

BUDGIE NEWS

VICTORIA



Budgie
Vic

4TH QUARTER 2021

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of Victoria Inc.

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FRONT COVER

WINNERS OF THE
YOUNG BIRD
FACEBOOK
COMPETITION

Variety:
(L) Yellow Face
Grey
(R) Dominant
Pied Green

Breeder:
(L) Mark Brennand (R) Con Herouvim



BCV MEMBERSHIP FEES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Club Affiliation Fees | \$175.00 per year |
| Full Membership | \$70.00 per year |
| New Beginner Members (1st Year) | \$25.00 |
| Junior (15 years and younger) | \$1.00 |
| Magazine Only (no membership) | \$25.00 |

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BCV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Adult State Championship on Sunday, 6th March 2022 at Carwatha College, Noble Park

Website:
www.bcv.asn.au

There is a page for each affiliated club. Please contact our Web Editor to update the details:
agreenercow@gmail.com

ADVERTISING RATES from January 2019

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Quarter page \$40 per issue

Published by

The Budgerigar Council of Victoria Inc
Peter Thurn, President

Magazine Co-ordinator

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Contributions

Letters and articles are welcome and should be addressed to:
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Email: murrahalsalers@live.com.au

Please ensure all submissions abide by Australian and international copyright law.

Such contributions must be in electronic format and include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

The contents of any contribution are the expression of the writer and not necessarily those of the Council nor it's Editor. The right is reserved to edit any submission to Budgie News for clarity or space, or to reject it for any reason without obligation.

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*Budgie
Vic*

Correspondence specifically on matters of Council Business or BCV Policy should be addressed directly to the Secretary.

Subscription

Published on the BCV Website quarterly and available to all members and budgerigar enthusiasts. Membership cost is currently \$70 per calendar year.

Our greater freedoms have coincided with a new, more highly transmissible COVID variant. Council is monitoring the everchanging situation and we urge clubs to do the same by checking the conditions on the Government websites. We encourage you to continue to hold your club events in line with the government recommendations and restrictions. It is vital, as we enter our third year of COVID that we try and resurrect our shows and events – it is critical to the health and future of our hobby.

Unfortunately, it is not a great start to the year with South Australia informing the ANBC that they are cancelling the National Show. COVID concerns and uncertainty have been highlighted as reasons for the cancellation.

Council will be switching over to a new website in the coming months. It has been a big task to transfer the huge amount of information from the old website to the new and we will continue to chip away at it. We are sure that the members will enjoy the fresh format when it is completed.

Malcolm Randall has taken over the coordination of the magazine, and we have engaged a new printer to help us collate and produce the publication. We accept that we fell short with magazine delivery last year and we aim to correct that this year. The early

release of this edition indicates that we are off to a good start. If people have content or articles, feel free to forward them to Malcolm for his consideration.

It was disappointing that we had to cancel the UBC State Championship (Shield) last year. We remain hopeful that we can deliver the Adult State Championship in early March and encourage exhibitors to start thinking about their options now. Remember, success doesn't start the day before the show!

The popular "You Be the Judge" series continues in this edition. The results from the last competition are also published and provide an insight into how to apply the flecking penalty and disqualification clause. We encourage all members to study the pictures and comments for a better understanding of this important judging rule.

Here's hoping for a positive start to 2022. Let's band together, support each other and safely get involved in whatever activities you are able.

Peter Thurn
President
Budgerigar Council of Victoria

2022 SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR FOR THE BUDGERIGAR COUNCIL OF VIC

| Date | Club | Event | Venue | Contact | Phone |
|------------------|-----------|--------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| February | | | | | |
| Sat 12 | Melton | Club Champ | Melton Catholic Regional College 109-141 Bullmans Rd Melton West | Peter Thurn | 0417 575 986 |
| Sun 20 | Geelong | Club Champ | TBA | John Ennis | 0401 914 784 |
| March | | | | | |
| Sun 6 | BCV | Adult S/Champ | Carwatha College, Noble Park | Rod Turnbull | 0400 354 178 |
| Sun 13 | Border | Club Champ | Mirambeena Hall North Albury | Darrin Roulston | 0415 642 248 |
| Sat 19 | Ballarat | Club Champ | Brown Hill Hall, Humprey St Ballarat | Simon Meagher | 5335 5454 |
| Sun 20 | Riverina | Club Champ | Barooga Community Hall, Barooga | Rob Randall | 0438 095 995 |
| Sat 26 | United | Club Champ | TBA | Derrin Ray | info@unitedbudgies.org.au |
| Sun 27 | Geelong | Auction | TBA | John Ennis | 0401 914 784 |
| May | | | | | |
| Sun 22 | BCV | Young Bird S/Champ | Carwatha College, Noble Park | Rod Turnbull | 0400 354 178 |
| Sat 28 | ANBC | National Show | Grand Chancellor, Adelaide | Peter Glassenbury | 0409 288 710 |
| Sun 29 | ANBC | National Show | Grand Chancellor, Adelaide | Peter Glassenbury | 0409 288 710 |
| June | | | | | |
| Sat 4 | Dandenong | Auction | Dingley Community Centre | Mrs Judy Wilson | 9702 8070 |
| Sat 11 | Bendigo | Club Champ | Lockwood Sth Community Hall, Lockwood South | Brett Ricardo | 0409 572 442 |
| Mon 13 | Eastern | Auction | Bedford Park Youth Hall, Rosewarne Lane, East Ringwood | Mitch Parr | 0411 474 563 |
| Sun 19 | Western | Auction | Masonic Hall, Werribee | Wayne Cachia | 0412 969 848 |
| Sun 26 | Riverina | Auction | Barooga Community Hall, Barooga | Rob Randall | 0438 095 995 |
| July | | | | | |
| Sat 2 | Colac | Club Champ | Colac Youth Hall, Hearn St, Colac | Ray Slade | 0419 122 713 |
| Sat 9 | Melton | Auction | Melton Catholic Regional College 109-141 Bullmans Rd Melton West | Peter Thurn | 0417 575 986 |
| Sun 17 | Bendigo | Auction | Lockwood Sth Community Hall, Lockwood South | Brett Ricardo | 0409 572 442 |
| August | | | | | |
| Sat 6 | Clyde | Auction | Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd Dingley | Michael McMahon | 0414 666 715 |
| Sun 21 | United | Auction | TBA | Derrin Ray | info@unitedbudgies.org.au |
| September | | | | | |
| Sun 11 | BCV | UBC S/Champ | Carwatha College, Noble Park | Rod Turnbull | 0400 354 178 |
| Sun 18 | Geelong | UBC | TBA | John Ennis | 0401 914 784 |
| October | | | | | |
| Sat 8 | United | UBC | TBA | Derrin Ray | info@unitedbudgies.org.au |
| Sat 15 | Dandenong | Club Champ | Dingley Community Centre | Mim McQualter | 0428 857 897 |
| Sun 16 | Nepean | Club Champ | Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd Dingley | | |
| Sun 23 | Eastern | Club Champ | Bedford Park Youth Hall, Rosewarne Lane, East Ringwood | Mitch Parr | 0411 474 563 |
| November | | | | | |
| Sun 6 | Western | Club Champ | Masonic Hall, Werribee | Wayne Cachia | 0412 969 848 |
| Sun 13 | Clyde | Club Champ | Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd Dingley | Michael McMahon | 0414 666 715 |
| Sat 26 | Colac | UBC | Colac Youth Hall, Hearn St, Colac | Ray Slade | 0419 122 713 |
| Sun 27 | BawBaw | Club Champ | Exhibition Hall, 15 Howlett St, Warrigul | Darren Macfarlane | 0418 507 379 |

LIFE MEMBERS

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Mr. A. Baxter | Mr M. Bridgeman | Mrs. L. Church | Mr. L. Downey | Mr. C. Flanagan |
| Mr P. Hoadley | Mr. I. Hunter | Mr. A. Rowe | Mr. B. Sheppard | Mr. R. Skivington |

ROLL OF HONOUR

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. A. Bassett* | Mr. D. Bassett* | Mr. B. Bates* | Mr. K Bridgeman* | Mrs. M. Bridgeman* |
| Mr. A. Bugg* | Mr. G. Campbell* | Mr. E. Carter* | Mr. B. Cunningham* | Mr. H. Eady* |
| Mr. G. Farrar* | Mr. F. Gardner* | Mr. B. Grinlington* | Mr. H. Gulovsen* | Mrs. S. Harrison* |
| Mr. H. Heath* | Mr. L. King* | Mr. R. Loats* | Mr. G. Manallack* | Mr. A. Marshall* |
| Mr. T. Munday* | Mr. B. O'Connell* | Mrs. A. Panter* | Mr. B. Panter* | Mr. E. Raven* |
| Mrs. E. Russell* | Mr. H. Setford* | Mr. L. Sitlington* | Mr. E. Stafford* | Mr. B. Tucker* |
| Mr. L. Vines* | Mr. J. Watts* | Mrs. Z. Watts* | Mr B. Wilson* | Mr. T. Wilson* |
| Mr. M. Whittaker* | Mr. A. Yeatman* | | | |

WELCOME TO THE BUDGERIGAR COUNCIL OF VICTORIA TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS!



