

# Chatter

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# Letter from the President

The past three months have been a whirlwind of activity and excitement, both here in South Australia and across the nation, in the world of budgerigars. Since the last edition of our beloved "Chatter," there has been a hive of developments and achievements to share with our community.

To enhance our communication and keep our members at the forefront of budgerigar related news, you would have seen that we've launched the "Budgie Bulletin," a weekly Friday update that spans all that is happening in this state and beyond. This initiative serves as a vibrant supplement to our main publication, offering timely updates and insights into the hobby we hold dear. The reception to the Budgie Bulletin has been overwhelmingly positive, affirming our commitment to keeping you, our community, informed and engaged without overshadowing the essence of Chatter, which continues to be delivered quarterly.

As we navigate through 2024, I'm excited to share with you that we've set an ambitious goal for our South Australian budgerigar community. Following our 2023 result of 11% growth in BCSA members, we've set ourselves the lofty target to bolster our ring ordering community by 20% in 2024. It's a big number, but not an immeasurable goal. We've engaged in meaningful dialogues with each club to understand what that growth cascades down to in real numbers, translating our aspirations into a tangible increase in membership for each club, and taken the time to talk through possible growth strategies. I have to say, the enthusiasm and energy with which each club has embraced this goal is truly refreshing. It reflects a shared vision for the future of budgerigar breeding and keeping in South Australia, marked by growth, learning, and community spirit. As we work together to achieve this growth, we're not just increasing numbers; we're



fostering a deeper appreciation for these remarkable birds and what they have to offer, while strengthening the bonds within our budgerigar community.

Back to this quarter's all important Chatter, this edition, we look at the structural basis of budgerigar genetics, as well as the owl shaped birds coming out of Kuwait, thanks to Ali Bouresli. We discuss the important considerations for buying your first pet budgie, while Ian Wise shares some of his experiences on navigating the world of budgie breeding as a Novice. Our Fancier in Focus looks at the history of the Holmes family budgerigars, and how I came to share a passion for these wonderful creatures, whilst we also take a trip around the Clubs here in SA for the latest happenings, including the impending 50th anniversary of the North East Budgerigar Society in April.

In closing, the journey ahead for the budgerigar community in South Australia and nationally is filled with promise and potential. Through initiatives like the Budgie Bulletin and our collective goals for 2024, we are paving the way for a richer, more vibrant avicultural landscape. 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 next (Autumn) edition of Chatter in May 2024.

Troy Holmes

**BCSA President**



## The Holmes Family

Based in South Australia, the Holmes family is underpinned by the President of the BCSA, Troy Holmes, and his lovely partner Kelly. Troy has four children, who have varying levels of interest in budgies, and their aviaries are in the foothills in the Eastern Suburbs of Adelaide.

### What sparked your interest in budgerigars and the hobby?

In the early 1980's, as a young boy, I was fortunate enough to catch what turned out to be a light green normal budgerigar at our family home in Sale Victoria. The bird had landed in my uncle's market garden across the road, and was obviously somebody's family pet, as we caught him without great difficulty. Promptly, we purchased a cage from the nearby pet shop, and I had my first bird – apply named "Stefan". I remember Stefan was positioned above the freezer at home, and sat there happily, until one day I took him to the pet shop, and found out that he, was a she. She quickly became "Stephanie". It wasn't too many years later that Stephanie died, and we brought a light green normal male from the pet shop, which assumed the namesake, and became "Stefan". At the same time, our cousins caught yet another

budgerigar in their market garden. The budgerigar was a pure white colour, and I was initially told that it was an oversized canary, before taking it to the Pet Shop nearby, where the owner confirmed it was in fact an Albino hen.

We placed Stefan and the Albino hen in the cage above the freezer, and it soon became obvious that they

both enjoyed each other's company, and the cage was too small for them both. My father, being the supportive handyman that he was, knocked up a small aviary for me, which measured 0.9 m deep, 1.2 m wide, and 1.5 m high. It was big enough for me to crawl into, and stand up in, as a young adolescent. We placed it just outside the door closest to the freezer, in the area known as the fernery. I attended to them daily, and soon purchased some quails and zebra finches to add some variety to the cage.

Early one morning, I noticed mice around the bottom of the cage, so my father and I agreed to relocate it, at the same time making some modifications to the base, minimizing the impact of any vermin in the area. The final location was next to the home garage, and the finches were sold to replace them with two more pairs of birds, totalling six budgerigars in the aviary. I had read that budgerigars were gregarious and needed the stimulation of other budgerigars nearby to breed.

