

# Chatter

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# Letter from the President

Welcome to the second edition of Chatter, your quarterly publication from The Budgerigar Council of South Australia. I have to begin by apologising for the lateness of this newsletter. In December, I committed to delivering the Autumn newsletter on March 1st, and I missed that deadline. The reason for this is that I didn't want to come back to our members, without step one in our rebuilding process complete – the website.

Behind the scenes, we've been working feverishly on the website, and I have a newfound appreciation for all that is involved in making a website successful. The good news is that after a significant number of hours, and an extraordinary effort by many, we've gotten the new look website on line. This is our first step in "building the foundation to being discoverable" by those searching online for budgerigars in this great State. The website has been optimised to be as attractive and user friendly as possible to the likes of Google. I personally love the fresh look, the content, and the way it has come together, and I'd encourage you to get on line, and take a look at it. We're always open to feedback, and would love to hear your thoughts on the website – after all, it is yours, the members.

As I referred to in our last newsletter, our members, and especially those who volunteer their time, are our greatest collective strength. To that end, it would be remiss of me not to thank several people for their valued contribution on the website construction. Firstly, to Amy Herman from Splitpants Productions, who came up with the theme and art board for how the website would look. Amy does a brilliant job of creating a



brand image and cascading this across various BCSA media. To Jason Lange, Doug and Ruth's son, who has done an amazing job of translating Amy's vision into a reality, by creating the website's WordPress theme, and all the technical aspects of the website to bring this online. Jason's skills and abilities are extraordinary, and he's devoted a lot of late nights to optimising the outcome for our members, as well as answering any number of questions I had for him as I learned WordPress, Yoast, Wincher, and Site Kit under his guidance. To the wordsmith, Kev Back, who has worked tirelessly with me to create the variety descriptions and other aspects of the site, thank you. Kev also contributed to the SEO pages, along with Ian Wise, Jane Kelb and Sue Adams, which feature under the news section. These pages will be critical to driving traffic to our website. To Peter Glassenbury, Nigel Tonkin and Dennis Lomman, who have provided a second, third and fourth set of eyes over the finished content, as well as some excellent images for use on the site, thank you. And finally, to John Mulley for his ongoing use of articles, and encouragement. Special mention should also go to Rod Turnbull for the use of many of the images he took at the ANBC National titles in Victor Harbour, which have helped us create the visual

representation of each of the varieties. Finally, to Joel M Frankham Photography, Kumi Whitham, Michael Smith and John Ennis for the use of their photographs to make the website what it now is. The website was brought online on April 30, and moving forward, Google "crawls" the site, looking for useful content, and our hope is that slowly, over time, Google will increase our rankings. To this end, we are using Wincher, a program that shows key words people are searching on the internet, and our associated ranking, along with other prominent budgerigar sites in Australia. To accelerate this, we plan to start some social media posts in the coming weeks, using some of these keywords, and driving traffic back to specific pages on our website, in the hope of increasing Google's favourability of our site. We've also tried wherever possible to make the website as "Google friendly" as we can, by optimising SEO. This involves meeting a number of criteria, both for focusing on the key term, but also readability. Google likes sentences that are 20 words or less, and have a low word complexity. It also only gives us a "green light" if we start more than 30% of our sentences with transition words or statements, and keep the passive tense of the document to less than 10% of the sentences. This is quite the challenge, particularly when you're trying to write about historical events! The challenge of pulling over 95% of 130+ pages on our website within this green range is what really took the bulk of the time, but we are hoping this investment in time and effort will repay itself ten times over into the future, through increased traffic, recognition, and hopefully Domain Authority (DA). Back when we completed our analysis for the Summer 2022 Chatter, the DA for our BCSA website was 13. In comparative terms, the BCV website was 21, and the BSNSW website 25. Within weeks, we are hoping for a significant uplift in DA, which essentially is our website "credibility" score. I'm very excited to see what this is, and for those interested, you should be able to monitor this on moz.com under free Domain Analysis tools. Its normally a few weeks before we see the fruits

of our labours as Google starts to discover the backlinks we have created.

Moving on from building our discoverable foundation, we now need to be sure that when people do find us, our meeting, events and interactions are something that keeps them coming back. To this end, our plan is to support the Clubs in the hope of delivering interesting and appealing content to members each month. There is no point in people discovering this wonderful hobby, only to turn up to a meeting, and decide this isn't for them. To that end, it was great to see the outcome of the North East being able to continue on after their Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in April. The Clubs all require volunteers to drive their success. I implore anyone with drive and eagerness, to put your hand up to be part of the committee of their Club. I'm genuinely excited to see where the hobby is headed in this state, as I think we will do extremely well with our promotional drives and strategies in the coming years to drive up membership.

Our next step in delivering a promotional event will be a Budgie Fest. The Council is planning for the Budgie Fest to be incorporated at the next UBC Shield, and will be held on Saturday October 28th this year. Our vision for this event is a family friendly event, potentially encompassing wine tasting, wood oven pizzas, talks from subject matter experts, interstate budgie identities, a tender sale, a pet show, and more. Face painting, as well as someone with an acoustic guitar, is the way we mentally envisage the event looking. We've raised this at the Council level, and had some discussions with the North East delegates regarding the event, as they are this year's hosts for the UBC shield. We've tentatively booked a venue with Campbelltown Council for this event to be staged, so be sure to lock October 28th in your diaries early.

Between now and then, there is, of course, the Mad May of Budgerigars. If you're a loyal budgerigar enthusiast, you'll know that almost every weekend this month features a budgie-

related event. By the time you read this magazine, the BSSA will have completed the Ron Norman and Stan Watson shows, Port Pirie will have hosted their Young Bird Show and the NEBS will host the Lloyd Edwards show this coming weekend. The BCSA Logan Shield, our premier show of the year, takes place on May 28 and functions as our State Selection Show for the ANBC National titles. As Show Manager, Wayne Weidenhofer has done an outstanding job putting together this year's event, which promises to be a spectacular day for all. Wayne has worked closely with Amy to rebrand some of the certificates and awards, and I think the day will be a resounding success. Wayne has also done an excellent job of onboarding sponsors. In this regard, I would like to thank Maxi Seeds for joining the 2023 Logan Shield as the Major Sponsor.

