



Australia Habitat and
Taronga Wildlife Retreat
Heritage Impact Assessment
March 2016

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction	2
1.1	Preamble	2
1.2	Background	4
1.3	Site Location	4
1.4	Methodology	7
1.5	Study Team	7
1.6	Terminology	7
2.0	Outline Historical Context & Physical Description	9
2.1	The Study Area	9
2.2	Historical Context	9
2.3	Physical Description of the Study Area	39
3.0	Heritage Significance	55
3.1	Individual Elements of Significance	55
3.2	Historical Archaeological Values within the Precinct	58
3.3	Indigenous Values within the Precinct	64
3.4	Table of Heritage Items and Items in the Vicinity (from s170 register)	65
3.5	Heritage Statutory Context	76
3.6	Constraints & Opportunities	78
4.0	Heritage Impact Assessment	80
4.1	Project Documentation	80
4.2	Project Description	80
4.3	Impact of the Proposal on Taronga Zoo	81
4.4	Impact of the Proposal on Heritage Items	81
4.5	Compliance with Conservation Policies	82
4.6	Evaluation of Heritage Impacts	83
4.7	Impact of the Proposal on Potential Archaeological Items	84
	Table 4.1 Identification of Heritage Impacts on Significant items within the Site	85
	Table 4.2 Identification of Heritage Impacts on Significant items in the Vicinity	92
	Table 4.3 Identification of Heritage Impacts on Significant Views	95
5.0	Mitigative Measures	96
5.1	Preamble	96
5.2	Detail of Mitigative Measures	96
6.0	Conclusion	98

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Preamble

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared for the Taronga Conservation Society Australia (TCSA), to accompany development approval applications for the Australian Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat at Taronga Zoo, Mosman. The subject area is to be redeveloped to create a wildlife retreat which will provide overnight accommodation within Taronga Zoo. The proposed works include the conservation, adaptation, relocation, alteration and removal of s170 listed heritage items within the redevelopment site.

The Taronga Zoo site as a whole is not listed on the SHR. Taronga has been identified as an item of State heritage significance in studies. The area of the proposal incorporates built and landscape elements, which have been identified as having heritage significance in the Taronga Conservation Society Australia Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register. The s170 register heritage items in the subject area are:

07L	Sandstone perimeter wall – east wall
16B	Hallstrom House
31L	Sandstone Wall & Stairs
82A	Taronga Zoo – Greater
96B	Circular Kiosk (Fountain base 1917 kiosk 1930s)
99L	Original and Early Pathway Layout, including stairs linking levels
123L	Australian Section 2 landscaping (not Section 1 in this area)
137L	Rustic stone seat adjacent to stair at SE corner of Taronga Centre.
139L	Concrete stair with roughcast balustrade
149L	Rustic stone garden walling (below Taronga Centre)
152L	Rustic stone garden walling near <i>Gardenia Thunbergia</i> .
165L	<i>Gardenia Thunbergia</i> (Tree Gardenia)
169L	<i>Podocarpus Elatus</i> (Brown Pine)
197L	<i>Murraya Paniculata</i> (Orange Jessamine)
213L	<i>Magnolia Grandiflora</i> (Magnolia)
214L	<i>Alphitonia Excelsa</i> (Red Ash)
215L	<i>Lophostemon Confertus</i> (Brush Box).
216L	<i>Ficus Macrocarpa var. Hillii</i> (Hill's Fig Tree)
217L	<i>Ficus Rubiginosa</i> (Port Jackson Fig Tree)
218L	<i>Acmena Smithii</i> (Lilly pilly tree)
260L	<i>Lophostemon Confertus</i> (Brush Box)
275L	<i>Lophostemon Confertus</i> (Brush Box)
290L	Wisteria at Beastro
293M	Taronga Zoo sculpture and other sculptures

The design has been adjusted to avoid impact on some of the heritage items in the vicinity but will impact in particular on item 96B, the circular kiosk (shelter) on the fountain base, part of the remaining rockery and garden beds (items 149L) and part of the original and early pathways (item 99L).

The Zoo as a whole is listed on the Mosman LEP and five items within the Zoo are mentioned in Schedule 5 of the LEP. These items are not near the site and are not impacted by the development.

Recent planning and redevelopment at the Zoo is another stage in the evolution of approach to the public realm and animal exhibit design at Taronga requiring alteration to some heritage items. In accordance with the conservation policies of the 2002 Conservation Strategy, an archival photographic record will be made of the subject area, its setting, and items in the vicinity before it is changed.

The history of the Zoo, including the subject area, is documented generally with detailed material available for some areas. This report includes additional detailed historical research and physical assessment of the area affected by the proposal.

This document provides an evaluation of the potential impacts arising from the subject proposal on the heritage values of the individual items within the precinct and in its vicinity, as well as the significance of Taronga Zoo as a whole, in accordance with the conservation policies of the Taronga Zoo Conservation Strategy, July 2002, and the Australian Sections 1 & 2 Strategic Heritage Advice, 2006.

This HIS is based upon the architectural drawings prepared by Cox Architecture Pty Ltd dated 29th February 2016 and landscape drawing prepared by Green and Dale Associates Landscape Architects dated 26th February 2016 and on the Green and Dale Associates (GDA) Australia Habitat Taronga Wildlife Retreat, Concept Report, February 2016.

The architectural drawings are:

- AR-DA-1001_ LOCATION PLAN
- AR-DA-1101_ EXISTING SITE PLAN
- AR-DA-1102_ DEMOLITION PLAN
- AR-DA-1201_ PROPOSED SITE PLAN
- AR-DA-1301_ SCOPE OF WORKS PLAN
- AR-DA-2101_ LEVEL A
- AR-DA-2102_ LEVEL B
- AR-DA-2103_ LEVEL C
- AR-DA-2104_ LEVEL D
- AR-DA-2105_ LEVEL E
- AR-DA-2106_ RESTAURANT
- AR-DA-2107_ TERRACE
- AR-DA-3101_ POD A ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3201_ POD B ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3301_ POD C ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3401_ POD D ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3501_ POD E ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3601_ RESTAURANT ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3701_ GUEST LODGE ELEV 1
- AR-DA-3801_ TARONGA CENTRE ELEV 1
- AR-DA-4001_ SEC SITE 1-1
- AR-DA-4002_ SEC SITE 2-1
- AR-DA-4003_ SEC SITE 3-1
- AR-DA-4101_ SEC AA-BB-1
- AR-DA-4102_ SEC CC-DD-1
- AR-DA-4103_ SEC EE-1
- AR-DA-4104_ SEC FF-GG-1
- AR-DA-8001_ Shadow_Dec-1
- AR-DA-8002_ Shadow_March-1
- AR-DA-8003_ Shadow_June-1
- AR-DA-9001_ External Finishes Schedule

The landscape drawing is:

SK01 Australia Habitat – TSCA

1.2 Background

Masterplanning

Since the Zoo opened in 1916, the planning of the site has continued to evolve in response to changing zoological philosophies and practices. From 2000 Taronga Zoo has implemented a redevelopment program for the Zoo based on the Masterplan "Zoo 2000", which provided guidance on the planning, management and design issues for the upgrading of the site as a whole and established a new vision for Taronga Zoo.

Heritage and Conservation Planning

The Taronga Zoo Conservation Strategy 2002, endorsed by the NSW Heritage Office, was prepared to provide a policy framework for conservation, interpretation, management and use of the site as part of the implementation of the endorsed Masterplan Zoo 2000. This was accompanied by the endorsed Masterplan Urban Design Principles and Visual Analysis which also addressed the DDA and developed a site wide approach to the public domain.

The Zoological Parks Board (ZPB) Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register identifies over two hundred and fifty individual built and landscape heritage items within Taronga Zoo, including items within the subject development site, as well as in the vicinity of the proposed development. Items in the register are required to be managed in accord with the NSW Treasury Heritage Asset Management Guideline (2004) and the NSW Heritage Council State Agency Heritage Guide (2004).

The Taronga Zoological Gardens is identified on the 2012 Mosman LEP (item I34) and the map shows the whole of the Zoo while the schedule lists the following individual features: the Rainforest Aviary, the Elephant House, the bus shelter and office, the floral clock and the upper and lower entrance gates. None of the individual heritage items mentioned in the list in Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Mosman LEP 2012 is affected by or in the vicinity of the proposed development. The Zoo, as a whole is identified in the Mosman Heritage Study 1996 (the basis for the LEP listing), which contains the inventory sheet for the Zoo, as a place of state significance.

There are no items, either within the subject precinct or in the vicinity of the precinct, identified on the Register of Significant Architecture in NSW, which is maintained by the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA). The Platypus House is in the vicinity of the site and has been recommended by some for listing by the AIA but it is also identified on the Section 170 register and impacts on it are considered in this report.

1.3 Site Location

Taronga Zoo is located on Sydney Harbour's northern foreshore at the head of Athol Bay. The land is under the ownership of the Taronga Conservation Society Australia (TCSA) and is situated within the municipality of Mosman.

The site is located near to the eastern side of Taronga Zoo (see Figures 1.1 and 1.2).



Figure 1.1 Aerial photo of Taronga Zoo showing the approximate study area shaded in blue.

Source: Near maps image annotated by Jean Rice Architect



Figure 1.2 Aerial photograph of the study area and the surrounding site with the approximate site boundary shown in blue.