Within no time, the addition of the other budgerigars and a couple of nest boxes, led Stefan and the Albino hen to breed. The results were amazing – four of the most beautifully coloured birds you'd ever seen. Violets, clearwings, greywing opalines – you name it, they were amongst it. The beauty of those kind of budgerigars was that they were certainly from varied backgrounds, and as a result, almost anything was possible (within genetic constraints of course!).

I was so happy that I showed some of my friends, and it was at that time that I realized my neighbour directly across the street, Brad Wynd, also had budgerigars. He had received them from Bruce Carter, who was very well-known breeder in the area. In comparison to the birds I had, Brad's were massive, and he had some very impressive sky blue greywings. Brad's father, and most of the family friends, were heavily involved in Greyhounds, so I had never realised Brad's interest in birds. This greywing sky blue etched in my memory – he was so further along than any of the birds I had. And at that precise moment, I fell in love with the greywing sky blue.

Knowing we had a common interest, we were always kicking around with one another, checking out what was known in each other's nest boxes each day. The fun grew, and some of our other school friends began to breed birds. As we talked more about it, we found others who bred larger native birds, who were also interested in budgerigars. A group of us from various schools around the area, with a common interest, began to get engrossed in breeding the birds, and at the same time, tried to get a better understanding of the breeding mechanisms, and what to feed them. We were very lucky to have Leigh Jennings, an avid bird fancier and Pet Shop owner, running a store close by, so advice on what to do, and how to breed, was always close by. Leigh was that slow and steady hand as a mentor that we all needed. At times, Leigh would let me work with him on Sundays at the market, and after school at the shop, to learn more about the birds, and also earn some money to pay for the cost of upkeep. Of course, I spent it all in his shop, so it worked out really for him.

By the early 1990's, our group had grown from myself and Brad, to Hayden Ryan, Hannah Hammond, Wayne Douthat, Glenn Houghton and Kane Smolenaars. We were all from diverse backgrounds, but liked talking about the birds, and having fun seeing what we could get out of them.

It was about the same time that we all joined the local Caged Bird Society. The club consisted of about 5 people who regularly attended the meetings, and bred a variety of birds, from pigeons to canaries, and even finches. The only budgerigar breeders were an Intermediate couple, Faye and Ernie (dec) Boyce. The meetings were held in an old shed at the Show Grounds, and on most nights, it was bitterly cold, however the hospitality was warm, and the people were lovely. We certainly received a warm welcome from the older folk who were life-long members from all walks of bird life.

We joined and learned more about birds, and I soon became the Junior Vice President and Junior Secretary. I took this on board as a great responsibility. As a group, we would ride our bikes around all the town streets, slowly listening to see if we could hear the distinct chatter of budgerigars, and where we did, we put a flyer in the person's mailbox about the Sale & District



Caged Bird Society, to see if we could grow the Club. It was an adventure, and a challenge.

From time to time, Brad and I would also travel to Morwell with the more senior budgerigar fanciers in Sale. We were too young to have a license, so Faye and Ernie took Brad and I under their wing, and drove us once a month to Morwell, about 60 km from where we lived. The Morwell club was a specialist budgerigar club and had a lot of open exhibitors from around the Latrobe Valley, including judges such as Barry Herbert and Geoff Gardiner. They were very serious about the budgerigars, as it was right around the time of the first imports into Spotswood, and fanciers talked of the greats in Melbourne, such as Jack Tanner (dec), Alan Rowe, Church & Reed, and the Borg Skivington partnership. From the Morwell club, we were able to purchase show cages, drinkers, and feeders. It also gave us a look at the next level of exhibiting, even though we were still wetting our feet, so to speak, with a colony breeding regime. We'd go back home, and talk to the others about what we'd seen, and what these amazing birds looked like. At the same time, my father's cousin Trevor Holmes colony bred hundreds of budgerigars each year, in an array of colours, and he was very good resource for me to tap when attempting to breed birds and get them right. His birds were extremely vigorous and hearty, and he had come across a great deal of wisdom in his time that he was able to impart.

