when

moving very slowly.

Male kangaroos are called "boomers", females are known as "flyers" and the young are called "joeys."

Kangaroos and wallabies are herbivorous and mainly grazers. Their teeth are specially developed for this type of diet. The front teeth are used for clipping off the vegetation and the back molars are used for grinding. They are nocturnal and crepuscular, feeding on the open savannah and grasslands from late afternoon to early morning, retreating to the eucalyptus forest during daylight hours for shelter and rest.

Macropus rufus is one of 14 species in the genus *Macropus*. Commonly known as the red kangaroo, it inhabits the continent of Australia with the exception of the extreme north, east coast, and extreme southwest.

The red kangaroo is the largest marsupial. Males may reach heights of 1.8 meters and can weigh 80 to 90 kilograms. At birth, they weigh a mere .75 grams.

Thirty to forty days after successful mating, the newborn emerges. Hairless, and with eyes and ears completely undeveloped, it appears more like an underdeveloped fetus. Its hind legs are short and not at all



kangaroo-like.

The newborn must make its way, without the aid of its mother, from the birth canal to the pouch, where it latches onto one of four teats and remains attached for the next 70 days. The young first sticks its head out of the pouch at around 150 days and temporarily emerges at approximately 190 days. It vacates the pouch entirely between 220 and 240 days. It will continue to suckle until it is weaned at 1 year of age.

Male red kangaroos become sexually mature at 20-24 months of age while females mature at 15-20 months, depending on environmental conditions. They occur in organized

groups called "mobs." The male is not protective of his territory but is extremely possessive of the females in his mob. If other males enter his space, he will confront the challenger. When the female is in estrus, the male becomes very aggressive. Keepers must be careful at this time because the male will confront them by squatting on the hind legs and beginning a rocking motion. This is an attack posture and the hind legs can deliver a blow of crushing impact.

Macropus rufogriseus is known by several common names - red shouldered wallaby, Bennett's wallaby, and brush wallaby. It is the largest of the wallabies. They inhabit the forests of southeastern Australia, Tasmania, and the larger islands around the Tasmanian coast and in the Bass strait.

These animals are grazers and prefer to reside in the eucalyptus forests that border open tracts of land. Deforestation for agricultural purposes has, in fact, had a beneficial effect on its numbers.

Wallabies do not exceed 30 kilograms in weight. The longevity record in captivity is 15 years. Gestation is 30 days. The young remain in the pouch for about 280

days and continue to suckle until approximately 15 months of age. Males reach sexual maturity at 18-19 months and females at 14-15 months.

Man's continued modification of habitat for his own needs has caused an abundance of both species. In order to effectively manage its numbers and prevent any further ecological upset, a percentage of the population is culled annually. The meat and hides are used for commercial purposes and exported throughout the world.

Opening a new exhibit always presents a special challenge to those involved. A combination of factors must come together in order to have a successful display. First and foremost is the animal's well being. Second is to ensure safe and efficient working conditions for those who maintain the exhibit, and third is to provide the public with a pleasurable experience. Most kangaroos and wallabies breed readily in captivity and from the moment the young animal first peeps from its mother's pouch until it is fully weaned, its development is easily observed by the visiting public. We hope you will enjoy your visits to our little corner of Australia.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side ...

As members of the Zoological Society of Florida, many of you may recall the 12 part series entitled "Discover Metrozoo" which was produced in conjunction with the Dade County Education Station, WLRN, and the Zoological Society of Florida.

"Discover Metrozoo" began airing in Autumn 1987 and is still running. In order to keep viewers up to date on the development of South Florida's world class zoo, this past summer, the Zoological Society approached WLRN regarding an additional collaboration entitled, "The Wild Side of Metrozoo".

This unique, six part series was

filmed entirely at Metrozoo and affords the viewer the opportunity to explore the zoo's latest additions from a different perspective. Hosted by Metrozoo Assistant Curator, Ron Magill, the programs focus on the various aspects of the creation of

new exhibits, behind the scenes tours and in depth interviews with Metrozoo's curatorial staff.

"The Wild Side of Metrozoo" will begin airing this November and we encourage you to consult your local cable listing for times.