At the end of May, the best birds in the State will then make their way over to Ballarat, for the ANBC National titles, being hosted by Victoria. The BCV promise to put on a stellar event, which includes an international judge and local favourite Maarten Heylen, from the European Championship partnership of Heylen-Heylen-Waezeggers (HHW). Maarten will be delivering a talk on the Saturday night, which promises to be a must-see for all budgerigar enthusiasts. The National titles are a great way to reconnect with other breeders, form new friendships, and really "fill your cup" as a budgerigar enthusiast. No matter if you're new to the hobby, or a seasoned Open breeder, the Nationals have something for everyone, and seeing the best birds in the country compete for a Logie is always a weekend well spent, so I would really encourage you to get along. It will also be the first time since the Brisbane event that the Nationals are open to the Public, so while you may have seen some faces on Zoom, it's always a great way to catch up with fellow enthusiasts and flock together in person.

In this issue of CHATTER, we challenged our editorial team to provide you with entertaining and instructional material that spans from the Champion breeder, to the pet bird lover. Our

FANCIER IN FOCUS for Autumn is Ian Jenke, who is the Ring Register for the BSSA. Ian will share with us his passion for Crests, along with his favourite aspects of this beautiful pastime, and why he appreciates being an active member of the BCSA in this great state. In addition, we include a YOU BE THE JUDGE competition so that all members may polish their judging abilities, and a GENETICS SPOTLIGHT from our own John Mulley on the topical Melanistic Spangle. We also visit how to teach your bird to talk in the PET BIRD CORNER, designed for anyone whose obsession with keeping these magnificent little creatures is as pets. Finally, Jane Kelb is our contributor of the quarter for the NOVICE CORNER, a section where Novices may share their experiences with one another.

We hope you like this issue of Chatter, which will be distributed on social networking sites. Follow us on Facebook for additional interesting articles and the latest news in the fancy, if you haven't already. We always appreciate your input, and on behalf of the BCSA, we appreciate your continued patronage, now, and into the future. We're excited to bring you the Winter edition of Chatter in June 2023, packed full of show results!

**Troy Holmes** | President

# Show Manager's Report

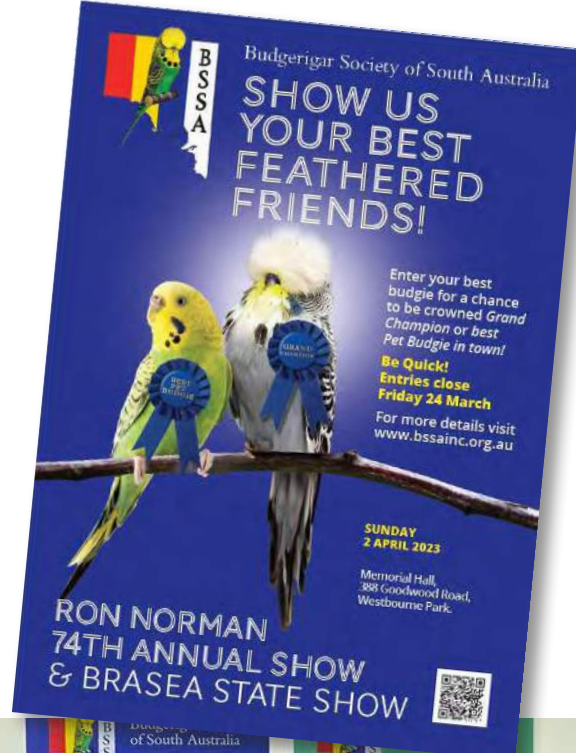
## BSSA Ron Norman Show – 2023

The Annual Ron Norman Show was held on Sunday April 2 at the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall.

There were 8 Open breeders, 4 Intermediate breeders, 9 Novice breeders, and 2 Junior breeders, showing just over 340 birds which made it one of the clubs biggest shows for many years. This was even more significant considering that 2 of our biggest breeders were unable to present birds for this show.

As a club, we were very fortunate to have Stephen Mow as our guest Major Award Judge. Stephen was one of the Judge's at last years ANBC National Show held in Victor Harbor.

To my surprise, Stephen offered to judge one of the larger classes as a clinic for any members who wanted to learn how he arrives at determining the winning bird. This was a fantastic experience for members who took part, learning first-hand, how a National Judge goes about applying the Standard at the show bench level.



<b>Grand Champion</b>	Ken & Janet Harris	Dominant Pied Hen
Reserve Champion Cock	George England & Sons	Grey Green Cock
Third Champion Hen	J & W Weidenhofer	Spangle AOSV Hen
Third Champion Cock	Back Family	Normal Green Cock
Third Champion Hen	George England & Sons	Normal Grey Hen
Fourth Champion Cock	Ken & Janet Harris	Normal Grey Cock
Fourth Champion Hen	Back Family	Opaline AOSV Hen
Champion Intermediate	Graham McCallum	Spangle Double Factor Cock
Reserve Intermediate Cock	Graham McCallum	Spangle Double Factor Cock
Reserve Intermediate Hen	Graham McCallum	Albino Hen
Champion Novice	Back Family	Normal Green Cock
Reserve Novice Cock	Peter Brumby	Normal Grey Cock
Reserve Novice Hen	Back Family	Opaline AOSV Hen
Best Junior Exhibit	Kelsey Clayton	Normal Grey



Stephen was eager and willing to meet all members and spent a lot of time with individuals discussing all things budgies once the judging was completed.

The day was also a huge learning opportunity for our trainee judges in Troy Holmes, Graham Alchin, and Ian Wise, who basically judged in their own right under the watchful eye of their very experienced mentor Judges in Wayne Weidenhofer and Kerry Murphy.