It was Autumn of 1991 I entered my first birds into the Morwell Club Diploma Show. I had entered a number of agricultural shows with a lot of success, and Club night shows at Sale, Morwell and West Gippsland, but never a Diploma Show. I recall having to work that day but sent some birds along that I had purchased some time ago from Leigh Jennings at the pet shop. I liked one of them, an Opaline Dark Green hen. She had style and swank – that cobra shape - so I entered her, along with about four other budgerigars. I had sprayed them up in preparation for the show,

having no clue how they would fair in my first serious budgerigar-only show. I remember being on the landline in Dad's shed when Barry Herbert called, who promptly told me that I had won the award for Best Adult Hen in the Beginners' Class. As a beginner, you could show bought birds in the adult class. I received a small trophy, but you would have thought I had won the Lotto. I was that excited I could hardly contain myself. When I rejoined the hobby as an adult in 2005, Barry quietly told me he remembered that victory well, as he didn't have the heart to rain on my parade and tell me that there were only three adult beginner hens there that day, and I owned all of them, so I only beat myself. But who was to care, I had won, and I treasured the trophy with the greatest of pride (still have it). I found out later that I had in fact won a plate, and Barry Herbert had realized that it may not be that attractive a prize to a 14-year-old, so he quickly organised me a trophy instead. The cricket, football, bowling and slot car racing trophies were moved aside, for the Best Beginner Adult Hen trophy to take centre stage above the family TV.

It was fun, and we all had a blast, but in October of 1991, I received a phone call via the School Secretary from my father. Dad explained that I needed to come home urgently. When I got back, I found that the birds in the aviary had gotten into a massive fight, and Stefan and his Albino partner, who had three babies in the nest at the four-week-old point had been fiercely attacked. I remember the gut-wrenching feeling, as two of them were still alive, yet we had to put them down due to their beaks being ripped off and having been scalped. I remember the beautiful colours, destroyed by the vivid, raw blood.

Not to be deterred, it was at that time that Dad and I agreed that we should do this properly. I had been slowly buying some better birds and had made a cage or two outside of the little aviary for selective breeding, but this was the catalyst to do it properly.



*First Bird Room, Sale, Victoria, Circa 1991*



*First Bird Room, Sale, Victoria, Circa 1991*

Dad contacted Kane's uncle, Theo Smolenaars, the owner of T & S Welding in Sale, and promptly we had dual 6 m x 2 m x 2 m flights, side by side, in the back yard. They had concrete floors and were clad in wire from 900 mm high. My father worked for the Council, so I assume he must have somehow managed to get express priority approvals, as the thing was built and up in a week. Looking back as an adult, and now knowing my father's traits, my guess is that we sought no approvals whatsoever. We had agreed that we'd build a bird room to go with it, so that we could shift away from the colony breeding concept, and into selected breeding cages, so we purchased a shed that measured 1.5 m deep x 1.8 m high, by 6 m long, and placed it adjacent to the aviaries. Inside, we concreted the floor and covered it with lino tiles. There was a small sink, and some old cupboards placed at one end, breeding cages the length of the back wall, and a small inside flight at the opposite end. The shed was a standard product from the local Mitre 10, but all of the breeding cabinets were made by Dad and me.

