

A.S.S.A. SOUTH EAST BRANCH 25TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Text and photographs by Dan HASSELL

The South East Branch of The Avicultural Society of South Australia Inc. celebrated its 25th Birthday on the weekend of 13th and 14th of September, 2003. I was privileged to attend, along with Vice-President Peter Smith and Treasurer Richard Wilson, all representing the Management Committee and all Society Members.

On the Saturday, we travelled to the Southend home of Branch President, Ross Long and his wife Shirley, who billeted us for the weekend, along with Mark and Jo Kirschner from Port Pirie. After having a look around their aviaries and a BBQ lunch, we travelled to the homes of Neil Gray and Bob and Lynne O'Connor where we were able, between showers of rain, to have a look around their collections of birds.

On Saturday evening, the Branch members congregated at the RSL in Mount Gambier for dinner. After some initial computer troubles, I gave an illustrated talk, titled 'Around my Aviaries'. Ross Long then took advantage of the laptop computer and projector to give a power-point presentation he had been given by a speaker he saw in Victoria, on Bird Nutrition. Peter Smith then took the floor and, after reading an apology from Society President Richard Chilton for being unable to attend, offered congratulations to the Branch and its members on this milestone in its history. An Anniversary Card, signed by the Adelaide based members at the last General Meeting, was presented to Ross, who asked those present to also sign the card as a memento of the occasion. A birthday cake with a Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (the Branch's motif) mounted on it was then cut by long-serving branch member, Neil Gray.

After a bacon and egg breakfast on the Sunday morning, we again set off on aviary visits, and collecting of birds along the way to transport back to Adelaide for various members. The visits were spread out, beginning in Mount Gambier and progressing toward our home direction. We visited the homes of Geoff and Samantha Aslin, John and Betty McKee, Ken Childs, Vic and Fe Smith, Kevin Jarred, and lastly Kym and Helen Sandercock (I hope I haven't missed anyone). Our convoy grew along the way, with various branch members joining in, until Nangwarry, where we had morning tea then parted company. I must admit to being envious of the amount of land available to build aviaries on - we saw some very nice set ups. Over the weekend we saw a good mixture of Parrots, Cockatoos and Finches. Thank you to all the branch Members who allowed us to visit their homes and who wanted to feed us at almost every stop.

Thank you also to Ross and Shirley Long for putting us up, and showing us around over the weekend. Other than the weather, which was pretty dismal, we had a great weekend. To finish up, I personally want to congratulate the South East Branch and its members, both past and present, on reaching the 25 year milestone. My best wishes for the future of the Branch.