Cynthia Zeigler

Adopt an Animal



Cynthia Zetgler

Santa Claus may have the mythical Dasher, Dancer, Donder and Blitzen, but at Metrozoo, we go the jolly old elf one better - we have the real thing! Consider this for an unique Christmas gift: Adoption of a baby axis deer or yellow back duiker. These new babies will soon be residing in our expanded children's activity center so an up close and personal visit to your "adoptee" would really make this something special. When you adopt an animal through the Zoological Society of Florida, you aid in the care and feeding of our animals.

The axis deer, also known as the spotted deer or Chital (Hindi for spotted), are a favorite of young and old. They are one of the few species of deer to retain their spots for life. On March 15, 1987, Metrozoo received three hand-raised axis deer from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Axis deer mature at an early age - our females were all about a year and a half old when they gave birth in July, 1988. The infants, two females (Jane Doe and Lotto) and one male (John Deer) are presently being hand-raised for their new home. The infants weighed between 5 lbs. 10 oz. and 7 lbs. 10 oz. at birth and received infant formula every four hours for the first month. This was gradually decreased as they learned to eat a regular grain and alfalfa diet. When fully grown they will weigh between 125-190 lbs.

The yellow backed duiker is the largest of the genus *Cephalophus*. When startled, duikers dive into protected hiding places. This is how

they acquired their name. Duiker means "diver" in Dutch. Our newborn duiker weighed 3 lbs. 4 oz. and was pulled to be hand-raised due to the aggressive behavior of the dam toward each of her three offspring. The sire is on loan from the National Zoo and the dam was purchased from the Dallas Zoo in June of 1983. The key to successful breeding seems to hinge on compatible pairing and proper housing. Over the years we have tried to introduce our male to additional females with little success. He favors the company of only the one Dallas female. An adult yellow back duiker can weigh from 100-140 lbs.

Our featured parents this issue are Pat Kelly and Mark Cellette. Pat received her volunteer training at Crandon Park Zoo and has been a dedicated supporter of the Zoological Society ever since. She is employed by Beam Construction Company, a corporate sponsor of the Society, and she is a very active member of our Board of Trustees. She and husband Mark have been the proud parents of a boa constrictor for years. They have adopted animals as gifts for friends and have given the wildest presents for birthdays, weddings, bar mitzvahs and holidays. They have introduced many animal lovers to zoo parenthood.

If you would like to adopt an animal or become a zoo friend to one of Metrozoo's finest, please contact Elizabeth Steigerwald at 255-5551. She will be glad to help you find the perfect match.

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**BUY
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Going Christmas shopping? The Zoological Society urges you to think twice about the purchases you make. More and more species are facing extinction because of destruction of their natural environment. It is now possible to provide exotic pets, pelts and wildlife products to a growing worldwide market.

Please don't be fooled by the argument that "the animal is already dead so it doesn't matter if you buy something made from it." When you buy seemingly innocuous products fashioned from tortoise shell, coral, ivory, reptile skin and fur, you are adding to the demand for such products and supporting a market for which more animals will be killed.

More than 700 species of animals and plants are officially listed as endangered or threatened under United States Law. Items falling into these categories include:

- Whole shells and tortoise shell jewelry made from the shells of sea turtles.
- Sea turtle soup and facial creams.
- Rugs, pelts, hunting trophies and a wide variety of manufactured articles (such as handbags, compacts, coats, wallets, key cases) made from the skins and/or fur of endangered or threatened animals, including the cheetah, jaguar, margay, ocelot, vicuna, tiger and others.
- Elephant ivory and whale teeth

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decorated with etchings or made into figurines, curios, pendants, and other jewelry.

Crocodile and sea turtle leather shoes, handbags, belts, wallets, luggage and similar articles. Leather products made from certain other reptiles may also be prohibited.

Sealskin toys, purses, wallets, key cases and clothing.

Whalebone and whale and walrus ivory, either in natural form or carved into figurines, curios, or jewelry.

Sea otter furs and clothing.

Polar bear hunting trophies, rugs and items of clothing.

Live and mounted migratory birds, including bald and golden eagles.