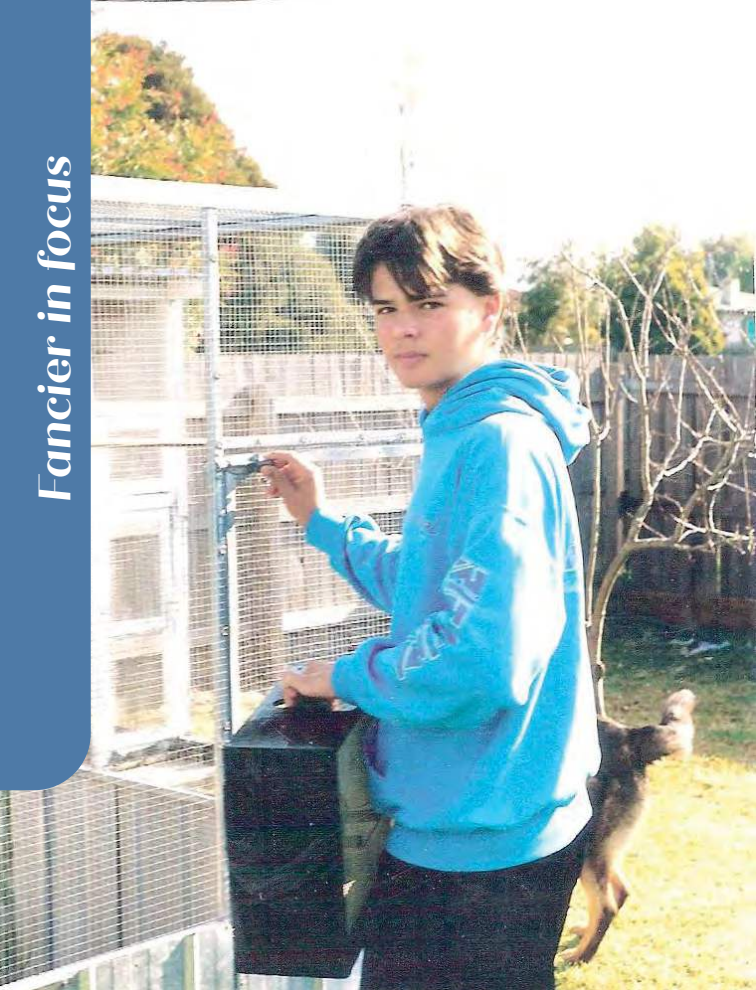
If you ever get the opportunity to meet my father, you'll know immediately that nothing is ever too hard. It was the Summer of 1991 when we built the cages, and I remember long hot nights, out in the backyard, applying vinegar to the wire fronts to the sounds of the new Guns'N'Roses album, Use



*First Bird Room, Sale, Victoria, Circa 1991*

Your Illusion II, on repeat. He wasn't a fan of Axel's "whining" voice, while as a teenager, I couldn't get enough of it.

The cages were erected, and I was on my way. As a family, my father had long service leave, and decided we would take a term off school, and see Australia. That meant driving up through Parkes, Narrabri and Forbes, and coming out at Rockhampton, and slowly making our way up to Cairns, before slowly descending all the way back down the coast road back to Sale over several months. I had my setup ready and was champing at the bit to breed some birds, so of course, I was in and out of every pet shop as soon as we hit Queensland. I found a shop that had birds I considered excellent, and I saw the coded rings of a local breeder on there. Fortunately, the owner



was selfless enough to tell this kid the guy's details, so I arranged to meet him and see his aviary. His birds were all from Henry George, and there was a thumping big shouldered 50% George sky blue hen, that sat horribly across the perch, that he decided I could buy for the princely sum of \$50. I was over the moon, until we actually had to decide how to get this bird home. In part of our flyer drop project around town to find more club members, I had met John Bell – he also bred budgerigars, and was a truck driver, heading from Sale to Sydney often. We called John, and he went out of his way to arrange a driver to meet us in a depot in Brisbane, who would sit the bird in a carry cage on his front seat from Brisbane to Sydney. There, he would meet John at the depot, and then John would take this bird back to Sale. It wasn't quite as simple as picking up the phone and calling Carmel like we do today – it was far more logistically challenging.

Somehow, this bird actually made it back home, and when we arrived back, I received my 1992 rings. I made a pact to visit as many Diploma

shows as I could across Victoria, to learn as much as I could. As a 16-year-old, this meant a lot of 2.5-hour trips to Melbourne, plus finding transportation, so it was a challenging task.

That year, I visited the Mountain Districts, Western Suburbs, Eastern, Gippsland, Dandenong and Sale Diploma shows. I got a very good feel for the kind of bird that I wanted to breed, as well as those characteristics that were unique to everyone's bloodlines. I was lucky enough at four of the above-mentioned show's to be allowed to steward, which gave me great insight into the judging process, and those features that really mattered. Stewarding is great. You really hear the un-sugar-coated version of what the judges think of the birds. They're far more politically correct when they do their talk at the end to all of the exhibitors.

At the same shows, I was also able to take a lot of photographs – another hobby of mine. The photography allowed me to capture the birds, and it culminated with some of the photographs being published, along with Show Results, in *Budgerigar World*, the pinnacle magazine for this hobby, as well as *Budgie News* in Victoria.

Of course, the time was one of upheaval. In parallel, the first of the official English imports were coming through the Spotswood facility. Lots of people were talking about getting out of the hobby because of the cost, and other fanciers were concerned that people could import birds to breed from, to skip them ahead on the budgie hierarchy, by winning shows without having really built a strong foundation of birds around them.

