



THE FLEDGLING

BENDIGO BUDGERIGAR CLUB INC.

Congrats!

DENISE & ROBIN

BCV Adult Shield

Denise: 2nd place Opaline

Robin: Reserve Intermediate Bird in Show,
Best Intermediate Green, English
Yellowface, Opaline AOSV and Best
Intermediate Hen



Denise Andrea
2nd place Opaline, BCV Adult Championship 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been another busy month for the club. We have started collecting ring orders and membership renewals for 2019. I would encourage all members to get your ring orders in and renew your membership before the cut-off date on April 31. We value your membership and look forward to your ongoing contribution to our club. We held our BCV Selection Day on February 25th and I would like to thank everyone who attended and helped out on the day. A big thanks to our Horsham members who brought sandwiches and party pies, it was much appreciated by all. I would also like to thank Bob Keetelaar for judging and supporting the club to field a good team this year. We placed 9th with a total of 374 points. Last year we also placed 9th with total points of 289. While winning isn't everything it is good to see the club improving in the points tally. Congratulations to all members who exhibited birds on the day and a special mention to Robin Kirby for Best Reserve Intermediate and Denise for placing second in the Opaline section. Also, thank you to Marlene, Bill and Denise for transporting members birds who were unable to attend on the day. The Bendigo Diploma Show will be held on Saturday 21st April at the Lockwood South Community Hall. All welcome.

Regards
Barry Butcher

JUDGE'S REPORT
BENDIGO'S ADULT SHIELD
SELECTION DAY
25 February, 2018

The variety of the Greywings was good but the birds are old style and need improvement on facial features, feather length and mask length. The fallows need a lot more facial feather.

The Opaline class is strong but for the club it is worth considering, if Denise loses her birds or they become infertile, the club will lose the quality Opaline section. No one else seems to be coming on with strong Opalines at the moment.

The Greens need work. Rae's Greens are the strongest from what was present on the day. Members need to spend more time on the normal varieties: Greens and Grey Greens especially. There is a big opening for the normal varieties and Spangles in the club.

It is worth considering the missing varieties like Albinos that need working on to strengthen the club in a competitive sense.

Best Bird in Show was Denise Andrea's Opaline and Reserve Bird in Show was Steven Mow's pied.

Bob Keetelaar



BCV ADULT SHIELD REPORT

Robin continues to rock the show bench at the 2018 BCV Adult Shield. Robin was awarded Best Reserve Intermediate Bird and Best Intermediate Green, English Yellowface, Opaline AOSV and Best Intermediate Hen. Although this is Robin's first BCV Adult Shield, as an intermediate breeder he shows no signs of taking his foot off the pedal in 2018.

Denise placed second in the Opaline section. Always consistent, Denise's Opalines have performed well over the years and continue to do so at the 2018 BCV Adult Shield.

Congratulations to all members who exhibited birds on the day. The Bendigo club placed 9th with a total of 374 points.

The new addition of a panel discussion and a presentation has proven to be very popular at both the UBC and Adult Shield events.



Robin and BCV President, Col Flanagan
Image courtesy of BCV

This time we heard from a panel of judges including Alan Rowe, James Bader and Jamie Wright from QLD. The judges answered all manner of questions relating to feeding, breeding, aviary management and the Australian Standard.

The highlight was a presentation by Richard Miller, a champion budgerigar breeder from the UK. Richard and his father Michael operate as R & M Miller Budgerigars. The Miller duo come from a generational pedigree farming family and have applied many of the principals of top livestock breeding to the breeding of exhibition budgerigars.

During the presentation Richard shared the key features of how the budgerigar farm works. A summary of the presentation follows this report.

I spoke with Richard via email following the presentation and he was very obliging, allowing the Bendigo Budgerigar Club to use images of the Miller stud in The Fledgling. Thank you, Richard.

"The Millers have applied many of the principals of top livestock breeding to the breeding of exhibition budgerigars."

