



Contents

The BSNZ is affiliated to the World Budgerigar Organisation:

www.world-budgerigar.org

Council Chatter and President's Report:

The Council update and sharing of information about the 2014 AGM details, the Patronage Show, our new Social Media Policy and Ring Order and Membership details. Do send any feedback and queries, comments and ideas to the Society Secretary on budgiesec@barons.co.nz

Page 2

Ask the Vet

Today our Vet helps with some ideas around caring for your aviaries with the beginning of winter on its way. Please refer to Issue 2, 2013 for information regarding managing stress in your show team as we build to the Show season. All questions should be sent to birdvet@barons.co.nz

Page 3

The Ministry for Primary Industries:

Information on the development of an Import Health Standard for Companion Animals, including budgies may interest some members.

Page 3

Breeding with Intent

This edition of the Bulletin we welcome a brand new contributor in the person of Dean Fallen who has generously agreed to write, for our members, a series of informative articles

dealing with the complex topic of genetics! Barrie Shutt is one of Dean's budgerigar heroes and has known him since 2008. He recently had this to say about Dean to his 1000 member strong Facebook page: "Dean has stored in his built in PC (his brain) a vast amount of information on all aspects of today's budgerigar. Adding that to his unbelievable genetics knowledge makes him worthy of a mention, keep it up Dean". We hope that you will learn something new from this series.

Page 4

Around the Clubs:

This section includes information from Auckland Met, Hastings and Palmerston North this month! If you have some interesting budgie news do send it to budgiesec@barons.net.nz

Page 6

Invitation to the Budgie AGM

Nomination for Council positions and four remits for the consideration of the membership.

Page 7

Tasmanian Tales and Travels

David Ingoe shares his experiences judging two Shows in Tasmania in January.

Page 8

The Bulletin April 2014

The Show Season is almost upon us so have a look at the article in this edition of your Bulletin kindly shared by Barrie Shutt!

IN THIS ISSUE

First Up Shows for 2014

A quick glimpse at the Shows getting underway in May.

Page 10

How the Spangle Variety Really Works:

An interesting look at the spangle mutation from the BRASEA Bulletin with thanks.

Page 10

Interested in a Budgie Seminar?

Details about an informative seminar around budgerigar health being hosted in Hamilton.

Page 10

Show Preparation

This article is kindly reproduced here with the permission of Barrie Shutt. We hope it helps with your planning and preparation for the Show season.

Page 11

Judges' Panel News:

Details on recent happenings at the Judges' Panel Meeting to update all judges and members on the latest happenings.

Page 12

Council Chatter

by: Sheryl Baron, BSNZ, Secretary

2014 AGM Details:

The date for the submission of both nominations and remits for the upcoming AGM has passed and we are pleased at the high level of interest, from members, in joining the Council and contributing to the positive work that has been started by the current team of Councillors. Please see Page 7 of this edition of the Bulletin for information on the four remits for your consideration, as well as information on three new candidates for election to the Council. If you wish to exercise your right to vote, but will not be in Hamilton for the meeting, please complete the form attached with this Bulletin and get it to a member of the Council or the Secretary. Any queries please contact the Secretary on: budgiesec@barons.co.nz



N.Z. Budgerigar Society Patronage Show 2014:

As indicated in previous Bulletins things are well underway for the hosting of the Patronage Show by the Hamilton Cage Bird Club. The date for this key event on the calendar is 21-22 June and the venue is Hamilton Gardens on Cobham Drive, Hamilton. We look forward to huge support from our budgie fraternity for this Show and with the extra patronage in the form of the new Colour Awards exhibitors can be assured of great prizes and a wonderful time at this important event on the BSNZ Show calendar. The judges for this Show are: Kathy Manton, Senior Judge from NSW; Keith Nicholls, Senior Judge from NSW – both are delighted to accept. Mike Fuller will be doing Champion with Kathy and Darryl Cleland will work with Keith as the Novice judge.

Social Media Policy:

In light of the changing environment within which we operate, the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand Council acknowledges the need for the development of a social media policy to address the current and future direction of the use of both social media and the Society

website and any associated blogs and forums. As a public organisation we are aware that media attention of any kind has the potential to enhance, or to detract from, the reputation of the BSNZ.. It is important, therefore, to manage the Society's engagement with all forms of media positively, constructively and professionally. The Budgerigar Society of New Zealand supports the use of social media as a way of facilitating communication and dialogue between its various audiences e.g. paid up Society members, Council, judges, new breeders of exhibition budgerigars and members of the New Zealand public interested in budgerigars. All members of our online communities must always be alert to the fact that postings on social media sites can be immediate, public and permanent. It is important to acknowledge that consequential actions to modify or delete content can aggravate and escalate situations. As a result the Budgerigar Society Council has approved a set of guidelines for all users of our Facebook page and of any future website forums and blogs.

Membership Renewal and Ring Orders:

The membership forms for the 2014-2015 season have been circulated to the membership via e-mail and the hard copies posted to those who receive their correspondence via mail. You will note that the Federation has been able to secure much reduced rates on our rings as a result of the excellent work carried out by them in searching worldwide for the best quality, best priced rings. If you require coded rings these need to be ordered by **April 27, 2014**. Please place your order as early as possible so that we can get the order in and guarantee the supply of your rings in a timely fashion. If any of you are aware of members interested in personal coded rings please remind them of this important date which is earlier than usual.