It was at the Mountain Districts show, whilst taking photographs, that I met Rod Skivington, and later Tony Borg. We talked of a common interest in photography, and Rod and I agreed that I would visit their aviaries on my next trip to Melbourne, and I would be able to photograph some of their birds. As a 15-year-old at the time, I was filled with excitement at the prospect of seeing the aviary of breeders of the rapport of Borg & Skivington, so I looked forward to the day with nervous anticipation.



Rod and I conversed several times before the agreed date, and on the 16th of June 1992, my parents took me as part of my 16th birthday present to photographs Rod's birds, and also to buy a really good budgerigar. They were very supportive of my chosen hobby, and when we finally arrived in Belgrave from Sale, I was able to photograph some magnificent birds. I had a great time, and as I understand, the photocage that we made on the day is still in situ at their aviaries and is used to this day! Rod is an extremely knowledgeable character, and later in the day, his partner Tony dropped over as well.

At the end of the day, anticipation got the better of me, and I had to ask about the budgerigar that we had discussed at the Mountain Districts Diploma Show earlier that year. However, as Tony and Rod conversed, I could tell something had gone horribly wrong. The bird that Tony had agreed to sell me had already been sold by Rod! There was no bird! As you can imagine, my heart sank, but the two spoke in private, and came back to me with an Opaline Grey Cock. "This is NOT a cull" said Rod firmly, *"but we are going to let you have him. It's our mistake, and we said that we'd sell you a bird, and we are willing to stand by that. This one is far better than the one that we had earmarked for you, but you can have it under the same arrangements"*.

Well, it would have taken a lot to wipe the grin from my face! I couldn't get the payment of \$200.00 out of my pocket quickly enough! It was a lot of money for a high school student working part time at a gas station for \$35.00 per week, but it was well worth it. The cock, 148/91, was 50% Bonner, 25% Donavon, and 25% Rolls. I discovered much later in life why this cock was not a cull – he had a super pedigree.

I took him home and began breeding immediately. The first bird that he produced for me was a Grey Green Opaline hen, who as an unbroken cap in 1992, won the Opaline class at the Gippsland Shield/Country Championships. At the same event, she went on to win Reserve Champion at the Show, a great feat considering it was an

Open show, with a large representation of Open and Intermediate Breeders from country Victoria participating. At the same time, the big 50% George sky hen produced me a Lutino, which was also a very strong hen, but with much better deportment on the perch. Likely a terrible colour, given the bad choice of pairing a sky blue into them, but a lovely shape of bird, none the less.

Enjoying the competition, I started visiting the West Gippsland club also, which was based in Warragul, about 100 km from Sale. Twice a month, we would travel with the birds to Morwell or Warragul to participate in the meetings and night shows, and also listen to other fanciers, and guest speakers of the like. I've been described as a focused, intensive learner, so as you can imagine, I couldn't get enough information. This was also back before cell phones were a big thing, and I remember at one point hoping Geoff Gardiner was going to remember to pick me up from the Warragul V Line Station, and sitting on the train, staring out the window, and seeing his gold Falcon driving along in parallel to my carriage for at least 5 km while he waved furiously at me. It was a great time for a young kid looking to learn, because we were so well supported by the Open mentors around us.

In 1993, I entered the West Gippsland Diploma Show, and won Best Beginner Young Bird in Show with a Lutino hen, which also received the award for Best Red Eye in Show. I also went to Morwell, where an award was also won for the Best Beginner Young Bird. In the Sale & District Cage Bird Show, I was able to win Best Beginner Bird, as well as Best Opposite Sex Young Bird with a hen from 148/91, the Borg Skivington Cock. The temptation was there to see if the birds were competitive against some of the Beginner birds in Melbourne, so I made the trip to the Mountain Districts Diploma Show & Nepean Diploma Show. At Nepean, I won Best Beginner young hen with the Lutino hen. I can't recall how I did at Mountain Districts.

In 1994, I had to exit the hobby late in the year due to my academic studies. It was an incredibly

sad day when I was forced to sell all of my birds to a gentleman from Mountain Districts. The issue was that in order to continue my studies at University, I had to move to a college in Melbourne, which was a large dormitory where communal living was the norm. There were no backyards, and no room for aviaries.

I can recall the days after selling the birds – in fact, I think it was weeks, or even months. I found myself waking up at night in sheer panic, thinking that I hadn't attended to them, or hadn't fed them, or had missed something, only to realise they were gone.