FARMING FOR FEATHERS

Summary of a presentation from
Richard Miller

How does the farm work?
There are 10 key features.

Breeding in Numbers. They look at every breeding cage as a slot machine. They breed high numbers of birds with high quality of pairing. They believe you never know where the jack pot is going to come from. They do acknowledge that the best ten pairs will increase the quality of the top end but their aim is to improve the overall quality by improving the average. They believe it is a game of percentages. Focus on improving the average and not just the top end.

Pedigree Production Line. This is a round by round assessment of quality, moving birds as they get older from one flight to another. In this system, the Miller partnership have Baby Cages (5-8 weeks) Flight 1 (8-12 weeks) Flight 2 (3-4 months) Flight 3 (4-5 months) Flight 4 (6+), by this time they are ready to pair up for the next breeding season and are move to the second aviary.

The Miller team work on the premise that their birds are only as good as the last round of breeding.

The Importance of Young Birds. Once birds are in flight 4 and show signs of maturity, they are paired up. Adult birds are then moved to the second aviary at the end of their first breeding cycle. The Miller team work on the premise that young birds are more virile and represent the future of your stud. Don't focus on the past.



Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars



Richard and Michael Miller
Pedigree Production Line
Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars

*"Your birds
are only as
good as the
last round of
breeding."*

FARMING FOR FEATHERS

continued...

Routine. The Millers believe that one of the key elements to breeding super birds is to have a routine that the birds can get used to and understand. This will need to fit into your normal day. The Millers check birds twice a day, once in the morning and once in the early evening, they control the light and provide soft food all year round.

Feeding regime. The Millers have a specific soft food feeding program that is used all year round. More details can be found on their website and YouTube (details below).

Keep ahead of the times. It is important to keep ahead of the times. Feather quality moves on and directional feather is becoming more robust. It is important to keep up with the times, but also to keep ahead of the times. Keep looking forward for new features in budgerigars. Don't be the breeder who is successful on the show bench and in two years becomes totally out of date.

Pair selection. Pair selection for the Millers is very important. They recommend pairing opposites. They will never pair an extremely

good cock bird to an extremely good hen. They match features looking for a complementary pairing that considers pedigree: what they have been bred from and the family traits.

Outcrossing for features. Their system for bringing in an outcross is twofold. Look for a feature that is lacking and look for a breeder who has that feature in abundance, who is prepared to sell you a bird with this feature. They believe there is a fault in every bird and the job is to work to improve these faults when outcrossing for features.

Setting goals. When setting goals, they advise setting realistic ones every season at the following times:

- When pairing up
- When assessing surplus stock
- When sourcing outcrosses

When assessing their stock before pairing, they look for one feature they are wanting to develop/fix and one they want to eradicate/reduce. When selecting breeding pairs, they select as many birds with this feature or with this feature in their pedigree and focus on that for the breeding season.

The Birds. The final feature are the birds. I will let the birds speak for themselves on the next page.



Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars

"When assessing their stock before pairing they look for one feature they are wanting to develop/fix and one they want to eradicate/reduce."



Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars

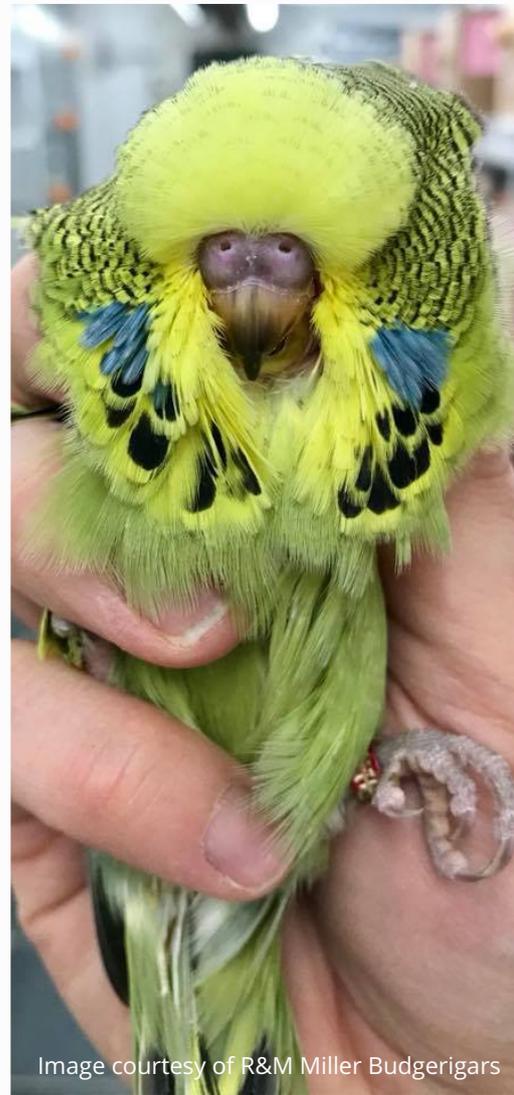


Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars



Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars



Image courtesy of R&M Miller Budgerigars

THOUGHTS ON FEATHERS

REFLECTIONS ON RICHARD MILLER'S PRESENTATION AND BCV PANEL DISCUSSION

During the BCV panel discussion following Richard's presentation, Champion breeder and National judge, Alan Rowe (who has just returned from judging in Budapest at the World Budgerigar Show and sits on the World Budgerigar Organisation Panel of Judges), mentioned that he feels we are not too far away in Australia from breeding more of the directional feather we see from international breeders and there may be a need to look at the standard into the future.

Richard Miller spoke about having vision and he used an example of a Daniel Lutolf bird and the aspiring standard on the international show bench. He used two diagrams to illustrate this vision and credited Lutolf with designing the images below.

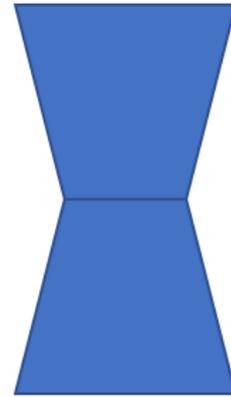
If you look at the triangle shapes in figure 1, Richard believes they depict the original key hole exhibition budgerigar with the mask coming up to the middle of the face under the beak and going out from the beak to the top of the head.

Figure 1



In figure 2, there is much more width in the middle of the head across the brow and the thickness coming out on top of the head. This is where the vision of the exhibition budgerigar appears to be heading.

Figure 2



Comparison of figures 1 & 2

Figure 1



Figure 2



Richard believes the future of the budgerigar is the complete face. If you drew a line from the top edge in figure 2 to the bottom edge and fill in that gap with feather, that is the complete face.

Is this what we need to keep in mind as we pair up for future breeding season?

MEMBER PROFILE

DENISE ANDREA

My Love of Birds by Denise Andrea

My family moved from Melbourne to Bendigo when I was eight years old. Our house was situated across the road from the White Hills Botanical Gardens.

Birds have been part of my life since I was very young as my mother had a small aviary of budgies and was a member of the Bendigo Budgerigar Club which was at that time known as Bendigo Budgerigar and Caged Bird Society. It was at these club meetings that I first met Erwin Baker. I helped my mother hand feed orphaned chicks which ranged from sparrows, budgies, and canaries up to kookaburras, one owl, one wedge-tailed eagle, one peacock chick but the best of all and most memorable were the magpies.

When I finished school, I attended the Bendigo Institute of Technology where I gained my Diploma of Art. I met my husband Tony in Bendigo on a weekend at home. I was at this time working as a Graphic Designer in Melbourne. Tony and I spent the following twelve years working in Melbourne then

moved to Mount Beauty to live and where our son Kane was born.

We finally moved back to Bendigo in 1989 and Tony built me a small aviary. After making contact with Erwin Baker, I joined the Bendigo Budgerigar and Caged Bird Society in the late 1990s and became the Editor of "The Fledgling" in October 2003 and held that position for fourteen years.

