



Timeline	Summary
15 July 1839	Alexander Elder (1815 – 1885), aged 24, set sail from the Port of Kirkcaldy in the 89-ton schooner ‘Minerva’ to extend the families merchant and shipping business. His cargo included 60 barrels of tar, 9 casks of biscuits, agricultural tools and nails, seeds, clothing and linen, gin powder and 6,000 roofing slates. 1 hogshead of whisky, 1 hogshead of brandy and a puncheon of Jamaican rum.
2 January 1840	Arrived at Port Misery, South Australia and put up a sign “A.L Elders, General and commission agent” and started to sell the cargo.
1842/43	Set himself up as a metal broker and registered AE as his stock brand, and leases, in partnership with FH Dutton, twenty thousand acres of marginal country near Mount Remarkable, 225 km north of Adelaide.
1844 & 1849	Brother William (1813-1882), a sea captain joined him and Brother George (1816-1897) arrived 5 years later.
1851	Alexander, with his wife and children, left Adelaide for London where he acted as an agent for the company, until his death in 1885.
1854	Thomas Elder (1818-1897) reached Adelaide at 36 years of age and started work with brother George.
1855	William departed at a similar time to Alexander. George departed in 1855, with both brothers retiring back to Scotland.
	Their sister Joanna married Robert Barr Smith and became known as Adelaide’s most renowned hostess.
	Thomas Elders formed a partnership with Edward Stirling, Robert Barr Smith and John Taylor: Elder, Stirling & Co which did very well from its investments in Copper in South Australia.
31 Jan 1863	Stirling and Taylor retired and the two remaining partners Thomas Elder and Robert Barr Smith set up Elders, Smith & Co, and leased pastoral land across South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia with Peter Waite.
	The company spent 214,000 pounds over 30 years on water and fencing through their properties which constituted a land mass much larger than their native Scotland.
1865	Imported from Pakistan 124 camels and 31 jemidars to look after them. 100 were used in building the overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Darwin in 1872.
1872	Thomas was an enthusiastic and practical supporter of exploration and financed many expeditions, as well as lent camels and drivers to genuine expeditions of discovery. Much land was opened up as a result.
Early 1880’s	Elders, Smith & Co were shearing at least 1.5million sheep across their properties, yielding conservatively 30,000 bales.
1882	Established Elders Wool & Produce Company Limited to acquire the auction portion of the wool and produce business. After a seperate existance for 6 years the subsidiary company was merged into the parent concern in 1888.
Approx 1887	Floated Elder Smith & Co, Thomas Elders and Robert Barr Smith (Managing Director) each held 15%, Peter Waite (Chairman) ad 4% and A.G. Downer had 9.6%.
	Thomas Elder didn’t sit on the board of the public company as he was 70 years old and preferred to focus on other pursuits.
1882	Robert Barr Smith resigning the managing directorship, however remained on the Board for a considerable time, and was succeeded by Walter Reynell.
1889-92	The public company returned 8% to shareholders every year over this period
1893	A bad year with the company essentially broke and lucky to survive.
1894	Returned 5% and then 6% steadily for the rest of the century