Feathers in a variety of forms, including "flower" pictures, wearing apparel, Indian artifacts, necklaces, headbands and curios decorated with feathers.

Most psittacine birds (parrots, macaws, etc.)

The United States, Japan and Western Europe are the world's

largest consumers of wildlife. As informed consumers, we can and must play a very significant role in curbing this illegal trade.

Play it safe - consult our beautiful Christmas catalogue for some wonderful gifts. For the person who has everything, you can always Adopt an Animal and make that individual a proud zoo parent.

Otter Exhibit Planned



The Zoological Society is busy once again with construction plans for a brand new exhibit of Asian small clawed otters. The exhibit, which will be located near the new Children's Activity Center, will feature a beautiful, natural, semi-aquatic environment where the otter will be free to glide, dive, paddle around and amuse us with playful antics.

Asian small clawed otters are found in parts of the East Indies to the Himalayas and China and are fresh water dwellers.

On land no otter is at its best, yet river otters walk with undulating grace and gallop more awkwardly but at a fair speed which allows them to undertake land trips of considerable distance. However, otters are most well known for their performance in the water where they swim with a serpentine movement of the body and tail with the limbs pressed closely to the side of the body. The feet have five toes, webbed for three quarters of their length with non-retractable claws. The hind feet are used largely to maneuver in the water as the otter is an excellent diver and can stay under water for several minutes due to its great lung capacity. The broad, flattened tail is said to be used for steering in water, but in fact takes part with the body in the swimming movements. The short, dense fur is impermeable to water; dark brown and glossy on the back and only slightly paler on the throat.

The otter generally hunts from the bank, spotting its prey which consists mainly of fish, frogs, water birds and other aquatic creatures.

Otters tend to be solitary, elusive

creatures now rare in much of their range. They den in a riverbank burrow called a holt and are most active at night. Even adult otters are extremely playful and energetic and may often be seen sliding down a muddy bank.

During mating season which takes place in spring, males and females call each other by a shrill whistle. After a gestation period of around nine weeks, females give birth to a litter of between two and four offspring. The young are largely dependent upon their mother who cares for them very tenderly. The Asian small clawed otters reach sexual maturity at approximately two years of age.

Each year, your contributions make additions like our new Asian small clawed otter exhibit possible. Your generous support goes a long way in providing the best care available for our magnificent wildlife and we would like to say "thank you for jumping in".

If you would like more information on this exciting otter project, call the Development Department at 255-5551.

Volunteer Training

Winter training for the Zoological Society of Florida docents will begin again Feb 21. If the zoo is one of your favorite places to be and you enjoy meeting new people, consider making a difference as a volunteer. The classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 6. For more information call Ruth Hamilton, the Volunteer Coordinator at 255-5551.

Programs for Children

Zoo After School

The animal adventures for kids continue after school:

November: "Ships of the Desert - Camels"

December: "Kangaroos and Wallabies"

DATES: November 2 or 16
December 7 or 21

HOURS: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

FEE: \$10-Members/
\$15-Nonmembers

Programs for Families

Two for the Zoo

The program that provides entertaining and educational activities for parents and pre-schoolers (age 3 and up): Arts and crafts projects, visits with some of our smaller animals, and an electric cart "safari" on zoo grounds are included.

November: "Ships of the Desert - Camels"

December: "Kangaroos and Wallabies"

DATES: November 2 or 16
December 7 or 21

HOURS: 9:30-11:30 a.m.

FEE: \$10-Members/
\$15-Non-members

Education Outlook: November-December

Breakfast with the Beasts

New animal experiences will highlight this popular breakfast program. Take this opportunity to visit the zoo early in the early morning hours - a very special time, and enjoy the "encounters" we have planned for you.

November: "Primates"

December: "Kangaroos and Wallabies"

DATES: Sundays, November 20;
December 18

HOURS: 8:00-10:00 a.m.

FEE: \$10-Members/
\$15-Nonmembers

Programs for Teens

Junior Zoologist I

GRADES 7-8

For young teens interested in careers in zoology or veterinary medicine, this program gives the student an introduction to the care of captive animals and animal-related careers.