I purchased my first exhibition quality Budgies from Erwin Baker who became a close friend and mentor. Another friend who influenced me greatly and passed on a world of valuable information about breeding the different varieties was Marilyn Benbow.

In 2011, I was fortunate to win "Best Green" at the BCV Unbroken Cap Shield followed by a third in the Young Bird Shield 2012. My "Green" was placed third at the National Show held in Geelong. Five years later my Grey Opaline gained a 2nd placing at the 2016 Young Bird Shield followed by a second place at the Nationals in Hobart, Tasmania.

My good luck with Opalines came from a bird I called "Big Blue" a large sky blue Opaline/Clearbody cock, a grandson of the Green which was placed third at the Nationals. Big Blue and a Grey Opaline hen produced nine chicks - six Opalines and three Clearbodies. I will be attempting to clean up the flecking which they all carry in varying degrees by choosing clear headed mates, and capitalise on the fact that the cocks are split for Clearbody.

There are no hard and fast rules for producing National winners, everybody has their own way of working with their birds. Different situations necessitate unique solutions. Give your budgies everything they need to alleviate the day to day stresses they will encounter and always be aware of what's going on in your aviary.



Denise Andrea

Budgie Bob's Food for Thought

DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND

by BOB KEETELAAR

It's that time of year again. Auctions, bird sales, culling and pairing in your head for the coming nesting season. So now is the time to think of what you need to improve your normal or lesser varieties.

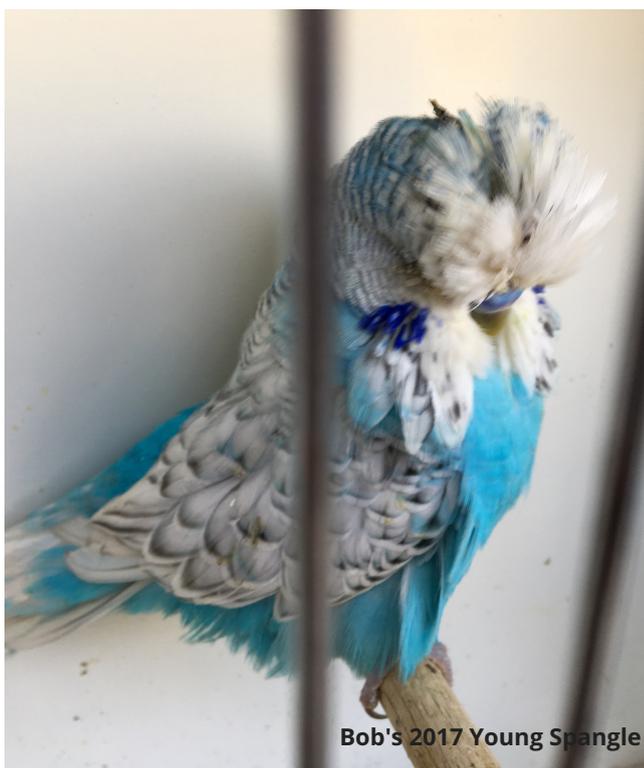
First of all, you should be thinking about your normal varieties. You can't do anything to your stud without normal varieties that show decent size and feather. Don't even think about going out to buy birds of the same variety that you have, thinking they will improve your stock. You need good normals and split them out to your lesser varieties. It's a 3 to 5-year plan. If anyone is selling lesser varieties, it's because they are trying to improve their own stud and these birds don't come up to scratch or they may be problem birds so you will be behind the eight ball again. I can't stress enough the importance of normal to improve those varieties and a program using splits.

I know auctions can burn a hole in your pocket. It is alright to come home from an auction empty handed. Save your money until that one bird or pair come up that will improve your stud with feather and size. If you don't buy any birds go home and have a close look at your own birds and see if any of them carry long feather around the face, legs and mask. If you find any, pair those birds together. It doesn't matter about variety, just go best to best until you breed some numbers then think of your split program.