NEW MEMBERS

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Robert Mclean - Eastern | David Carter - Riverina | Helen Fox - Baw Baw | Thomas Molloy - South West | Richard & Brianna Smith - Baw Baw |
| Jackie McCrow - Glenroy | Marcel Saunders - Baw Baw | Melton Carter - Nepean | Bernie Thomson - Riverina | Jason & Michael Fielding - Melton |
| Stefan & Cosette Konszky - Border | Tanna Habib - Geelong | Graham Burger - Baw Baw | William Voorsluys - Eastern | Michael Neziroski - Eastern |
| Isabelle Tockhi - United | Jodi Seip - Eastern | Aaron Walsh - Glenroy | Marie Long - Melton | Steven Carroll - Baw Baw |
| Phillip Anderson - Eastern | Pamela Butler - Baw Baw | | | |

**ANYONE NOT GETTING MAILCHIMP FROM COUNCIL,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY**

EXHIBITOR STATUS 2022

| CHAMPION EXHIBITORS 2022 | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Appleton, T & S | Baxter, A | Bader & Turnbull | Broughton, D | Cachia, W |
| Carro Family | Cooke, E | Ennis, J | Grech, S & T | Hall & Rice |
| Howard, R | Hunter, I | Huth, M | Kamel, H | Kruisselbrink, J |
| Leong, J | Macfarlane, D | Martin, B | Murray, V | Orlandi, J |
| Paoli, M | Randall, M & R | Ray & German | Rowe, A | Rowe Bros |
| Schembri, B | Sheppard & Flanagan | Slade, R | Stephens, R | Thurn, P |
| Vella & Thomas | Wilson & Hoadley | Wilson, Ron | | |

Promoted from Open Status to Champion Status through accumulated points:

I. Hunter, Hall & Rice

Promoted from Intermediate Status to Open Status through accumulated points:

May & White

Promoted from Beginner Status to Intermediate Status through accumulated points:

R. Rodriguez



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APPAREL SYSTEMS

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RESEARCH INNOVATION ASSET MANAGEMENT

NEW JUDGES UNIFORMS

The BCV would like to extend a huge thank you to Australian Defence Apparel (ADA). The BCV Judges Panel have recently upgraded to new uniforms for all Judges displaying our updated logo and ADA was chosen to supply these. Upon completion of the order and hearing of the recent passing of Mr. Bruce Wilson, ADA very generously decided to donate the full order in his honour completely free of charge. This is indeed a tremendous gesture and one that the BCV is very appreciative of. Thanks ADA!

BUDGIE HEALTH CHECK - MEGABACTERIA

AKA megabac, Avian gastric yeast, *Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster*



Megabacteria is an organism that strikes fear in most budgie breeders. Surprising a lot of healthy birds have it at low levels and was only discovered in the last 30 or so years ago.

What is it?

Megabacteria is poorly named as when it was discovered in budgies and some other species of birds in the 90's it was thought to be a bacteria, this has since been proven it was wrong as it is now correctly classified as a yeast. It really should be called Avian Gastric Yeast,

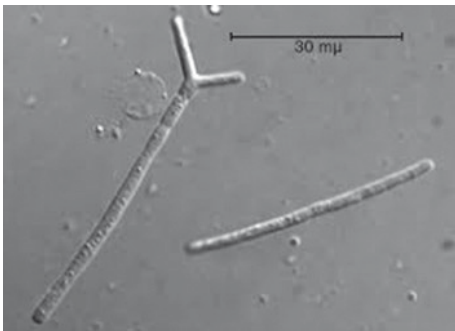


Figure 1: This is what megabacteria looks like under the microscope

How does a sick bird present?

Birds are often depressed and sitting in the food bowl grinding seeds but not swallowing it. They are typically thin around pectoral

muscles with a prominent keel bone and why some refer to it as wasting disease. The disease colonises the bird's stomach, around the area of the proventriculus (birds have a very different digestive setup but for ease we'll call it the stomach). The overgrowth of the megabacteria (avian gastric yeast) causes severe inflammation and ulceration of the 'stomach'. This inflammation causes the loss of valuable body proteins and blood....the bird is losing lots of valuable body proteins. To make matters worse the thickened inflamed wall of 'stomach' means nutrients that any food the bird does swallow can't be absorbed properly, which means we get loss of nutrients/proteins etc. and an inflamed gut lining that can't properly absorb nutrients to replenish the loss....hence why it is also called chronic wasting disease. This inflamed gut can then get a secondary bacterial infection further exacerbating the bird's poor health and ultimately leading to death in most cases.

Prevalance

Many healthy birds have small amounts of Megabacteria in their droppings and are extremely healthy, so it is unclear why some birds overgrow this organism. I'm sure there may be some rare studs out there with no megabacteria but I think this is highly unlikely.

How to prevent?

Usually, stress will inhibit normal immunity and the organism overgrows. Damp, overcrowded, stressed birds are at risk. We all know what stresses birds i.e. pushing multiple rounds in a season from a pair carry traits we are trying to enhance or fix and of course inbred birds generally are weaker.

We all notice budgies love to eat droppings on the floor- some believe it's because they are after the Vitamin B12 that their gut bacteria make. Humans get their vitamin B12

from eating meat. Most breeders give water vitamins which contain this B12 this theory is questionable. The relevance of talking about poo eating behaviour is you can see how quickly a megabacteria outbreak can spread through a flock if you have an outbreak.

A lot of us can't afford some of the amazing prices for what good/elite birds are selling for... so we buy culls. I know myself the birds that I cull first any that sick, inactive, poor breeding birds....are these the ones that are potentially susceptible to megabacteria, French Mould carrier or genetically weak. Secondly I cull for small birds lacking traits that won't take me forward these may well be the more genetically robust health wise and often have good breeding behind them.

I think if purchasing or being gifted any cull bird that looks sickly, I would strongly consider why are they in the cull cage especially if they look like a reasonable bird...some things are too good to be true. That is why it is great to get to club meetings make friends and deal with trusted people with integrity.... fortunately, in this hobby we are brimming with people of this characteristic and are usually trying to help beginners and their friends all with the aim of breeding the perfect bird.... there unfortunately a few who don't fit this category. I'm incredibly lucky to have an experienced mentor at our club that if he gives me a cull bird is very upfront with any issues it may have, i.e faults why he is culling, poor breeder etc...these people are rare but have kept me in the hobby when at times you feel you are not progressing.

When you do bring a new bird home I would do prolonged quarantine and lots of probiotics and let the bird settle in to your conditions, feeding regime, how often you go into your birds room, lighting, annoying little dog that has to be in the birds room with you etc. before letting it mix with your main flock.

What clinical signs

Megabacteria overgrows in the birds digestive tract causing ulceration and haemorrhage of the proventricular 'stomach' lining. This causes pain, reduced absorption and loss of blood and other vital nutrients from the bird as discussed earlier. Usually birds can have many symptoms that look like other diseases, commonly however I would be suspicious of megabacteria if:

- Birds are often skinny with a prominent keel bone
- Fluffed and lethargic
- Sitting in the food bowl and shelling seeds but not really eating them i.e. empty crop.
- Multiple birds dying rapidly

Isolate these birds immediately as they are often sitting in the food bowl with diarrhoea potentially vomiting...given the whole flock goes to the food bowl it will most likely be heavily burdened with megabacteria this one bird will become a super spread this problem.

Once you have a thin bird with diarrhoea and vomiting the bird is unfortunately usually terminal. Humane euthanasia is recommended

How to treat?

I know I have mentioned this before, but I will again: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Prevention

Regular probiotics are a must as these good bacteria make it hard the megabacteria/ and other bad bacteria have an opportunity to infect. The gut is flooded with a lot of good healthy bacteria making it hard for the pathogenic bad guys to colonize.

Regular worming, parasite prevent i.e ivermectin/ ivomec (non prescription medication bought from many pet stores)

for red mite. Dust/ spray birds for lice, keep aviaries clean and dry. Cull sickly birds. Regular vitamin supplements without over doing it. Lots of calcium available...seed is low in calcium and even nonbreeding birds need calcium supplementation.

Megabacteria hate acidic conditions, which is why a lot of breeders weekly add 5-10mL/L of apple cider vinegar (or lemon juice) to their birds drinking water. Another alternative is citric acid (a white crystalline powder) at a dose of 1 teaspoon (3 grams) 5 litres of clean water.

Many vets and articles I have read strongly suggest megabacteria is usually a management issue. i.e parasites, poor feeding, vitamin supplement (either under or over doing it), stress from over breeding, draughts, vermin stressing birds, overcrowding, excessive inbreeding.

Treatment

This is where you will need to see a vet, as the below methods are prescription only medication, meaning you will need a visit to determine if the medication is correct.

• Amphotericin B

The main treatments are Amphotericin B which is a fiddle as requires you to crop tube each individual bird. Fungilin lozenge 10mg (need a prescription from vet) crushed into 6ml of water and 0.25ml per 50 gram body weight

This is a human medication that requires a script and is used in humans to treat oral thrush. I still recommend seeing an avian vet but for our rural friends and ones on a tight budget their regular vet may be able to write a script.



Figure 2: What fungilin looks like

There is a water additive of amphotericin B called Megabac-S which means you could treat a whole flock easily. But unfortunately, from my understanding it is unavailable in Australia.



Figure 3: Megabac-S...not in australia

• Sodium benzoate

Sodium benzoate is another option (not a prescription medication) unfortunately a lot of birds won't readily drink it as it tastes terrible. We as human eat it every day as it is a food preservative. This can be purchased online through ebay etc the dose is 1 teaspoon per litre of water. Starting a lower dose is better as the birds get used to it as it is a salt. Low dosing initially and building to the correct strength is advisable. Caution using in the breeding cages as chicks may 'overdose'

from salt overload....If you are having a megabacteria outbreak you probably should cease your breeding season anyway.

