**Young Bird Shield**

The young bird shield run smoothly due to the careful planning and organising. The Saturday morning prior to the show a total of 15 members made themselves available to set up for the Sunday show. We do appreciate their contribution and look forward to continued support in the future. A comprehensive report on shield will follow in this issue of Budgie news.

**ANBC secretary**

Leigh Downey has recently been appointed as the new ANBC secretary-treasurer. I am sure Leigh will perform his duties in a most admirable and efficient manner. Congratulations to Leigh!

**Teams Carers Contribution**

The birds selected at our recent young bird shield to represent Victoria were loaded into a vehicle around the commencement of the show from there they were taken to the house of Bruce and Judy Wilson and placed in holding cages in a quarantine holding area. Monday evening the birds were vet checked and found to be in very good condition, which doesn’t surprise as a thorough check on the bird’s condition was done before being accepted into the Victorian team. This process was put in place this year and the same process will continue in the future years.

The next few days they were in the capable hands of our carers until 5am Thursday morning, boxed up then taken to Tullamarine airport for departure to WA. The carers arrived with the birds at the holding area in Mandurah at around 5pm Victorian time.

A long and stressful day was experienced by the birds, not forgetting the carers. ‘A big day for those involved!’

The following day our carers prepared the birds for the weekend show presenting them in their best possible condition which contributed to Victoria winning the championship by 61 points.

Early Monday morning the carers and birds started their long and arduous trip home to Bruce Wilsons and held in holding cages ready for distribution to the respective members the following days.

Reports by the owners as to the condition of the birds on return has been overwhelmingly positive. These birds are in the care of our team carer for a total of 9 days, beginning from the young bird shield day until being picked up by the owners the following Tuesday week.

I congratulate our team carers Bruce Wilson, Phil Hoadley and James Bader on their dedicated effort to the birds and the hobby in general. In particular, Bruce Wilson and Judy Wilson for providing their facility and coordinating the team arrangements from start to finish.

**Leg Rings**

A new ring manufacturer for 2016 has been appointed with an extension of a further 2 years, subject to a successful outcome of 2016 rings (Codich Belgium)

**National Competition- Report by Barb Baxter- Presidents wife**

This year the National competition was held in Mandurah- Western Australia. The Western Australian Budgerigar council are to be commended on their choice of Mandurah for their competition. The functions were all well supported and conducted in a variety of venues. The actual show for Saturday and Sunday was successfully conducted at the Bendigo Bank stadium, Mandurah. An excellent choice of venue! The greyhound races on Friday, The Stage Door restaurant for Saturdays function and the Bendigo Bank stadium for Sunday night.

Once again Victoria was successful in winning the competition with some very happy exhibitors.

Our class winners were David Charlton- normal grey, Bret Martin- Dilute, Jeffrey Leong- Lutino, Alan Baxter- Grey wing, John Ennis- Spangle, K & S Alsop- Crest, Ray and German- Hen.

Congratulations to you all!

In addition, we would like to congratulate Peter Thurn and Rod Turnbull on passing the National judges test. Well done boys!

At the completion of the weekend Alan and I extended our stay in Mandurah to explore more of Western Australia. We took a train ride to Perth in a ‘clean’ train ‘graffiti free’ and travelled down the middle of the highway. Perth is a beautiful city and offers lots of points of interest for visitors. Kings Park overlooks the city and is a must on any visit to Perth.

Fremantle was another lovely place to visit- especially the Maritime Museum where we saw Australia 11 the yacht that won the Americas cup in 1983. The waterfront at Fremantle is definitely worth a visit.

Western Australia is well renowned for its wines and our visit to the Margaret River was amazing. We had a shortage of time but still managed to see some incredible wineries and of course sample some of the beautiful wine- my favourite- ‘Pitchfork merlot’. A most enjoyable and memorable visit to Western Australia- need to go back at some stage.