

# **THE UBSSA SEMINAR**

**By Ian McArthur**

After several years of being held at Nuriootpa and being hosted by the Barossa Bird Club, the UBBSA Seminar was held at the Enfield Community Centre on Regency Road at Enfield. This was like a home coming for me since the building in which it was held was formerly the Nailsworth Boys Technical High School which I attended as a student during the late 50's.

The organising committee had obviously put in a lot of work and had been able to obtain a number of sponsors which managed to keep the cost down to a quite manageable \$20 per delegate which included morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Cost was also kept to a minimum by having members of the UBSSA and their partners cater for the day. My congratulations to these unsung heroes for looking after the 'inner man' so well.

A series of visits to the aviaries of five members of the Adelaide Bird Club were arranged for the Saturday before the seminar. These were all in the north or north-eastern suburbs and the 30 or so people who attended would, I believe, have been well satisfied with the impressive collections we saw. Being a finch keeper, the aviaries of Kym and Kylie at Hope Valley and those of John and Vicki at Highbury held most interest for me. However, that did not prevent me from admiring the parrot and cockatoo collections of the other three birdkeepers. I would like to add my thanks to those who opened up their aviaries for the visitors and would congratulate all of them in the way in which their birds were presented.

An informal dinner was held at the Northern Tavern on the Saturday night of the seminar weekend, but I am not able to comment on this part of the weekend since I was unable to attend.

The actual seminar on Sunday commenced at 9.00am and five excellent speakers had been organised to share their experiences with us. Trevor Harrowfield of Murray Bridge was the first speaker and told us about his experiences in the keeping and breeding of finches. Peter Rankine from Victoria followed on the topic of Eastern Rosellas and their Mutations. Colin Rich added more variety to the list of speakers and told of the efforts of his company to develop a suitable diet for softbills so that they retain their colour in captivity. After the lunch break another Victorian visitor, Phil Smith, entertained us all with his description of his breeding of lorries and

lorikeets. The final speaker of the day was John Burn who shared his experiences on how he provides live food for his finches.

While I have tried to provide a summary of what each of these speakers said, and which the editors of the Journal/Newsletter may choose to print in this or later editions, you really needed to be at the seminar to get the full value from the speakers. Each speaker illustrated his talk with slides or other visuals. This, together with the opportunity to question each guest after each talk and at the panel session which concluded the seminar, provided good value for those in the audience. As if this was not enough, there was further opportunity to raise personal queries with each speaker as all were in attendance all day.

A raffle was held in conjunction with the seminar with prizes being provided by many of the sponsors with many others being made by Robert Smith of Laura. The raffle was well supported and raised several hundred dollars for the UBSSA. In addition, a trade table was provided by members of the Barossa Bird Club.

All in all a very worth while weekend, and I look forward to attending again next year.