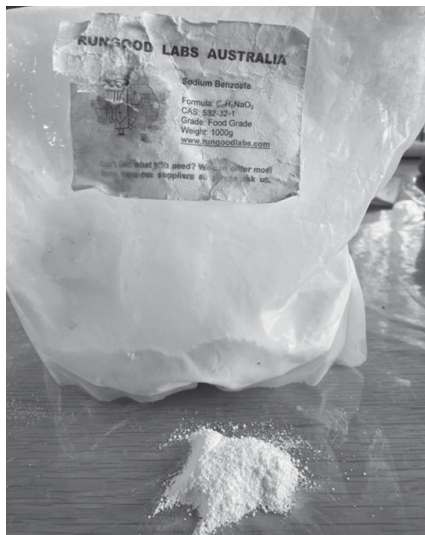


Figure 4: What Sodium benzoate looks like

Apologies for poor label but fortunately haven't needed it for years. Chemical formula (C7H5NaO2) and get food grade.

• Nystatin

Nystatin is another antifungal but you will need to talk to an avian vet for dose and once again needs to be delivered via crop a needle. The author is not sure of the dose rate.



Figure 4: Nystatin drops

• Antibiotics

Often with the ulcerated stomach lining in the birds can get secondary infection so may also require antibiotics I,e baytril but this best managed by an avian vet. Remember giving antibiotics can make a yeast problem worse! I would be guided my vet.

Conclusion

I think at the end of the day the way we can all manage this issue:

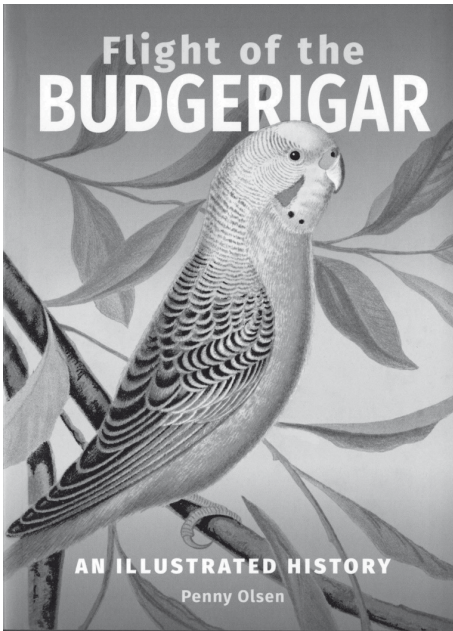
- Don't be naive to think you don't have low levels of megabacteria in your flock
- Keep your aviary clean and dry
- Regular Vitamin supplements
- Don't gift/ sell sickly birds to beginners
- Good parasite prevention
- Good isolation of new birds with sufficient quarantine time
- Probiotics
- Weekly apple cider vinegar/ lemon water
- Removing any bird from the flock that even remotely looks sick

We should not fear this organism but learn to live with it and understand it rather than fear it.

Let's all get double vaccinated, so we get birds back on the bench and catch up with all our bird nut friends....we are a special breed of people that share a fantastic interest. I know it has been hard to stay motivated with the isolation with no meetings or shows...but let's look forward to a good 2022!

FLIGHT OF THE BUDGERIGAR

– EXTRACT WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR



Dr Penny Olsen is an Honorary Professor in the Division of Ecology and Evolution at the Australian National University. After a career as a field biologist and ecological consultant, she is now mostly occupied writing books about Australian natural history and its recorders, both artistic and scientific. She has written more than 30 books, including *Night Parrot: Australia's Most Elusive Bird* (2018) and *Australia's First Naturalists: Indigenous Peoples' Contribution to Early Zoology* (2019).

Available online and at all good book stores. A great read with many historical photos, stories of budgerigar owners, wild budgerigars and budgies in indigenous Australia plus much more. All of this in addition to early to modern shows and the budgie trade across the world through history. Highly recommended.

The Show Bench

Even though budgies were an increasingly common pet in England, until the 1920s they had not yet appeared on the show bench in any significant way.

For decades before Budgerigar clubs and societies were formed, local poultry and canary shows and agricultural shows were the only places a proud budgie owner could display their bird. Budgie entries in these popular shows were few and they had to nominate for classes designated 'foreign birds' or similar.

At the 1889 Crystal Palace national show of cagebirds in London, for example, a Miss E. Harrison showed a pair of yellow budgies, apparently the only ones, winning first prize. Then, at the 1891 event, two pairs were exhibited, attracting much 'curiosity'. At the same time, the canary section was large, with some 40 classes for Norwich, Belgian, Lizard, Lancashire and Frilled canaries, among other varieties.

When, in the mid-1920s, the first Budgerigar clubs and societies were formed, a culture, with great social appeal, developed around The Fancy. Dedicated shows proliferated, and ambitious breeders relished the challenge to achieve success at the show bench. By necessity, the approach to the fancy became more professional and prescriptive.

The show budgie's rise in popularity was swift. In 1929, there was only one class at the Crystal Palace cagebird show specifically for Budgerigars, with ten entrants.

In the 1930s, a huge upswing occurred; as early as 1931, even though Britain was in the grip of the Great Depression, 600 budgies were exhibited. Three years on, the show attracted a record entry of 1,000 Budgerigars out of a total of 5,000 birds, including canaries, finches, hummingbirds and other parrots.

These events were not just about winning best-in-show, they were trade shows and attracted great numbers of visitors. A reporter at the Crystal Palace exhibition of 1931 not only listed judging results but also observed that the popular Budgerigars, 'with their solemnly interminable flirtations, their cheery small talk, and their delicate perfections of colour, are indeed patterns of all that pets should be'.

By the end of the 1930s, there was no more popular exhibition bird and crowd favourite than the Budgerigar. In 1938-1939, in Britain alone, some 281 shows catered for Budgerigars, either exclusively or in dedicated classes among other cagebirds. The biggest budgie show of 1938 attracted 1,570 entries in several classes. And the passionate pursuit of exhibition budgies had taken off in other countries too.

Defining the Budgie

After the British Budgerigar Society formed in 1926, The Fancy was eventually formalised and showbirds were developed. This 'Exhibition Budgerigar' was, and still is, bred to specifications that have been developed over the years in various countries all around the world. Fanciers have a diversity of opinions; nevertheless, after a great deal of discussion and disagreement, guidelines were formulated, known as 'The Standard' - a blueprint for breeders and a yardstick for judges.

The desirable characteristics of the ideal bird, the standard of perfection, were described in great detail. Colour standards were also developed to deal with the confusion of colours and markings and their names. And a point system was created for judges, based on body proportions, colouration, markings, condition and behaviour.

In 1935, *The Cult of the Budgerigar* was published, its title perfectly capturing the almost universal fashion and passion for the budgie that had developed in this period between wars. Written by William (Bill) Watmough, Chairman of the Budgerigar

Society and owner of a magnificent stud in Bradford, the book demonstrated the progress that had been made in the decade since the society was formed. It contained everything an exhibitor, breeder, judge or pet owner needed to know, from breeding, selecting and preparing birds for the show bench, to how to wash a budgie, how to teach a pet to talk and how to train an exhibition bird to stand up straight. It encouraged the keeping of a studbook and explained the importance of exercise for the birds and absolute cleanliness in the aviary. Colour breeding and its genetic basis filled several chapters.

The main goal, however, was the breeding of high-class specimens for the show bench. In particular, the book set down The Standard arrived at by the Budgerigar Society, an essential guide in order to win prizes at their shows.

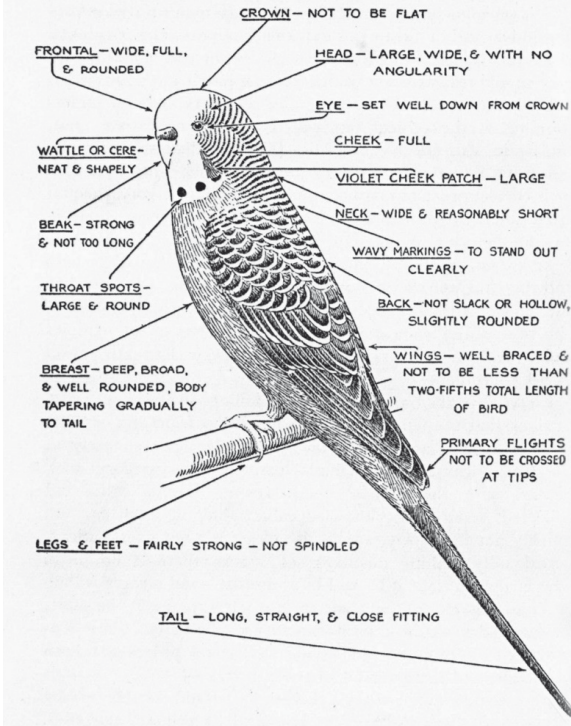
Rather than include a photograph of a live champion, an artist illustrated the perfect exhibition budgie, which subsequently became customary.

In these early years, a show budgie was expected to have tight feathers, good posture, a 'balanced' form and 'substance'. The requirements of perfection included that markings should be clear and symmetrical, the crown of the head rounded and the tail long and straight. Carriage, charm and condition were essentials. The ideals differed somewhat for each sex; hen birds were expected to have a flatter, wider crown than cocks.

Exhibiting budgies required skill, patience and dedication. Once the fancier selected the best birds for exhibition, Watmough explained, they were removed from the flock to training cages, which allow flight. Then they were taught to stand correctly in the small individual show cages, a process that took more time with some budgies than others. They were sprayed with warm water daily, but if there was any soiling of the plumage, the bird was carefully washed and dried-not easy for the uninitiated.

JUDGING

THE SHOW POINTS OF THE BUDGERIGAR



The desirable features of a good exhibition Budgerigar, to guide judges and exhibitors, according to the Budgerigar Society of Britain – late 1920s / early 1930s.