1897	Thomas Elder passed away at age 80. His philanthropy is highly regarded. He had given Adelaide University alone over 100,000 pounds.
1898	The importance of the Australian Wool industry appreciated enormously and the company shared in the expansion.
1903	The Company joined with Sir George Shenton and other friends in WA to form the firm of Elders, Shenton and Co Limited. The company was later in 1918 absorbed into the parent company.
1905 - 1912	Paid dividends of 10%
1910	Founded in 1910, Elder's Trustee and Executor Co Ltd, whose success was parallel to the parent organisation. With the financial acumen of Barr Smith, a major shareholder, a valuable asset.
1913	Establishment of a staff provident fund through the generosity of Peter Waite and Robert Barr Smith, who each gave 10,000 pounds. In the same year, a meeting of shareholders decided unanimously to set aside 30,000 of the undivided profits.
1914	The company suffered a severe loss through the retirement of A.G Downer who had been a member of the board since 1893.
1915	Robert Barr Smith passed away, with Peter Waite following in 1922, only a year after resigning as chairman.
1915	The company lent the services of its manager Walter Young to the Commonwealth to assist through the difficult war years. The company emerged from the war years in a strong position in part due to the high prices obtained for wool and livestock and the expansion of the metal trade.
	Son in Law Tom Elders Barr Smith became chairman following Peter Waite, with dividends for the next ten years at 12.5% per year.
	The company operated branches and wool stores in all major rural areas
1931	The ten previous good years was then followed by 10 lean years, with the great depression of the early thirties.
1929	Sir Walter Young (1872-1940) was named Managing Director. Born in the bush, he joined the company at age 15, was General Manager at 37 and Managing Director at 57 and the ability for the Company to weather the lean years better than most companies were credited to him.
1930	The combined effects of drought and a fall in overseas wool prices reduced the dividend to 5%, and decreased to 4% which it stood at for 3 years.
1939	At the start of WW2, and the first century of the business, the company had offices in Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Geelong and London. 38 country branches in SA, 25 in WA, 2 in NSW. Agent for 12 ships, 6 airlines establishing Elders Travel, 80 manufacturers, most of whom made products for the company's pastoralist clients and banking.
1940's	During WW2, the wool auction was cancelled and the British Government acquired the entire Australian wool clip.
1946	Auction system resumed with improved prices for clients.
1950/51	Graziers rejoiced at receiving 'a pound / a pound for wool'
1951/52	Henry Norman Giles arrived in Adelaide from Elders WA, a self-made millionaire from share market speculation he began whilst still at school, and two years later was Managing Director.
	Giles called in Norman Young, 6 years his junior, to bring formal financial skills.
1956/57	Elders Smith had 15.4% of the national clip after a strong period of acquiring wool businesses.
1962	Norman Giles opened talks with Goldsbrough Mort's general manager Geoffrey



	Wyatt Docker.
1964	The Chairman of Elders, Sir Philip McBride headed up “Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort Limited” with a new corporate head office in Adelaide.
1964-69	The new company paid a dividend 10% in 1964/66, 11% in 1967/68 and 12% in 1969 with Elder GM now handling 28.06% of the clip.
1967	Norman Giles becomes Chairman in 1967 and chose his successor as chief executive as Charles Schmidt.
1970	Elders Finance & Investment co was launched as a merchant bank
1971	Elders metals limited launched
1981/82	Elders IXL begins with John Elliot and the team from Henry Jones .
	Expansion gave Elders Pastoral nearly 500 branches throughout rural Australia with a staff of more than four thousand.
	Elders launched a successful takeover bid for Carlton and United Breweries
1983	Elders structured into 5 operational groups: Pastoral, International, Finance, Materials and Food.
	Makes a bid for BHP in competition with Robert Holmes a Court
1987	The worldwide share market crash reduced Elders share price from \$6.12 to \$2.70 and nine months later still traded at \$3.20
1989	With the global economy in recession, Henry Jones IXL sold to The JM Smucker Co
	Elders Pastoral becomes a division of the new Fosters head business rather than the owner
	Elders Pastoral renamed Elders Limited as the business is prepared for sale out of the Fosters group
1993	Oversubscribed float, Elders returns to basics, acquires AACo
1995	Futuris Corporation a major shareholder becomes the new owner
1996	Acquires Charlton feedlot in Victoria
1997	AWH joint venture
1998	Acquires Primace Holdings in QLD, a share in Killara Feedlot in NSW, Elders VP in VIC
2000	Rural Bank launched in partnership with Bendigo Bank
2003	Profit to shareholders of \$102m, 2 nd highest figure ever
2004	Websters in Tasmania purchased
2005	Futuris Corporation celebrated 50 th anniversary of its incorporation
2006	Underlying profit to shareholders of \$88.3m
2008	Resignation of Les Wozniczka as Chief Executive after 5 years as CEO.
2009	Futuris becomes Elders and the 30 th September becomes the new date for financial reporting.
2010	Sale of Rural Bank occurs and John Ballard replaces Stephen Gerlach as Chairman
2012	Elders announces a sale process for the Rural Services business
2013	Elders returns to a pure play agribusiness with the sale of Forestry and Automotive business units
2014	Celebrates 175 year anniversary

Information obtained from:

- “Elder, Smith & Co Limited – the first 100 years”
- “The Elders Explosion” by Tim Hewat 1988
- Elders Wikipedia report, January 2014
- Australian Dictionary of Biography “Alexander Lang Elder” by Fayette Gosse 1972