Source: Near maps image annotated by Jean Rice Architect

1.4 Methodology

This HIS is consistent with the Conservation Strategy recommendation:

A Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) should be prepared for all new developments at Taronga Zoo to identify potential impacts on items in the vicinity, views, setting, original pathway layout, landscape and built elements, archaeology and the site as a whole.

Previous Reports

A number of previous reports for the Zoo have been used as the basis for the assessment of the proposed impacts on the heritage values of the place, including:

- Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register, April 1998, prepared by the Heritage Group of the New South Wales Department of Public Works and Services and subsequently updated by TCSA;
- Taronga Zoo Conservation Strategy, July 2002, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan, endorsed by the NSW Heritage Office;
- Taronga Zoo Archaeological Management Plan (AMP), November 2002, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan, endorsed by the NSW Heritage Office;
- Taronga Zoo Australian Sections 1 & 2, Strategic Heritage Advice, February 2006, prepared by Godden Mackay Logan; and
- Taronga Zoo Landscape Management Plan (LMP), November 2006, prepared by Design 5 Architects, Geoffrey Britton and Dr Ben Wallace.

Section 2.0 of this report provides a background to the cultural landscape, significance and conservation policies relating to the subject development area.

A description of the proposed development and an assessment of the impacts arising from the proposal on the heritage items within the precinct, in its vicinity and on the significance of the Zoo as a whole is addressed in Section 3.0.

The mitigative measures and conclusion are contained in Sections 5.0 and 6.0.

The methodology is based on the guidelines contained in the *NSW Heritage Manual* (DUAP and the Heritage Council of NSW, 1996) and the principles contained in the Australia ICOMOS *Burra Charter*.

1.5 Study Team

This report has been prepared by Jean Rice, Senior Project Manager Heritage, with the Property, Infrastructure and Operations (PI&O) Division of Taronga Zoo, assisted by Dr Noni Boyd, architectural historian, and was reviewed by Matthew Spooner, Project Manager PI&O.

1.6 Terminology

The terminology used within this report is consistent with the NSW Heritage Manual and the definitions contained in the Burra Charter of Australia ICOMOS. Throughout this report, the terms *place*, *cultural significance*, *fabric*, *conservation*, *maintenance*, *preservation*, *restoration*, *reconstruction*, *adaptation* and *compatible use* are used in accordance with the definitions of the Burra Charter.

The reference number identification for heritage items within the Zoo follows the existing terminology established in the Section 170 Heritage and Conservation Register, Conservation Strategy, Archaeological Management Plan and Landscape Management Plan.

Abbreviations

AIA	Australian Institute of Architects
AMP	Archaeological Management Plan
CMP	Conservation Management Plan
CMS	Conservation Management Strategy
PI&O	Property, Infrastructure and Operations
DPWS	Department of Works & Services (now combined in to the Department of Finance)
GAB	Government Architects Branch (later Government Architects Office)
HIS	Heritage Impact Statement
ICOMOS	International Council of Monuments and Sites
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LMP	Landscape Management Plan
NSW	New South Wales
PWD	Public Works Department (now Public Works)
s170	Section 170 (Heritage and Conservation Register) under the NSW Heritage Act
TCSA	Taronga Conservation Society Australia
TZ	Taronga Zoo
TZA	Taronga Zoo Archives
ZPB	Zoological Parks Board

2.0 Outline Historical Context and Physical Description

2.1 The Study Area

The study area is defined to the west by the Wollemi enclosure, to the north by a path between the Taronga centre and the Platypus House, to the northeast by the Taronga Centre, to the east by the perimeter walling and access road and to the south by an existing pathway in front of the Big Cats exhibit and an adjacent path. Within this are structures, trees, landscape elements and public domain features. These elements contribute to the visual character of the Zoo and with their original design and modifications for use continue to demonstrate the site's historical development and cultural heritage values.

2.2 Historical Context

The Conservation Strategy identified five key phases of historical development at Taronga Zoo since its initial construction began in 1913. These key phases correspond to tenures of various key zoo Directors or Superintendents and generally reflect each director's philosophy of zoo management. The key periods are described below with a brief discussion of the site and items in the vicinity during each period.

Nineteenth century maps, including the parish maps for Willoughby and surveys of Port Jackson give an indication of the landform prior to the establishment of the zoo. Three substantial portions of land were granted to Charles Jenkins. The Trigonometrical survey of Port Jackson prepared by Sir Thomas Mitchell shows that paths led to the various promontories by the early 1850s including Bradley's Head. A path branched off to Whiting beach.



Figure 2.1 Extract from Thomas Mitchell's Trigonometrical Survey of Port Jackson dated 1853 showing Bradley's Head. The later location of the Zoo is indicated. Source: SLNSW Z/M4/811.15/1853/1

By the mid 1860s steamers were taking picnickers to Bradleys Head and the Athol Tea Gardens (later Athol Gardens) on Sundays. In the 1870s additional fortifications were erected around Sydney Harbour and large portions of adjacent land was reserved for Military Purposes including most of Bradley's Head. This land was progressively transferred to the Commonwealth in the years following Federation. Land for the Zoological Gardens was excised from the land reserved for Military purposes and dedicated as Zoological Gardens on the 24th of April 1912. The transfer of facilities from Moore Park to Bradleys Head had been discussed since 1909. An initial plan to use the grounds of Vaucluse House was abandoned. A sandstone quarry had operated on a portion of the site, however the dates of operation are unknown.



Figure 2.2 Extract from an 1890s map of Sydney showing the extent of the Military Reserve at Bradley's Head.
Source: NLA RM2358

Stock Quarantine at Athol Bight (from 1899)

By the late 1870s Bradleys Head was in use as a quarantine station for sheep. Consignments of breeding stock were imported from England, Germany and America by leading wool merchants. Clarke Island and later Shark Island were also used to quarantine stock. Published descriptions of a surprise visit by the minister to the facilities at Bradleys Head and Shark Island record that facility at Bradley's Head was bounded by a three rail fence, which the Minister thought insufficient, and contained sheds and yards. A 'close pailed' fence was to be erected instead.¹ The exact location of the yards at Bradleys Head has not been determined. Both of the quarantine stations had their own resident caretaker. The 1888 Sands Directory lists a Quarantine Station on Bradleys Head Road for Cattle.

In 1890 the land at Bradley's Head was 'required by military authorities for fortification purposes' and a site more inland was finally chosen.² Again the exact location of these yards has not been determined however both sets of facilities are likely to have been further south than the study area. By 1894 there were calls for reserves, so that visitors to Sydney Harbour were not greeted by cattle sheds and outhouses. Bradley's Head was one of the locations cited.³ By September 1894 a new residence for the caretaker and range of sheds had been erected.⁴ The 1894 Sands Directory lists a Sheep Quarantine Station on Bradleys Head Road. During the late 1890s prize cattle were off loaded in Athol Bight and quarantined. Pastoralists travelled to Sydney to view stock and buy stock at sales held at Bradley's Head.

¹ SMH 25 September 1884

² AT&CJ The Stock Quarantine Station, 11 Jan 1890

³ SMH 14 April 1894

⁴ SMH 22 September 1894

Clarke Island was the first harbour island to be made into a public reserve, followed by Shark Island in 1899. Considerable public pressure had resulted in the decision to enlarge the facility at Bradleys Head so that dogs could be quarantined there rather than on Shark Island. In October 1900 it was reported that

The new quarantine ground for cattle and dogs at Athol Bight is rapidly being prepared for its new purpose. A new wharf has recently been constructed, and a track made to the new animal quarantine station.⁵

Cattle Quarantine Ground - The construction and completion of a new wharf in the vicinity of Athol Bight, with its conspicuous track leading from the water to the Bradley's Head-road, has for some time past arrested the attention of the passengers by the Mosman ferry boats. It appears that the wharf and track form the approaches to a large area comprising several acres of land enclosed by an iron fence - the site chosen as a new quarantine ground for dogs and cattle. It is well situated, and should provide adequate accommodation for all animals that undergo detention on arrival from over the sea. Bradley's Head ground has thus been relieved and abandoned as a quarantine area, as also has Shark Island.⁶

The Public Works Department (PWD) erected a new wharf in Athol Bight for use by the Stock Quarantine Station and a tramway to take the animals up the hill to the new pens. In the Annual Report for 1899-900 it was reported that

Several minor sea-walls and jetties have been built, including the wharf and tramway at Athol Bight, for the Cattle Quarantine At the Bradley's Head Quarantine ground, a wharf with tramway was constructed for the use of the Stock department. The wharf, costing £357, was built by contract, and the tramway nearly completed by day-labour costing £395 10s 5d to date.

The later survey reveals that the tramway was in two sections, with a 3ft 6" gauge from the wharf and a 2ft 6" gauge within the Stock Quarantine Station. Expenditure listed in the PWD Annual Reports shows that the road to Bradleys Head was upgraded in 1900-02.

By April 1901 visitors including Mr Hordern went to the new facility to see the prize dogs. No mention is made of the layout of the sheds or yards. The old facility at Bradleys Head and the new facility at Athol Bight continued to be used in conjunction until at least 1907. In 1901 the Athol Quarantine Station, where 'Esquimaux' dogs from Russia intended for the Antarctic Expedition were being quarantined, was described as being 5 acres,

The new kennel yards are capacious, the floors of the lofty compartments being concreted, while the benches are an easy height off the ground. The whole expanse (covering some five acres) is enclosed by a high corrugated iron fence, and escape is next to impossible.⁷

Later the article describes the dogs as being well kennelled, some in loose boxes of stables and in a long lean-to kennel in a small paddock.