Any damaged feathers were plucked so they regrew and asymmetries in spotting were corrected by tweezing some or even all of the spotted feathers so that they grew back at the same time.

After so much careful preparation, a bird sometimes began to moult and, if the owner was a conscientious exhibitor, it had to be withdrawn from competition.

‘The expansion of the hobby of Budgerigar breeding and exhibiting in the last decade has been a wonder’, Watmough wrote. It had become a cultural phenomenon, all the more remarkable because it had occurred during the Great Depression, a severe economic downturn that affected the whole world.

But peacetime was coming to an end. In 1937, Japan was

already at war with China and international conflict was once again about to intrude on the Budgerigar ‘s world story. It would become difficult to keep budgies, particularly to maintain flocks of valuable stud budgies. The grave concern was evident in a letter published in the Budgerigar Society’s newsletter of September-December 1939, written by a member going to war. He advised fellow members to stock up on canary seed, as he had, and made a plea for friends and neighbours to help preserve stocks and bloodlines, particularly of rare varieties.

Fit for a Queen: Royal Budgies

Queen Victoria was the first in a long line of English royals to be captivated by Australia’s cheerful chatterer.

Her daughter-in-law Alexandra, Edward VII ‘s wife, was also said to be fond of parrots, including Budgerigars, and had aviaries built at Buckingham Palace.

Indeed, John Gould named the Princess Parrot *Polytelis alexandrae* for Alexandra when she married the future king in 1863. It was common practice to honour royalty and nobility in such a way and for parrots to be among the gifts showered on royalty by visitors and during royal visits. It was not long before a pair of live Princess Parrots was shipped from Adelaide to be presented to the Queen and King.

Victoria’s grandson, George V, while not particularly interested in birds, allowed the aviary to be maintained in his mother’s memory. His son, George VI,

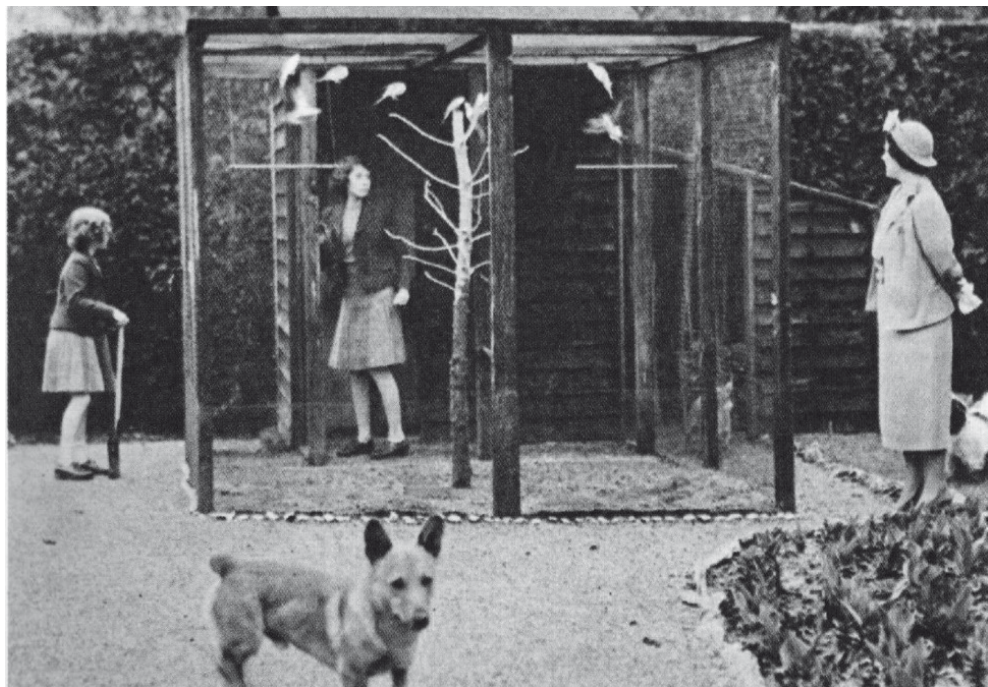
was much more of a budgie fancier; in 1930, he became the first patron of the British Budgerigar Society. In 1934, a Sydney breeder reared Budgerigars of a royal blue tint and proudly gifted a pair to the King, whose aviaries held budgies in a kaleidoscope of colours.

George's children, the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, were introduced to Budgerigar ownership at an early age. In 1937, when they were ten and six years old, respectively, among their 'cherished pets' were 20 blue Budgerigars.

The following year, it was reported, Elizabeth had read everything she could about the bird 's habits and haunts in Australia. For half an hour after her lessons were over for the day, she would head to the old aviaries at Windsor Castle to patiently teach one of the 40 royal budgies to talk. Another year on and young Margaret was said to be intent on teaching

a young green budgie to say a sentence. Their mother wanted her daughters to have as normal a childhood as possible, so they were expected to feed the birds and clean the aviaries themselves. The numbers were thinned out annually, when the princesses gave excess birds to their friends and relatives.

Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, has kept Budgerigars ever since. They are housed in a quiet part of the grounds of Windsor Castle, in a five-metre-square aviary with a wire mesh tube that allows them to come and go but deters predators. A 2000 article in the London Mirror suggested that 'the 100-strong Queen's Flight of free-flying budgerigars at Windsor Castle [had] lost their zest for breeding' and she was looking for new blood. Her keeper was appealing for well-pedigreed female Liberty Budgerigars-bred for their inclination to home-to join the royal flock.



Princesses Elizabeth (centre) and Margaret, in 1940, about to clean the modest Budgerigar aviary, containing only bright blue birds, In their own garden near the Royal Lodge at Great Windsor Park. Their mother Queen Elizabeth looks on.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (DIPLOMA) 2021

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Society: | | Riverina | | | |
| Date Held: | | 14-03-2021 | | | |
| Number of Young birds benched: | | 143 | | | |
| Number of Adult birds benched: | | 85 | | | |
| Judges: | | Mr. Bruce Wilson & Mr. Phil Hoadley | | | |
| Major Results: | | Exhibitor | Variety | Sex | |
| Grand Champion Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Grand Champion Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Blue | H | |
| Champion Young Budgerigar (Diploma) | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Champion Young Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Blue | H | |
| Champion Adult Budgerigar | | Kevin Osmand | Blue | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Champion Adult Budgerigar | | Graeme Hall | Opaline AOSV | H | |
| Best Pair In Show | | M & R Randall | Grey Green | C + H | |
| Sectional Results: | | Exhibitor | Variety | Sex | |
| Champion Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Blue | H | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Brett Martin | Yellowface | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Spangle Double Factor | H | |
| Open Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Graeme Hall | Grey Green | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | Graeme Hall | Opaline AOSV | H | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Graeme Hall | Grey Green | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Graeme Hall | Opaline AOSV | H | |
| Intermediate Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Damien Toohey | Spangle AOSV | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | Damien Toohey | Spangle AOSV | H | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Kevin Osmand | Blue | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Damien Toohey | Grey Green | H | |
| Beginner Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Allan Chalmers | Grey Green | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | Allan Chalmers | Cinnamon | H | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Allan Chalmers | Opaline | H | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Allan Chalmers | Blue | C | |
| SERIES AWARDS - YOUNG BIRDS ONLY | | | | | |
| Variety | Exhibitor | Status | Variety | Exhibitor | Status |
| Green | Ewing Cooke | CHAMP | Opaline | M & R Randall | CHAMP |
| Grey Green | Allan Chalmers | BEG | Opaline AOSV | Brett Martin | CHAMP |
| Blue | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Clearbody | Jeff Orlandi | CHAMP |
| Violet | Brett Martin | CHAMP | Lacewing | Kevin Blunt | INTER |
| Grey | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Fallow | Ken Brown | INTER |
| English Yellowface | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Spangle | M & R Randall | CHAMP |
| Australian Goldenface | Jeff Orlandi | CHAMP | Spangle AOSV | Damien Toohey | INTER |
| Black Eye | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Dominant Pied | M & R Randall | CHAMP |
| Dilute | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Recessive Pied | M & R Randall | CHAMP |
| Lutino | Damien Toohey | INTER | AOSV | | |
| Albino | M & R Randall | CHAMP | Australian White Cap | M & R Randall | CHAMP |
| Dark Eyed Clear | Brett Martin | CHAMP | Rainbow | | |
| Clearwing | Kevin Blunt | INTER | Coloured / Bush | | |
| Greywing | Colin McPhee | OPEN | Crest | Ken Brown | INTER |
| Cinnamon | Graeme Hall | OPEN | AOV | | |
| Spangle DF | Ewing Cooke | CHAMP | Pair Class | | |

RIVERINA MAJOR AWARD CHAMPIONS



**MAJOR AWARD
BEST ADULT IN SHOW
Kevin Osmand**



**MAJOR AWARD
DIPLOMA & GRAND CHAMPION
M & R Randall**



**MAJOR AWARD
OPP SEX TO BEST ADULT IN SHOW
Graeme Hall**



**MAJOR AWARD
OPP SEX TO DIPLOMA & GRAND CHAMPION
M & R Randall**

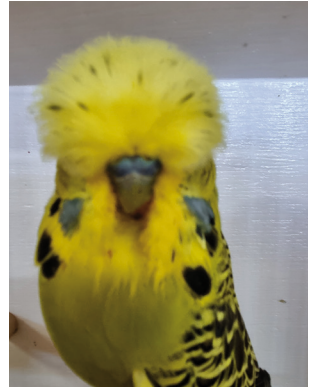
RIVERINA SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS



