

THE AVICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2009

The 2009 Management Committee comprised the following members: President—Richard Chilton, Vice Presidents—Graham DeBrenne and Kym Sandercock, Secretary/Treasurer—Tony Melbourne, Assistant Secretary—Diana Cailles, who filled a casual vacancy. Committee Members were: Arthur Casey, Alan Chapman, Dennis Lomman, Joe Migliaccio, Ian Mudock, Tim Nielsen, Harry Cailles and Mathew Russell. Richard Chilton continued as Editor, Kevin Turner looked after Wants and Exchanges, Steve Voight, Leg Rings, but resigned during the year and Harry Cailles took over as the Leg Ring Steward. Jack Hannant continued as our Book Steward and Matt Russell looked after the Library. Dennis Lomman continued to look after the soft food, vet products and all manner of other bird products. Dennis has set up a stock sheet programme that any company would be proud to have, this certainly makes the Treasurer's job a lot easier.

Duties on the Raffle Table were shared over the course of the year by Indy Chapman, Brian Allen and Peter Bryant. Jeanette Melbourne looked after the needs of members at the close of meetings with supper and looked after the catering for the Society Picnic and the Christmas meal in December. After looking after the membership records and magazine mailing for the last couple of years Gordon Campbell and his wife relinquished the job. It is a lot of work looking after the membership and I would thank Gordon and his wife for all the effort they put in. Di Cailles then took over the mailing duties along with the membership records.

The Society again spent money on capital items. A sound system was purchased and after some teething problems proved to be an improvement on the old system. A projector was also purchased, so we are now self sufficient for power point talks and DVD screenings. With the new printer for the magazine production, plus our own computer, capital expenditure should be well down in 2010.

The production of the magazine had some problems initially, as Cannon had used incorrect settings on the printer and after a great deal of negotiation the problem was rectified. You will notice that publication costs are up this year, but this was due to 2008 costs not being paid until 2009 once the problems had been sorted out. This will be covered in the Financial Report.

Again we had an excellent magazine thanks to the efforts of Richard and it ranks up there with the best productions of bird club magazines. However, our Editor is always on the look out for members contributions, which are not that forthcoming.

On the down side we lost our Co-Patron, Barry Hutchins OAM who passed away during the year after a long illness. There was also the shock death of long time member, past Secretary, Editor and Committee person, Josie Pyle. Both will be sadly missed and will not only be a loss to the Society, but also the bird world in general.

We again ran a successful Bird Sale due to the help of many members who devoted their time and effort on the day. Richard Wilson and Brian Noble are becoming very expert at assembling exchange cages. Harry Cailles obtained a very efficient barbecue and along with his sons Mathew and James, did all the cooking. Also assisting in the catering area were Di Cailles and daughter Alecia, plus Ellen Parsons and Jeanette Melbourne. The added help in this area allowed Jeanette to spend more time looking after the raffle. Ticket sellers were Indy Chapman, Jessica Voight, Chris Oerman and Jeanette Melbourne. Gordon Campbell, Peter Brook, Clive Parsons, Matt Russell, Brian Preece, Greg Edwards, Brian Allen, Arthur Casey and Richard Chilton carried out many and varied duties and the efforts of all these people made it a successful day. Every one seems to enjoy the day but we are always looking for extra helpers.

Seed Sales continued and continued to grow with more members availing themselves of the savings. We now have country members who are not serviced by Branches also among our purchasers. Members in outer suburban and near country areas should consider taking it in turns of picking up seed as it will also reduce petrol costs. There are approximately 50 plus members who use the service through out the year. I am most

grateful to the following members who come along to load seed on the Saturday mornings: Brian Allen, Brian Preece, Matt Russell and Allen Bowman. The days of me picking up bags of seed are long gone and I will stick with the foreman's job. John Wallis, of Magill Grain Store, is very obliging with the assistance he gives on the day and the Society has an excellent working relationship with him.

General Meetings were again well attended as a result of the number of new members attending. It is also nice to see more ladies attending meetings. The Speakers for the year were as follow:

January: Steve McKechnie—Hand-feeding baby birds
February: Tim Nielsen—Aviary building and bird housing
March: Greg Johnston--Conservation and the Natural History of Reproduction of Birds and Animals
April: Graham Crowhurst--Power point presentation of his trip to Africa
May: Arthur Orford—Gouldian Finches and their care
June: Vaughan Wilson—Pheasants and Waterfowl
July: Jason Van Weeden—Eyre Peninsular Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
August: Barry Schultz—The Hooded and Golden Shouldered Parrots
September: Tim Nielsen & Matt Russell- Saving our Endangered Captive Species
October: Dr. Bayu Wirayudha from Indonesia—The Bali Starling
November: Steven Parkinson—The Love Bird Species
December: David Barrington—Aviculture & his years with the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Our picnic suffered this year from the weather and also the change in route for the Touring Car Clubs Rally. Never-the-less those who attended had an enjoyable day and there was certainly plenty to eat.

With the assistance of Greg Johnston the Society's Junior Programme is off and running again. We had a most enjoyable visit to the Ornithological Department of the Adelaide Museum. This area is off limits to the general public, but thanks to Curator, Phillipa Horton access was arranged for our group. The day proved very popular and Greg did his usual good job of guiding the tour.

We at last got the Sustainable Aviculture Network endangered species programme up and running due to the hard work put in by Tim Nielsen and Matt Russell. I know they would like to see more members participating in the project as it is of such importance. (In the latest edition of the magazine of the Avicultural Society of Australia there is an article which strikes right at the heart of the matter. I will see if can get Richard to reproduce in our magazine, as I believe it will demonstrate to members what the project is all about.)

The Society paid an official visit to the South-East Branch and brought them up to date with what is happening in the Society. It also gave them a chance to bring forward any problems or queries they had. The Branch looked after us very well. Dennis Lomman, Matt Russell and I had a most enjoyable day. Kym Sandercock, also a member of the Branch filled a dual role on the day. We also paid a visit to The Mid-North Branch to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. There were quite a number of city members present. Again it was a very well run event, with aviary visits and a very good dinner meeting. Greg Johnston was the Guest Speaker and did not let us down, once again giving fine address. The Management Committee will continue Branch visits in 2010 and with the first experience behind us I am sure we will strengthen bonds even more with our country members.

Well, 2010 is now off and running and I hope that the Society will continue to forge ahead as it has done over the past few years. Always remember, the Management Committee do not own the Society, we are there only as administrators. It is your Society and we are only too pleased to have input from members. If there are products you would like us to stock, let us know. If there are activities you would like the Committee to run, please tell us. Our fathers' were not Gypsy's, so we don't have crystal balls. With more member/committee interaction I am sure we can achieve more and make the Society a better and stronger organisation.


Secretary