



FROM MATT'S PERCH

By Matthew Russel

Well, the society has managed to compile its first SAN programme. This is a first (as far as I know) in Australia. The programme has given the participants the ability to contact fellow bird breeders, living in the same state, and the ability to trade genetics and skills. It also gives everyone the ability to monitor the status of a species. If the programme is adopted by a large enough group it could prevent the loss of many of our aviary species. We are looking at spreading the programme to other clubs, not just in South Australia but also interstate.

There are 23 members participating in SAN for 2010. The species registered comprise: 17 parrot species, 43 finch species, 2 quail and 2 softbill species.

I think this is pretty positive considering it's the programme's first year, which we hope will expand into a register of key breeders. A key breeder will be someone who focuses on one species in particular, and continues to breed that species in a sustainable manner with a wide genetic range in their collection. They'll also have the ability to breed a large number of the given bird.

Since I have been involved in aviculture there has already been a number of proposed handicaps put on us by various government departments. It is possible that one day one of these ill-conceived bureaucratic regulations could deal a death blow to aviculture. Let's make sure that we don't deal the death blow ourselves by using uneducated breeding and poor management procedures in the practice of our hobby.

If you really want to do some thing great for aviculture get others involved. Remember, there is safety in numbers.

Thank you to all those who participated in SAN this year. I really hope that more of you get on board next year to make the programme even more successful. I am now starting to draw up a next year's programme and will distribute information on the 2011 programme early next year.

Remember that some of what you do in life may, at times, seem insignificant, but it is very important persevere because no one else can do it like you can!

If you would like to join the SAN Programme, or want more information on it, you can e-mail me at: tara_matt@hotmail.com.

Cheers,

Matt