

so have a good look at the Council Chatter and the President's Patter to ensure that you are up with the play with changes and the results of the Remits that were voted on.

The Council Chatter section of the Bulletin is set up to provide direct broadcast of information from the Council to the members of the Society. If you have any questions please send a query in the Comments section so that your issues can be dealt with promptly. We hope that members will find this section useful.

- 1. This edition of the Bulletin marks the first of the new Council elected at the AGM in June at the Whakatane Bird Club BSNZ Patronage Show. The AGM saw the election of Tony Grinter, as President, David Ingoe, as Vice-President, and one new Council member. See the Presidents Patter for more details.**
- 2. On behalf of the membership, the 2017-2018 Council welcomes Graeme Earles as a new member of the Council. See later in the Bulletin for some information about Graeme and his many years of involvement with a wide range of birds and bird species. Graeme is enthusiastic about his new role on Council and encourages members to contact him to chat about all things budgies!**
- 3. The Council has appointed a Bulletin Editor for this Council term, who will take over the bi-monthly publication of the Bulletin. Sheryl Baron, who produced the Bulletin previously using a the Microsoft Publisher programme, encourages all members to let her know how the new format works for them. PLEASE use the Comments facility to give feedback about how this document fulfills its role as a communication tool between the elected Council and the membership.**
- 4. During the last Council term, the Council began the process of appointing Area Reps to six areas across the country. Council has approved the creation and supply of badges for this group of BSNZ people. Each of the Area Reps will receive, and have to wear at local Shows etc, a badge stating which of the six areas they represent. The badges will not have names on them as the badges will be handed on as the Area Reps come and go. It is hoped that the Area Rep model will provide for improved communication and growth of the Society. There will be two Area Reps in the South Island and four in the North Island.**
- 5. Each of the Remits presented to the AGM was passed and, subject to some**

of them being passed at the Federation AGM at the TopFlite National Show in Christchurch, this will mean some changes for the upcoming Show season of 2018. More about these changes will be rolled out in future Bulletins so that all members are fully aware of the changes to the Rules.

President's Patter

Our newly elected Council President shares his thoughts, ideas and updates for members to hear directly from the Council President. about issues of interest and important communication with the full membership:



The Annual Budgerigar Society Patronage Show, recently held in Kawerau, was a great success with over 300 budgies entered with many classes over 6 birds and some even 12 and more. It was great to see such a good benching of quality birds. This is definitely one of the premium shows for our members and, with the emphasis being on the individual colours, is a great encouragement for breeders of lesser varieties. Our thanks go to Nigel Tonkin, from Australia, for his efforts in coming over and judging the show for us. It is always great to get a fresh opinion of how our birds compare with those overseas and his knowledge of the varieties is second to none. His comments are included in this Bulletin. The Auction was a success with almost \$1200 profit for the Society, which largely covered the costs of the patronage for the show. The Auction provided some excellent breeding stock going to assist members in

improving their studs.
The AGM was well patronised and ran fairly well. Unfortunately, some of the proxy forms submitted were unable to be counted as some voters had not followed the directions on the top of the form and submitted them to the Society Secretary more than 48 hours prior to the meeting. The results of the elections saw me being elected your President for the coming year and a new member, Graeme Earles, being added to the Council. See an introduction to Graeme later in the Bulletin.
The Remits were all passed with a considerable majority meaning that, providing they are passed at the Federation meeting at the National, then from next year we will be reverting back from Young Bird to CYCR classes and all Any Age birds will be eligible to be shown in both novice and champion sections. The novice pet classes will no longer be needed. Obviously many of you feel that going back to CYCR will open up the entries to many more of your young birds under one year old and so give a more even distribution of birds across the classes.
We are glad to be able to bring Sheryl back to doing our newsletter again and know that she will do an excellent job, and it will be a relief for Chris, our overworked secretary, to be able to pass on that responsibility.
For those of you who are going to the National in Christchurch good luck and I hope that you have an enjoyable weekend.
The next priority on most of our minds is the coming breeding season. We have ordered slightly larger rings for this year as many have commented on the difficulty in fitting the current rings to the birds and having to remove them if there is any problem with the bird's foot. We have just finished spending a whole week sorting out pairings for next season and which birds to sell. It has been quite a mission and as sure as eggs, the best pairs probably won't work out!
Regards to all
Tony Grinter
President

Welcome to A new Council Member - Graeme Earles

Graeme has written a short introduction, for members who have not met him,

to learn a little about his background in bird keeping. We look forward to hearing from him about his work on the Council over the coming year.