Arguments over the best site for the new Zoological gardens continued for many years. Part of the former military reserve, which had been dedicated as Ashton Park was open to the public in 1909. By 1911 thirty seven acres was reserved for the use of the Zoological Society however a further 100 acres was sought. Visiting ornithologists were taken on a harbour excursion and to see the site in November 1911.⁸ The land was granted for use as Zoological gardens, provided that a drive was retained around the park for the general public and that native timbers fronting the harbour be preserved.⁹

The layout of the yards of the Athol Bight stock quarantine station has been highlighted blue, in the following extract of a 1912 Public Works survey of the site held in the National Library of Australia. On the survey are wooden stables (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) and three sheds, two of galvanised iron (8 & 11) and one of wood (9). At the south eastern corner of the compound was a WC (10). The survey also shows two existing walking tracks, one at foreshore level and one following the contours just above the Stock Quarantine Station. A visitor in 1914 noted that the station adjoined the new zoo and that

⁵ Evening News ? October 1900

⁶ SMH 30 October 1900

⁷ The Kennel by FFL, Sydney Morning Herald, 4 October 1901

⁸ Adelaide Advertiser 1 November 1911

⁹ Albury Banner 17 November 1911

The climb up from the wharf to where the animals are quarantined is a steep one, and the path cut through the scrub makes one think what a short distance a Sydney man has to travel to be in "the bush."¹⁰



Figure 2.3 Extract from the 1912 survey prepared by the PWD showing the 'old quarantine station for animals'. The extent of the quarantine station within the zoo is shaded in blue, as are the buildings and the tramway. Note that the right hand boundary is not the current boundary. Source: NLA RM 3875

The lower buildings shown on the 1912 survey may be those built for the Zoo rather than for the earlier Stock Quarantine Station. A report, dated September 6th 1912, by the Secretary of the Zoological Trust notes "a staff of six men have been engaged in the clearing of ground" and "the survey plan will be ready towards the end of this month" and that a "shed is in the course of erection in the Quarantine Grounds and should be finished in a few days". The September report notes a WC and other sheds, had been erected. An undated survey held by PWD shows additional sheds, including a hexagonal structure to the west, and an unidentified building north east of the quarantine area, which may have been the caretaker's residence.

¹⁰ The Land, 30 January 1914.

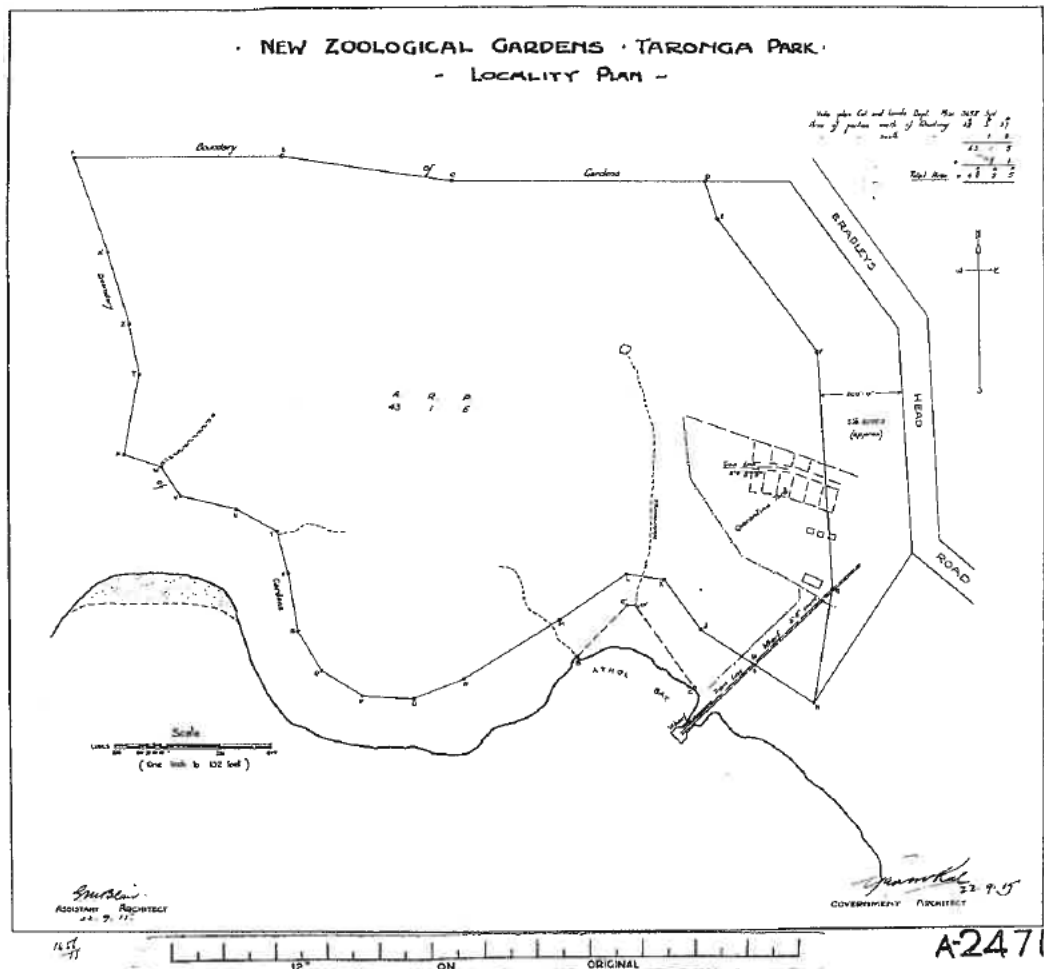


Figure 2.4 Locality Plan prepared in 1915 by the Government Architect. Source: Copy sourced by DPWS Heritage Group

The Hand Map of the proposed Taronga Zoological Park shows that much of the quarantine ground was to function as a store yard (with the tramline passing through it). The watercourse to the west was to become a series of ponds. The Director's house was proposed to be erected on the eastern side of the tramline.

In May 1914 it was announced that

The establishment of the new Zoological Gardens in the vicinity of Bradley's Head, Sydney, will necessitate the Commonwealth making other arrangements in connection with the quarantining of animals, and closing the quarantine area in Athol Bight. Dr. Cumpston, Federal Director of Quarantine, has visited Sydney in connections with negotiations which are proceeding for the acquisition of another site, the locality of which is not yet disclosed.

Quarantine functions were one of the roles transferred to the control of the Commonwealth. Other than the detailed survey prepared by the Public Works Department, no other plans of the Stock Quarantine Station have been located. The exact date of closure of the facility at Athol Bight has not been determined, but appears to roughly coincide with the transfer of the zoo animals. The old Zoological Gardens at Moore Park were then temporarily used for Quarantine until the new facility at Rodd Point was completed.



Figure 2.5 1917 Map of Sydney showing the dedicated reserves at Bradley's Head

Source : NLA Maps G8974.S9G46

2.2.1 Phase One: Initial Construction 1912-1916 (Designer Albert le Souef)

During this period the basic infrastructure of the Zoo was constructed, including the network of pathways. The topography dictated the basic layout of the site from the start, with pathways largely constructed along the contours traversing east-west, and connected by staircases. The basic layout capitalised on the natural sandstone rock ledges across the site. In planning the zoo the Superintendent, Albert le Souef, was inspired by Hagenbeck Zoo in Germany, the most modern zoo in the world at that time. Taronga was designed around the concept of a bar-less zoo, with enclosures for animals constructed with the most open plan possible, without a roof or bars where possible but with a surrounding concrete wall and moat separating the public from the animals.

In the Zoo proper, starting near the stock quarantine yards, are more huge rocks rising abruptly, and there will later on be found it monkeys, disporting in as nearly as possible their native conditions. They will not be in cages. The people will watch their antics over a three or four feet wall, but inside that wall will be a moat about four feet deep. The trustees know just how high and how far the monkeys can jump, hence the moat. The wall will be carried round the five acres which will be devoted to the monkeys. The trees in the enclosure will be left for the convenience of the future denizens, though, of course, branches which would enable them to escape will be cut off or shortened.

In close proximity to the monkeys will be the aviary, and when this is completed. It will mark the greatest transformation of all. The system of zoological work has materially altered during the past 10 years and it is now- recognised that the right line on which to work is to bring the birds and animals as nearly as possible into harmony with their natural surroundings. Go to any Zoo in Australia and you will see parrots and other birds cooped up in large cages. In Ashton Park they will be found among the trees in very large netted enclosures. Running through this space is at present a dry watercourse, a little brook which is very pretty in winter, but now useless. The trustees propose to put in a wall towards the foot of this creek and bank up the water by means of miniature locks, so forming a series of little lakes.¹¹

Construction work had commenced in 1912 and by early 1914 considerable work had been undertaken.

As far as possible the natural formation of the rocky ground is retained...

As the Park at Athol Bight is specially designed for the pleasure and instruction of Australians, the main object is to keep Australian flora and fauna in the foreground. Few, if any, exotics will be introduced in these Gardens...

While gangs of labourers are at work shattering rocky fortresses and levelling the ground, where- necessary, to conform with the plan selected, the gardeners are industriously planting sprouting up with exuberant vitality, taking kindly to the soil from the start, and, in one instance, growth is recorded at the surprising rate of six inches a day... During the past year much of the work has been confined to the making of roads, embankments, drains, etc., but the scenic part is by no means neglected. Enough has been done to give some idea of what the completed Taronga Zoo will be like in two years time.