**CHAMPION STATUS
BEST ADULT**
Brett Martin



**CHAMPION STATUS
BEST YOUNG**
M & R Randall



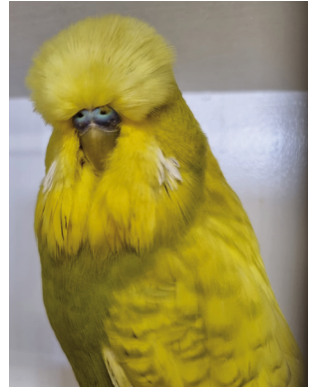
**OPEN STATUS
BEST ADULT**
Graeme Hall



**OPEN STATUS
OPP SEX YOUNG**
Graeme Hall



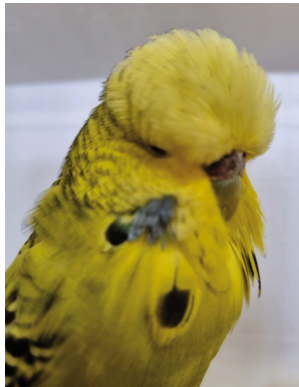
**INTERMEDIATE STATUS
BEST ADULT**
Kevin Osmand



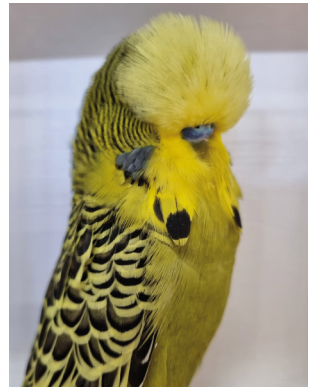
**INTERMEDIATE STATUS
BEST YOUNG**
Damian Toohey



**INTERMEDIATE STATUS
OPP SEX ADULT**
Damian Toohey



**BEGINNER SECTION
BEST ADULT**
Allan Chalmers



**BEGINNER SECTION
BEST YOUNG**
Allan Chalmers

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (DIPLOMA) 2021

| | | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Society: | | Border District Budgerigar Society | | | |
| Date Held: | | 21-03-2021 | | | |
| Number of Young birds benched: | | 144 | | | |
| Number of Adult birds benched: | | 97 | | | |
| Judges: | | Rod Turnbull and James Bader | | | |
| Major Results: | | Exhibitor | Variety | Sex | |
| Grand Champion Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Grand Champion Budgerigar | | Tony Butt | Spangle | H | |
| Champion Young Budgerigar (Diploma) | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Champion Young Budgerigar | | Tony Butt | Spangle | H | |
| Champion Adult Budgerigar | | Bruce Hiskins | Grey | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Champion Adult Budgerigar | | Eric Whitton | Cinnamon | H | |
| Best Pair In Show | | Brett Martin | | | |
| Sectional Results: | | Exhibitor | Variety | Sex | |
| Champion Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Dominant Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Australian White Cap | H | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Recessive Pied | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | M & R Randall | Spangle Double Factor | H | |
| Open Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Tony Butt | Spangle Double Factor | H | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | David Kelleher | Grey Green | C | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Bruce Hiskins | Grey | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Bruce Corcoran | Lutino | H | |
| Intermediate Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Eric Whitton | Spangle AOSV | H | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | Eric Whitton | Grey Green | C | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Eric Whitton | Grey Green | C | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Eric Whitton | Cinnamon | H | |
| Beginner Status | | | | | |
| Best Young Budgerigar | | Fred Royston | Dominant Pied | H | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Young Budgerigar | | NO EXHIBIT | | | |
| Best Adult Budgerigar | | Catherine McAlpine | Opaline AOSV | H | |
| Opposite Sex To Best Adult Budgerigar | | Fred Royston | Spangle | C | |
| SERIES AWARDS - YOUNG BIRDS ONLY | | | | | |
| Variety | Exhibitor | Status | Variety | Exhibitor | Status |
| Green | Eric Whitton | INTER | Opaline | Graeme Hall | OPEN |
| Grey Green | David Kelleher | OPEN | Opaline AOSV | Graeme Hall | OPEN |
| Blue | M & R Randall | CHAM | Clearbody | NO EXHIBIT | |
| Violet | Brett Martin | CHAM | Lacewing | NO EXHIBIT | |
| Grey | Eric Whitton | INTER | Fallow | Eric Whitton | INTER |
| English Yellowface | M & R Randall | CHAM | Spangle | M & R Randall | CHAM |
| Australian Golden Face | Eric Whitton | INTER | Spangle AOSV | Mark Chandler | OPEN |
| Black Eye | M & R Randall | CHAM | Dominant Pied | M & R Randall | CHAM |
| Dilute | M & R Randall | CHAM | Recessive Pied | M & R Randall | CHAM |
| Lutino | Bruce Corcoran | OPEN | AOSV | Eric Whitton | INTER |
| Albino | M & R Randall | CHAM | Australian White Cap | M & R Randall | CHAM |
| Dark Eyed Clear | Tony Butt | OPEN | Rainbow | NO EXHIBIT | |
| Clearwing | NO EXHIBIT | | Coloured / Bush | Colin McPhee | OPEN |
| Greywing | Colin McPhee | OPEN | Crest | NO EXHIBIT | |
| Cinnamon | Graeme Hall | OPEN | AOV | NO EXHIBIT | |
| Spangle DF | Tony Butt | OPEN | Pair Class | Brett Martin | CHAM |

BORDER DISTRICT MAJOR AWARD CHAMPIONS



**MAJOR AWARD
BEST ADULT IN SHOW
B Hiskins**



**MAJOR AWARD
DIPLOMA & GRAND CHAMPION
M & R Randall**



**MAJOR AWARD
OPP SEX TO BEST ADULT IN SHOW
E Whitton**



**MAJOR AWARD
OPP SEX TO DIPLOMA & GRAND CHAMPION
T Butt**

BORDER DISTRICT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS



**CHAMPION STATUS
BEST ADULT
M & R Randall**



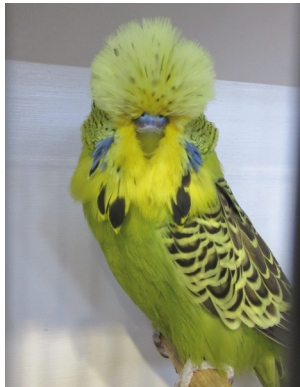
**CHAMPION STATUS
BEST YOUNG
M&R Randall**



**OPEN STATUS
BEST ADULT
B Hiskins**



**OPEN STATUS
BEST YOUNG
T Butt**



**OPEN STATUS
OPP SEX YOUNG
D Kelleher**



**INTERMEDIATE STATUS
BEST ADULT
E Whitton**



**INTERMEDIATE STATUS
BEST YOUNG
E Whitton**



**BEGINNER SECTION
BEST ADULT
C McAlpine**



**BEGINNER SECTION
BEST YOUNG
F Royston**

2022 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP BUDGERIGAR CLASSES

| ADULT | | UBC | YOUNG | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-------|------|---|
| COCK | HEN | | COCK | HEN | VARIETY |
| 1 | 1H | 51 | 101 | 101H | Normal Green |
| 2 | 2H | 52 | 102 | 102H | Normal Greygreen |
| 3 | 3H | 53 | 103 | 103H | Normal Blue |
| 4 | 4H | 54 | 104 | 104H | Normal Violet |
| 5 | 5H | 55 | 105 | 105H | Normal Grey |
| 6 | 6H | 56 | 106 | 106H | Normal English Yellow Face |
| 7 | 7H | 57 | 107 | 107H | Normal Australian Golden Face |
| 8 | 8H | 58 | 108 | 108H | Blackeyed Self * |
| 9 | 9H | 59 | 109 | 109H | Dilute: Yellow & White including Grey Yellow & Grey White * |
| 10 | 10H | 60 | 110 | 110H | Lutino |
| 11 | 11H | 61 | 111 | 111H | Albino * |
| 12 | 12H | 62 | 112 | 112H | Dark Eyed Clear * |
| 13 | 13H | 63 | 113 | 113H | Clearwing * |
| 14 | 14H | 64 | 114 | 114H | Greywing * |
| 15 | 15H | 65 | 115 | 115H | Cinnamon * |
| 16 | 16H | 66 | 116 | 116H | Spangle Double Factor Yellow or White * |
| 17 | 17H | 67 | 117 | 117H | Opaline Normal Wing * |
| 18 | 18H | 68 | 118 | 118H | Opaline AOSV: Includes Opaline Blackeyed Self, Opaline Dilute Yellow and White, Opaline Grey Yellow and White * |
| 19 | 19H | 69 | 119 | 119H | Clearbody * |
| 20 | 20H | 70 | 120 | 120H | Lacewing * |
| 21 | 21H | 71 | 121 | 121H | Fallow * |
| 22 | 22H | 72 | 122 | 122H | Spangle Normal * |
| 23 | 23H | 73 | 123 | 123H | Spangle AOSV: Includes Opaline, Opaline AOSV, Cinnamonwing * |
| 24 | 24H | 74 | 124 | 124H | Dominant Pied * |
| 25 | 25H | 75 | 125 | 125H | Recessive Pied * |
| 26 | 26H | 76 | 126 | 126H | AOSV: Saddleback, Dark Wing * |
| 27 | 27H | 77 | 127 | 127H | Australian Whitecap |
| 28 | 28H | 78 | 128 | 128H | Rainbow Budgerigar (WBO Standard) * |
| 29 | 29H | 79 | 129 | 129H | Coloured Budgerigar (WBO Standard) Bush Budgerigar * |
| 30 | 30H | 80 | 130 | 130H | Crest (ASV, ASC) * |
| 31 | 31H | 81 | 131 | 131H | AOV: Non Standard Varieties * |
| 32 | | 82 | 132 | | Pair Class (Same Colour & Variety) * |

* Denotes that as with Green & Blue Series the English Yellow Face & Australian Golden Face Series is recognised and accepted in the marked Classes.