My introduction to the budgie world all started when, as a family, we went to a Tauranga Bird Club Annual Show at the Bethlehem Hall in 1979. I decided, then and there, that I wanted some breeding budgies as I had had pet budgies as a young fellow back in the Waikato. Budgies were soon followed by canaries, one species each for the three kids, and borders for us, as well as lovebirds, quail, rosellas, and kakariki. As time passed and the kids got older, and we got more sense, we cut back to only border canaries and, of course, more budgies. When we shifted house we settled on only budgies and continued to breed and exhibit until my marriage break up in 1987. In 1991 I decided to start again and continued through until 2000 when I changed my vocation and managed a poultry farm on the north side of Tauranga. The Department of Ag. were pretty heavy on the introduction of Newcastle's Disease in those days and the keeping of poultry and caged birds on the same property was not the "done" thing. So, I was in the position of changing jobs or selling my birds! A novice breeder in Tauranga obtained a really good bargain of 30 odd birds, show cages and a hospital cage for a modest price. After a break, this time of 10 years and now residing in Tokoroa, various

discussions with locals in the township, revealed a need for a bird club once again. The existing club had folded some years earlier and the time was ripe to get a new one started. Within a few months there were about 15 members and I was the only one who did not have any birds. So, away I went again. I obtained 3three pairs of back yard birds to start, then decided that it costs the same to feed show quality birds, so I was on the way again! As a Champion breeder, I now specialise in lutinos, dominant piers and over the last four years my passion has been texas clearbodies I have been Secretary/Treasurer of the Pied Budgerigar Society [tm] Est 1959 for three years, but at the last AGM I was elected as President of the PBS, taking over from Jim Ziarno who had held the position for close to 15 odd years. I rejoined the Tauranga Bird Club in 2015, where I currently hold the positions of Vice President and Show Manager. My aim is to give back some of the things that I have learned over the years to new members who have just joined or are thinking about joining.

Patronage Show Judge Reports

Reports from our two judges, Nigel Tonkin and Phil Hill, each highlight different aspects of this important Show on our budgie breeders calendar. We hope that you will enjoy these reports, especially if you were not able to be at the Show this year:



The invitation to judge the show was well received but with some reservation as Jennie (my wife) is not a well lady, thus, she would be the priority if her condition was such that she could not travel. Jennie received news about two weeks prior to our departure for New Zealand that her illness had progressed. However, the specialist suggested that the trip should go ahead with her treatment being postponed until our return to Australia in late June. We arrived in Auckland on the 14th June and were picked up from the airport by friends from the Waikato. We stayed with them to give Jennie time to recover from the flight, as best as possible, and then on Friday we headed to the motel at Kawerau near Whakatane and met up with a number of fanciers for a relaxing afternoon and a friendly tea at a local eatery. The next morning a wonderful breakfast was prepared by Ian Silk at a motel room across from where we were staying. Now, that breakfast was excellent.

Judging was to commence at 0830 but this was delayed a little because of a computer glitch. Once judging commenced everything worked well with stewards (all NZ accredited judges) active in keeping the birds flowing smoothly. A number of birds were a little out of sorts with condition, a

number had backline issues, but the top birds certainly stood out within their varietal /colour groupings. The show was live streamed, something I was not sure about. I initially understood that this was going to one Club with a few members but later was advised it was going to the BSNZ Facebook page which is a closed Facebook group. One can only trust that the overview of the birds, as verbalised, was received well by those that were on board. I am keen to review the full content of the recording as soon as possible to assess my “performance”.