DATES: Saturdays, November 5
through December 3

HOURS: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

FEE: \$55-Members/
\$65-Nonmembers

Programs for Adults

Singles Night at the Zoo

Don't miss this one! Assistant Curator, Ron Magill, will present an unforgettable program on animal courtship behavior. A wine and cheese reception featuring some special animal guests will follow. Take this opportunity to meet others interested in wildlife and wild lifestyles!

DATES: Saturday, December 3

HOURS: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

FEE: \$8-Members/
\$12-Nonmembers

Supper Safari

Take advantage of the cooler nights to participate in these special after hours suppers.

November: "Animals in Motion"
Learn how we move a giraffe across town or a rhino cross-country. The "hands on" side of animal management will be featured.

December: "Looking Back" Dr. Gordon Hubbell, Metrozoo's Education Director, will take us back to the days of the Crandon Park Zoo through film and stories. Join us to share some wonderful memories.

DATES: Saturdays, November 19 or
December 17

HOURS: 6:00-9:00 p.m.

FEE: \$25-Members/
\$35-Nonmembers

The A.I.R. Scouting Program and the corresponding Daisy Program for younger scouts will begin scheduling January through May on December 15th. Scout leaders should call the Education Department to schedule patch programs.

Participant's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

Program(s): _____ Date: _____ Fee \$ _____

_____ Date: _____ Fee \$ _____

Member **Membership#** _____ **Nonmember** **Fee \$** _____

Mastercard Visa Amer. Exp. Expirate Date _____ **TOTAL** _____

Card # _____ Signature _____

For Camp and Children's Programs please complete the following:

Parent's Name _____

Student's Age _____ Grade in school (as of Sept. '88) _____

Welcome Aboard!

Metrozoo is a shining example of what can be accomplished when the private and public sector work together. Through our continued support of Metrozoo we have demonstrated that we in South Florida are concerned about the environment, about education, and about our quality of life.

The Zoological Society would like to welcome a newcomer to our illustrious list of corporate donors. The law firm of Shutts and Bowen has become the proud sponsors of the Grevy's Zebra with a \$5,000 contribution. To the members of Shutts and Bowen we say "thank you and welcome to our family of Metrozoo supporters."

With the help of our corporate community we are working to make Metrozoo one of the finest zoos in the nation.



Eric Meyers, (left) and William Gallwey, partners in the law firm of Shutts and Bowen, are proud corporate sponsors of the Grevy's Zebra Exhibit.



Mr. Jerry Swerdlow, Executive Vice President of the Heitman Group, (center) presents Laurence Turner, President of the Zoological Society of Florida, (left), and Roger Carlton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees with a check for \$10,000.

A Message from the Zoo Director

On August 7, 1988, it was my pleasure to be in Newport Beach, California for the National Association of County Park Officials' (NACPRO) awards dinner, which is part of the National Association of Counties Conference where representatives from over 2,000 United States counties come together annually to share mutual accomplishments and concerns. Each year many organizations are nominated for services rendered at a local level and this year the Zoological Society of Florida was one of only eight nationally to receive the coveted Friend of the Park and Recreation Award for their dedicated support of Metrozoo. Your Executive

Vice President, Mr. Joe Ferrer, was there to accept this well-deserved recognition on behalf of the Society.

While the staff, including volunteers, and the elected Board of the Zoological Society of Florida have

done an exemplary job, the true strength of any organization stems from the support of the membership and this award really belongs to you. Thank you for your past, current and continued support of Metrozoo.



Joe Ferrer, Executive Vice President of the Zoological Society (left) accepts award from Metrozoo Director, Robert Yokel



President's Message ...

At the October meeting of the Board of Directors, outgoing President R. Ray Goode passed the gavel of the presidency to me. It is an honor to accept it and a challenge to follow in the footsteps of my illustrious predecessors. This newsletter is the voice of the Officers and Directors of the Society to you. Certainly a leader needs a clear vision of the organization and where it is going, but a vision is of little value unless it is shared in a way that

generates enthusiasm and commitment. Leadership and communication are inseparable. Throughout the coming year, it will be my goal to help you be up-to-date, informed, knowledgeable members of the Society.