After close inspection of your birds to see if you have any of the traits I have mentioned, cull heavily and don't breed just to fill nesting cages, as you will never improve. Birds on the show bench are changing so don't get left behind. Think ahead and buy and pair for long feather and a thick necked carrot shaped birds.

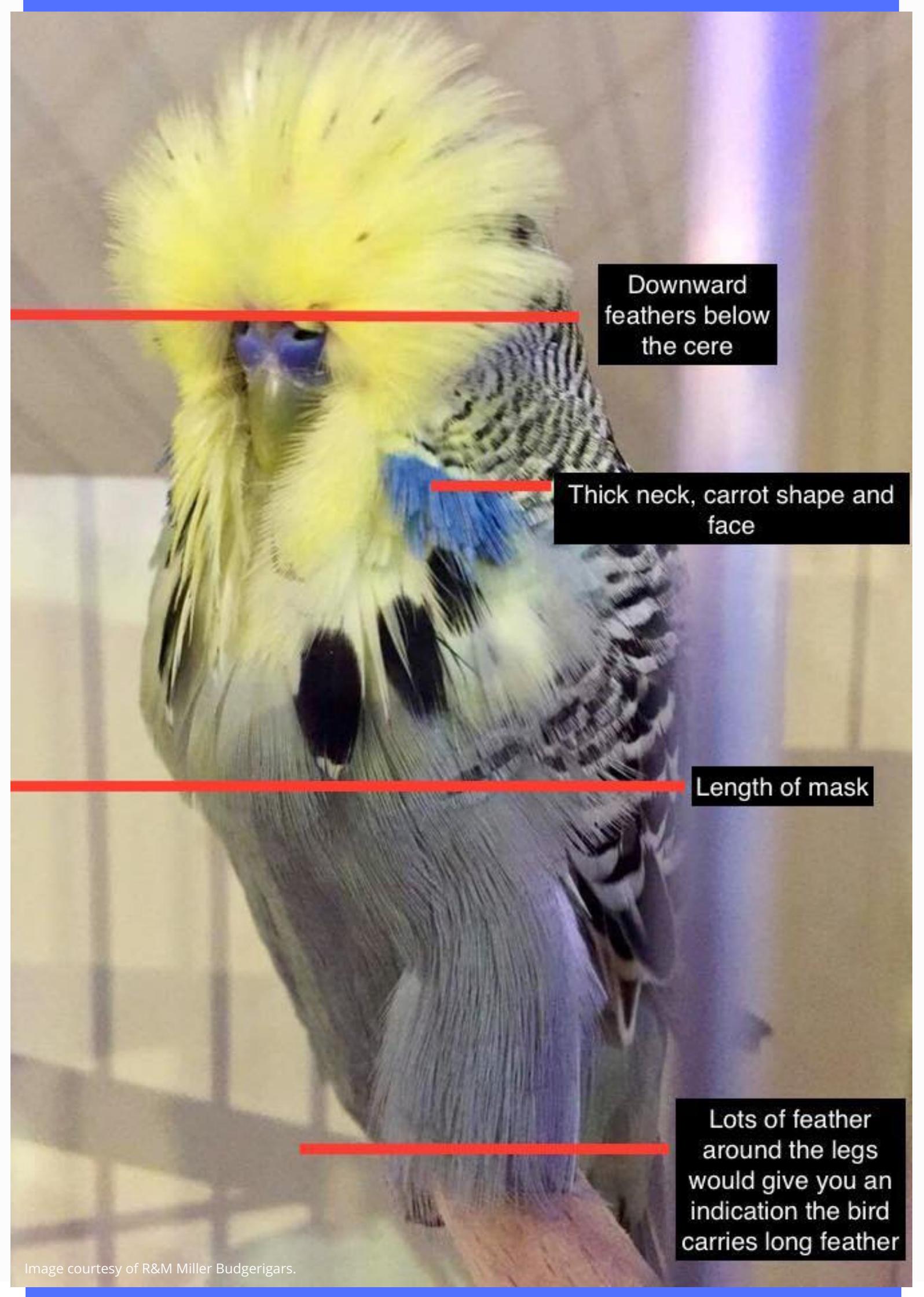
Good luck but most of all don't waste your money on something that won't move you forward.

