

THE 2010 ANNUAL PICNIC

A most successful day was had at the Gorge Wildlife Park on Sunday, November 21st. The weather was perfect with just over forty members, plus children in attendance. Due to unforeseen problems at the Adelaide Zoo, Tim Nielsen had to tender his apologies for the day. Also, with our President being asked to join the UBSSA Biosecurity Subcommittee and with Dennis Lomman representing the Budgie Council Societies, they were also apologies.

Greg Johnston manfully took over the role of sole Tour Guide, with the first half of the tour taking place before lunch and the balance of the tour in the afternoon. Greg did an exceptionally fine job and I received many comments from members on what a very informative and comprehensive tour he gave.

We were also fortunate that there were many baby birds, not usually seen in our aviaries, available to view on the day.

Following the tour, Steve McKechnie invited members to a demonstration of hand-feeding of young parrots, followed by a visit to the nearly completed reptile room. The Gorge is hoping to have this display room open to the public in the near future.

I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the day. Our Tour Guide, Greg Johnston; in the cooking department, Steve McLean and Phil Rodgers. An excellent job from you both and look out Master Chefs. Margaret May and Kath Hoffman who helped Jeanette out with the salads and cakes, you most probably increased the weight problems among members. A job well done by all those who helped make the day so enjoyable.

I had the pleasure, on behalf of the Society, of presenting Steve McKechnie with a cheque for \$500.00 as a donation to assist the goals of the park. The Gorge Wildlife Park has grown over the last forty-four years in leaps and bounds to become what it is today, a first class zoo and extremely child friendly. All that has been achieved has been solely accomplished by the McKechnie family. No Government hands-outs, just plain hard work and planning. Steve is the third generation running the zoo; and he and his mother, Yvonne, can be justly proud of how the park has developed and the quality of the exhibits.

Tony Melbourne
Secretary