Presidents report  
  
Recently Margaret Bridgeman stepped down as Secretary of the BCV. Margaret remains as a BCV Councillor and I feel her experience and knowledge on council matters will be of great value in the future.   
  
Margaret was elected as a BCV councillor in 1987, before becoming BCV secretary in the early 1990's. As far back as 1982, Margaret assisted the secretary at the time, Harry Eady, followed by Colin Flanagan, before becoming Secretary in her own right. Throughout the years Margaret assisted many club secretaries, club presidents and general members of our hobby. In addition, Margaret was shield secretary for more than ten years, adding to her workload. For 12 years the Bridgeman Family housed the national team birds prior to the national show. This was a family effort with Margaret and her late husband, Kevin, preparing the bird room many weeks in advance to house the national team. Mark used his expertise in preparing the birds for departure to the national event. All of this was coordinated by Margaret. This was just another job in addition to her other duties. Margaret is to be commended for her tireless contributions to our fancy. We thank Margaret for her lifelong dedication which has been appreciated by all. We say thank you, Margaret.  
  
At our UBC Shield I had the pleasure of presenting Rod Skivington with a BCV Life Membership. Rod has been a BCV councillor since 1999. From then Rod became coordinator of the membership exhibitor points and has done so ever since. In 2003 he became editor of Budgie News. Rod has always been an advocate for promoting new classes, in particular the Dilute and Goldenface classes. He was a leader in promoting the Clearbody class and helped formulate the standard for them. Rod has made an outstanding contribution to our hobby.   
  
I was also honoured to be presented with my life membership by my 'old friend' Alan Rowe. I feel privileged to receive this award and to be included amongst other people who have been recognised for their contributions to the BCV.  
  
Attendance at some of our diploma shows has been disappointing. The United diploma show in September and the Goulburn Valley in October. Both failed to have the required number of birds benched to allow a diploma to be awarded.   
In October we saw Eastern districts host their diploma show; a successful show with a good numbers of birds. I'm unsure why some clubs don't attract exhibitors, could it be the time of year, promotion of the show or other reasons? We would like some feedback from our members on this issue or some suggestions for the future.   
  
**Aspiring judges.**  
Our recent intake of aspiring judges are all acquitting themselves very well at both shield competitions and club shows. I urge all clubs to continue to invite them to diploma shows in particular. This will allow them to hopefully proceed to the next level of judging.  
  
As this will be the final issue of Budgie News for 2015, I pass on my best wishes for the festive season and wish you and your families a happy and safe new year.   
  
Alan Baxter  
President