

# THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2008

The Society has had a good year and for a change has retained the same committee for the entire year. We have also maintained the same Office-bearers and Stewards throughout the year, and this makes for a smoother running of the Society. All have done excellent jobs and have served the Society well. The committee comprised the following, President: Chris Oerman, Vice Presidents: Ken Bell and Graham DeBrenne, Secretary: Tony Melbourne, Treasurer: Tony Melbourne, Assistant Secretary and Editor: Richard Chilton, Committee Members: Dennis Lomman, Mathew Russell and Stephen Voight. Kevin Turner again carried out the duties of Wants and Exchange Steward and Jack Hannant continued as the Book Steward. Both gentlemen did an excellent job and always go out of their way to assist members.

We had a new Raffle Steward, Indy Chapman, this young lady has done a very good job on the raffle table. The Society is lucky to have young people prepared to fill these positions and it shows the importance of maintaining the Junior Programme. These are the people who will, hopefully, be running the Society in years to come.

The Society ventured into some new areas this year and one was the in-house production of the Society Magazine, which resumed publication on the traditional monthly basis. Richard Chilton, Dennis Lomman and I undertook the investigation into purchasing a suitable printer for the job. Our greatest problem was sifting through what we were told a printer could do and what it actually would do. Finally a decision was made by the committee and we went into production in May 2008. Richard Chilton must be congratulated on his Editorial skills which have resulted in a Magazine the Society can well be proud of, both in content and presentation.

The Committee also endorsed the purchase of bulk seed which has proved very popular with members and has reduced the cost of seed. Brian Allen, Brian Preece, Matt Russell and our President have been helpers on Seed Sale days, efficiently packing members' orders. I would like to thank these gentlemen for their assistance and help in this regard. Of course we will accept any other offers of help.

The Bird Sale came and went, and was our most successful so far. More people were in attendance and we had the highest number of birds at any sale. My thanks go to the following members who helped on the day and made the Sale such a success. Richard Wilson, Brian Noble, Gordon Campbell, Peter Brook, Jeanette Melbourne, Dianne Cailles, Alecia Cailles and her brothers Mathew and James, Ellen and Clive Parsons, Steve Voight, Matt Russell, Ken Bell, Dennis Lomman, Margaret May, Tracy Smith, Jessica Voight, Indy Chapman, Richard Chilton and Chris Oermen, Master of Ceremonies. I hope I have not missed any one, but my apologies if this has occurred.

Due to the efforts of the above members the Society made a profit on the day and some 12 new members were signed up. The Bird Sale now appears to be a permanent event on the S.A. bird calendar and can be further developed to increase public relations for both the Society and the bird world in general.

General Meeting attendances were good for the year and it is pleasing to see so many new members attending meetings. Again we had a variety of speakers for the year. The speakers for 2008 were as follow:

January	Frank Paparella: sexing birds using a feather technique
February	Steve McKechnie: an update on the Gorge Wildlife Park
March	Dr. Greg Johnston: the breeding and life-style habits of the Pelican
April	James Smith: making your backyard more environmentally friendly
May	Keith Hocking: caring and breeding the Blue Bonnet
June	Tim Nielsen: The Rosella species
July	Quiz Night: arranged by Matt Russell
August	Launch of the Endangered Finch Recovery Project: Matt Russell and Tim Nielsen Terry Wraight: aviary construction

- September Chabi Hosm: eradicating flies, mosquitoes, rats and mice from your backyard
- October Tim Nielsen: breeding and feeding methods at the Adelaide Zoo
- November Jeremy Caldecourt: a comparison of bird keeping in the U.K. and Australia
- December Michael Huxley: DVD presentation of Australian birds.

Membership has grown again this year, nothing spectacular, but it is increasing each year. Our trip to the Zoo and the Society Picnic at the Gorge Wildlife Park were well attended, again by new members and their families. Our Branches are also performing well, and I had the pleasure of attending the South-East Branch's 30th Anniversary Celebration. This was a great success, very well organized and attended. The Branch can be well proud of their efforts.

It was the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and I wonder if our celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary should not be a more formal affair. It is a great achievement to have an organisation continue to flourish over such a long time and perhaps a dinner would be more fitting. I will leave that to others to think about.

One disappointment for the year, or as far as I am concerned, is the lack of support for the Endangered Finch Recovery Project. I personally think we should re-visit this area, as there is no doubt that we are losing finch species from our aviaries, both Foreign and Australian and we may never be able to replaces some of these species. If we make the effort the rewards will be very worth it.

Due to the efforts of the Committee over the last few years the Society is providing seed, nesting materials, soft foods vet and chemical supplies at very competitive prices for members. Our policy is to only stock items we can offer at less than retail prices, thus reducing the cost of bird-keeping. This policy will continue in 2009.

One item that will be resolved in 2009 will be the record keeping involving Exotic Birds. This will take place in either February or March, and I am sure not every one will be happy. Personally, I believe the 'BLACK HOLE birds will still be a problem, and I have made this point with the Department. The bird world must, in my opinion, attack the problem from the other end. Bird-keepers let the Government take the high ground so we are always on the back foot. This is why I made a submission to The United Bird Societies of South Australia to look at using a Lobbyist to deal with the Minister and bypassing the Department. There has been support for the idea, and we will see how this can be developed in 2009.

Next year I am more than hopeful the Society can continue to progress, further increase membership and provide more facilities for the membership. I look forward to your support in 2009.



SECRETARY

**2009 COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

The following nominations were received by the due date:

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|-----------------|---|
| President       | Richard Chilton   |
| Vice Presidents | Graham DeBrenne and Kym Sandercock  |
| Secretary       | Tony Melbourne (2nd preference)   |
| Treasurer       | Tony Melbourne (1st preference)   |
| Asst. Secretary | Nil   |
| Committee       | Dennis Lomman, Mathew Russell,<br>Tim Nielsen, Alan Chapman, Arthur Casey,<br>Joe Migliaccio. |