YOU BE THE JUDGE COMPETITION IS ON AGAIN

Thanks to Peter Thurn for judging the previous "You Be The Judge Competition".

Have you ever thought about becoming a judge and joining the ranks of the BCV judging team or looking for an opportunity to sharpen your skills and identify what makes a winning bird?

The competition is open to all BCV members, regardless as to whether they are Beginner, Intermediate, Open or Champion Status exhibitors.

If you want to be in for a chance to win the bag of Budgie Gold seed, then email your results in the order you would place the birds on the show bench (please use the letter designated to each bird to reflect your ranking).

Emails can be sent to the BCV State Championship Show Secretary Rod Turnbull at rjturnbull4@bigpond.com

The rules are simple. Place the eight birds that follow in order from 1st place to 8th place as you believe that they would finish on the show bench.

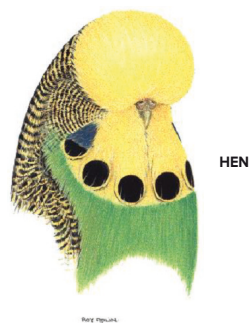
A BCV judge will also rank the birds from 1st place to 8th place, and if your ranking is the same, you will be up for a chance to win a bag of Budgie Gold seed from Green Valley Grains.

We have also included a copy of the pictorial Standard for reference when making your selection.

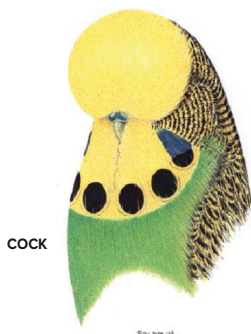
If there are more than one correct entry received then the winner will be drawn out of a hat. The judge's results, along with comments as to why they were selected in that particular order, will be published in the next edition of Budgie News.

This edition's class is eight Clearwings on the next two pages.

Entries must be in by end of day on the 15th March 2022.



IDEAL HEN AND COCK - BUST



THE IDEAL



Sexual differences to be allowed for throughout *The Standard*.
The ideal Hen has slightly less frontal rise, less rounded top skull, a wider pelvis and a brown cere.





JUDGING COMPETITION RESULTS FROM LAST EDITION OF BUDGIE NEWS

Judge's comments by Peter Thurn as follows;

1st Place E – Opaline Cinnamon Greygreen Cock

Power budgie displaying lovely height above the eye and directional feather. Strong shouldered with excellent back skull and well-defined wing markings. Penalised slightly for a small amount of head markings. It is his superior condition and cleaner cap that carries him above the second bird.

2nd Place H - Opaline Cinnamon Light Green Cock

An interesting bird that displays plenty of power but is unfortunately out of condition and is carrying some head marking. He is strong shouldered and shows excellent height above the eye and width of cap. Very similar in style to the first bird. His superior back skull and prominent frontal place him above the third bird.

3rd Place F - Opaline Cinnamon Light Green Cock

Another powerful bird displaying strong shoulder but maybe not as long as the first two birds. His spot impact is undeniable as is his directional feather and it is these features combined with greater width of top skull that place him above the fourth bird. Small penalty for head markings.

4th Place D - Opaline Cinnamon Grey Cock

It was a very close placing between the third and fourth bird who is a lovely, stylish and complete budgie. Beautiful condition, nice deportment with a clean cap. Solid budgie who could benefit from better cap release. It is his width of face, width of back skull and depth of mask that places him above the bird in fifth.

5th Place A - Opaline Cinnamon Grey Cock

A contrasting bird to the bird in 4th. Lots of style and swank with a clean cap and lovely condition. Plenty to like about him but not the power of the birds above. He places over the 6th bird due to his clean cap.

6th Place B - Opaline Cinnamon Light Green Cock

There is a lot to like about this bloke, but he is right on the edge of disqualification because of the prominence of his head markings. Another stylish bird with excellent directional feather. He has an advantage in condition over the bird in seventh.

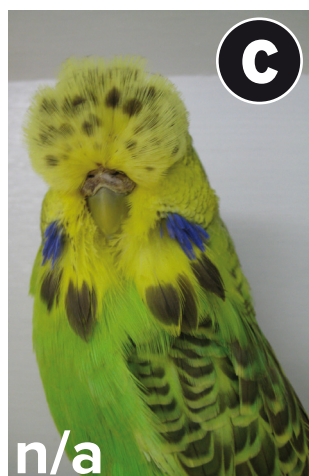
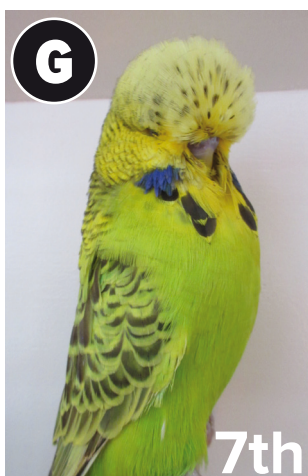
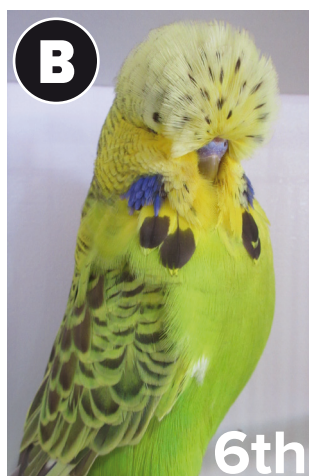
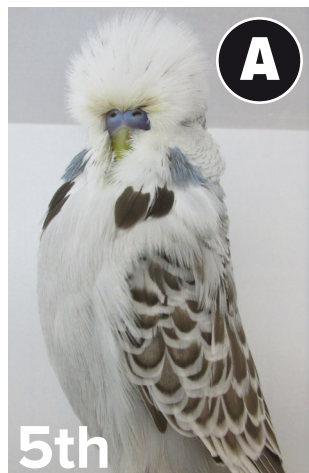
7th Place G - Opaline Cinnamon Light Green Cock

Again, another bird on the cusp of disqualification due to head markings. Unfortunately, he is a bit down of condition and could benefit from greater depth of mask. He shows lovely length and a good outline.

Disqualified: C - Opaline Cinnamon Light Green Hen


The only hen in the class who has been disqualified due to her excessive head marking. Would have comfortably placed towards the top of the class with a cleaner cap.

No winning entrant from last edition due to confusion with details for sending back selections.



BUDGERIGAR PENALTY AND DISQUALIFICATION CLAUSES FOR GUIDANCE OF ANBC JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS

(THESE GUIDELINES ARE SET AND MAINTAINED BY THE ANBC JUDGES PANEL, WHO RETAIN SOLE OWNERSHIP OF THE CONTENT

| | |
|---------|---|
| Variety | <div><div>Disqualification</div><div>Heavy Head Flecking:</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Intensity and distribution of melanin in the Frontal, Forehead or Crown equal to or greater than any of the examples shown below. Borderline cases difficult to classify as heavy or light are to be very heavily penalised.</div><div></div></div> |
| | <div><div>Penalty</div><div>Birds of any variety or colour with:</div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Light Head Flecking – Intensity and distribution of melanin in the Frontal, Forehead or Crown lighter than any of the examples listed under Disqualification above. Penalty to be based on the heavier the flecking, the heavier the penalty. Borderline cases difficult to classify as heavy or light are to be very heavily penalised.</div></div> |

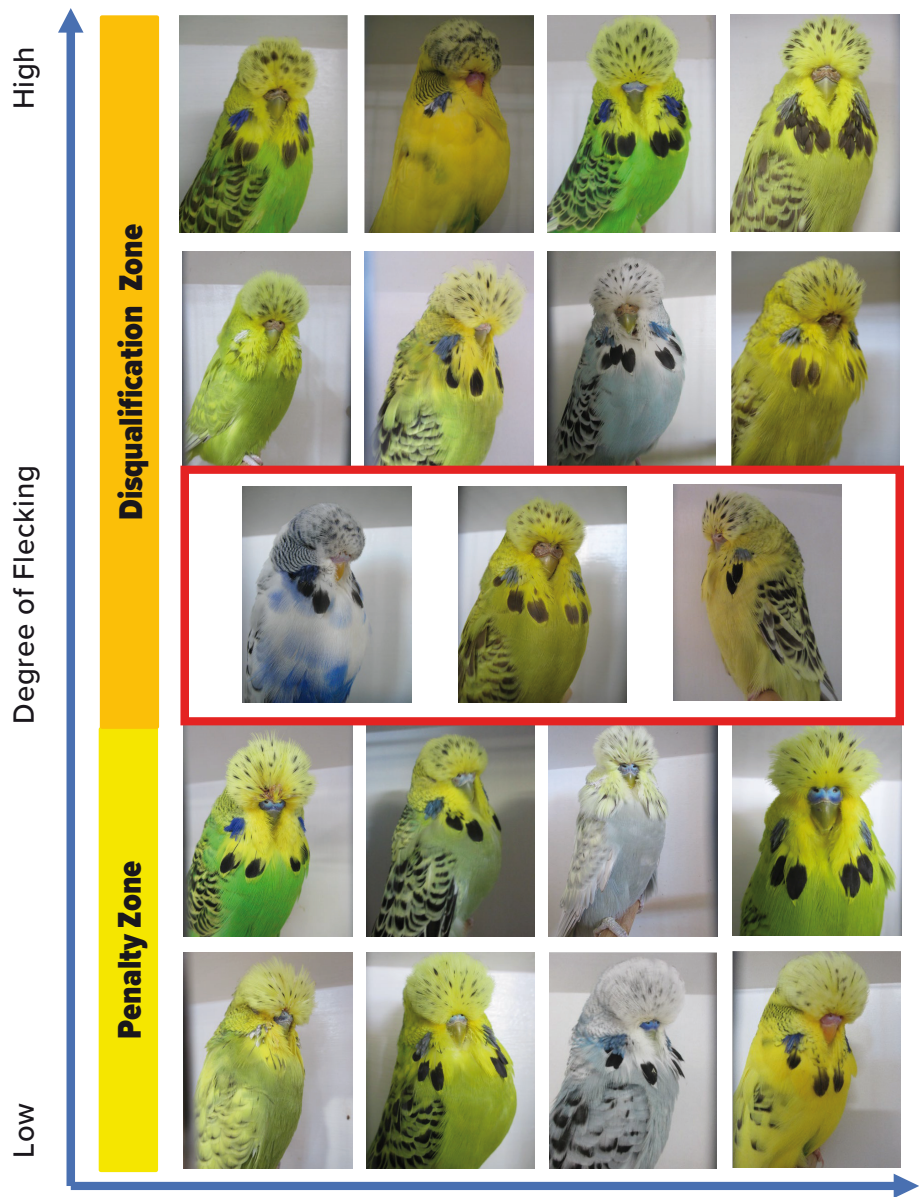
The above is an extract from the current ANBC Standard Penalty and Disqualification clauses relating the Head Flecking.