One thing I would recommend is, in future, that the intent to live stream is fully discussed with the judge before the show. This would ensure that all are on the same page. Perhaps even consider signing a document of approval really hitting home the intent, the likely audience and preparing the judge for the task ahead. There were some challenging birds on the bench, but with the assistance of Phil Hill, who judged the Novice birds, it was easy to have confirmed my reasonings with those particular birds. I don't like to mention shortcomings, but one that was a little off-putting was that I never received a Schedule for the Show and was only given one once I made mention of this shortcoming. This is an important item for judges to have as it gives an opportunity to cover off on many aspects long before the start of the Show. While respecting varietal or specialist trophies, I personally believe there should be a certain criteria to be met before any such awards are presented. With one variety there were only three birds benched and none of these were of a standard to warrant that specialist trophy. Yes, these may be given as an incentive BUT the exhibitor, I believe, would want to win the trophy because a certain number of birds were benched and a certain quality was obtained. I will mention some positives. The stewards were all harmonious, Dave Ingoe, Shorty Rogers, Keith Flockhart and Tony Grinter kept the show flowing smoothly, enjoying friendly banter. A real joy. The judging process of placing the best of colour birds above the varietal judging certainly gave opportunity to assess the birds over a long period of time, thus, when final judging came into play it was certainly easier to place the top birds in a grouping to give a final once over. The top three birds – the winner an Opaline Grey Hen was a lovely bird, a little flecked and missing a few secondary covert feathers but just showed her best all day and a deserved winner. The second bird, the best young bird in the show, a Grey Green that had all the features of a modern bird plus some but was a little small to surpass the winning bird. A very nice Cinnamonwing Sky Hen that was not in full condition was the third best on the day. All in all, a wonderful visit and much thanks to The Budgerigar Society of New Zealand for the invite.



It was with great pleasure that I accepted an invitation to judge the novice budgies at the patronage show, held on the 17th & 18th of June by the Whakatane club. I was a little disappointed to learn that only 44 birds had been entered in the Budgie Societies flagship show. I would strongly encourage novices to exhibit at this show if at all possible. No need to worry about whether or not your birds are competitive, each bird is judged on its merits & each exhibitor is at a different stage in their exhibiting life. Each bird will get its due consideration. Its worth being there for the open judging or at least to watch the live streaming, to see how & more importantly why, birds progress or not. It was also good for me to work with Nigel Tonkin. Just the fact that he is known globally, & to have him ask me the odd question, was very encouraging for me. He is a very nice gentleman & it was good to have a talk with him on Saturday night.

Despite there being only 43 birds for me to judge (1 not benched), I found that for the most part, the birds were of a high quality. The winning novice bird, a light green YB cock bred by Josh Smith, was a very worthy winner. He is a good sized bird & a great showman. A quality bird that Josh can be proud of. The r/up, an opaline grey green YB cock, bred by Song Chen, is another strong bird. He has a beautiful face but lacked a little substance in the body, ie: was a little skinny. It was a shame he wasn't de-spotted as this certainly makes a

difference, making the bird more striking. Third place was a solid normal grey AA hen, bred by Andrea Paynter. Another great face but a little short with a tendency to sit across the perch a tad, just not quite giving it the right line. Again it was a shame that she wasn't de-spotted. So my overall impression is that our novices are quite strong, having some really nice birds. For those who were less successful, keep going, you will get there. Never be afraid to ask for advice, plenty of us champions do too. Thank you to those who exhibited, giving me birds to judge. I look forward to seeing you again & also meeting new people who want to give this fun & rewarding hobby a go.

Member Comment On The Breeding of Rare Varieties

Thanks to our Patron, Keith Flockhart, for this insightful and helpful article about the preservation of the rare varieties with special mention of his work with the fallow variety. It is excellent to see so many breeders, from across the country both Champion and Novice, working together to ensure that some of our rarer breeds are brought back to show quality. It is hard work and it is a slow process but the concept of TEAM is very important here - Together Everyone Achieves More.