I have broken down the features to consider when buying and pairing on the next page using a Miller budgerigar.



Bob's 2017 Young Spangle

" It is alright to come home from an auction empty handed. Save your money until that one bird or pair come up that will improve your stud with feather and size."



Downward
feathers below
the cere

Thick neck, carrot shape and
face

Length of mask

Lots of feather
around the legs
would give you an
indication the bird
carries long feather

Represent the Bendigo Budgerigar Club!

SHOWS, AUCTIONS AND EVENTS

Saturday 17th March Diploma Show
Ballarat Brown Hill Hall, Humphrey
Street, Ballarat, Simon Meaghar 5335
5454

Sunday 18th March Diploma Show
Riverina, Barooga Community Hall,
Barooga, Robert Randall 5883 9258

Saturday 24th March Diploma Show
United(YBonly), Scout Hall Irvine Road
Ivanhoe, Brian Reynolds 0448 654 607

Saturday 7th April Auction Eastern
Bedford Park Youth Hall, Rosewarne
Lane, East Ringwood Robert Dagg 0409
652 962

Sunday 15th April Auction Geelong
Lifestyle Pavilion Geelong Show
grounds, Josh Hillman 0448 162 077

Saturday 21st April Diploma Show
Bendigo, Lockwood South Community
Hall, Lockwood Sth, Brett Ricardo 0409
572 442

Next Meeting and Club Night



Tuesday 20th March 7:30pm Guides Hall,
Atkins Street, North Bendigo

General Meeting

Ken Crowle Trophy

Sex linked specialty varieties

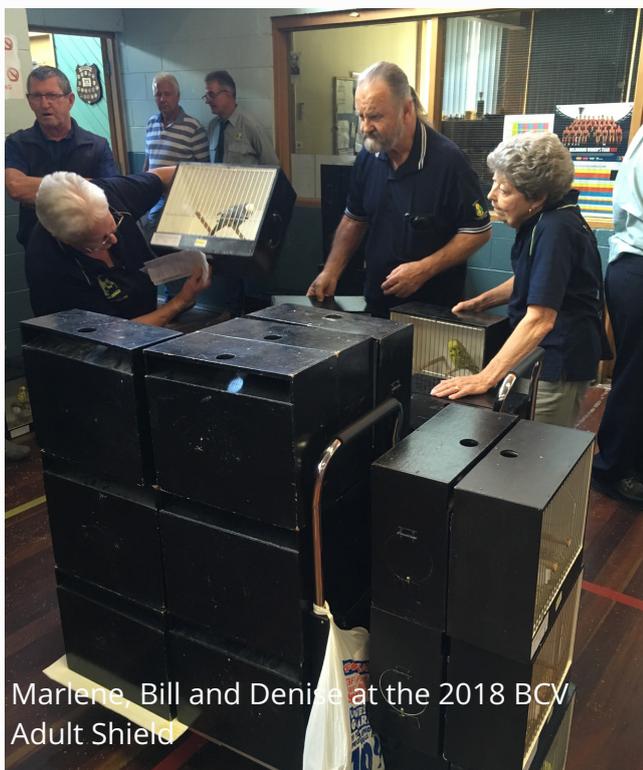
(Y.B Blue Rings)

Varieties eligible for this trophy are
restricted to Albinos, Lacewings, Lutinos
and Texas Clearbodies.

Ron Lillie Trophy

Recessive varieties (Y.B Blue Rings)

Varieties eligible for this trophy include
Blackeyes, Clearwings, Dilutes, Dark
Eyed Clears, Fallows, Greywings and
Recessive Pies.