Wherever the contour of the Park lends itself to decorative effect with rocks, ferns, flowers and palms, it is turned to the most artistic use. A noticeable feature of the present stage of construction is the grouping of Christmas bush, Christmas bell, Flannel flower, Angophora and other beautiful indigenous flowers with clumps of haresfoot fern, bracken, birds nest palms, and stag and elk horns. While the shapelessly and fire wracked eucalyptus are being ruthlessly ejected from their stronghold there will be plenty of original trees left in the Zoo, and the culling of useless old trees is necessary.¹²

None of the early reports make mention of building any stone perimeter walling. In 1930 the fencing which was to be replaced by a perimeter was described as being an old timber fence.¹³

Following the outbreak of World War 1, Colonel Alfred Spain, a local architect and Vice-President of the new Zoological Gardens Trust, transferred the design and construction of the Zoological Gardens to the NSW Government Architect (within the NSW Public Works Department).

Prior to 1st March last (on which date the works were taken over by this Branch), works mainly of a preliminary character were carried out by the Zoological Gardens Trust, including clearing site, forming roads and tracks, formation of ponds, tree planting, and erection of certain enclosures for birds and monkeys. Since the date mentioned, six large enclosures for monkeys have been completed, and in some occupants have been placed for experimental purposes. A large enclosure, similar in size and type to one in the Zoological Gardens at Rome, intended for baboons, is being formed, comprising a reinforced concrete rocky hill, surrounded by a wide moat and including pathways outside same. An elephant house is in course of erection, being formed of reinforced concrete, somewhat in the style of an Indian temple with surrounding dome. Moats and pathways are also included.

A number of huge aviaries are also well advanced, in fact, one is now in occupation. A large quarry excavation, now disused, is being adapted for seal and other ponds, and will be finished with ornamental balustrades and staircase, &c. A great deal of work has been done in roadmaking, including kerbs and gutters, the conditions (rock excavation in parts and heavy filling in places) necessitating much labour. Large paddocks are being enclosed for " non-flight" birds. Plans are under consideration of the Trust, for a large aquarium two storeys in height, and basement; also for carnivora enclosures, &c. The general object in view is to make the Gardens

¹¹ Evening News 24 Dec 1912

¹² The Gundagai Times and Tumut, Adelong and Murrumbidgee District Advertiser 13 Feb 1914

¹³ SMH 15 September 1930

attractive, and at the same time display the animals, as nearly as possible, in their natural surroundings, the usual bars and cages being replaced by moats, which are arranged to be as little in view as possible. A large number of works remain to be carried out, the principal being water and land entrances, wharf, refreshment and tea rooms, residences for the various officials and keepers, stores, barns, &c.¹⁴

Newspaper reports gave further details:

In its natural conformation the land presents several terraces, supported by ledges of rock and boulders, well covered with trees and shrubs. Four main roads run east and west, following the sweeping contour of the terraces, and one central avenue crosses these from north to south; while tracks and paths intersect them in many places, and give access to the glens and gullies which abound in many places. The park is well covered with native trees, principally angophoras, eucalyptus, eugenias,¹⁵ banksias, personias [sic], etc. Many of these have had to be thinned out to make room for roads and enclosures, but hundreds more have been planted. Apart from herbaceous plants, which are necessary to give colour effect, only Australian material has been used, this will give a special interest to the gardens.¹⁶

The drawings for many of these buildings survive in the plan room of the former Public Works Department. In October 1916 it was announced that at the Zoological gardens

Two good sports grounds have been provided; one next the top entrance for school children, and another will be placed on the quarantine ground for the accommodation of firms' picnics.¹⁷

The published 1916 plan (following) shows that the area was divided into plots separated by pathways. The eastern portion of the site, was labelled 'amusement area' and the area for school picnics is labelled 'reception lawn'. Annual picnics were held by companies and institutions. Transport such as steamers or special trains were laid on to take all the attendees. For decades the zoo grounds were referred to as Sydney's best picnic grounds. The quarantine tramway is not shown, and a 'proposed tramway' connecting the wharf to the upper entrance, via Bradley's Head Road was to be erected. This tramway was built by the PWD and was in operation by late 1917.

Visitors desirous of avoiding the steep grades in the grounds can avail themselves of the new tram service, which will convey them from the Zoo wharf to the top entrance, whence they walk down through the park.¹⁸

2.2.2 Phase Two: Consolidation 1916-1940 (Superintendent Albert le Souef)

This period spans between the official opening of the Zoo in October 1916 and the departure of Albert le Souef as Superintendent of the Zoo in 1939. This period was characterised by a reinforcement of the juxtaposition of cultivated ornamental gardens within the setting of the bushland landscape.

The Refreshment Rooms

Refreshment Rooms were initially included at the entrance with a soda fountain to one site and a tea rooms to the other. Soda fountains were popular in the early twentieth century and could be found at Central Railway Station and in Royal National Park. The facilities at the entrance could not cater to a large number of patrons and were not conveniently located.

¹⁴ PWDAR Year ending June 1915, Report of the Government Architects Branch, p41

¹⁵ Bush Cherry or possibly Lilly Pilly (once included in the Eugenias)

¹⁶ SMH 14 October 1916

¹⁷ SMH 14 October 1916

¹⁸ The Newsletter, 27 October 1917

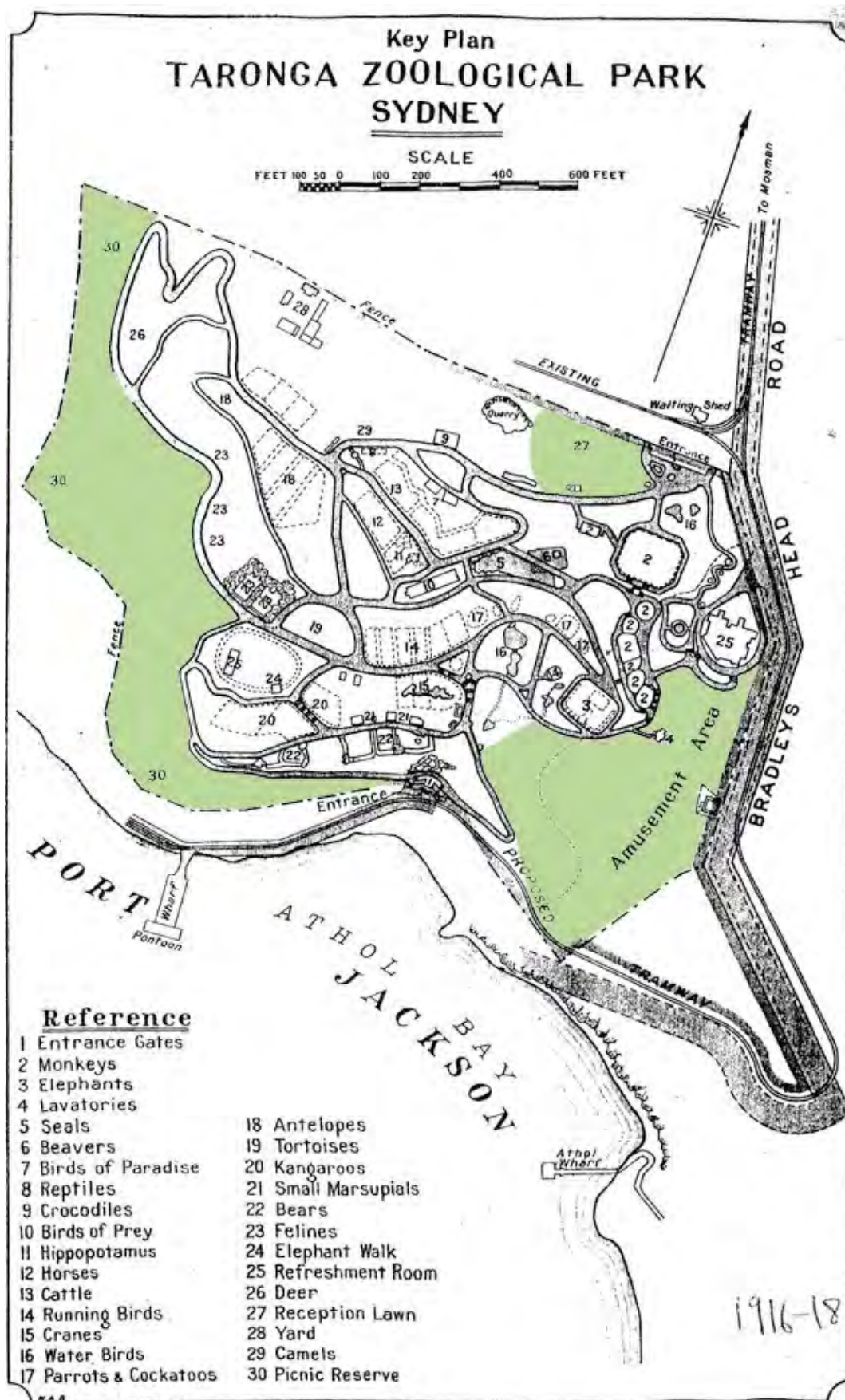


Figure 2.6 Key Plan, Taronga Zoological Park Sydney, 1916. The picnic areas have been shaded green.
Source: Landscape Management Plan



Figure 2.7 View of the recently completed main entrance to the new zoo at Taronga Park taken by Arthur Ernest Foster, Source: ML ON 30 Box 90 No 498

By November 1916 drawings for a new large refreshment rooms were being prepared in the Government Architect's branch, with tenders called soon after. Although shown on the 1916 plans, the large Refreshment Rooms were not completed until early 1917. In January 1917 it was announced:

The buildings at the new Zoo at Taronga Park are being steadily added to, and though the retrenchment policy in connection with State public works may the completion of the whole scheme to some extent, periodical visitors are finding additions at every fresh trip they make.