The BCV hopes that this information helps exhibitors understand the rationale judges are using for the determination as to how to judge a bird with flecking. It should also help exhibitors determine which birds will be accepted on the show bench, which ones will

be penalised and ultimately help the breeder build and select their show team.

Please be accepting of the judge's decision, as there will be many reasons as to selecting or not selecting certain exhibits over other exhibits on the day, including different interpretations of The Standard Penalty and Disqualification clauses and their application.

PENALTY AND DISQUALIFICATION –GUIDANCE FOR FLECKING



Notes: Quality **does not** impact disqualification or penalty level.
Penalty is based on **the heavier the flecking, the heavier the penalty.**

COLOUR AND VARIETY BREEDING GENETICS

by Rod Turnbull

Many breeders find the subject of genetics too complicated and confusing. This means that they shy away from breeding many of the lesser varieties or rarer colours and focus on just the normal and dominant varieties. This article focuses on the basics and tries to put budgerigar genetics in an easy to understand set of tables, which will mostly be useful for beginners but may assist many breeders of other status levels.

This is not an article to get into chromosomes, allelomorphs, Mendel theory, genes or homozygous or heterozygous alleles. I will leave that up to the scientists amongst us!

Keeping it simple, we will focus on;

1. Phenotype and Genotype
2. Colour breeding expectations - Dominant and Recessive genetics, including Splits.
3. Colour breeding expectations - Understanding the Dark Factor and the impact on colour expectations.
4. Variety expectations - Dominant, Recessive and Sex-Linked, including Splits.

Phenotype and Genotype

Phenotype is the set of observable characteristics or traits of the bird. In other words, what we see when we look at a budgerigar. Judges only judge Phenotype (what they see) and not Genotype (the genetic make-up of the bird). This can be colour, variety, shape, size, condition, etc. When it comes to breeding expectations, this is where some breeders get confused – if you pair a Normal Dark Green cock to a Cinnamon Dark Green hen, Phenotype logic says that you should get all Normal

Dark Green and Cinnamon Dark Green youngsters. This is not the case and it is likely that you will get no Cinnamons and some non-Dark Green babies in the mix!

Genotype is the genetic make-up of the bird and this may or may not match the observable characteristics of the bird (Phenotype). In other words, a pair of birds may produce other colours and varieties that differ from their actual appearance. We will explore how this works by working through Dominant, Recessive and Sex-Linked traits.

Colour breeding expectations - Dominant and Recessive genetics, including Splits

Colour genetics are pretty easy to understand and revolve around whether the colour is Dominant or Recessive. In simple terms, all forms of Green are Dominant Colours and all forms of Blue are Recessive Colours.

Dominant Colours must be visible (Phenotype) and only need to be carried by one of the parents to transmit that colour to their youngsters. Dominant Colours cannot be carried as hidden or split colours. Eg. If one of the parents is Green, then you will produce Green babies, regardless as to the colour of the other parent.

Recessive Colours do not have to be visible (Genotype), but must be carried by both parents (either visible or split), to be transmitted to the colour of their youngsters. Recessive Colours can be carried as hidden or split colours (Genotype). Eg. If one of the parents is Blue and the other is Green split Blue (often shown as Green / Blue), then you can expect Blue youngsters. Green birds can carry a hidden or split Blue colour in

their genetic make-up but Blue birds cannot carry a hidden or split Green colour in their genetic make-up.

Note that I will treat both Grey and Violet as modifying colour factors since they can modify all Green and Blue birds. They are Dominant Colour modifiers because they must be visible to transmit their colour to the progeny of the parents. For a visible Violet (ie. bird shown in the Violet class at shows), there must be a corresponding Dark Factor present (see next section about Dark Factor Colours). No bird can be split for Grey or Violet (in Australia all Greys are Dominant, although there is a rare Recessive Grey in England).

Colour breeding expectations - Understanding the Dark Factor

In addition to the gene for Colour, which can be either Dominant or Recessive, there is an inherited depth-of-colour gene called the Dark Factor. The Dark Factor gene is not responsible for colour itself but modifies the depth of the colour in a bird.

A simple table below explains the Dark Factor and the impact on both Green and Blue Series birds.

| Basic Colour | No Dark Factor (Light) | One Dark Factor (Medium) | Two Dark Factors (Dark) |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Green | Light Green | Dark Green | Olive Green |
| Blue | Sky | Cobalt | Mauve |

Expectations for Dark Factor

| Pairing | | | | Expectations |
|---------|--------|---|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Light | x | Light | 100% Light |
| 2 | Light | x | Medium | 50% Light 50% Medium |
| 3 | Light | x | Dark | 100% Medium |
| 4 | Medium | x | Medium | 25% Light 50% Medium 25% Dark |
| 5 | Medium | x | Dark | 50% Medium 50% Dark |
| 6 | Dark | x | Dark | 100% Dark |

Eg. Expectations from a Cobalt (Medium) x a Cobalt (Medium) pairing = 25% Sky (Light), 50% Cobalt (Medium) and 25% Mauve (Dark) as per Pairing 4.

Note that the Dark Factor also influences Grey Factor birds but it is difficult to correctly identify whether a Grey or Greygreen is Light, Medium or Dark Factor without test mating.

Variety expectations - Dominant, Recessive and Sex-Linked varieties

Variety genetics are pretty easy to understand, once you determine whether you have a variety that is Dominant, Recessive or Sex-Linked.

Dominant Varieties

Dominant Varieties must be visible (Phenotype) and only need to be carried by one of the parents to transmit that variety to their youngsters. Dominant Varieties cannot be carried as hidden or split Varieties. Eg. If one of the parents is a Dominant Pied, then you will produce Dominant Pied babies, regardless as to the Variety of the other parent. Normal birds cannot carry a hidden or split Dominant Variety in their genetic make-up.

Dominant Varieties may be present in a Single Factor or a Double Factor Form. Most Dominant Varieties show a distinctly different visible characteristic when in Single Factor form versus Double Factor form eg. Spangle, Goldenfaced, Yellowfaced and White Caps. Others are somewhat more difficult to identify in Double Factor form eg. Greys, Dominant Pies and Clear-Flighted Pies but can be determined using test matings.

Expectations for Dominant Varieties

| Pairing | | | | Expectations |
|---------|--------|---|--------|--|
| 1 | Dom SF | x | Normal | 50% Dom SF 50% Normal |
| 2 | Dom DF | x | Normal | 100% Dom SF |
| 3 | Dom SF | x | Dom SF | 25% Dom DF 50% Dom SF 25% Normal |
| 4 | Dom SF | x | Dom DF | 50% Dom SF 50% Dom DF |
| 5 | Dom DF | x | Dom DF | 100% Dom DF |

Note:

Dominant Variety Single Factor bird = Dom SF

Dominant Variety Double Factor bird = Dom DF

Non-Dominant Variety bird = Normal

Eg. Expectations from a Spangle Double Factor x a Normal pairing = 100% Spangle Single Factor as per Pairing 2.

Recessive Varieties

Recessive Varieties do not have to be visible (Genotype), but must be carried by both parents (either visible or split), to be able to transmit that variety to their youngsters. Recessive Varieties can be carried as hidden or split varieties (Genotype). Eg. If one of the parents is a Clearwing and the other is Normal split Clearwing (often shown as Normal Green / Clearwing), then you can

expect Clearwing youngsters. Normal birds can carry a hidden or split Recessive Variety in their genetic make-up. Both Cocks and Hens can be Split.

Expectations for Recessive Varieties

| Pairing | | | | Expectations |
|---------|--------|---|--------|--|
| 1 | RecV | x | Normal | 100% Split Recessive |
| 2 | RecV | x | / RecV | 50% Recessive 50% Split Recessive |
| 3 | RecV | x | RecV | 100% Recessive |
| 4 | / RecV | x | / RecV | 25% Recessive 50% Split Recessive 25% Normal |
| 5 | Normal | x | / RecV | 50% Split Recessive 50% Normal |

Note 1:

Recessive Variety bird = RecV

Split Recessive Variety bird = / RecV

Non-Recessive Variety bird = Normal

Note 2: Pairings 4 & 5 above result in youngsters that will be visibly Normal but possibly Split Recessive Variety – test matings would be needed to determine whether they are Split or not. Therefore, these pairings are not recommended for breeding of splits due to the amount of wastage.

