

Michael Huxley - Birdwatcher and Cinematographer

Many members of the Association will already know Michael and his parents Lynton and Karen. At eighteen Michael is one of our few young members, but he has already achieved much, particularly in making outstanding videos of birds in the wild. His ability to successfully video elusive birds such as Chestnut Rails, Mallee Emu-wrens and nesting Red-lored Whistlers, are a testament to his outstanding patience, determination and skill.

Those who read the *Advertiser* will probably have seen the half page spread (13/09/08, p 57) with photos and the headline 'Hail the birdman'. This celebrated the first prize for his DVD *Top End Birds* in the 2008 Oliphant Science Awards. He also won the Oliphant Trophy and one of the Sponsors' prize. In 2009 Michael entered his DVD *Cape York and the Wet Tropics* for which he won two Sponsors' prizes: the Nature

Foundation Prize, and Department of Education and Children's Services Young Scientist Award Years 8 – 12. In 2009 Michael also came second in the University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize (Secondary Schools section), a competition to produce a three minute video that tells a scientific story. Michael's successful entry was his video on the nesting behavior of the Red-lored Whistler. All these awards were outstanding achievements.

Now that the *SAO* is printed in colour the editors decided that it was a great opportunity to showcase some of Michael's work. The photographs reproduced here do not do full justice to his skills because they are stills taken from his videos. Nevertheless, they capture the quality of Michael's compositions and show there can be little doubt that he has a great future as a wildlife cinematographer.



Michael being congratulated by former New South Wales Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees, for coming second in the University of Sydney Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize (Secondary Schools section) in August 2009. Michael's entry was his video on the nesting behavior of the Red-lored Whistler.



Red-lored Whistler at the nest



Crimson Chat



Azure Kingfisher



Rainbow Beeater



Double-eyed Fig-parrot



Forest Kingfisher



Purple-crowned Fairy-wren



Palm Cockatoo