The biggest piece of work in hand at present is the refreshment pavilion situated on the knoll near, and in alignment with, Bradley's Head Road. This should be completed about Easter. An idea of its capacity can be gathered when one realises that its ground area will be at least three times as huge as that of the whole of the buildings at the main entrance in a small portion of which refreshments are at present served to Zoo visitors. The new pavilion stands in a portion of the park, which it is intended ultimately to define as an amusement area, and fenced off from the Zoo itself so that it can be thrown open to the public at nights.

An extensive scheme of surface drainage and pathway improvements is also being carried out at present at the new Zoo.¹⁹

The Refreshment Rooms were designed by the NSW Government Architect's Branch and the surviving drawings show a substantial Federation Arts & Crafts style building designed by Robert Charles Coulter, William Mitchell and George Blair in November 1916. The refreshment rooms contained a large tea room and a similarly sized dining room arranged around an internal courtyard with a rockery. In addition there were several counters for picnickers to obtain supplies including hot water.

A substantial part of the complex was taken up by large kitchens and cool rooms. The single room on the first floor was the manageress' office. An office for the chairman and an adjacent garage was included in the complex.

¹⁹ SMH 16 Jan 1917



Figure 2.8 The refreshment rooms with the westmost of the radiating staircases, undated. The balustrade on the left is to the path east of the fountain/shelter. Source: State Records

The original refreshment rooms were designed to hold 300 patrons however this was extended to 500. The complex also included a bakery which supplied the tea rooms and picnickers with freshly bake scones. The majority of timber refreshment rooms from this period do not survive, having been destroyed by fire. Photographs of the building show the original character of the rooms, which had banks of windows overlooking the park and the harbour. This was probably the largest refreshment rooms in the state. Below the refreshment rooms is an area shown on the initial published plan as being an amusement area, however this was picnic area on later maps.

Although the buildings appear in the photographs to be half timbered, they were in fact constructed of modern imported materials including 'hard wall plaster sheeting' internally and asbestos cement sheeting externally (between the timbers). The contemporary series of finger wharves likewise used sheeting rather than roughcast between the half timbering however this technique appears to have originated with the Government Architects Office and had been used at now demolished shelter shed on the Ferry Wharf at Circular Quay erected in 1900-1901.

The large refreshment rooms were substantially destroyed by fire in 1943 by which time the complex also included plant which supplied heat to a number of the exhibits. Some repairs were made and the Refreshment Rooms continued to operate until the 1960s and its complex roof form can be seen in the 1962 aerial photographs by Douglas Baglin, as can the layout of the terraced garden beds and seating. Only sections of the associated additions to the path layout, a small section of the characteristic 'rustic rock seats' and one of the radiating staircases survives. The site of the refreshment rooms is occupied by the Taronga Centre.

1917 Taronga Park Camp

During the 1917 strike a Voluntary Workers Camp was set up in the Zoo grounds. Sam Hood's photograph shows a large number of tents erected on the area labelled 'amusement area' on the 1916-18 plan. The government closed the Zoo for the duration of the camp, which housed volunteer workers for the waterfront and the gas works. The camp was set up in August and the Zoo reopened to visitors on the 27th of October.

By the end of August 1917

The Cricket Ground having proven too small to accommodate the growing-army of country volunteers, the authorities determined to establish an additional camp at Taronga Park, the new Zoo, and last week active preparations were commenced at this site. A wise selection was made in the matter of securing an official head of the establishment when Colonel Spain was detailed for the work, and from the outset it was seen that his wide experience of similar organ unit work in military spheres would be productive of the most satisfactory results. In the space of a few days he has formed an encampment on the soundest lines. Special tents, to accommodate eight men, have been pitched on the picnic reserve on the eastern side of the park overlooking the harbour, sanitary arrangements have been carefully carried out, and a thorough system of general supervision introduced. Already some six hundred men are located there, and it is anticipated that at the end of this week there will be nearly two thousand under canvas...

The trustees of the park have installed one of the most modern and extensive cooking plants in Australia to-day, and it has been used for the first time in connection with the country volunteers. All the culinary arrangements are under the supervision of the providore of one of the large International steamship companies, and the meals supplied are wholesome and abundant. There is not likely to be any grumbling on either the score of quantity, quality, or cleanliness. In such a healthy spot there is little likelihood of sickness among the men, but in the event of anything happening there are two five-year medical students from the University in attendant at a specially equipped dispensary who are capable of giving that is required in the way of medical attention.²⁰

A series of temporary facilities were erected including a long bath house and a concert hall and picture show erected by the voluntary workers. At its height some 2,500 men were camped in the grounds. Motor boats and steam launches took the workers to work sites around the harbour. Hot meals were provided by the refreshment rooms but such were the numbers that the men sat 'outside on the stone steps or stone walls and garden seats'.²¹ Colonel Spain was the Camp Commandant, presiding over the arrangements, obtaining additional tables and tableware from dismantled troopships. The voluntary workers were all issued identity disks so they could be admitted onto the boats and back into the camp.



Figure 2.9 View of the Waterbirds at Taronga Zoo, with the voluntary labour camp beyond, undated but Aug – October 1917. Source: ML Sam Hood

²⁰ Farmer & Settler, 28 August 1917

²¹ The Land, 21 September 1917

The Circular Fountain - 1917

The earliest image located of the recently completed refreshment rooms and the circular fountain is dated July 1917 as is in a series of Views of the Zoo in the Government Printers Collection. It shows the profile and details of the fountain with a pile of rocks at the centre. The fountain is surrounded by a path and lawns. No illustrations of the fountain in operation have been located. The base of the fountain is built of concrete. It is also referred to as a fishpond in some sources. In an article on his work, which appeared in the Construction & Local Government Journal in 1917, the architect Alfred Spain who supervised the layout and construction of Taronga Zoological Gardens, advocated the use of concrete as a building material. The choice of material may also have related to the lack of skilled tradesmen and inflated costs during the war. An undated but clearly early drawing held in the set at the Public Works Department for completion of the existing fountain shows an elaborate centrepiece in an existing surround but this could be either this fountain or another on the site. Its is more likely that due to the war, this proposal did not go ahead.



Figure 2.10 This photo from the GPO collection held in the Mitchell Library taken in July 1917 shows the completed fountain and paths with the Refreshment Rooms behind. Note the detail of the pier in the near face of the fountain and the pile of rocks at the centre of the fountain. Source: ML GPO 1 image d1_18521



Figure 2.11 This photo from the GPO collection in Mitchell library taken in May 1920 shows the completed fountain and paths with alterations underway to the entry of the Refreshment Rooms behind. Source: ML GPO 1 image d1_14095



Figure 2.12 View of the fountain in its original condition, surrounded by slightly later rustic stone and timber seating and gardens. Alterations have already been made to the Refreshment Rooms entrance. Source: ML GPO 1 image d1_19165

Advertisements for Taronga Zoo note that there were bands on Saturdays and Sundays however a bandstand was not part of the original layout. Entertainment had also been provided for the labour camp, in facilities erected for the volunteers. The use of the fountain was short-lived, a 1918 drawing by the Government Architect's Branch shows details of a new timber bandstand with a tiled roof to be built on the existing concrete fountain. It is clearly the fountain base of item 96B as it has the same profile.

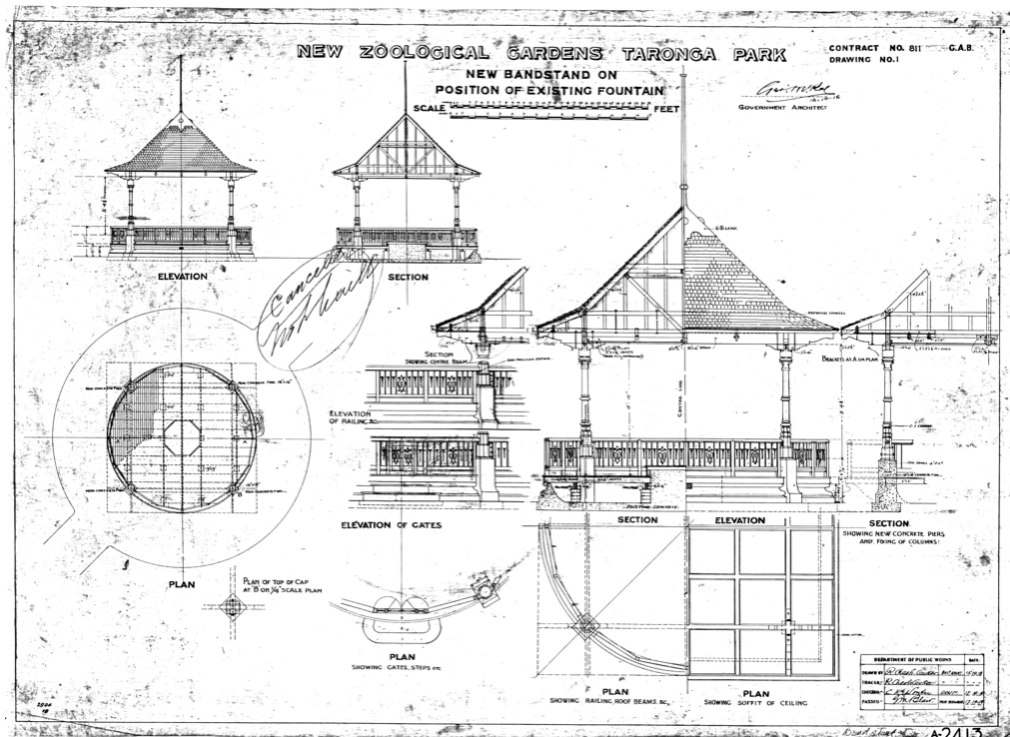


Figure 2.13 This Government Architects 1918 architectural drawing is titled “New Bandstand on Position of Existing Fountain”. The profile of the fountain base drawn matches the 96B fountain base, there is an octagonal concrete base at the centre and four blocks around the rim. This drawing confirms the fountain existed in 1918. The plan did not proceed – the drawing is annotated cancelled. Source: PWD Plan Room, now Plan Services