Marlene, Bill and Denise at the 2018 BCV
Adult Shield

This month's recommended viewing:

Farming for Feathers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1LbhxsmTvk)

[v=O1LbhxsmTvk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1LbhxsmTvk)

(the sound quality is average to begin
with but improves around 2 minutes into
the presentation)

Or check out R&M Miller Budgerigars at
their website

<http://www.randmmiller.co.uk/links.php>

Or for more pictures of the Miller
Budgerigars at Richard Miller on
Facebook

Presidential Trophy Points March 2018

R. Kirby.....8pts
 D. Andrea.....6pts
 Hall & Rice.....3pts
 M. Emond.....3pts
 P. Tyack.....2pts
 Victola.....2pts
 S. Mow.....2pts
 R. Nelson.....1pt

Best Bird in Show

Denise Andrea

Colour Series Points March 2018

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| GREEN..... | P. Tyack.....1 pt |
| GREY GREEN..... | R. Nelson.....1 pt |
| BLUE..... | S. Mow.....1 pt |
| VIOLET..... | R. Kirby.....1 pt |
| GREY..... | Hall & Rice.....1pt |
| ENGLISH YELLOW FACE..... | R. Kirby.....2 pts |
| AUST. GOLDEN FACE..... | P. Tyack.....1 pt |
| BLACKEYE..... | R. Nelson.....1 pt |
| DILUTE..... | R. Kirby.....2 pt |
| LUTINO..... | D. Andrea.....1 pt |
| ALBINO..... | Hall & Rice.....1pt |
| DARK EYED CLEAR..... | |
| CLEARWING..... | P. Tyack.....1 pt |
| GREYWING..... | |
| CINNAMON..... | |
| SPANGLE D/F..... | R. Kirby.....1 pt |
| OPALINE..... | Hall & Rice.....2 pts |
| OPALINE AOSV..... | P. Tyack.....1 pt |
| CLEARBODY..... | S. Mow.....1 pt |
| LACEWING..... | M. Emond.....1 pt |
| FALLOW..... | Hall & Rice.....1pt |
| SPANGLE..... | D. Andrea.....2 pts |
| SPANGLE AOSV..... | Hall & Rice.....1 pt |
| DOMINANT PIED..... | R. Nelson.....1 pt |
| RECESSIVE PIED AUST..... | D. Andrea.....1 pt |
| AOSV..... | Hall & Rice.....2 pt |
| AUSTRALIAN WHITECAP..... | Hall & Rice.....2 pt |
| CREST..... | Hall & Rice.....2 pt |
| AOV..... | R. Kirby.....1 pt |
| HENS..... | R. Kirby.....1 pt |
| | S. Mow.....1pt |
| | Hall & Rice.....2 pt |
| | |
| | Hall & Rice.....1 pt |
| | Hall & Rice.....1 pt |
| | |
| | R. Nelson.....1 pt |



CLUB CONTACTS

PRESIDENT

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MOB. 0427 769645

SECRETARY

BRETT RICARDO

PH: 5448 5051

EDITOR

MATT EMOND

MOB. 0412 814 885

TRADING TABLE

BRETT RICARDO

PH: 5448 5051

EDITOR'S NOTE

In Australia, we may not have the features seen in the budgerigars of international breeders but evolution will occur and is unequivocally sparked on by selective breeding. It was the selective breeding practices of pigeon fanciers in the late 19th century that helped inspire Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution and Natural Selection. Evolution does not stand still and change is as natural a part of life as breathing.

The birds of club legends George Manallack, Erwin Baker and Bryon Hunt had evolved over the years as did the standard for the exhibition budgerigar in Australia. From 1917 when George Manallack started breeding at the age of 12 to Bryon Hunt's ANBC English Yellowface winner in 2013 the Australian standard had changed 6 times. That is an average of a new standard every 16 years. The last ANBC standard was introduced in 2003.

I asked Richard Miller what advice would be give Australian breeders? "My one piece of advice about keeping ahead of the times would be: never be satisfied with what you have, there is always room for improvement!"

What will the budgerigar of tomorrow look like?

What role can the Bendigo Budgerigar Club play in the evolution of the exhibition bird in Australia?