Once I relocated to Melbourne in February 1995, my life changed as I'd moved out of home, and the thought of birds was no more. There was study, and a rekindled interest in playing football, developing new friendship networks, all of which kept me busy, along with several part time jobs to pay for my education.

For the next 6 years, I studied a double degree in Chemical Engineering and Business Administration, which I completed in 2000. I then moved to secure a H1B Visa to work in the USA, working across America and Canada, before settling a home base in Adelaide, South Australia in late 2002. I had been here since 2000 but travelling back and forth without a real fixed residence. Work still commanded travel to America, Canada, and Thailand regularly, but having a secure home base was a precursor to four children, which seemed to happen all very quickly. Initially, we rented in Adelaide, and then in October 2003, we moved into our first home in Athelstone, an area about 11 km northeast of the city centre, at the Adelaide foothills.

We had built the home on the vacant allotment in conjunction with a local builder, so once we moved in, there was a substantial amount of work to be done in building front and back yards, due to the 2.2 m slope from front-to-back on the block. It wasn't until late 2004 that we had the property



to a finished level, which the family was able to sit back and enjoy.

Around that moment, my father quipped, "So where will you be building THE budgie cage?" It was a question that hadn't crossed my mind until then. After pondering it for a while, fate led us to Tea Tree Plaza that very night, a sprawling Westfield Mall nearby. Inside, my stepdaughter's love for animals pulled me into Pets Paradise. Though I didn't feel it immediately, I later realized the budgie bug had bitten me. That growing interest, simmering deep within. It was time to revisit a hobby I cherished, but this time, as a family endeavour.

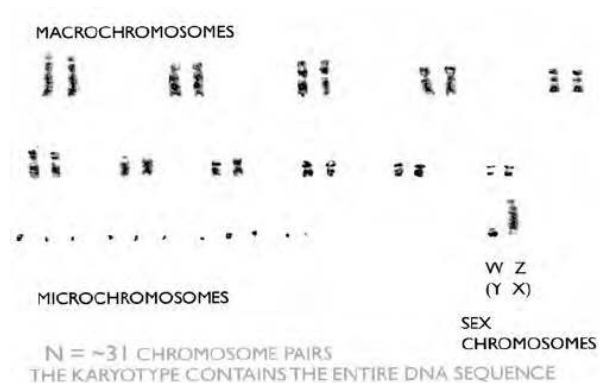
# The Structural Basis underlying Budgerigar Genetics

**John Mulley**

Our hobby is based on applying the fundamentals of animal husbandry and genetics. To converse with younger members, we need to be aware of the genetic terminology that they are familiar with. Most of my vintage had no exposure to genetics at school and DNA was only a minor part of tertiary level biochemistry, but we still know how to breed budgerigars. So, the purpose here is to bridge the gap.

Understanding the physical basis for inheritance makes it easier to comprehend basic genetic concepts such as sex linkage versus autosomal inheritance, genetic segregation, and independent assortment versus linkage. A karyotype is a display of the chromosomes found in the nucleus of a cell. It is derived by staining and photographing the tangle of chromosomes, cutting the chromosomes out manually or electronically, then pairing each chromosome with its homologue, based on size and pattern.