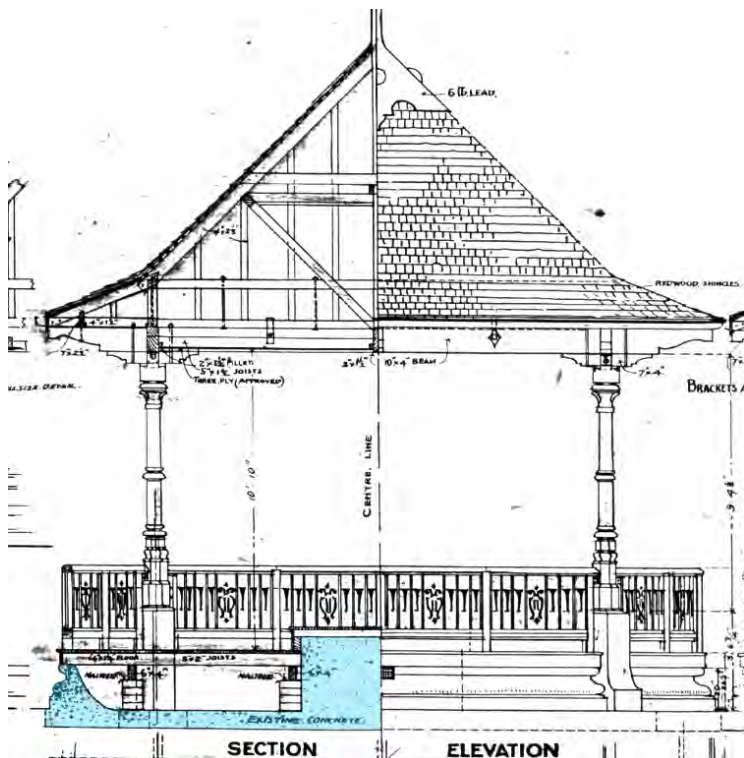


Figure 2.14 Extract showing the location of the existing concrete which has been highlighted in blue. Source: PWD Plan Room, now Plan Services

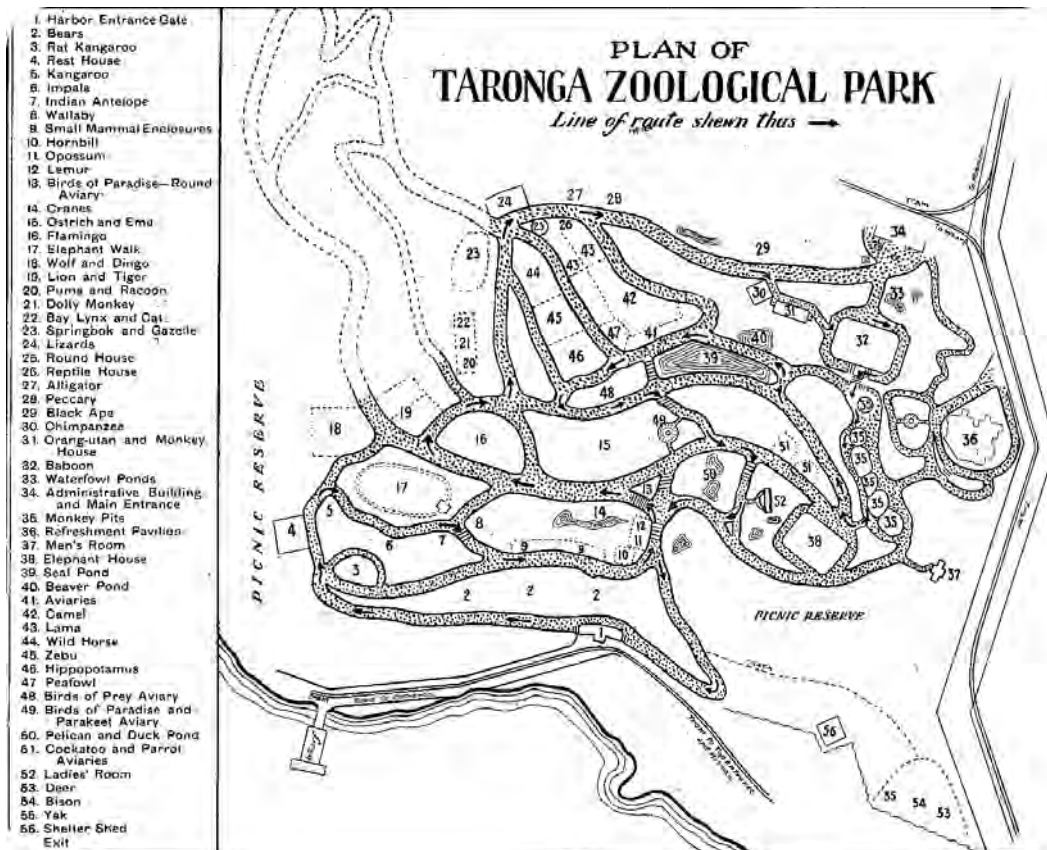


Figure 2.15 The 1920 map shows the fountain and surrounding paths and garden beds (left of No 36 Refreshment Rooms). Source: Taronga Zoo Archives

The refreshment rooms' construction necessitated the construction of new paths which connected into the existing path network. The configuration shown on the 1920 plan and in photographs taken in May 1920 was considerably altered in the 1920s when the rockery was built to the south of the refreshment rooms.

The Temporary Bandstand (by 1920)

The proposal to erect a bandstand on the fountain base did not proceed and a small and less elaborate temporary bandstand was built nearby. This temporary bandstand is evident in a 1920s photo of the fountain also showing people seated on the grass or on park benches. This photograph also shows that the entry to the Refreshment Rooms was being altered at this time.



Figure 2.16 This pair of photos from the GPO collection in Mitchell library taken in May 1920 shows the completed fountain and paths with the Refreshment Rooms behind. Note the alterations underway to the entry of the Refreshment Rooms and the visitors seated on moveable benches and on the grass. The square freestanding structure in the left photo is a temporary bandstand (arrowed) and there is a band in it in the photo. This bandstand is also shown on the later drawing, dated 1922, for the new larger Bandstand.

Source ML GPO1, d1_14084r and d1_14095r

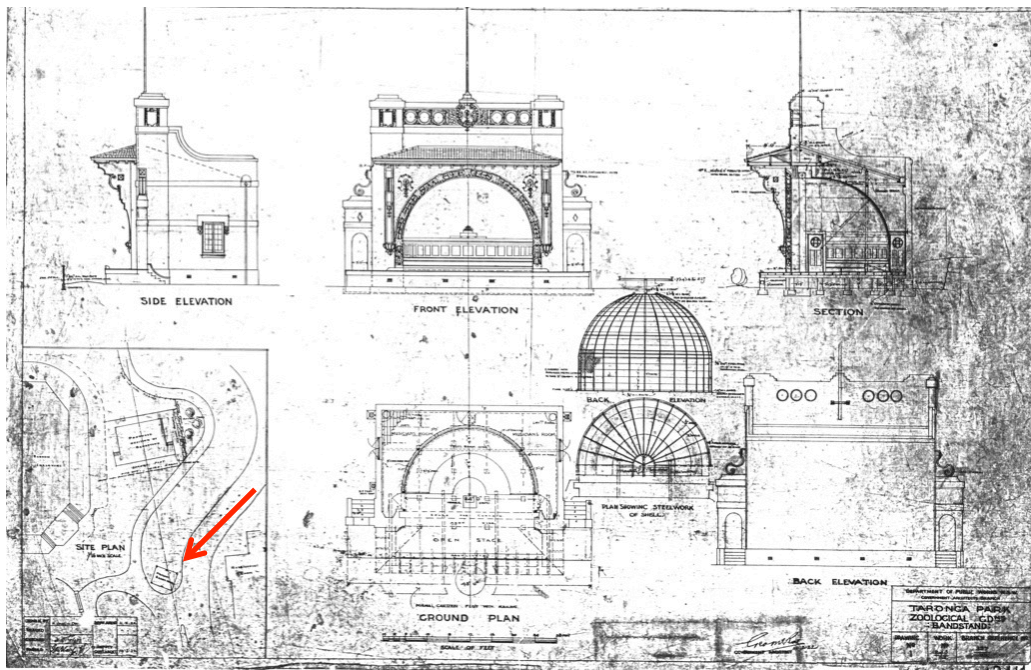


Figure 2.17 1922 drawing of the bandstand believed to have been built that year or soon after. The temporary bandstand is arrowed in the inset location plan. Source: Former PWD Plan room, now Plan Services

New Bandstand 1922

A detailed 1922 drawing of an elaborate new bandstand also shows the position of the temporary bandstand. The new bandstand opened on the 21st of October 1922.²² The new stand it was noted 'possesses fine qualities for performances of this kind'. The fountain and surrounding paths and lawns are indicated on the 1920s plan of the Zoo.