President's Report:

By: Tony Grinter, President

The breeding season is nearly over for most of us and it's time to start looking at the babies that we have produced so that we can start sorting out the keepers and the extras. We need to understand our birds at all stages of their development so that we can select the birds with the features that will develop into winning show birds and breeding stock. Once you have selected the birds that you want to keep you need to work on bringing them into condition and also training them for the shows. An excellent bird can be let down by poor training and an average bird can go far if it is well behaved. We have some excellent articles in this issue to help you with your breeding and also showing and if you need any further help with pairing and or sorting out your birds members of the council and other experienced breeders are all keen to help as we feel that the best way to improve the standard in the birds is to work together and help out where possible. This is a very important part of the breeding season as if you keep the wrong birds it can hold back your future breeding. It is important for newer breeders not to be in too much hurry when deciding which birds to sell, as many of the best birds are often quite slow developing and can still look very poor at this time of the year.

We have included in this Bulletin the nominations for Council and the remits to be voted upon at the upcoming AGM to be held in Hamilton in conjunction with the Patronage Show, so now is your turn to have your say and bring up any issues that you feel that need to be addressed. We as a Council can only act as we feel is best for you as members and unless you raise any issues that you feel need attention we are not able to address them. So I look forward to seeing many of you at the Patronage Show in Hamilton. Remember the colour medals that we have introduced for this year at three North Island shows including the Patronage Show and three South Island shows including the National.

With the show season set to start next month I wish everyone good luck and I hope that your cages are all clean and your birds are ready for the challenge!



This Month's Question:

In each edition of the Bulletin our Editor, Hamish Baron, will answer the questions that you have put to him on whatever avian related topic is worrying you or is of interest to you. Please send your question or concern to Hamish on budgievet@barons.co.nz or post a query C/O The BSNZ Secretary, 1 Pukehana Ave, Epsom, Auckland 1023.

Many people have asked about how best to care for their breeding birds over the winter months so this month our Ask the Vet question involves a look at this topic.

As the winter starts to wrap its cold, wet paws around us, it is a very good time to start thinking about winter-proofing your houses and aviaries to give your feathered friends the best chance of surviving the coldest months.

There are two major factors that cause illness in birds over the winter months, the cooler temperatures and rain. It is important to remember that the budgies we keep in captivity have evolved in much warmer and drier climates than we keep them in and so we need to take their needs into account when providing care over the winter. This does not mean that you must heat the house or the aviary to a balmy Northern Territory 39°C but it does mean that we cannot allow our birds to be exposed to cold draughts or for them to sleep in areas



where there is a constant flow of air. This is easily achieved in a home situation, where a blanket over the cage will provide a still environment during the night. In an aviary it is more difficult, but you can achieve the same result with temporary

plastic sheets which roll down over the aviary during bad weather and during the night. I have also seen people using more solid covers including plastic boards, plasterboard and plywood to keep the aviary wire covered.

The rain is another major cause of concern during the winter months and not only because it wets the birds. Seed, pellets or vegetables that are sitting on the floor of the aviary often become soaked by driving rain as it comes through the wire. It is very important that this spoiled food is cleaned up as fast as possible to prevent ingestion and subsequent gastrointestinal infections.

If you do notice that a bird has become unusually quiet, lethargic or fluffed up during the next few months, it is important that you provide them with a



safe heat source (heat lamps, water heaters or hot water bottles covered in towels) and seek medical attention if possible, the sooner they get supportive care, the greater their chances of recovery. Good luck over the winter and I hope you make it through with very few losses.

The Ministry for Primary Industries

The Senior Advisor of the Animal Imports Team of the Ministry for Primary Industries, Lucy Johnston, has advised the BSNZ that the Ministry is working towards having documents, around the development of an IHS (Import Health Standard) for companion birds, ready for public consultation around the middle of this year. She suggests that anyone interested in this document should subscribe to the website below, to read about updates for when the consultation dates and process are released.

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>

The timeframes for the consultation process do, of course, depend on the Ministry work load and prioritisation of work, so are subject to change. The Society will continue to check for updates on the preparation of this document, but if you have an interest in the importation, into New Zealand, of any type of birds do have a look at the website above to follow proceedings on this matter.



Breeding with Intent: A mini-series guide to assist budgerigar colour breeding, and by default; selective breeding for exhibition qualities.

By: [Dean Fallen](#)

As far back as kindergarten I recall vividly the two green budgerigars ('budgies') kept in the 1x1x2 metre wheeled flight for our education. At one point the pair bred, and an ugly, pink, bald baby was gently placed on my hands by a teacher who explained what she knew about baby budgies. From then on, I was a bird man. Although I kept my passion alive through bird encyclopedias, junior naturalists club and bird watching (which meant inspecting every tree, reaching into every gutter reachable at school and scrutinising every straw strewn nook and cranny I could see) – It wasn't until my mid 20's when I came across pictures online of 'majestic purple' budgies (violets, as they are known officially) that my passion reignited. From then on I read everything I could get my hands on and purchased some budgies with the intent to breed them.

This was, incidentally, right after I got married. You can imagine how once the 'budgie breeding bug' was in me, I could only smile and say "yes, dear" when my new bride said, "Please don't get any more budgies, eight is enough". Hundreds of budgies later here I am... ever a lover of budgies.

My first (budgie) love was, and still is, the violet budgie. And I was intent on learning the genetics behind this bird so that I could breed this gorgeous mutation in all its wonderful varieties. I joined numerous online forums and asked a thousand questions, and soon enough

began answering the questions of others. The online world allowed me to meet many wonderful and knowledgeable breeders around the world, many of whom are now my budgie mentors and heroes.