## Karyotype of a budgerigar's chromosomes

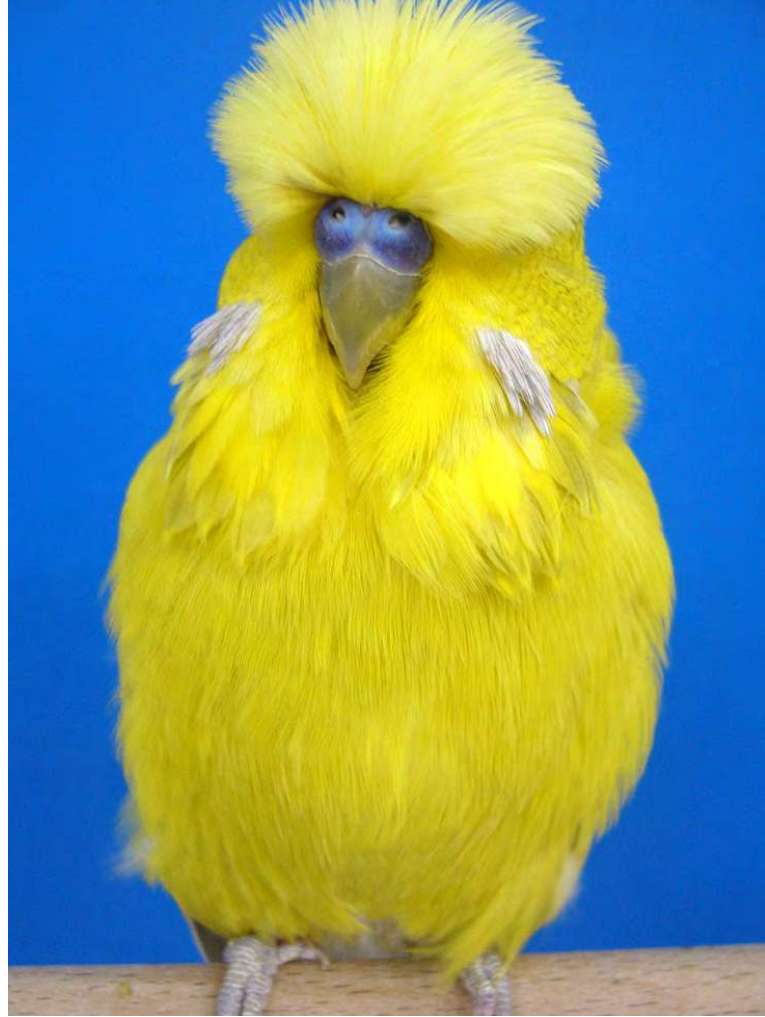


The figure is a representation of the karyotype from one of my budgerigars, a hen with the ZW sex chromosomal complement. Cocks carry ZZ, so only the cocks can be split for mutations at sex-linked genes. The chromosomes are the physical structures that carry the budgerigar genome. There are long DNA molecules that run the entire length of each chromosome. Within those molecules are about 20,000 genes, a similar number to that in man.

The diploid (2N) chromosomal set seen in budgerigars is comprised of about 31 pairs. The exact number is difficult to count microscopically since birds (and their reptile relatives) possess many small micro chromosomes. The sex chromosomes in birds are designated Z and W, as opposed to X and Y in humans and other mammals.

The ZW sex-determination system in birds is reversed compared with the XY sex determination system in mammals. Female budgerigars have two kinds of sex chromosomes, Z and W, whereas human females have two of the same kind of chromosomes, two X chromosomes. Male budgerigars have two of the same kind of sex chromosomes, two Z chromosomes, whereas human males have two kinds of sex chromosomes, X and Y. No genes are shared between the avian ZW system and the mammalian XY system since these sex determination mechanisms evolved independently. The gene complement of the avian Z chromosome is like that of the autosomal chromosome 9 gene complement in man.

To digress, birds are phylogenetically most closely related to reptiles, explaining the extensive micro chromosome content for each. We hear from scientists that birds are related to dinosaurs, but the relationship is closer than that; birds are in fact living dinosaurs being direct descendants of two-legged theropod dinosaurs (*Tyrannosaurus rex* being the largest).



The hen budgerigar has a ZW sex chromosome complement and the cock budgerigar has a ZZ sex chromosome complement; hence, only the cock can be split (heterozygous) for the sex-linked mutations in genes that are responsible for Cinnamonwing, Opaline, Red Eyed Self (Lutino and Albino), and Clearbody, all of which are in the DNA contained within the Z chromosome.

The remaining chromosomes are called autosomes. They carry genes which when mutated determine varieties such as Dilute (and Black Eyed Self), Clearwing, Greywing, Fallow, Spangle, Dominant Pied, Clearflighted (Dutch) Dominant Pied, Recessive Pied, and Saddleback.

Chromosome 1 is the largest autosome and one of its genes designated as *MuPKS* has mutated to affect the amount and distribution of the yellow psittacofulvin pigment. Mutational variation of the *MuPKS* gene determines colour – the colours that can be applied to all the varieties from Normals at the top of the Matrix to Cresteds at the bottom.

The colours green, golden faced blue, yellow faced blue, whitecap, and blue can be further modified by mutations in other genes that delete or reduce melanin.

Casting our eyes back to the karyotype one can visualise the process of meiosis that takes place within the cock's testes and the hen's ovary. That creates the haploid (1N) **single set** of the 31 different chromosomes (half the genome) in the gametes (sperm and eggs). Reunited after fertilisation the diploid (2N) genome is restored comprising the ~31 **pairs** of chromosomes in the developing zygote. All being well, the chick bursts out of the egg about 18 days after the hen sits on it.

