



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matt Russell

The other weekend Tony, Dennis and I paid a visit to the South-East Branch of the society. They sure lived up to their reputation of having a high standard of birds, and given the weather we experienced down there they would have to be good quality. It was pleasing to see there was a low number of mutations in their aviaries. The aviaries we visited were of exceptionally high quality and well designed. The thing that most impressed me was the social way the SE members appeared to approach aviculture. They all seemed to know each other and had some idea of what each other kept. I think that this could be one of their strengths as a group and as breeders. Everyone got on well with each other and there did not appear to be any cliquy groups. Their meeting was of a very casual nature, more like a BBQ lunch where they all caught up for a chat about life and to see how each others birds were going, rather than a meeting. It would be nice to see some of this sort of thing at our meetings. Just think about how many people that come to our meetings do you really know? After all you do have some thing in common.

It is not hard to get to get to know a new person in the society. All you need to do is to first approach them, take a quick glance at their name tag, remember their name and start up a conversation with them. A few suggestions could be: "How are your birds going?" Or even, "what birds do you keep?" A lot of people in the society love talking birds and have a great deal of pride in the birds they keep. Once you have struck up conversation with your new found friend and they start telling you a story it's important to let them finish. Even though you have a similar, far more exciting, story that you feel needs to be voiced and you can't wait for them to finish so you can tell them your story. After all we're all here to learn more about birds and socialise with like-minded people.

I would like to thank the friendly people of the South-East Branch for their great hospitality. Especially our hosts at Penola, you have a very impressive set up and I wish you the best of luck this breeding season.

Please let me know what you think, and we'll publish it in the magazine. You can e-mail me at: tara_matt@hotmail.com.

Cheers,

Matt