One, often repeated, question from young and old breeders alike is, 'What type of budgie is this, and how can I breed more like it?' What they are referring to is the genetic mutations of a particular bird. Many breeders have a remarkable eye and a knack for breeding instinctually – but they have little book knowledge about modes of inheritance or the underlying 'mathematics' about breeding certain varieties. Thus when it comes to breeding for color/variety (as opposed to exhibition features) many of us could benefit from a little more assistance and education.

It is my hope that this mini-series, I have been asked to write, will serve as an informative base upon which people can begin to consider how to best purchase and pair their birds to achieve the pure colors or combinations they desire. And by default, as ALL features of a bird are underpinned by Mendelian inheritance, those breeders with that breeding 'eye' or 'instinct' will be able to start to see the inheritability that underpins why some families are 'tall' or 'excel in feather'. For those who are already apt in this field, hopefully the combination of my dull wit and a little refresher learning will provide enough reason for a tea/coffee and a spot of reading.

The first part of this mini-series will cover common terms/vocabulary used when discussing breeding and inheritance, and their definitions. Part Two will cover the use and benefit of punnet squares for common color mutations and Part Three will look at how we might approach combination varieties or multiple inheritances. Further parts may reveal themselves as necessary additions at a later date...

Even basic introductory genetics can get a bit wordy, but I promise if you follow along and refer back to the information, your confidence in selecting and breeding with purpose/intent will improve. If all else fails, at some point I'll refer you to online genetic calculators and Facebook groups who can do the work for you! (Not as personally satisfying for you but hey, I tried!).

A single factor violet light green split cinnamon/opaline.



Part 1

Common Terms/Vocabulary:

- Chromosome (autosomal/sex-linked)
- Mendelian inheritance
- Punnet square
- Gene
- Allele/Mutation/Variety
- Genotype
- Phenotype
- Homozygous
- Heterozygous
- Dominant gene/allele
- Incomplete-Dominant gene/allele
- Co-Dominant gene/allele
- Recessive gene/allele
- Autosomal sex linked (sometimes referred to as sex-linked Recessive)
- Masking
- Carrying/Split for

Definitions:

Chromosome –

Chromosomes hold genetic code in the form of genes (and their alternatives 'alleles'), which contain all the necessary code for life, survival and reproduction and control the expression of all features/traits. Humans have 46 chromosomes (23 pairs). As far as I can find, Budgies are reported to have 26 chromosomes (13 pairs). Sperm and egg cells comprise 13 chromosomes, the genes/alleles for each trait are randomly assigned from each parent (when egg+sperm combine the offspring also have 26 chromosomes). Thus (except for twins) no two birds are exactly alike, and genetic variation is ensured. The sperm/egg production sequence is where genetic errors (ie. mutations) occur. Some are fatal, some produce favorable advantages to that individual and its chances of surviving (or in our case being selected for breeding) are improved – ensuring the continuation of this new mutation. Certain features are carried on the sex chromosomes (generally referred to as the X and Y chromosomes), these mutations have different appearances or modes of inheritance depending on the individual's gender. All other mutations commonly referred to in budgie breeding are considered to occur on what is termed 'autosomal' chromosomes (the non sex-linked ones).

Mendelian inheritance –

This concept refers to the genetic laws of (plant) inheritance explored and documented by the 18th century Austrian monk, Gregor Mendel. His early work was later cited and incorporated into theoretical workings that became the basis of classical genetics and our current understanding of the genetic basis of all earth species. Mendel's basic assertion was that each offspring inherited two 'factors' (or genes) for each trait or feature expressed – one from each parent. The gene expressed was termed Dominant; those carried but not expressed were 'Recessive'. Where different alleles for the same gene were both visibly expressed, they were deemed 'co-Dominant'.

Punnet square –

A simple and effective tool used to plot genes/alleles of a given trait from each parent, and predict the resulting genetic mix or outcomes in their offspring. Eg:

		Cock	
		A	A
Hen	A	AA	AA
	a	Aa	Aa

Gene –

Referring to a set of genetic instructions that partly or wholly determine a particular trait or feature (Eg Yellow pigment production).

Allele/Mutation/Variety –

An 'allele' is a variation of a gene (a gene that has mutated. Eg A new 'mutation' or 'variety' when present in numbers). It is a gene with a modified code, producing a slight change in function (Eg Reduced yellow pigment production in Golden face/Yellow Faces; or no pigment production in blues). There may be more than one allele for any given trait/gene (Again, think all the different Yellow Face mutations).

A bird with multiple non-wild type alleles is often termed a 'combination variety'. For example there is no 'Rainbow' mutation, in spite of the popularity of 'Rainbow' budgies. The generally accepted 'Rainbow' genetically speaking is a Blue Series Yellow Face Opaline White Wing (Clear Wing). However even in this there is some room, some people state Cobalt is the best 'blue' mutation, Golden Face is the best 'Yellow Face' and the addition of Violet factor is again another necessity some claim to make the best 'Rainbow'.

Genotype –

The genetic makeup of an individual. This can refer to all of its contributing genes, or specific genes/alleles found at a certain loci (point) on a gene for certain traits/features.

Phenotype –

This is the VISUAL expression of a gene or genes. Let's say you have two light greens and one is split for blue. Both are visually identical as light greens *Phenotypically speaking*, but ONE is a light green split for blue *Genotypically speaking* (or a wild type green heterozygous for Blue Mutant one or Blue Mutant two if you want to get really technical, which we don't here!).