BENDIGO BUDGERIGAR CLUB INC.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING

25 February, 2018

Meeting opened: 12:10pm

Members present

R. Kirby, B. Butcher, R. Nelson, R. Ryan, G. Roberts, J. Wright, D. & V. McCahon, D. Andrea, B. Rice, M. Hall, J. Family and M. Emond

Apologies

B. Ricardo, D. Mulqueen, B. Ketterer, R. Bride, A. & K. Alsop

Moved: Bill

Second: Robin

Carried

Minutes

Moved: Marlene

Seconded: David

Carried

Correspondence

- BCV ring order forms
- Avian Vitality to donate prizes/sponsorship for Bendigo Diploma Show
- Bendigo Diploma Show Lockwood Community Hall booked and paid for

Moved: Rae

Second: Denise

Carried

General Business

1) Purchase of the Bendigo Budgerigar Trailer

Robin recommended going to a larger size trailer to accommodate the boards. Cost: \$3,400 and \$600 for trailer cover

Armstrong trailers in Epsom have one in stock

Motion: Bendigo Budgerigar Club supports the purchase of the larger trailer from Armstrong's in Epsom and endorses Robin to purchase on behalf of the club.

Moved: Jenny

Seconded: Ron

Carried

2) BCV has a new form for ring orders

Recommended that all members have ring order and membership forms into the club by April 31, to ensure no one misses out on rings for 2019 and to avoid extra costs.

3) Bendigo Diploma Show prizes

Bendigo Diploma Show being held on Saturday 21st April at the Lockwood South Community Hall.

- Suggestions for sectional prizes

- \$25 best bird

- \$15 opposite sex

- RK suggested fuel vouchers

- Donations/sponsorship to date

- Gerry Duffin, Elwyn Hunt have each donated \$100

- David and Vicky have offered to sponsor Beginners section

- Bill and Marlene to sponsor engraving and plaques for variety awards

It was recommended to make a note of organisations and individuals who donate to the Bendigo Diploma Show for acknowledgement.

Action: Members have been asked to bring back ideas for sectional prizes to the next meeting on Tuesday March 20.

4) New award

Barry recommended the club consider an award to honour Bryon Hunt.

Bryon's successful Yellowface birds were suggested as the focus of the award.

Motion: Bendigo Budgerigar Club to establish the Bryon Hunt memorial award for the Yellowface variety. The award will be presented annually and will commence in 2019.

Moved: Vicky

Seconded: Denise

Carried

Other Business

BCV are holding a competition to design a new logo

Rae reported a logo design competition is underway for the BCV.

Rae to send Matt pictures of varieties for awards when completed to feature in The Fledgling

Judges Report BCV Adult Selection day, Bendigo Budgerigar Club

Judges Report by Bob Keetelaar presented to members. Full report in March edition of The Fledgling

Best bird: Denise Andrea

Reserve: Steven Mow

BCV Adult Shield

Marlene to steward for Bendigo and manage cage stickers

Bendigo Diploma Show

Darren to supply meat again for the Diploma show and members to bring salads and deserts. The Lockwood South Community Hall has been booked and paid for.

Bendigo Budgerigar Auction

Bendigo Auction date is Saturday 21st July to be held at the Lockwood South Community Hall

Next meeting and club night March 20th 7:30, Atkins Street Guides Hall, Nth Bendigo

- General Meeting
- Ken Crowle Trophy – Sex linked specialty varieties (Y.B Blue Rings)
Varieties eligible for this trophy are restricted to Albinos, Lacewings, Lutinos and Texas Clearbodies.
- Ron Lillie Trophy – Recessive varieties (Y.B Blue Rings)
Varieties eligible for this trophy include Blackeyes, Clearwings, Dilutes, Dark Eyed Clears, Fallows, Greywings and Recessive Pies.

April Meeting

The April 17 meeting will be a pizza night with guest speaker Vic Murray from the United Budgerigar Club.

Meeting closed

1:08pm