With the number of people in the hobby getting fewer, there is more need than ever to ensure that we continue to breed the less common types and preserve them, as once lost it is unlikely that we will be able to bring these in again. There is also a need to maintain some of those more common types so they do resemble the colour standard. Breeders need to continue to work on these birds but at the same time take care with what they are breeding them with so they do not end up a mix of types or indistinguishable colours. The lesser or rarer coloured birds are often far removed from the birds seen on the show bench so need to be brought into good show stock lines for the purpose of bringing that strain or colour into the better birds. Then it is an ongoing effort to work with the best of breeding stock and minimise going back to the foundation stock.

There have been some people trying to get size into the recessive pids who have thought the crossing with a dominant pied could be the way. There was some size improvement on the recessives but what happened was some had an iris on one eye and solid other eye so in reality they were small dominant pids. The outcross should be a normal to a recessive to get splits. One of the more successful champion exhibitors partnership is working on recessive pids so it will be interesting to see how they go. Many of our spangles have been bred with opalines. In itself not a problem, but it is then important to ensure that the spangles which are continued to be bred with, are at least well marked. Too many opaline spangles seen on the show bench are a bird with faded wings and a long way from the normal spangles which highlight the markings. We are also seeing birds where the colour falls somewhere between light and dark green or sky and cobalt. Possibly violet in them? But often

wrong classed on the bench. There has been some work done with Texas Clearbodies but, again care needs to be taken that do not dip too often into the inos. There is an increase in lacewings which are of a standard similar to the albino and Lutinos. There are a few greywings around and again to keep the visual effect it is important that they remain as normals and not crossed with spangles or cinnamon as has been seen. I have been trying to get hold of some fallows for about seven or eight years and finally got hold of a young hen. As mentioned above, the value in having this hen is good in that it is a building block for preserving the fallow but as can be seen in the photo, above, she is very small compared to one of my hens (both birds are similar age - about six months old). The best way forward is try to pair her up with a couple of different cock birds during the breeding season, which I have done and I have ended up with around 10 splits. Some of these will be bred together with, hopefully, some visuals which would again go back to normals. There are another three or four members also working on the fallows and all appear to have sourced the initial birds from the same breeder and hopefully all will work closely together to re- establish them.

Hear It From A Vet

This month Dr Hamish Baron has provided a short, informative article about nasal discharge in our budgies, some common causes and the best ways in which breeders can manage this in their own aviaries.

In order to ensure we have a range of helpful advice and professional opinion, we have been able to get support from three different Vets, who all breed birds, to submit articles for the education and enjoyment of our members. If you have any questions or comments about these articles as they appear in your Bulletin please send us a Letter to the Editor so that your query might assist other breeders as well.



For this edition of the BSNZ Bulletin, the article has been written by Dr Hamish Baron. Hamish is a member of the BSNZ and breeds in partnership with his mother, Sheryl Baron. He is currently half way through a three year residency at the University of Sydney studying to become an Avian Medicine specialist.

Nasal Discharge in Budgerigars Why Does My Bird Have A Snotty Nose?

Dr Hamish Baron BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)

The breeding season is fast approaching and we are starting to wind down from a hectic and stressful show season – both for us and for the birds. It is time to start thinking about getting the birds into tip-top shape for breeding and time to start to pay more attention to their health status. The show season would have put stress on the immune systems of our birds and may have brought out some little underlying illnesses that the birds may have carried over through the winter. I noticed that some of the photos from the shows around the country show birds with wet or dirty feathers above their nostrils and thought it was a good topic to address for this bulletin.

Anatomy

The nostrils of a bird are one of two external communications to the upper respiratory tract and orbital sinuses of birds. The other communication is the choana in the roof of the mouth. These are the gateway to a very complicated and unique avian anatomy adaption. The avian respiratory system is broken up into upper and lower respiratory tract. The upper respiratory tract consists of the sinuses and trachea, while the lower consists of the lungs and airsacs. Inflammation or infection of any part of this pathway can cause nasal discharge and a huge variety of other clinical signs.

Infectious

There are a large number of infectious causes that might cause respiratory discharge in budgies. We will focus on the most common infections in the interest of space.