Congratulations to Ken and Janet Harris who won the day with a very nice Dominant Pied Hen. Other Major Award winners were George England, Wayne Weidenhofer, and significantly, Kev Back with a Novice entry taking out Third Champion Cock.

Graham McCallum cleaned up at the Intermediate level taking out Champion Intermediate plus Reserve Cock and Hen.

Kev Back also took out Champion Novice and Reserve Hen while Peter Brumby made his first appearance on the Major Award Bench with Reserve Novice Cock.

Kelsey Clayton won the Best Junior Exhibit.

### Best of Variety Awards

Best of Variety Awards

Best Normal Green Series	Back Family
Best Normal Grey Green	George England & Sons
Best Normal Blue Series	George England & Sons
Best Normal Grey	Ken & Janet Harris
Best Normal Yellow Face Blue	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Dilute	George England & Sons
Best Lutino	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Albino	Peter Brumby
Best Dark Eyed Clear	No Award
Best Cinnamon wing	Dennis Lomman
Best Spangle DF	Graham McCallum
Best Opaline	George England & Sons
Best Opaline AOSV	John Farrugia-Gay
Best Spangle	Mike Crossley
Best Spangle AOSV	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Dominant Pied	Ken & Janet Harris
Best Aust White Cap	J & W Weidenhofer
Best AOSV/NSV	Michael Smith

### Brasea Awards

Best Normal Visual Violet	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Clearwing	No Award
Best Recessive Pied	Stephen Wharton
Best Yellow Face AOSV	John Farrugia-Gay
Best Greywing	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Crested	Ian Jenke
Best Black Eyed Self	Michael Smith
Best Lacewing	Chris Murphy
Best Aust Golden faced Blue	J & W Weidenhofer
Best Clearbody	George England & Sons
Best Rainbow	No Award
Best Bush/Pet Budgerigar	Kelsey Clayton

Congratulations to all class winners and all exhibitors. Let's see if we can get more entries next year.

Thanks to everyone who helped out on the day especially the Stewards, Ticket Runners, and Marie for organizing the BBQ. I know of many clubs where the members just sit back and enjoy the efforts of a few, so it's very pleasing to see everyone so willing and happy to put in, from setting up to cleaning up. This is what makes our shows a success.

### George England

Show Manager

# An Interview with Ian Jenke

A man with a love for Crested Budgerigars, Ian Jenke has budgerigars in his heart. Having started in birds as a kid, he enjoyed colony breeding budgerigars. His fascination continues to be Crested budgerigars, and it was through a chance meeting with John Fisher in 2004 that he became involved in the exhibition side of the hobby.

In 2005, Ian joined the BSSA as a Novice, and within 5 years, had started Exhibiting birds. At the time, Ian was involved in apparel design and manufacturing, which prevented him being able to show extensively, and as a result, he has a 13-year hiatus from the show bench. However, he has started exhibiting more often, taking out the Best Crested in Show variety award at the recent BSSA's Ron Norman Show.

Ian breeds from 24 cabinets, generally between March and August each year. His best season to date has been 130 chicks, although he concedes in the past two years, that number has been closer to 65 to 70 budgies. Ian actively shows for the BSSA, where he enjoys the outstanding comradeship shown by the budgerigar community. He enjoys having birds on the top bench, and still recalls the time he featured a Spangle and a Pied in the Top Birds at one of the local shows.

It's quite apparent from the varietal mix in Ian's aviary that he loves a good crest. In fact, he has an entire aviary dedicated to them. Why Crests you might ask? Ian said he loves the challenge, and it's very clear he loves an excellent variety crest, with some really well centred full circle crests featuring in his aviary. He concedes that there is some wastage, but that's part of the challenge to Ian. He also acknowledges a soft spot for good Lutinos, of which he has a couple in the aviary.

When asked who he would visit if he could visit any aviary in the world, Ian is very conceded. He says he enjoys getting around to an aviary, and picking up little ideas. You can see from Ian's set up, which is unique, that he's taken a few of these ideas back with him, and adopted them into his own setup. Ian's breeding cabinets are all mobile, so that at the beginning and end of each season, he can high pressure clean and disinfect his entire breeding set up. Furthermore, he's got an automatic sprinkler system integrated into his aviary design for those hot Adelaide summer days. Ian's design is focused on the removal of any sort of dust accumulation in the bird room, which the mist devices in the ceiling support by making the dust damp and heavy (so it falls out of suspension).

Ian's Crests began with a lady from Virginia, and he has seldom introduced many other bloodlines into them since. The focus has been trying to increase the size, using quality normals. Ian is taking an approach that he saw on a recent interview with a Crested Breeder in the UK, who puts 10 pairs of visual Crest to Crests together, as well as 10 pairs of Crests to Splits (Crest-bred), and then 10 pairs of Crests to Non-Crest (Normals) to breed splits. Ian tries as best as possible to adopt a similar approach to focusing on the Crest.

When asked about his best ever bird, Ian is quick to respond – a Spangle Grey Green cock, bred from a Wayne Weidenhofer bird. This cock featured on the top bench and was a nice big bird. Ian notes that Wayne has been an excellent mentor to him, and considers "Weedo", along with Galib Al Nassar and the Murphy's, as some of his most highly respected people in the hobby today.

Other interests for Ian include breeding other parrots, although he concedes that the budgies are slowly taking over their aviaries. Right now, Ian keeps his crests in an aviary separate to





his non-crest budgies. His yard features four aviaries at this time.

Ian's staple medications for a successful stud are S76, Pestine and MultiVite. The S76 is used once a month to eradicate mite and lice, which Pestine is dusted on the birds when they enter and exit the breeding cabinets. Finally, all birds are fed Multivite once a week as part of their daily water.

In terms of this wonderful hobby, Ian is excited by the way the BSSA and BCSA are tracking. He loves the new initiatives that are driving up membership, including the new Chatter Magazine. Seeing the hobby grow is something that excites Ian, and for that reason, he's happy to put his hand up and volunteer where he can. Ian believes the hobby is fighting smaller



backyards, and that we should focus on attracting more people to the hobby by having them at shows with their pets.