Homozygous –

An individual possessing two identical copies of a gene or its alleles is said to be homozygous for that trait/mutation. Often written as two capitals (Dominant) or two lower case (Incomplete-Dominant, Recessive etc) letters on a punnet square Eg. AA or bb etc.

Heterozygous –

A genotype (referring to the two alleles for a trait in this case) consisting of two different alleles for a given trait/mutation. Here is often the case where there can be a genetic difference, but no resulting visual change in a bird (phenotype AA and Aa appear the same, even though they are different genotypes). Often written as a Capital and a lower case on a punnet square Eg. Aa or Bb etc.

Dominant gene/allele–

Dominant alleles are usually expressed visually if present in either homozygous OR heterozygous form (unless 'masked' by another mutation). Often they suppress expression of Recessive genes. The classic example is wild type green (A.k.a Yellow pigment production). Some mutations can be Dominant over the original wild type mutation, E.g Dominant Pied or Grey factor. Dominant mutations are shown as the capital letter/s on punnet square (Eg AA, BB. Aa).

Incomplete-Dominant gene/allele –

Incomplete-Dominant traits exhibit partial visual expression over the wild type allele in their heterozygous form ("single factor") and appear different when in their homozygous ("double factor") form. Classic examples of this are the violet factor, the dark factor and spangle to name a few. Shown in lower case letter/s on punnet square (Eg aa, bb. Aa)

Co-Dominant gene/allele –

Co-Dominant mutations are neither superior to nor suppressed by their wild type (or other equal) counterparts. Sometimes said to be 'jointly' expressed. Classic examples of this are Yellow Face mutations, although the genetics behind all Yellow Face varieties are still not certain – and certainly not simple. May be worth an article on their own! Other examples include the dilute varieties, which again would take their own article to explain the genetics of. Shown in lower case letter/s on punnet square (Eg aa, bb. Aa)

Recessive gene/allele –

Suppressed when paired with a Dominant allele. Only visually present in homozygous form. Classic examples include the Blue Mutant alleles (blue mutation) and Recessive Pied to name a few. Shown in lower case letter/s on punnet square (Eg aa, bb. Aa)

Sex linked Recessive gene/allele –

A gene that is carried on the sex chromosomes (Although birds' sex chromosomes are correctly referred to as Z & W, they are almost always shown as X & Y as it is for humans for ease of understanding – Males budgies have two X chromosomes, females have an X and a Y). Often the sex linked mutations often appear visually distinct in males vs females, or they occur more

commonly (or only) seen in one gender (females, in the case of budgies).

Sex linked Recessive genes in budgies are carried on the X chromosome, thus require only one copy to be visually present in females, but require two copies (homozygous) in males to be present. Classic examples of sex-linked Recessive mutations in budgies are the Opaline, Cinnamon and Ino genes to name a few. Shown in lower case letter/s on punnet square (Eg cin, ino, Xcin, Xino)

Masking –

Masking refers to a trait (or traits) which are (or would be) visibly expressed/observable if not for another trait which has masked or removed those identifying features. Examples would be the ino gene which removes all markings and color except for the base color (yellow in the case of greens, white in the case of blues). A Dominant pied albino would be impossible to visually identify because the ino gene has removed all wing markings – thus even when the underlying trait (in this case pied) is certain, it is said to have been 'masked' by the ino gene.

Carrying/Split for –

This is a common term used to identify an individual that is heterozygous Recessive. Or in other words – an individual that carries a Dominant allele (Eg Green) and a Recessive allele (Eg Blue) for color. Another example would be a Recessive Pied paired to a normal all offspring would be visually normal but 'carrying' Recessive Pied.



A cinnamon opaline grey/green

Around the Clubs:

Auckland Met. Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser for 2015 Nationals

by: Sheryl Baron, Auckland Met. Novice Member and BS Council Member



Auckland Met is underway already with their planning and preparation for the 2015 National Show and already there have been a number of fundraising sausage sizzles that members have participated in. Bunnings, Botany has been very generous in their assistance towards the Club providing a gazebo, large BBQ and gas bottles for the fundraising efforts. February 22 and 23 saw members of the Club in sets of three per shift provide service to their Club via the donation of their time and energy. Many of these members were also Budgie Society members, eagerly getting in behind the raising of funds for hosting the Nationals. Auckland Met. had enough members willing to "volunteer" their time to run four shifts over the weekend, each with three willing helpers.



Auckland Met Members hard at work sizzling sausages!



Hastings Bird Club - Young Bird Show March 15

by: Phil Hill and Brenda Berge, Members

On the 15 March the Hastings Bird Club had a small garden show of budgies at Calvin Appleby's place. There were 23 CYCR budgies comprising 14 hens and 9 cock birds. Twelve AA humans also attended. The way the Club organizes this Garden Show is interesting and helps, even Novice breeders, to get an idea of the judging process. The birds are arranged into rough classes, eg. opalines, blues, pids etc., and everybody has a turn at judging each class. The bird that is most frequently "judged" as first, wins the class. The winners from the cock classes then face off for best cock and the hens likewise. The best cock then goes head to head with the best hen and an overall winner is found. This year it was a very nice Opaline Cinnamon Grey Hen bred by Calvin Appleby.



Palmerston North Bird Club - Young Bird Show March 23

The following images were taken at this young bird show and represent the winners on the day!