Eg. Expectations from a Fallow x a Split Fallow pairing = 50% Fallow and 50% Normal Split Fallow as per Pairing 2.

Sex-Linked Varieties

These varieties are called Sex-Linked because there is a linkage between the sex-linked variety and the sex of the bird. Only the Cock bird can carry the Sex-Linked Variety in a hidden or split form. Hens cannot

be Split for a Sex-Linked Variety. This means that to breed Sex-Linked Variety Cock birds, there must be a Sex-Linked Hen involved plus either a Sex-Linked Cock bird or a Split Sex-Linked Cock bird. Only Cock birds can be Split for Sex-Linked Varieties.

If you get a surprise Sex-Linked Variety baby in a nest when both birds are visually Non-Sex-Linked Variety (or Normals), then the Cock bird must be Split for the Sex-Linked Variety. This is also the case when there is a visually Non-Sex-Linked Cock bird and a Sex-Linked Hen as the pair.

Expectations for Sex-Linked Varieties

| Pairing | | | | Expectations | |
|---------|----------|---|--------|--------------|------------|
| | Cock | | Hen | Cocks | Hens |
| 1 | SL | x | Normal | Split SL | Normal |
| 2 | SL | x | SL | SL | SL |
| 3 | Split SL | x | Normal | 50% Split SL | 50% SL |
| | | | | 50% Normal | 50% Normal |
| 4 | Split SL | x | SL | 50% SL | 50% SL |
| | | | | 50% Split SL | 50% Normal |
| 5 | Normal | x | SL | Split SL | Normal |

Note 1:

Sex-Linked Variety bird = SL

Split Sex-Linked Variety bird (cocks only) = Split SL

Non-Sex-Linked Variety bird = Normal

List of Varieties by Classification

Dominant Varieties

- Spangle
- Dominant Pied
- Clear-Flighted Pied
- Dutch Pied
- White Cap
- Yellowfaced^

- Goldenfaced^
- Grey^
- Greygreen^
- Violet%
- Crests*
- Darkwing#

Recessive Varieties

- Blackeyed
- Dilute
- Clearwing
- Greywing
- Fallow
- Recessive Pied
- Saddleback

Sex-Linked Varieties

- Lutino
- Albino
- Cinnamon
- Opaline
- Clearbody
- Lacewing
- Slates

Notes:

^ Technically these Varieties are designated as Colours in the ANBC Standard Matrix but they breed with characteristics of a Dominant Variety.

% Technically Violets are also designated as Colour but act as Partial Dominant “Colour Modifier” Variety as they can co-exist with all known Colours, with the desired show bench Violet actually being a Violet Cobalt.

* Crests are only Semi-Dominant.

Darkwings are a partial Dominant “Modifier” Variety. They only modify the Greywing, Clearwing and Dilute varieties. Darkwings can come in both Single Factor and Double Factor with Double Factor birds having darker markings.

Hopefully, this basic knowledge of how to breed colours and varieties will assist so breeders and encourage them to take up breeding some of the lesser recessing varieties.

NEW COUNCILLOR PROFILE

DERRIN RAY (RAY & GERMAN - RG4)

Derrin moved to Melbourne in 2011 from Northern Tasmania and joined the United Club late that year. Derrin showed for the first time at the 2012 UBC Shield (finishing 11th in the grey class). Since then he has moved through the ranks and now exhibits in the Champion section. Derrin is also now a BCV judge.

Derrin keeps a fairly compact aviary with around 100/120 birds and try to breed around 100 plus chicks each year. He breeds mainly

Normals, Cinnamons and a few Opalines, Dilutes & Dominant Pieds. He has established several fairly successful families within the stud that are regularly in the top six at state level. His philosophy is to generally only buy birds from two Victorian champion breeders and their lines seem to mix well together.

Derrin's major successes on the show bench include one National win, 4 Diplomas and several state Championship wins.



Derrin Ray



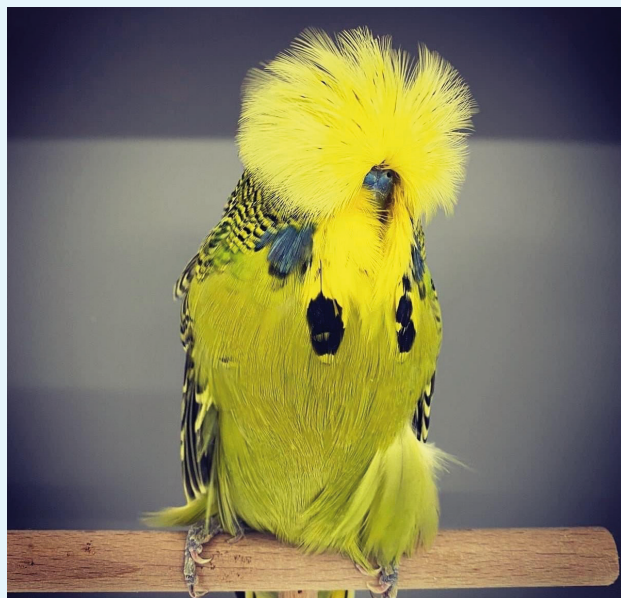
German National Winning Hen 2015.

VALE – MR. KEVIN BLUNT

31 January 1948 – 10 January 2022

It is with much sadness that we advise the hobby on the sudden passing of BCV member Mr. Kevin Blunt. Kevin was an inaugural member and past President of the Riverina Budgerigar Society. Breeding budgies was a passion for Kevin and partner Jenny specialising mainly in Clearwings & Lacewings. They also enjoyed breeding Opaline and Spangle varieties.

Awarded a 2nd in the Lacewing class at the 2021 Adult State Championship with a hen bird put Kevin just shy of being elevated into the Open exhibitor section, a lifelong aspiration of his that he was always striving to achieve. An excellent club man going about his tasks with nothing ever too much to undertake. He will be sorely missed in our lives and amongst the members of the Riverina club in particular. RIP Kevin



RECENT BIS AT THE BELGIAN NATIONAL SHOW

for the Heylen Partnership.

VALE – MR. BRUCE WILSON

13th June 1943 - 14th November 2021

When people hear that someone breeds show budgies they generally don't think much of it – can't be that hard right? We all know that's not far from correct.

Bruce applied to be an Aspiring Judge on September 10th, 1987 after having kept budgerigars since 1975 – a year after his arrival in Australia.

Since that time Bruce has gone on to become a Senior Panel Judge, form a Nationally recognized Breeding and Showing partnership (Wilson & Hoadley), become the Secretary of the Judges Panel in Victoria and become the key budgerigar Team Carer responsible for the care of over 70 birds once a year which encompassed the full show preparation for the Australian National Budgerigar Council Show for Victoria at the National Show held every May. On top of this he has held down key roles for both Linfox and Toll Transport Groups in Procurement/Purchasing.

To add some context:

In Bruce's evolution he has had to understand the Genetic principles of more than 27 varieties and the accompanying colors to enable the selection of birds for varietal perfection as laid out by the ANBC Standard. On top of that he and his Budgerigar partner Phil Hoadley have also had to sculpt the shape and size of the budgerigars in their stud to enable them to compete with the best in Australia. Bruce also specialized in the most challenging of Varieties, Clearwings. If one considers the various combinations for all the varieties and colors, they number in the thousands.

As a judge he had to understand the nuances of the Type of the Bird – as well as the variety. This allowed him to rise in the ranks of the judges and put in places systems and procedures for not only grading judges but also training the next generation of judges. He also had to modernise the management

of the Judges Panel to enable it became a more professionally run committee as well as introducing systems and procedures to ensure a progressive future.

Bruce was part of the last three National Organizing committees (4 if you count Bendigo which was cancelled due to COVID 19) for the hosting of the ANBC Nationals in Victoria. This involved the selection of venues, budget management and the evening functions to ensure we held a successful and memorable event. Bruce was an important constant between the organizing committees, transferring his previous experience and lessons from one committee to the next.


























As a National Carer he housed the National Show team at his residence and performed essential washing and show preparation on each of the birds in each of the varieties. This preparation also involved getting up at an ungodly hour on the Thursday to cage and travel with the birds to the State that was hosting the ANBC Show on the upcoming weekend – often not relaxing until the Team was caged, fed and settled, which often didn't happen until later that evening. This preparation is what has enabled Victoria to maintain such outstanding results for a long period of time. In the role of Head National Carer for Victoria he has also overseen three other Team Carers in the preparation and presentation of the Team across a two day show weekend in a fast-paced show environment. Not easy.

Bruce's knowledge and application to the hobby have been nothing short of exceptional across the many, many years of his involvement.

Bruce has been a mate, a friend, a leader, a guide and a mentor to many people over many years and will certainly be missed in the Hobby going forward.

Thank you Bruce.

SENIOR JUDGES PANEL

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ATTENTION • POTENTIAL JUDGES SOUGHT!

The Judges and Standards Committee are always on the lookout for the Judges of the Future!!

If you are at minimum an Intermediate Breeder, have the backing of your Club and good experience in the Hobby over many years please consider this very rewarding opportunity!

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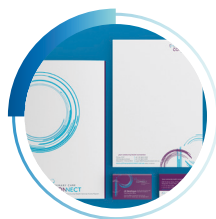
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