

OUR BRANCHES

With the thirtieth anniversary of the formation of the Society's first branch, the South-East, coming up in September (see page 99) it seems opportune to provide some background on why the branch system was initiated.

When a request from a member at Kongorong in the south-east wrote to the society in mid 1978 requesting a regional branch of the Society be formed in the area, the committee of the day saw the formation of branches as an ideal way for country members of the Society, too far from the city to be able to attend General Meetings, to be able to get together to mutually enjoy their avicultural pursuits.

Consequently, some guidelines were established, advertisements run in the local South-East paper, "The Border Watch", and a meeting date and venue arranged. The then President, Richard Chilton, travelled to the south-east and inaugurated the Branch on the 24th of September, 1978. There was an excellent turn-out on the day, and, after some discussion, it was soon agreed to form a branch. Office-bearers were elected and our first Branch was up and running.

Further branches were formed, and after some ups and downs, we now have three viable branches, namely South-East, Mid-North and Yorke Peninsula.

The branches were formed, not as clubs in their own right, but as a means for country members of The Avicultural Society of South Australia Inc. to get together to share experiences and enjoy avicultural fellowship in their own regions, while remaining an integral part of the Society as a whole. No matter if we reside in the city, mid-north, far west coast, south-east, Yorke or Eyre Peninsula, the Riverland, interstate or overseas, we are all members of the one organisation, united in a common cause, our love of birds and their care and breeding.

We congratulate the South-east Branch on its 30th Anniversary, and look forward to the other two branches reaching this milestone in the near future.

There is a photo of the inaugural meeting of the South-East Branch on page 5 of Volume 51, No. 1, Summer 2008, of *BIRD KEEPING IN AUSTRALIA*.

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