

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Autumn 2007 issue of the Journal *Bird Keeping in Australia*, which will be my last as Editor.

We were recently saddened by the sudden loss of one of our Life Members, Chris Welford, a past President, Vice-President, Secretary and Editor of the Society. Mark Shephard has kindly provided a moving tribute to Chris that details his enormous involvement in and contribution to the Society.



In this issue we feature birds from the Tropical Savannah country of North-eastern Queensland. Articles on these species have been sourced from a variety of internet sites. One of these birds is the Gouldian Finch, a nationally endangered bird that has declined in the wild across its northern Australian range for the past 50 years, due to the complex interaction of habitat loss, changing burning regimes and overgrazing by cattle, plus introduced disease. (The pictures on this page show Gouldian Finch Breeding and Release Aviaries outside of Mareeba).

Conservation Corner this month looks at a program to captive breed and release the Gouldian Finch into the Mareeba Tropical Savannah and Wetland Reserve, an area where Gouldian Finches were found until 35 years ago.

There is an article on the Causes and Correction of “Splayed Leg” in baby birds. Early treatment appears to be the key to success. Finally, we print the Audited Accounts for 2006.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that have taken the time to write and submit articles for the journal over the years that I have been Editor. I would especially like to thank Tim Keynes for the considerable amount of time and effort he has spent type-setting, proof-reading and generally preparing the journal for publication. Finally, I wish the new Editor, Richard Chilton, all the best for the future and trust that you will support him with lots of articles.

Josie Pyle (Editor)