B.S.N.Z.(Inc.) Annual General Meeting:

Nominations have been received from members for the following Council positions:

President: Tony Grinter: Nominated by Keith Flockhart; Seconded by Jim Ziarno.

Vice-President: Darryl Cleland: Nominated by Earl Feck; Seconded by Carol Hughes

Treasurer: David Ingoe: Nominated by Michael Fuller; Seconded by Sheryl Baron

Secretary: Sheryl Baron: Nominated by Vince Huston; Seconded by Ngaire Madden.

Council Members:

Chris Asken: Nominated by J.L. Killalea; Seconded by Carol Hughes

Michael Fuller: Nominated by Mike Hannan; Seconded by Hec Anderton

Michael Hannan: Nominated by Lindsay Hellyer, Seconded by Peter (Johnny) Johnston

Vince Huston: Nominated by Ngaire Madden, Seconded by Derek Lourens

Steve Macher: Nominated by Rowan Swain. Seconded by Merv Johnston

Kevin Rickerby: Nominated by Malcolm Freeman; Seconded by Herbie Duston

Jim Ziarno: Nominated by Tony Grinter; Seconded by Carol Ziarno

Included below are short pencil sketches of the three prospective Councillors who have not already served on the Council for your information and assistance with voting.

Chris Asken:

I have spent 23 years involved in the real estate industry with the past 10 years owning my own Property Management business. I have rekindled my love of budgies, having started again, breeding these delightful animals over the last six months.

Michael Hannan:

In 1974 at the age of 14 Mike started with budgies in a backyard aviary at home in Palmerston North and in 1975 joined the Palmerston North Bird Club. After a break

away from budgies, by 2000 and now living in Dunedin, Mike decided to get a few birds for a garden aviary and went along to the Dunedin Bird Show. The rest is history and Mike is at present the President of the Dunedin Bird Club, has served on the Budgerigar Society Council and is very pleased to have recently attained the qualifications necessary to be a Budgerigar Society Judge.

Steve Macher:

My name is Steve Macher. I have been breeding birds for the last 25 years, initially specialising in mutation cockatiels in the UK where I was one of the foremost breeders of mutation birds. After moving to New Zealand over seven years ago, I decided I needed "the challenge" of breeding budgerigars. This was mainly due to broadening my skills in breeding birds and also due to having to sell 15+ years of work in the U.K. in order to migrate to New Zealand. In the last 6 months I have been co-opted to the Budgerigar Society Council to help the Council with technology decisions, specifically the BSNZ website and the Facebook social media policies. To continue the progress, that I feel the Council has made with both the Facebook Group and the website, I have decided to stand as a full Council member to ensure the momentum is not lost. Should I be successful in being elected to Council I look forward to promoting the use of technology within the fancy and opening it up to both older and younger members alike.

Remits for the Consideration of the Membership of the BSNZ:

Remit #1: That the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand considers changing our status of Current Year Closed Ring (CYCR) Bred By Exhibitor (BBE) to Young Bird BBE. Proposed: Merv Johnston; Seconded: Darryl Cleland.

This proposal would allow members to exhibit young birds over two consecutive ring issue years. eg. a young bird 2014 (Black ring) would be allowed to be shown in the 2014 show season and the 2015 (Red Ring) show season. The spread and repetition of ring colours, we believe, will not be an issue as there is a seven year cycle before each colour comes around again on the bench. The proposal would also align the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand standards with other world Budgerigar Society bodies and our close allied across the Tasman.

Rational for the Remit: 1. Young birds are taking longer to mature (sometimes 18 months in some varieties) 2. BBE encourages breeding and keeping of birds ensuring the relevant skills are mastered before progressing.

Benefits: 1. We believe that this remit will encourage more birds onto the bench. 2. We believe that this remit will encourage more exhibitors of lesser varieties such as lutinos and

albinos. 3. We believe that this remit will help avoid exhibitor disappointment through young birds having a limited show season due to the current CYCR restrictions, especially when a CYCR is benched the following season next to an adult bird. 4. We believe that there are currently disillusioned fanciers with the Budgerigar Society of New Zealand who are looking to the Society to take progressive steps forward and align standards with other Budgerigar Societies across the world.

Remit #2: Budgies Exhibited in the Novice Classes must be BBE

That budgies exhibited in the Novice class as CYCR (Current Year Current Ring) and/or as AA (Any Age) must be BBE (Bred by Exhibitor)

Proposed: Vince Huston; Seconded: Derek Lourens

Rational for the Remit: This would 1. stop champion birds being shown by Novice breeders. 2. Encourage breeding rather than buying 3. Reward the Novice that has bred a bird by offering the potential to win a Show 3. Avoid disappointing the Novice breeder beaten into second place by a bird bred by a Champion.

Example: From the horse racing scenario – it is an offence to enter a champion horse into a novice race.

Remit #3: Spangle Classes That the Spangle classes be altered to the following: Class #'s 511 - 531 - 561 - 581 & 611 - 631 - 661 – 681: Any spangle including Normal, Opaline and AOV, except for Double Factor Spangles, would be exhibited in one of these classes. Class #'s 512 - 532 - 562 - 582 & 612 - 632 - 662 – 682. This class would be for Double Factor Spangles
Proposed Mike Fuller; Seconded Dave Ingoe.

The reason for the suggested change is because the Council believes that it is in the best interests of both the exhibitor and the judges that we bring our Show classes in line with the majority of other countries which already have the spangle variety exhibited in this way.