Bacterial

Bacterial infections are the most common cause of respiratory disease in budgerigars. These infections can cause clinical signs such as wheezing, sneezing, ocular swelling, nasal discharge and a significant tail bob in birds at rest. Bacterial respiratory diseases will often infect a high percentage of the flock. There are a variety of bacterial upper respiratory tract diseases and these may vary from mild disease to severe respiratory disease causing death in the aviary. The most significant disease in the bacterial infection group is *Chlamydia psittaci* which is the causative agent of psittacosis (ornithosis, parrot fever). It is the most significant because it is also zoonotic, meaning it is possible for bird fanciers to catch it – especially those who are older, pregnant or very young. *Chlamydia psittaci* is transmitted via the air, in water or via respiratory / oral secretions or faeces. It requires a long course of treatment with tetracycline based antibiotics in order to treat the disease, because the bacteria undergoes an intracellular phase and can avoid the antibiotics, making it difficult, but not impossible, to eliminate from the aviary setting. There are other, less significant bacterial respiratory tract diseases and these are often opportunistic infections, infecting birds that are already run down, being housed in overcrowded and stressful environments or in aviaries with poor ventilation or diets, making the respiratory tract immune defenses more susceptible to disease. These infections are normally easily treated with appropriate antibiotics, which can be supplied by a vet after seeing your sick birds.

Diet

Related

Diets that are low in Vitamin A lead to squamous metaplasia of the lining of the respiratory epithelium – meaning that it gets thick and crusty rather than smooth and moist. This thickened tissue is not as good at fighting infection and as a result, the birds can develop swelling of the tissue in their nostrils, or, more commonly, the periorbital sinuses; resulting in swollen eyes and ocular and nasal discharge.

Prevention is much better than a cure for this disease, because often it requires surgical correction to remove pus from the periorbital sinus. Ensuring your birds have a diet that is rich in fresh vegetables and colourful vegetables will ensure vitamin A is abundant in their diet and they will not become infected.

Fungal

There are a huge number of fungal elements in the environment, and they seldom

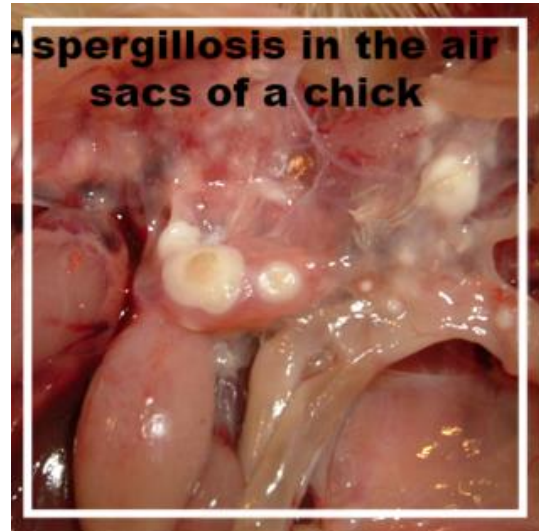
cause issues with the respiratory tract in birds. There are only two instances when they will. When the bird is already severely immunocompromised and run down or when there is an overwhelming environmental load. The most common fungus to infect budgies is *Aspergillus fumigatus* which is a fungus that lives in the environment at all times. Ensuring appropriate stocking densities, clean aviaries and flights and dry flooring in aviaries is the most effective way to ensure the birds remain safe from this pathogen. It is difficult and expensive to treat, so again, ensuring the birds are protected is best.

Irritants

This is the most common reason I see pigeons presented to my veterinary clinic. It is less common in budgerigars but definitely still possible. Lack of air flow and lack of clean air can lead to irritation and inflammation of the nasal mucosa. Irritants such as ammonia, urea and cigarette smoke are the most common upper respiratory tract irritants. Birds are also susceptible to dusty environments, so having very dusty wood shavings in nest boxes is not a good idea. To prevent irritants becoming a problem simply requires good planning and good husbandry. Ensuring there is airflow in the aviary at all times (even when the door is closed) and ensuring that there is no accumulation of faecal material that will decompose in the aviary floor is essential in preventing build-up of toxic irritant gasses.

Many of these conditions are simply and easily treated and with appropriate antibiotics, antifungals or husbandry changes so that the birds will be as good as new. But early identification and management is essential in ensuring a good outcome for your birds.





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