A fine new bandstand of fibre cement and costing 1500 pounds has been built at Taronga Park. It was designed and constructed by the Works Department under the supervision of Mr Flowers and Colonel Spain and will be tried out by the Leichhardt Champion Orchestra tomorrow afternoon.²³

The works were overseen by the President, Fred Flowers, and one of the trustees of the Taronga Zoological gardens, the architect Colonel Alfred Spain. Both men had been involved with the creation of the new zoological gardens at Taronga Park, having first been elected as Trustees in 1912.²⁴ In 1917 Colonel Spain was described as the managing trustee, the planning and construction of the Zoological Park was carried out under his supervision.²⁵ Around 1970 the bandstand was demolished to make way for the Platypus exhibit within the Australian section.

1920s Improvements

By the mid to late 1920s the lawns in front of the refreshment rooms and around the fountain had been turned into garden beds, including a rose garden, and the paths were lined with rustic stone and timber seating. In October 1929 it was announced that

The Zoological Gardens at Taronga Park have been greatly beautified during the winter months. A comprehensive gardening scheme has been undertaken, and other improvements have rendered it more attractive than ever. Visitors have long complained of the lack of grassy, resting spaces. This defect has been remedied, and it is quite possible that at an early date the chairman of the trustees (Colonel Spain) will ask the governing body to consider the provision of more shelters.²⁶

²² SMH 6 October 1922

²³ Evening News 19 October 1922

²⁴ SMH 14 October 1916

²⁵ Construction & Local Government Journal, 10 September 1917

²⁶ SMH 18 October 1929



BAND STAND AND ROSE GARDEN.

Figure 2.18 View of the new bandstand with the fountain in the foreground, probably in the mid 1920s. From a later guidebook. Source: Taronga Zoo archives

These improvements included paths flanked by the characteristic curved rustic seats employed throughout the Zoological gardens. Improvements were made to the Picnic Lawns south of the Refreshment Rooms, with the male toilets replaced by separate Men's and Women's toilets. Garden beds, picnic shelters and additional paths were added. Although part of the area had been hived off to build a residence for the Superintendent this section was still largely picnic lawn. Water, including hot water was available. Large numbers of these small shelters were built in the interwar years however none survive at the Zoo. A photograph of a masonry 'rest house' at Taronga Zoo survives in the GPO collection. The weatherboard men's lavatory demolished in the 1920s can be seen in the distance in the strike photographs.



Figure 2.19 Enlargement of one of the views taken during the 1917 strike showing the mens toilet in the picnic area at the top left. Source: Taronga Zoo archives

The new improvements can be seen on the 1929 plan of the Zoological Gardens, as can the Superintendents residence. A photograph of Colonel Spain inspecting one of the newly created 'sidewalks' as they were termed in the press, appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald in July 1929. Pipe rail canopies were erected to hold plants, which can be also be seen in a view that appeared in the 1934 Guidebook.

One of Sam Hood's photographs shows a long canopy in front of the refreshment rooms covered in shade cloth to protect the vines and people beneath. Underneath was a row of park benches and below the balustrade curved stone seats. Also visible is one of the pineapple finials to the stair newels.

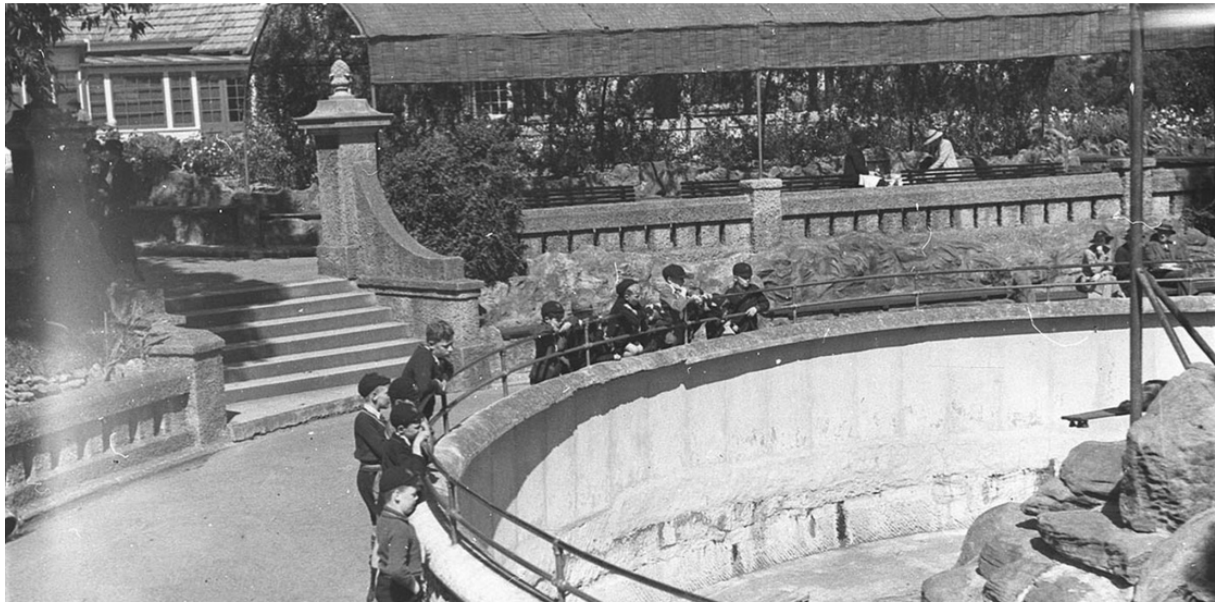


Figure 2.20 View of the shade canopy in front of the refreshment rooms. Note the change in level and balustrade between the paths. Source: Sam Hood photographs, ML Home & Away, 912

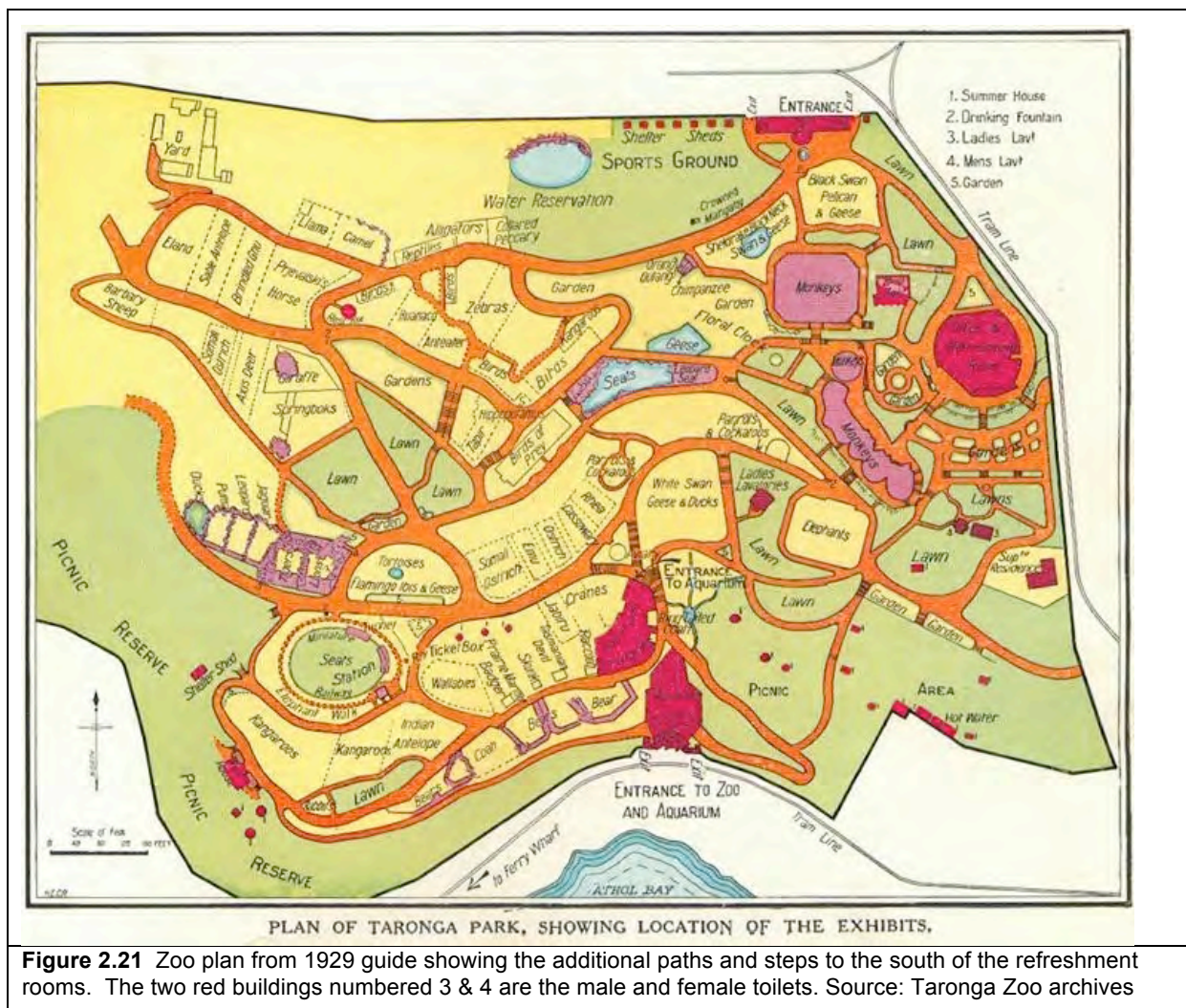
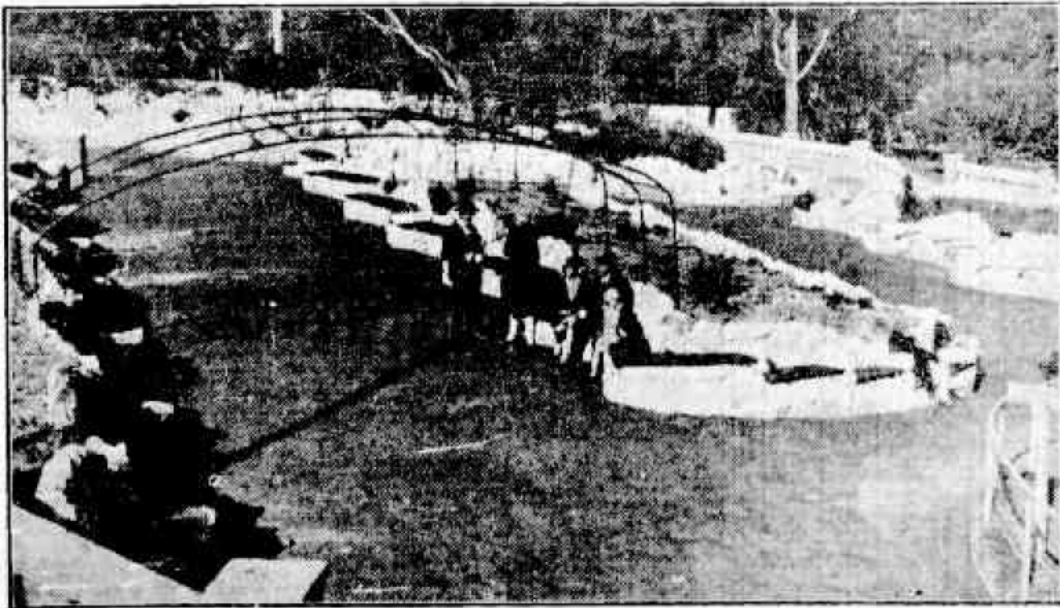