Remit #4: Partnership Membership Change

That the cost of the BSNZ membership subscription for the partnership subscription be changed back to the pre-2011 position, which would put the cost at the same level as for individuals. Following on from this, the BSNZ Council would recommend that a further remit be considered that returns the voting position to one vote per partnership.
Proposed Mike Fuller; Seconded Tony Grinter

The reason for this is that council has researched member opinion on this matter and the general consensus is that members are keen for the cost and the vote to go back to the pre-2011 position. The council also agrees with this.

Tasmania Tales and Travels:

by: David Ingoe, BSNZ Treasurer and WBO, International Judge

Last year I was invited to judge a budgerigar show in Tasmania. This was to be in Longford, not very far from Launceston. When the Club in Devonport heard that a New Zealand judge was coming to Tasmania, I received another invite to judge their Show as well. As a consequence Lorraine and I flew into Launceston on Friday the 31 January of this year and the Longford Show was on the next day.

I was impressed with the standard of birds. The top 30/40 would all have been competitive in New Zealand and the top ten would have proved hard to beat. I selected an albino hen as the Best Champion bird and a spangle cock as runner up. These two birds were very close and the quality was amazing, as shown in the photos.



Best Bird at the Longford Show 2014

The Show was interesting in that the benching was erected on Saturday morning between 7.45am and 8.45am. The birds started arriving after that and all were benched by 9.45am. There were about 200 birds. Before judging, the judges (myself, Jim Fletcher and Alistair Holmes) checked all entries to make sure that all birds were entered in the correct classes. Those that were not, were re-classed by the judges. An interesting point was, that in Aussie, they have the same problems with spangles that we do. Maybe we should consider having one class for spangles and one for double factor spangles.

The day was extremely hot with a temperature of 35 degrees and I was overdressed for the occasion. The Show was, however, all over by 3 pm and the birds were on their way home.

After a week's sightseeing, we went to Devonport to judge the second Show. At Longford, I had been the Senior Judge and seeing I had seen the Champion birds, I judged the Beginners and Novices in Devonport. The standard was a little bit down on Longford but the birds would have been very competitive in any Novice section in New Zealand.

We were very impressed with Tasmania, not having been there before and would like to thank our co-hosts, Derek and Roy and their wives. They went to great lengths to show us around their home state. The hospitality of all the bird fanciers was wonderful.



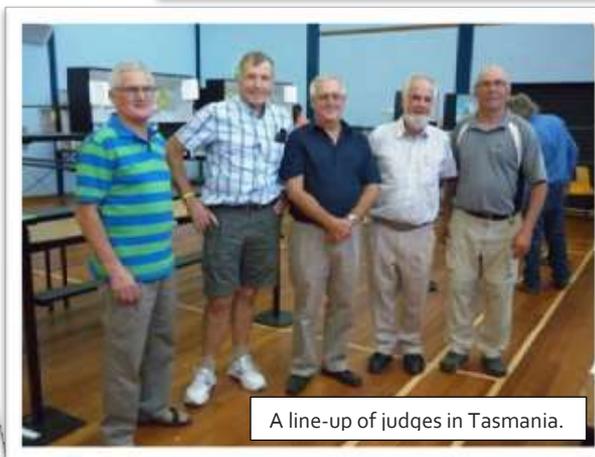
Runner-up at the Longford Show.



A Tasmanian yellow-faced grey hen



David Ingoe hard at work at the Show!



A line-up of judges in Tasmania.

Available through Your Society:

The drinkers and liners for your Show Cages are available through our Treasurer, David Ingoe. If you need supplies for your Club or individually please contact Dave on: ingoe@xnet.co.nz. At only \$1.40 each it is worth it to order a few extras so you are never short of a drinker or a cage liner for your Show cages or to help out a Novice breeder who has left something at home!

For all Clubs we have available, for FREE, new brochures for you to hand out to all new members interested in joining the Budgerigar Society. If you are interested in having a few on hand to distribute please contact the Secretary on: budgiesec@barons.co.nz. Also available for use at your Club Shows we now have a set of two banners to advertise your Show and the BSNZ. There is one set for the North Island and one for the South. Official Budgerigar Society Rings are available through your Society and will be available for you from August 1, 2014. Please contact the ring registrar to secure the number you need for the new season right NOW: ingoe@xnet.co.nz



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How The Spangle Variety Really Works

by: Don Burke From BRASEA Bulletin, Summer, 2014

were not, they were part of the wide range of spangle markings.

Some of the double factor spangles have blobs of body colour on them. Again, this is all part of the erratic performance of the spangle gene. Obviously there is a great opportunity for us to develop spangles into all sorts of new and different types and colours of budgies. Young members could dream up a new type of spangle and turn it into a reality by careful selection.

The key bit is that spangle is an erratic gene. The silly words thought up by scientists don't cope with the spangle gene. Scientists say that co-dominance is when the single factor hybrid bird is different for either the pure normal or from the double factor spangle. This is true of the spangle. The incompletely dominant is when the single factor bird is halfway between both parents – this is also true of spangles. So much for desk-bound scientists!

In the meantime, have fun with this strange unstable mutation.

Special Budgie

Seminar

Sunday 13 April

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Venue – GROSVENOR

MOTOR INN

165 Ulster St; Hamilton

You are invited to attend
this informative
gathering where our very

own Hamish Baron,
B.VSc.(Hons), will be
presenting the seminar
and answering questions.

