

9 October 1930.

Dr J. Davidson,  
The University of Adelaide,  
Waite Agric. Res. Inst.,  
Glen Osmond,  
S. Australia.

My dear Davidson,

Many thanks for your letter of August 26th., with greetings from your wife. I am glad to hear you are all well, and very much hope that the climate will suit Mrs Davidson and the children, as well as yourself.

With respect to Prof. Wood Jones' letter, I doubt if we ought to give the matter up without further enquiry. What I want to know is whether the Melbourne Zoo, which has presumably a very fine collection of marsupials, possesses or has ever possessed pouched mice. The opinion of the curator would then be of the first importance in judging whether and how they could be sent alive to England. I forget whether I mentioned it, but the London Zoo usually has a good supply of phalangers, and these breed readily with no special accommodation or trouble. It seems improbable from this that the smaller species should offer insuperable difficulties.

I gather from Prof. Wood Jones' letter that he has had no experience of these species in captivity, but this is a very different thing from knowing that they cannot be bred easily.

I should be very much obliged if you could get in touch with the Melbourne Zoo, or if there are others with other Australian institutions of the kind and see what difficulties are really known to exist.

I shall be immensely interested to hear what you think about the points discussed in my book, when you have had time to consider it.

Yours sincerely,