The best piece of advice Ian can offer people starting out in the hobby is to go and visit a few Open and Champion breeders. By doing this, you



pick up ideas on how people do the same thing, differently. Mixing with other breeders is also an excellent way to move forward, as you naturally become more exposed and knowledgeable. Ian's case in point is soft food. Soft food is really important to parents feeding chicks, and the more nutritious it is, the better for the babies, but he can't find two people in the hobby who do it the same way. That doesn't mean that any one person is doing it right or wrong – it means there are many ways to do it, and for this reason, he takes a keen interest in this when watching the BSSA Zoom interviews and things of the like. Ian's own mix doesn't include hulled oats – it is focused on triticale, Sustainer, wheat, mung beans, carrot, sweet potato and kale. In addition to this, Guava tree branches are fed, as well as mint. On hot days, Ian removes any discarded or remaining soft food by Noon, to prevent it spoiling. In total, Ian spends around 3 hours a day tending to his birds, particularly during the breeding season.

Ian thoroughly enjoys his birds, and suggests there are plenty of good reasons to get into this great hobby.

In conclusion, Ian is a passionate Crested Budgerigar breeder who has dedicated many years to perfecting his craft. He began breeding



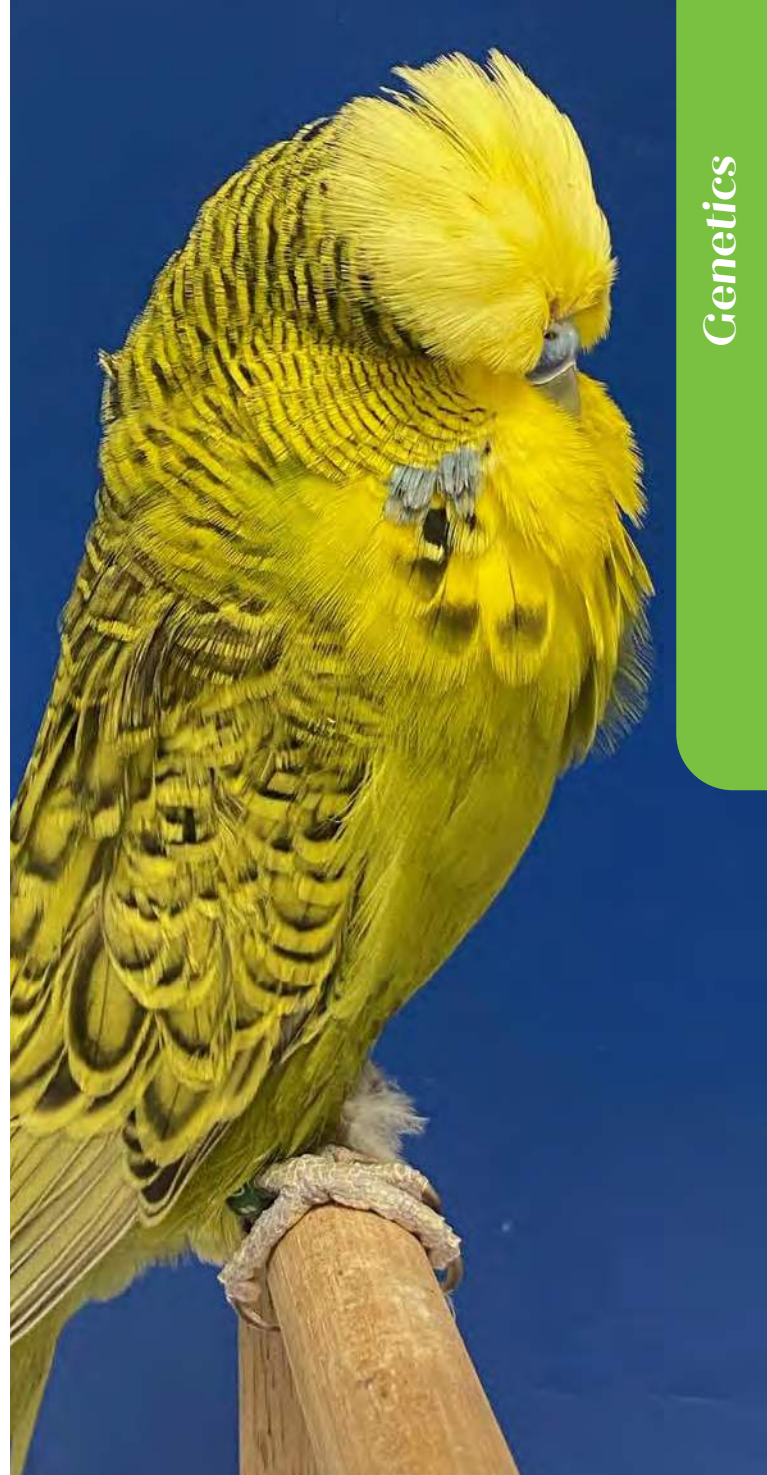
birds as a child and has been fascinated with Crested budgerigars ever since. Ian has an entire aviary dedicated to this variety, which he finds challenging, and is always looking for ways to improve his breeding techniques. Despite taking a hiatus from exhibiting due to work commitments, Ian has recently resumed exhibiting his birds and has achieved great success, including winning the Best Crested in Show variety award at the BSSA's Ron Norman Show. Ian is an active member of the budgerigar community, and he believes that the hobby is thriving and growing thanks to new initiatives, such as the Chatter Magazine. He is happy to volunteer his time and knowledge to help others starting out in the hobby and encourages them to visit and learn from successful breeders.