Hosted by The Pied Budgerigar
Society

There is room for only 50 people in
total so please contact Jim Ziarno
on 07 855 65 86 to secure your seat
for this informative event.

The cost is just \$3 pp or \$5 double
and includes tea, coffee, juice and a
delicious afternoon tea.

Shows Coming Up in May!

- The first three Shows of the 2015 Show season are **North Taranaki, Poverty Bay and Christchurch**. These Shows are scheduled for the weekend of 3rd and 4th May.
- The following weekend it is the turn of the **Rotorua Club** to host their show on 10th and 11th May.
- The third weekend in May sees the **Capital and Valley Cities Combined Show** as well as **Te Awamutu** and **Timaru**. The dates for these three shows are 17th and 18th May.
- **Wairarapa** hosts their 2014 Show on 24th and 25th May.
- Both **Whakatane** and **Dunedin** conduct their Shows on the weekend of 31st May and June 1st.

The BSNZ actively encourages all breeders, both Champion and Novice to spend some time planning their Show season. Some of our smaller Clubs would really appreciate the support of breeders from outside their area to boost their benchings and help to spread the word about the fun to be had in breeding and showing budgerigars. Maybe take the time this season to attend a Show that you have never supported before? Maybe give a call to another Club outside your own parent Club and offer them a hand on the day of their Show if you have a spare day. What a difference we would make to our hobby if we genuinely supported each other in this way!!

And remember the Clubs hosting Shows in this first month of the season which have the new BSNZ Colour Awards points are: **North Taranaki, Timaru and Dunedin**.

Spangle is a weird mutation. When a bird carries a single spangle gene and a single normal gene, its wing pattern is totally different to the normal wing pattern; most of the black wing colouring disappears and only a crescent-shaped area of black remains just under the yellow or white crescent at the tip of each wing feather. With two spangle genes, the bird is (more or less) pure yellow or white all over. Thus the spangle mutation is neither dominant nor recessive.

Scientists struggle with unorthodox genes like spangle. They can be called incompletely dominant, partially dominant or co-dominant. Obviously the two genes- normal and spangle – can't work out between them who is the boss either! Not only that, but every spangle is unique and different from all other spangles. No two wing patterns are exactly alike. What a mess! And it gets worse: some (non-pied) spangles are banded white or yellow across the belly – just like a banded pied.

Then there's the melanistic spangle. The darkest of these are perfectly normal (ie. Have NO spangle pattern on the head, back or wings – they look exactly like normal) except that they have a pure yellow or white tail. At the other end of the scale, some spangles lack all of the black pigment on the head, back, tail and wings such that they look amazingly like clearwings. The birds that I am referring to here do NOT carry any clearwing genes at all. The only dead giveaway is that they have a lot of yellow or white on their rumps.

The first really useful work was done by Peter Glassenbury of Adelaide. He set up breeding trials with ordinary spangles and succeeded in producing melanistic birds by simple selection. He presented his work at the Australian Nationals a few years back. I have done the opposite: I managed to breed ordinary spangles from melanistic ones over three generations using normal as an outcross. So there appears to be no melanistic gene, this is just selection for variation within the huge range of spangles available.

Banded spangles (looking just like the banded pids without the pied wing colour) turn up within my spangles but they are not very stable. There is evidence that the early spangles had white or yellow body markings too. People then thought that they were, indeed, pied. They

Show Preparation for this Show Season:

by: **Barrie Shutt**, World renown budgerigar breeder, exhibitor and expert.

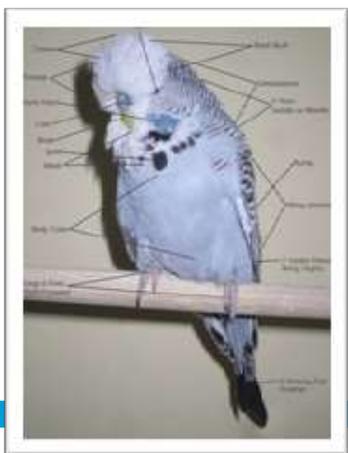
<http://www.officialbarrieshuttbudgerigars.com/homepage.htm>

Show preparation begins in the nest box! My chicks are handled every day from the age of two weeks. One of the most important assets of a show budgerigar is steadiness when on the show bench.

When the first batch of chicks is weaned they are then transferred into the nursery cages and given the company of an older steady cock bird. These nursery cages are just above my daily work station and they soon steady down and spend time watching me doing my budgie chores. These cages are always spotless as my concern about disease and the chicks building up immunity against them is always paramount in my mind.

I leave these youngsters for three months in the nursery cage and then transfer them to the flight to build up some muscle. During this important three months we all [ie. the birds and me] get to know and respect each other and we form an important bond that will remain with us forever.

During the following few weeks, post the time in the flight, birds are caught up at random and spend short periods of time in show cages. They are introduced to the judging stick and get accustomed to the constantly moving show cage. All budgerigar exhibitors should be aware of the criteria needed, by the bird, to win an award and remember that any bird out of condition will be penalised. Condition is essential and is the most important item for a show bird. The bird must be complete in feather and showing the bloom of good health and preparation. Where applicable the bird should have six throat spots, the outer two partially hidden by the cheek patches.



Once the birds are reaching maturity they, along with the adults that will be considered for the show bench, are caged up with the sexes separated. Clean cages are essential and mine are two metres long.