Figure 2.21 Zoo plan from 1929 guide showing the additional paths and steps to the south of the refreshment rooms. The two red buildings numbered 3 & 4 are the male and female toilets. Source: Taronga Zoo archives

A photograph of the 'rustic rock seats' appeared in the Evening News in April 1930. These 'rustic rock seats offer Taronga visitors the opportunity of enjoying this pretty new rockery at leisure'.²⁷

IMPROVEMENTS AT TARONGA PARK.



The chairman of the Trust (Colonel Spain) inspected the completed work yesterday. The picture shows an attractive sidewalk.

Figure 2.22 The Chairman of the Trust (Colonel Spain) inspected the completed work yesterday. The picture shows an attractive sidewalk. Note the pipe structure that would have been a trellis for vines. Source: SMH



ONE OF THE ROCKERY GARDENS BELOW THE REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

Figure 2.23 View taken from one of the guidebooks showing the rockery gardens below the Refreshment Rooms. The pipe rail canopies can also be seen at centre left and right. In the foreground is the top of one of the staircases to the lawns below. Source: Taronga Zoo Archives

²⁷ Evening News, 12 April 1930

Zoo Perimeter Wall 1929-34, 1946

The perimeter wall was not an original feature of the Zoo, in July 1929 it was reported that:

At the lower end there is a short stone wall and eventually the park will be enclosed by walls which for strength will vie even with the best of Governor Macquarie's monuments.²⁸

Sections of wall were built between 1932 and 1934 as unemployment relief works, as were walls to the Parkhill Reserve on North Head (sections also survive). A December 1932 newspaper article says:

Under a grant from the Unemployment Relief Council a further addition is to be made to the outer wall at the Taronga Park Zoo.²⁹

The stone source was adjacent to Neilsen's Lookout in Ashton Park, referred to in a newspaper article:

Removal of Stone for Walls.

In a letter to the Editor, a Mosman correspondent complains of the excavation and removal of sandstone from the part of the Ashton Park reserve facing the Zoological Gardens at Taronga Park, and in the vicinity of "Nielsen's Lookout," which, he says, provides one of the finest panoramic views of the harbour. He also deplores the damage being done to a beautiful recreation reserve, and asks why, if the use of stone is so necessary, the trustees do not utilise material taken from within Taronga Park itself.

Colonel Spain, chairman of trustees of Taronga Park and of Ashton Park, said yesterday, in reply, that the removal of stone from that portion of Ashton Park reserve adjoining the top entrance of Taronga Park served a dual purpose. Firstly, the trustees of Taronga Park had found that the number of visitors to the Zoo by motor car had so increased that it had been found necessary to extend the parking area. The Tramway Department had often complained of that congestion, and unless ample provision was made now, it was feared that further trouble would be experienced with increased numbers of vehicles after the opening of the harbour bridge.

Secondly, the stone and ballast removed had proved invaluable in the construction of walls and general development work in the gardens. There was no intention on the part of the trustees to interfere with Nielsen's Lookout or the approaches. The area of ground referred to, in the opinion of the trustees, was nothing more than a dumping site for spoil and other refuse...It was essential that the old timber fence enclosing the park should be replaced with stone, at present in progress, as some time ago dogs found an entrance through the fence and killed several valuable exhibits.³⁰

Niels Nielsen had become secretary for lands after the 1910 State election. He quickly resumed several Sydney Harbour foreshores, including the large areas that became Taronga Park Zoo and Nielsen Park and it is assumed the lookout was named after him. Work continued into 1933 newspapers reporting:

About 50 men are engaged in continuing the outer wall at the Taronga Park Zoo, their wages being paid from the Unemployment Relief Fund.³¹

Works to erect new animal enclosures were the subject of much criticism however there was not the same anger over the perimeter walling. The original extent of the perimeter walling can be seen on the 1934 plan, there were two main entrances with gates, upper and lower, and two gates in the eastern wall, one adjacent to the Refreshment Rooms and a second into the Picnic Area. In 1937 it was noted that

The erection of a stone wall encircling the whole zoo was accomplished after a number of years, and is one of the most important works carried out by the Trust.³²

The 1939 plan shows the location of gates in the perimeter walling. The perimeter wall was extended after World War II, as additional land to the southeast, below the picnic area, was added to the Zoological Park. In January 1946 it was reported that 'the Trust is at present having built a stone boundary wall several hundred yards long'.³³

²⁸ SMH 18 July 1929

²⁹ SMH 6 Dec 1932

³⁰ SMH 15 September 1930

³¹ SMH 10 Jan 1933

³² Port Macquarie News, 3 July 1937

³³ Queensland Times, 2 Jan 1946

The Circular Kiosk 1934

The Zoological Trust minutes record discussions about shelters in 1924 and in subsequent meetings. In 1929 they viewed plans and approved the construction of four shelters or summer houses at positions to be approved including one at the top entrance. The shape is not mentioned and no images from 1929 have been located. A number of shelters are shown on the picnic area on the 1929 plan.

During the 1930s the picnic lawns were advertised as being a good vantage point to watch the Anniversary day Regatta (Australia Day). Prior to World War II staff picnics were popular. In October 1934 the Hunter Water Board held its annual picnic at the Taronga Zoo. The patrons travelled to Sydney on a special train.

About 500 people came from Newcastle by special train and spent an interesting day among the animals, birds and fishes. The day was made a real picnic, as there was no official luncheon and no sports programme. The visitors had luncheon on the lawns and in the kiosks which are scattered about the grounds.³⁴

The picnic area was also used for larger performances than could be accommodated in the bandstand such as the Sydney Eisteddfod. A temporary band platform was erected for the Grenadier Band in 1934.



Figure 2.24 Circa 1930 aerial photo showing the fountain (arrowed) surrounded by seats and garden beds. The bandstand is to the left and the refreshment rooms above. Source, ML rephotographed at Govt Architects Office.

In 1933 the Trust minutes record that the Chairman was “giving shelter from the heat outside the Bandstand and proposed to cover in the fish pond outside the Refreshment rooms and convert such into a shelter, not only against the rain but against the sun”. The trust approved this and this is believed to be the shelter built over the fountain. This is confirmed by the 1934 Zoo map which shows a shelter in the location of the former fountain. The term kiosk originally meant a summer house, and it came into usage from descriptions of Constantinople (Istanbul) during the Georgian era. In Australia the term later came to mean a small structure which sold drinks and other refreshments, tickets, flowers or newspapers. The 1960 plan labels part of the Refreshment Rooms ‘kiosk’ and this is probably where the hot water for picnics could be obtained. The circular kiosk originally functioned as a shelter shed from 1934, when it was roofed, until the mid 1980s when walls were added between the columns. The structure is not labelled on the 1939, 1940s, 1956 or the 1960 plans.

No detailed drawings have been found but the structure as built is shown in various photos. It had a pitched circular roof and open sides with round columns. The roof appears white in photos and may have been white Malthoid which is shown as the roofing material for some other shelters. This differs from other shelters in the Zoo which had shingled or metal roofs and timber boarded sides. It had a low masonry wall on which the circular columns were supported and there was a timber seat on the inside of the wall.

³⁴ Newcastle Sun 29 October 1934