# The Spangle (including Melanistic Spangles)

**John Mulley**

There are breeders out there who know a lot more about Spangles and Melanistic Spangles than I do so this article is a challenge to them to describe their experiences to add to our knowledge. That is especially the case for the Melanistic Spangle for which I can find very little information in the public domain. Finding what looks like a Normal in the nest box but with yellow primary tail feathers (green series) or white primary tail feathers (blue series) might initially suggest to anyone who has not seen a Melanistic Spangle that they have a new mutation. But it may simply be that they are seeing a phenotypic variant of the normal wing Spangle?

The Spangle is one of a few “new” budgerigar mutations recognised over the past 50 years. The Spangle appeared in 1971, the Saddleback in 1975, the Blackface in 1992, the Anthracite in 1998 and the White Cap in 2003. All represent new varieties apart from the White Cap which is a colour variant sitting within the allelic green-golden face-yellow face-white cap-blue colour spectrum that can be expressed in all varieties. The colours are determined by varying amounts and distribution of the yellow pigment psittacofulvin controlled by mutations in the MuPKS gene affecting the activity of the enzyme polyketide synthase. Spangles are bred in all the above colours and those colours can be modified by the grey, violet, and dark factor all of which are encoded by additional genes.



The Spangle is often referred to as a dominant mutation, but this is not the case. There are three discrete phenotypes depending upon the presence in a budgerigar of none, one or two Spangle mutations. The mutant Spangle allele is partially (or semi-) dominant since its single factor and double factor expressions are very different. Differences between single factor and double factor expression also exist for the Dominant Pied, Yellow Face, Golden Face and Anthracite mutations.

The Spangle mutation is characterised by the wing pattern which resembles a similar mutation in poultry. The variety underwent rapid improvement in size and feather when outcrossed to strong Normals. Some memorable representatives have appeared at shows at all levels in both its single factor and double factor forms. This seems to have occurred at the expense of the sharp Spangle wing markings in the single factor form that were so striking when the mutation first appeared.

The Standard for the Spangle (single factor) describes a fine black marking near (not at) the edge of each wing covert and flight feather. The black marking on the wing covert is in the same position as in the normal budgerigar, but narrower, and the edging which is grey in normals is white in the Spangle. The fine black markings are generally lost in opaline Spangles which can display a beautiful, marbled effect on their wings. The sharp markings in cinnamon normal Spangles can be barely visible and at a distance these birds can resemble incredible clearwings.

To preserve the Spangle wing pattern most show schedules in Australia separate single factor Spangle into two classes -Spangle and Spangle Any Other Standard Variety (AOSV). The Spangle AOSV class includes Spangle combined with the other standard varieties that are allowed in the Matrix: Greywing, Cinnamonwing, Opaline or Fallow. Most of the competitive Spangle AOSVs are composites of Spangle with Cinnamonwing or Opaline. Spangles and Spangle Cinnamonwings display mottling where the rump meets the tail and Spangle Opalines are prone to flecking. Subtle combinations of Spangle with Black Eyed Self, Dilute, Clearwing, Clearbody or Lacewing are non-Standard and can only be shown, if they must, if a club has an Any Other Non-Standard Variety class. Spangle content in these non-Standard combinations can be recognised by their bi-coloured cheek patch and/or wing patterning if wing markings are visible enough. Red Eyed Self breeders commonly hide Spangle under Lutino

and Albino since Spangle acts as a modifier to help eliminate body colour suffusion by reducing melanin.

Selection for genetic modifiers to enhance the quality of wing markings in the normal Spangle could theoretically be undertaken. However, it's doubtful that many pursue that course since Type (size, balance, feather etc) is worth 60% of the overall score when judged, so selection for those features takes priority. The Spangle in the Australian Standard belongs to the variety grouping where emphasis is placed on markings and/or varietal features to assign the remaining 40% of the mark. The original Spangles had clear centred target shaped spots due to partial loss of melanin, but such spots are not so common nowadays and usually manifest as crescent shaped flecks. Careful "spotting" in Spangles can improve the visualisation of "spots" to three defined regions on each side of the mask.

A myth perpetuated in some of the earlier literature is that the quality of normals is enhanced by breeding through a Spangle outcross. That works only if the Spangle outcross, or any other non-Spangle outcross, is superior to the variety targeted for improvement. There is nothing magical per se about the Spangle mutation.

The Standard for the Spangle Double Factor describes a yellow or white bird with no markings and no colour suffusion. This results from further reduction of melanin associated with carrying a double dose of the Spangle mutation in the one bird. The body colour according to the Australian Standard needs to be an even shade of ground colour (yellow in the green series and white in the blue series). This gives it a similar appearance to the Red Eyed Selves and Dark Eyed Clears where the three varieties differ by eye colour, presence or absence of an iris ring, and in the cocks, the colour of the cere. There is a view that excluding the coloured collar in the Spangle Double Factor Standard is an opportunity lost for making this bird visually distinct from Red Eyed Selves and Dark

## Eyed Clears.

The Spangle Double Factor frequently has a "fault" (in terms of exhibition but not necessarily in terms of pleasing visual appearance) which is the above-mentioned collar of body colour suffusion (green in the yellow bird and blue or grey in the white bird). The coloured collar is indicative of a Spangle Double Factor bred on a Normal background. The collar is eliminated by breeding Double Factor Spangles on a Cinnamonwing and/or Opaline background, both of which act as modifiers that negatively affect body colour suffusion. Hence, the proliferation of poorly marked Spangle Opalines and Spangle Cinnamonwings that some may say belong in the breeding team for Spangle Double Factors rather than in the show team.

Since these can be substantial in Type, if not for variety, some wanted a class for them so that they can be shown. Hence, the Spangle AOSV class was created to keep them out of the conventional Spangle class where the wing markings are the primary feature that defines the Spangle variety.

Searching the internet for information on the Melanistic Spangle reveals an article by Jeff Attwood dating as far as I can tell to 2017. He referred to a visit he made to Garry Heuval in Brisbane in 1991 where he saw Melanistic Spangles that had been produced from Spangles. These birds looked like Normals but with yellow or white primary tail feathers. However, they morphed into what Jeff described as "almost a Spangle in reverse" after their second moult



except for retention of solid spots and solid coloured cheek patches. Then in his breeding experience in 1998 he produced by accident one Melanistic Spangle among 15 chicks in three rounds. That bird underwent the same change after the second moult as the Heuval birds. He then went on to breed more Melanistic Spangles from that bird.

