

REBIRTH OF THE JUNIOR PROGRAMME

Sunday the 18th of December 2011 saw the renewal of Junior Activities with a visit to two aviaries. Despite the light rain some seven juniors, plus fathers, Jeanette and my self braved the weather to visit David Barrington's property at Bridgewater, then on to Mt. Barker to Kevin Williams' abode.

What a lovely setting David's property is with splendid trees and shrubs protecting very well constructed aviaries. David had a very nice collection of water birds most of whom had bred this year. This enabled the juniors to see both adult and younger birds which normally are not always on view. David explained the methods he used in breeding these birds, their food requirements and housing. David also had a nice collection of parrots comprising Asiatics and some very nice Kakarikis.

Some of the adults picked up pointers from David on aviary building and how to tighten wire on cages. I think every one learned quite a bit on the visit.

After lunch at David's it was on to Mt. Barker to see Kevin's aviaries which are entirely set up for Neophemas. Kevin explained how he cared for his birds, a mixture of normals and mutations. He has a simple but effective record keeping method which ensures normals, splits and mutations never become mixed.

Kevin also explained how some of the mutations were achieved and how he was improving some of his lines. After inspecting the birds we adjourned inside for afternoon tea, during which Kevin ran some of his CDs of photos he has taken at the Laratinga Lakes. Kevin is also a keen ornithologist and over the past twenty years has recorded all the birds that either inhabit the lakes, or pass through on migration.

Kevin has kindly volunteered to give a guided tour of the lakes and to assist juniors with their photography.

We had a most enjoyable day and are indeed indebted to both David and Kevin for making their aviaries available for viewing. Both men are very experienced aviculturists and gave very freely of their knowledge and aviary experiences to the members present. We sincerely thank you both.

Tony Melbourne
Junior Co-coordinator