Preparation is the final act in putting your bird in front of the judge. It is most important to give a good bird a chance, so it is up to you to present it in top condition and help it in its final presentation. A bird that has not had early growing care will never have the conformation which a potential winner must have. The feather needs feeding with the proper proteins, plus fats in moderation. These proteins - given sparingly as a 'treat' - will help give a good wealth and condition of feather.

A minimum of **ten weeks** [so for some of us, this is right now!] before the Show you plan to enter, all the show team are checked for broken feathers: flights and tails being the most important ones. Be aware that if they are broken and removed with one gentle pull they should fully regrow. This is not always the case, though, but a chance we take.

Removing any feathers broken or split at this time should have our birds in full feather at show time. Over the next few weeks keep a check on any new feathers that should be growing in.

Four weeks before the show we must get our birds into show condition and this means water: clean and warm.

I use all wire breeding cages and these are ideal for spraying my birds in, several are placed in a single cage, taken into the garden and given a good soaking. I then transfer the cage into a warm greenhouse where they can dry off without the fear of catching a chill. Always spray early in the day as your birds need four hours to dry out completely before roosting for the night. Now the all-important preening begins and the birds will be seen transferring oil from the oil gland at the base of the tail and preening their feathers with it. Every two days I continue spraying but the sprays are getting lighter as the feathers tighten.

Two weeks before the show a few surplus secondary spots are removed from each bird, only a few at a time.

Ten days before the show a decision is made as to which birds will be entered at a given Show; these will be the full spotted, conditioned birds. My work station will have a toothbrush, baby shampoo, salt, tweezers and a junior hacksaw blade laid out ready for use.

After removing a few spots each day just gently stroke any pin feathers with the hacksaw blade, this will open them up but do not touch any pin feathers with blood in them or your day will be ruined. Gently squeeze at the bottom any last minute pin feathers with a pair of tweezers and the quill which is only a sheath will slide off.

Four days before a show I stop spraying and let the natural bloom appear on the birds feathers. On this day, I also remove all the surplus spots with the exception of one secondary spot under each of the four main spots, these secondary spots are not removed until one day before the show, these are better than nothing if one of the main spots drops out!

We are almost done now.

Are your show cages clean and ready for the big event? I hope so as these are your shop window.

The day before the show I dip each bird's tail in boiling water as this will straighten it out.

And time now for one last check of every bird, can you see any pin feathers or secondary spots that need removing, now is the last chance to do it.

I always put one label at a time on my cages and then put the correct bird in before moving on to the next.



From the Judges' Panel

by: Mike Fuller, BSNZ
Councillor and Judges Panel Member



The Judges Panel had a Skype meeting on the 4th March and the following topics were discussed:

- Reviewing and rewriting the Judges and Stewards Manual
- The Ring issue again this year with CYCR birds
- Re assessing the Judges
- Using more North Island Judges in the South Island

It was decided that both the current Judges and Stewards Manual are outdated and need to be revised and also freshened up with the Society's new colours and logo. We will be reviewing these over the upcoming months and will be re-launching these before the 2015 show season. In the meantime if there are any members out there wanting to know more about what is required in either role, please contact the Society.

The Judges Panel has been asked for a ruling on what is to happen during the 2014 show season whilst judging the CYCR classes. We will be sending a letter to all judges prior to the first show in May detailing the correct procedure. However, we would like to advise all of our membership so that everyone is on the same page on the ring issue.

It was decided that there is a need for a standard policy in regards to the possibility of birds being found in CYCR classes with non-BS rings. It is important there is a consistent approach and judges comply with the rules and do not get involved in arguments.

1. Judge as normal and the initial check of rings will be visual only. If there is any discrepancy in ring appearance or colour (this year the rings are a black colour and their appearance will be similar to non-BS rings) then investigate prior to judging. If, at this stage, any rings are identified, the following steps will be taken: CYCR birds will

have their rings checked prior to judging. Ineligible birds will not be judged.

2. On completion of judging, all ring numbers as normal will be checked for the BS and Federation CYCR specials. If a non-compliant ring is found then carry out the following.

*Wrong class the bird as it does not meet the requirements of

Federation show rule 20 "Only CYCR rings as supplied by the Specialist Bodies will be recognized in their respective closed ring classes" The AA class will be noted as the class the bird should have been in.

*Immediately notify the Show Manager of the issue and request that a list of that exhibitors' birds be supplied.

* Check rings on these birds and further wrong class any birds with wrong rings.

- Re-judge affected classes.
- Record all findings on the back of the BS results sheet and sign and get Show Manager to witness and countersign.

3. Notify the BS through either the President or BS Judges Panel by the Tuesday after the show of the finding of the ring and name of exhibitor involved. The BS and Federation will take any further action on the matter

We will be looking at re-assessing all BS Judges over the next couple of years. We will also be endeavouring to have a couple of Judging and Stewarding Seminars to help with these assessments. Further information will be available in the coming Bulletins.

We are also looking for any North Island Judges that might be interested in judging in the South Island in 2015. We are working with the Council on ways to help with the associated costs involved. If anyone is wanting to be considered, could they please let us know before the end of this Show season.

Need a special tool for removing the rings off your budgies?

These cutters are made of surgical stainless steel, with thin curved hook blades.

They are very quick and easy to use, resulting in less stress and trauma for the bird. They are available to members of the Budgerigar Society for the special price of \$10 each plus postage.

If you think that you might have a need for such an addition to your budgie toolkit please make contact with C & K Bourke:

ph. 06.343.1712 or
email ckbourke@vodafone.co.nz

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