Peter Glassenbury produced a Melanistic Spangle in four generations starting from a pale normal wing Spangle and mating Spangle progeny in succeeding generations to a heavily melanised Normal. He presented this result supported by photographs to the ANBC Colour and Standards meeting in 2005. That result supports a conclusion that the Melanistic Spangle is a phenotype variant

of the Normal Spangle, differing by the amount of melanin. Could it be that simple?

It is difficult to generalise from such limited observations which is why I introduced this article with a challenge to breeders with experience working with this phenotype to document their experiences. For example, can we breed a standard normal wing Spangle from a Melanistic Spangle? There will be a need to create a Standard for the Melanistic Spangle that considers morphing after the second moult. If that is a general observation there will need to be two standards, one for the unbroken cap and young birds up to the second moult, and another for the adult beyond the second moult. Then there is the Melanistic Spangle Double Factor with a coloured body due to the additional melanin and clear wings mimicking the Clearwing. It will have, one assumes, a silvery white cheek patch like the conventional Spangle Double Factor rather than the solid violet or grey cheek patch of the Clearwing. The Melanistic Spangle Double Factor will also require its own Standard if it is to be exhibited.

There are some points to ponder. If breeders wish to exhibit these birds, should they do so in the normal wing Spangle class and the conventional Spangle Double Factor class? Should that be with or without penalty or disqualification? Alternatively, should clubs that wish to allow them into their shows without penalty or disqualification create a separate class for them in their show schedules, as was done for the Spangle Double Factor? That implies the need for creation of Standards for these heavily melanised variations of the Spangle for the guidance of breeders and judges.

Then where should these melanistic Standards be placed in the document we refer to as Standard? The Dominant Pied and the Banded Dominant Pied are the same mutation. Similarly, the Dutch Dominant Pied and the Clearflighted Dominant Pied are the same mutation. Due to member bodies/clubs with a passion to maintain separate phenotypic entities the Standard caters for the

Banded Dominant Pied and the Clearflighted Dominant Pied under the section "PHENOTYPE VARIANTS", separate from the primary Standards. Is this a solution for placement of the Melanised Spangle and Melanised Spangle Double Factor?

None of that answers the question of whether the Melanised Spangle should be allowed in the normal wing Spangle class with or without penalty or disqualification. Since Australian show schedules have separate Spangle and Spangle AOSV classes the Melanised Spangles may not necessarily be restricted to normal wing Spangles and could be composites that include other varieties. The Jeff Attwood article previously referred to has the footnote declaring that in the UK "The Budgerigar Society Colour Standards Committee have decided this type of bird [Melanistic Spangle] should be exhibited in the Spangle classes and penalised accordingly." Placing it in the Australian Spangle AOSV class does not appear logical since current evidence suggests that it is a phenotypic variant of the Spangle mutation only (presumably changed by genetic modifiers affecting melanin and maybe feather pattern) rather than a composite with other varietal genes of large effect such as Opaline and Cinnamonwing.

I hesitate to take a definitive position on all the above given so little documentation is available on Melanistic Spangles for all to see. My initial thoughts are that Standards for Melanistic Spangles and Melanistic Spangle Double Factors are needed because the birds exist, and some will be determined to show them. If pressed for an opinion I would say these standards need to be compiled and initially located in the "PHENOTYPE VARIANTS" section of the Standard. That allows member bodies/clubs who wish to exhibit them to include them as separate classes in their show schedules so that they can be exhibited without Penalty or Disqualification since they do not comply with the existing Spangle and Spangle Double Factor Standards in the main body of the Standard.



## Dear New Novice Breeder

Congratulations on beginning your journey into the world of breeding! As a fellow member of the BCSA, I would like to offer you some valuable insights and advice. First and foremost, it is essential to understand that everyone in the community is there to help you. As a novice breeder, it is not about how many chicks you hatch in a year or how well you do at shows. Instead, it is about learning the basics and becoming comfortable with them for the first couple of years.

You will undoubtedly receive birds from generous open breeders, and it's important to remember that even if they appear small or have short tails, they carry fantastic genetics that have likely been bred for years. Always remember that the worst chick from the best nest of a Champion breeder is the one you want to take, as they carry excellent genes that can be bred with another 'worst chick

from a great nest.' This way, you can eventually create your very own line of birds, and normally the worst chick in the best nest is noticeably cheaper to buy than one of its far superior siblings.

To become a successful breeder, it is crucial to start with the basics and not get ahead of yourself. One of the most fundamental aspects of keeping happy and healthy birds is cleanliness. A dirty aviary can lead to unhealthy birds, which in turn can breed unhealthy chicks. Therefore, the environment must be dry, free of rodents, and have good quality food and water that is changed daily.

As a novice breeder, it is also important to ask lots of questions. No question is a stupid question, so don't hesitate to reach out to our intermediate or open breeders. You will receive the same information from everyone, but you can choose which version works for you.

From my experience, here are a few things that I do or don't do, that work really well for me.

- Always have clean, dry nesting material in the breeding boxes and replace it when the hen kicks it out. I do not like seeing eggs and chicks sitting on bare wood. I do not clean the boxes when there are just eggs in there, and I only clean the boxes when the chicks make them dirty.
- I do not handle the eggs unless I absolutely need to. Touching the eggs too much in the early days can cause the chicks to die in the shell (DIS), along with having them in an air-conditioned environment in summer, which can dry out the eggs. If you need to check if the eggs are fertile, give them a week or so and hold a small torch near them. You can see the change in the color of the shell as they become fertile. Fertile eggs have a more solid, slightly gray color, opposed to the unfertile eggs, which have a slightly yellow glow.
- I check on the hens morning and night, but I do not bother them unnecessarily, particularly if they are nesting for the first time.
- I never breed just one pair. Often, there is a need to move a chick that hasn't been fed, for a variety



***‘Always remember that the worst chick from the best nest of a Champion breeder is the one you want to take, as they carry excellent genes that can be bred with another ‘worst chick from a great nest.’***

of reasons. Having a foster hen available is the best option, unless you enjoy waking up every two hours to feed a newborn chick. Often, they die anyway because the hens always do a better job.