The past election of the Board of Directors by the Board of Trustees brought some new individuals into our ranks. I am very proud to welcome William J. Gallwey, III, Partner at Shutts and Bowen; Barbara A. Ibarra, Director of Personnel for Metro Dade County; DeWayne Little, President, A & G Blaton of Florida; John S. Lowell, Partner, Tishman Speyer Properties (former Society President who returns after a hiatus of six years); and Leslie V. Pantin, Jr., Vice President, Amerinsurance. Your new officers and the remaining Board of Directors are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you will take a moment to get acquainted with them.

This issue of "Toucan Talk" marks the debut of our Christmas catalogue. The metamorphosis that has occurred in the gift shops since the Society has assumed this responsibility gives us an opportunity to offer you a wide array of quality merchandise to suit every taste. You can now enjoy the comfort of shopping from your home, but please shop early; the selections offered are bound to be sellouts. Remember, all proceeds from sales in the gift shops go to the support of Metrozoo.

I am very excited about the

coming fiscal year. Our primary focus will be on completion of the otter exhibit at the children's activity center, a project that will be discussed at length in future newsletters. Other issues are in the planning stages and will be presented to you as they are brought to fruition by the Board. Working hand in hand with County government and zoo management, the Society will continue to be the driving force behind the maintenance and completion of this wonderful zoo. I feel very confident in stating - the best is yet to come!

My very best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season.

Art at the Zoo!

The Zoological Society is pleased to announce the rerun of Wildlife Art Weekend at the Zoo. Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27 under the entrance trellis during regular zoo hours (10 a.m. through 4 p.m.)

This year's show feature will feature the works of renowned wildlife artists Charles Frace, sculptor Melodie Tyrell and bronze sculptor Tom Tischler.

The artists will be present during the show to personalize any works which are purchased. Remember, all proceeds from the sale will benefit the Zoological Society of Florida.

For more information call the Special Event Department at 255-5551.

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Toucan Trader's Choice

These are BUSY days for you. To facilitate your holiday shopping, we have spent a lot of time acquiring unique gift items. Please browse through our beautiful catalogue at your leisure; we are confident you will find something to please everyone on your list. It's so convenient. You can order by telephone, mail, or visit our shops and have one of our friendly and knowledgeable staff members assist you with your selection. Quantities will be limited on some items so we suggest that orders be placed early.

Don't forget, all members are entitled to a 10% discount on gift shop purchases totaling \$10.00 or more and proceeds go directly toward the support of Metrozoo. Do your shopping at the wildest place in town - the Miami Metrozoo gift shops!

Answer the Call of the Wild

This fall, the Zoological Society will be inviting 100,000 strangers to become "friends of the zoo."

Please tell your family and friends about the many benefits you receive as a Zoological Society member. Let them also know how important their support is to the continued growth of your zoo. If you receive our information in the mail, please pass it along to a non-member.



Walk or Run for your Zoo

The 7th Annual Jungle Jog is coming to Metrozoo. On Sunday, January 15, 1988 at 8 a.m. approximately 2,000 runners and walkers will be racing through the zoo to benefit the animals.

The Jungle Jog, which is sponsored by the Baptist Hospital, Bud Light and Lufthansa German Airlines will consist of the State Sanctioned 5 Mile Championship Run for the serious runners and a Two Mile Fitness Walk

through the zoo for the "just for funners". We are asking you, our membership, to participate in this fun-filled event because your valued support of the Jungle Jog will go directly toward the development of *your zoo*.

The entry fee for the Jungle Jog is \$10 in advance and \$15 on race day. The first 1,500 runners and walkers will receive a unique, commemorative t-shirt and everyone will receive free refreshments and admission to Metrozoo for the day.

Bring the entire family equipped with running or walking shoes and join us for a day of fun at Metrozoo.

Please mail me Jungle Jog application forms

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Applications _____

Send to the Zoological Society of Florida c/o Jungle Jog. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope, or pick up an application at the Zoological Society of Florida.

REMEMBER: Do not leave home without your membership card

Zoological Society of Florida

12400 S. W. 152nd Street
Miami, Florida 33177
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