- Always have fresh water and food available. Soft food must be removed daily, such as soaked seed or grated vegetables.
- From an ethical perspective, I do not breed quantity over quality. I prefer to breed 20 good birds than 100 not so good birds. Remember that you cannot see a great bird in a young chick, and you need to have room to keep all these birds.

As a novice breeder, it is important to remember that you are just starting, and it's okay to make mistakes. It's all about learning and growing. With patience, dedication, and a willingness to learn, you will become an experienced and successful breeder. And don't forget the most important part – to enjoy this fantastic hobby!

Yours in Budgies

Jane Kelb





## Results from our first “You Be The Judge” competition.

We had a good number of entries, but no exact winner this time round. A big thank you to John Mulley, local ANBC judge, for his comments on the birds.

### **1st Place D - Recessive Pied Green Series Cock**

A bird of substance with strong shoulders, deep mask, and prominent spots. Directional feather with a well-rounded cap. Penalized for ticking which is negated by overall body strength.

### **2nd Place A - Recessive Pied Blue Series Cock**

Excellent varietal bird in top show condition, with a nice clean cap. The bird in front of him had more power and greater depth of mask.

### **3rd Place E - Recessive Pied Blue Series Cock**

Another strong bird with great depth of mask and spots, but length and width of cap feather less than the two birds ahead of him. Down on varietal features compared with the birds ahead of him.

### **4th Place C - Recessive Pied Green Series Cock**

Excellent variety bird with a nice outline and some desirable width across the cere. The birds ahead of him were stronger across the shoulder and had greater cap feather.



#### 5th Place G - Recessive Pied Green Series Cock

Another solid bird with nice profile but birds ahead of him were superior in depth of mask and length of cap feather.

#### 6th Place F - Recessive Pied Green Series Cock

Good varietal features but not as shapely in profile or with depth of mask, and is lacking in back-skull, compared with the birds ahead of him.

#### 7th Place B - Recessive Pied Green Series Hen

A strong hen but heavily marked in the cap and heavily penalized for that. Just scrapes past the flecking threshold for disqualification. But otherwise, a bird with body substance.

#### Disqualified: H - Recessive Pied Green Series Cock

Striking depth of mask and spots with an excellent cap. Unfortunately, on the wrong side of the flecking threshold so is disqualified.

# You Be the Judge Competition for Autumn 2023

Have you ever considered becoming a judge and joining the BCSA judging fraternity, or are you seeking a chance to hone your talents and determine what constitutes a winning bird? The tournament is open to all participants, regardless of their skill level. The rules are simple.

Position the following nine birds in sequence from first to ninth place on the display bench. A senior judge will also rate the birds from first to ninth place, and if your rating matches that of the senior judge, you will be eligible to win a 5 kg bag of Avi Smart Breed Plus Pro, courtesy of Avi Smart (valued at \$90).

We have also provided a copy of the illustrative standard, should you need it while making your choice. If you want a chance to win the bag of Avi Smart, send an email to BCSA Chatter editor

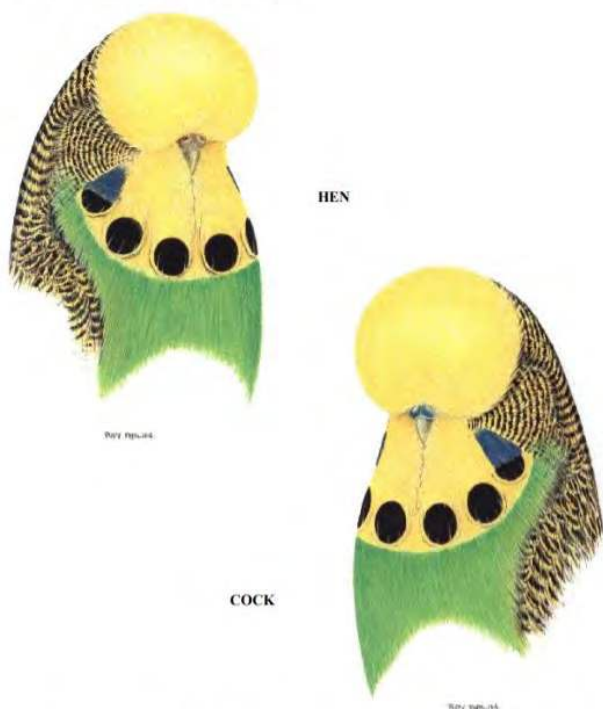
Troy Holmes at [president@bcsa.com.au](mailto:president@bcsa.com.au) with your results in the order you would put them on the show bench (please use the letter assigned to each bird to indicate your ranking).

If more than one contestant achieves the same winning combination, the ultimate winner will be determined by random drawing.

The findings of the senior judge and the names of those who picked the classes correctly, as well as the overall winner, will be published in the Autumn 2023 issue of Chatter. For this competition, assess the Normal Blue Class on the following pages. A big thank you to James Bader and Rod Turnbull, for the use of their photographs.

**Entries must be in by 11:59 pm May 22nd, 2023.**

IDEAL HEN AND COCK - BUST



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

THE IDEAL





# Teaching Your Budgie to Talk

Talking budgies can be interesting creatures! Teaching your budgie to talk can be a rewarding and fun experience for both you and your feathered friend. While not all budgerigars will learn to talk, with patience, consistency, and the right techniques, you can increase the chances of success.

The first key to success is that the budgie needs to be solitary, at least while you're trying to train it. Most people have found that budgies won't talk when housed with a companion who is speaking budgie lingo. Furthermore, while both hens and cocks can talk, cocks tend to have been shown to do it better. Ideally, you would introduce "talking" to budgerigar as soon as it comes out of the nest. For that reason, a male (cock) budgerigar is ideal, as they tend to not bite as hard.

Budgerigars can mimic human speech, but they are not able to understand the meaning of the words. Start with simple words and phrases such as "hello," "goodbye," or your bird's name. Repeat the words or phrases often, and use a clear and consistent tone of voice. This is why you will see many larger parrots that pick up foul language – as it can be short, sharp, and unfortunately, repeated often.

Positive reinforcement is an essential technique when teaching your budgerigar to talk. Reward your bird with treats or praise every time they repeat the word or phrase correctly. This will encourage them to keep trying and will create a positive association with the learning process.

Teaching your budgerigar to talk requires patience and consistency. Set aside time each day to work on training and stick to a routine. It may take several weeks or even months for your



bird to start repeating the words, so don't get discouraged if progress is slow.

Playing audio recordings of human speech can help your budgerigar learn to talk. Play the recordings several times a day and repeat the words or phrases along with the recording. Your bird may start to mimic the sounds they hear. Leaving the radio on during the day when out at work is useful, as the bird becomes acclimated to human speech.

A stimulating environment can help your budgerigar learn to talk too. Provide toys, perches, and other forms of enrichment to keep your bird entertained and engaged. A happy and stimulated bird is more likely to start mimicking human speech.

In conclusion, teaching your budgerigar to talk requires patience, consistency, and positive reinforcement. Firstly, start with simple words and phrases, use audio recordings, and provide a stimulating environment to increase your bird's chances of success. Finally, remember to be patient and consistent, and with time and practice, your budgerigar may surprise you with their ability to mimic human speech.

# Senior Judges Panel

## NATIONALLY ACCREDITED JUDGES



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## JUDGES EXECUTIVE



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## JUDGES REPRESENTATIVE & SECRETARY



**Peter Glassenbury**  
0409 288 710 pglassen@bigpond.com

## RETIRED MAJOR AWARD JUDGES

Roy Deslandes (Deceased)  
George Duffield (Deceased)  
John Fisher (Deceased)  
Gordon Lowe (Deceased)  
Stan Watson (Deceased)  
Trevor Weckert  
Bruce Stafford  
Glenn Stearns  
John Rice

**ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR JUDGES & STANDARDS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:**

Judges Representative & Secretary - Peter Glassenbury 0409 288 710 pglassen@bigpond.com

# BCSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

Since the inception of the BCSA in 1996, the following BCSA members have won classes at the ANBC National Titles

<b>Kakoschke &amp; Rice - 12 Wins</b>
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005, 2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016

<b>J &amp; W Weidenhofer - 3 Wins</b>
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Dilute - 2022

<b>John Mulley - 2 Wins</b>
Opaline AOSV - 2000
Blackeyed Self - 2003

<b>Marshall Family - 2 Wins</b>
Albino - 2007
Recessive Pied - 2014

<b>Doug &amp; Ruth Lange - 2 Wins</b>
Normal Green - 2009
Crested - 2014

<b>Ray Slade - 2 Wins</b>
Blackeyed Self - 2016, 2017

<b>Holmes Family - 2 Wins</b>
Grey Green - 2018
Normal Blue - 2022

<b>Helen Brooks - 1 Win</b>
Fallow - 1996

<b>Ron Norman - 1 Win</b>
Hens Class - 1996

<b>Rob McKie - 1 Win</b>
Opaline - 1997

<b>M &amp; R Rafferty - 1 Win</b>
Opaline AOSV - 2001

<b>Michael Crossley - 1 Win</b>
Yellowfaced Blue - 2002

<b>Sue &amp; Colin Norris - 1 Win</b>
Dominant Pied - 2002

<b>Peter Glassenbury - 1 Win</b>
Blackeyed Self - 2009

<b>Peter Simic - 1 Win</b>
Recessive Pied - 2010

<b>Dennis Lomman - 1 Win</b>
Violet - 2014

## OBJECTS & PURPOSE

The specific aims and objectives of the BCSA are:

- To promote, encourage and stimulate the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars, including the improvement of existing varieties, and the development of new.
- To serve as the State Council for Budgerigars in South Australia (including Broken Hill).
- To cooperate with other governing bodies interested in budgerigars, here in Australia, and abroad.
- To affiliate with and act as the South Australian member body of the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC).
- To invite and encourage membership of Affiliate and Associate Organisations interested in the breeding and exhibiting of budgerigars.
- To use the Standard of Perfection for the exhibition budgerigar as set by the ANBC.
- To establish, maintain and recommend uniform rules for all shows and exhibitions held by the Council and its Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish a panel of judges who are able to judge these shows.
- To accept a code of ethics for judges.
- To ratify recommendations received from the panel of judges.
- To recommend and / or co-ordinate on any matter deemed to be of common interest to Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To obtain direction and/or instruction from Affiliate and Associate Organisations on ANBC matters through their BCSA delegates.
- To hold an annual pre-selection show to select a team to represent South Australia at the ANBC Championship Show.
- To host the ANBC Championship Show when required.
- To compile annually a register of show and meeting dates of all participating Affiliate and Associate Organisations.
- To establish and maintain an exhibitor status register for all financial individual members or partnerships.
- To do all such other things as may be incidental to the attainment of such objects.

## LIFE MEMBERS

- 2016 – Mr Graham Bell
- 2016 – Mrs Doreece Brunton
- 2016 – Mr Peter Glassenbury
- 2016 – Mr John Mulley
- 2016 – Mr Nigel Tonkin







For further information  
regarding the club,  
membership or events  
please contact:-

BCSA President, Troy Holmes on  
[president@bcsa.com.au](mailto:president@bcsa.com.au)



[www.bcsa.com.au](http://www.bcsa.com.au)