Each member of the paired chromosomal 2N set in the chick, one member received from each parent, is not necessarily identical with the DNA sequence in the chromosome received from the respective parent. During meiosis in the process that forms the sperm and eggs there can be physical interchange in each parent between

their paired homologues. This physical crossover is known as genetic recombination, and that is nature's way of shuffling genetic variation among the genes contained within each pair of chromosomes.

## Genetic Terminology with some reference to budgerigars

**Chromosomes** – The physical structures shown in the karyotype. They are comprised of structural protein that support the DNA molecule containing the genes residing on that chromosome. Chromosomes are paired so the entire chromosome complement displayed in the karyotype (apart from the Z chromosome when present as a single copy in hens) carries two alleles at each of approximately 20,000 genes, which taken together, comprises the budgerigar genome.

**Gene** – The basic unit of heredity comprising a defined region of the DNA sequence that encodes a corresponding protein. The intermediaries between the genes and their corresponding proteins are the mRNA messages and the transfer tRNAs that mediate amino acid assembly into a protein (including enzymes).

**Gene locus** – The position within the coiled DNA sequence along a chromosome where a particular gene resides.

**Mendel's First Law, also known as the Law of Segregation** – This states that individuals possess two alleles at each gene (except for the sex chromosomes in the heterogametic sex, the hen's Z chromosome in budgerigars), and each parent passes only one allele from each gene on to their offspring. This is particulate inheritance and kills the myths that breeding through a Cinnamonwing can affect feather structure in future generations, breeding through an Opaline can affect spot quality in future generations, and breeding through a Red Eyed Self can clean up body suffusion in Clearbodies in future generations. Inheritance of acquired

characters was debunked more than a century ago when replaced by Mendelian genetics. Any effects are not transmissible unless accompanied by transmission of the alleles associated with the features mentioned. See below under **Incomplete Penetrance** for an explanation for any effect).

**Allele** – An alternative form of a gene, present in pairs on homologous chromosomes (autosomes and ZZ in cocks). Allelic expression is subject to dominance or recessivity relative to its allelic partner located on the other homologue.

**Dominance** – Refers to the phenomenon of an allele masking the phenotypic effect of the other allele of the same gene on the other homologue.

**Recessivity** – Refers to the phenomenon of the effects of a mutant allele being masked in the presence of a dominant allele on the other homologue.

**Partial dominance** – Refers to the differential expression of an allele in the homozygote compared with the heterozygote. The Spangle and Dominant Pied mutations look different depending upon whether they are present as heterozygotes (single dose of the mutation/single factor) or homozygotes (double dose of the mutation/double factor).

**Penetrance** - Applies to dominant mutations. This is the proportion of individuals carrying a dominant mutant allele that expresses the associated phenotype. The dominant pied and spangle mutations are 100% penetrant, for example.

**Incomplete or reduced penetrance** – The crested mutation is not expressed in every budgerigar that carries it, so penetrance is incomplete or reduced, affected by modifiers. Whilst breeding **through** Cinnamonwing, Opaline, and Red Eyed Self is not a valid mechanism to carry their effects on to future generations, cocks in future generations may benefit if split for those mutations, but only if there is a noticeable effect caused by low level penetrance of these recessive mutations. This cannot apply to hens with only

the one Z. The Opaline mutation in normal wing Spangle cocks split for Opaline may have an effect on wing pattern and may reduce the amount of mottling at the base of the primary tail feather that may be attributable to slight penetrance of the recessive Opaline mutation, but I'll leave that speculation up to Spangle breeders.

**Variable expressivity** – The phenomenon where individuals with the same mutation have different phenotypes. Crested is an example where for exhibition purposes there are three recognised forms as well as additional expressions involving expressions of double and triple crests. Genetic modifiers (which might be other genes) play a role in the expressivity, affecting the type of crest and its location.

**Homologue** – A member of a chromosome pair that shares the same sequence of genes as its partner.

**Factors** – These are the names for mutant alleles at the three colour modifier genes. They are referred to as dark factor, violet factor, and grey factor. Single factor and double factor are applied to one or two doses of Spangle and Dominant Pied mutations, for example.

**Genome** – The whole heritable DNA complement consisting of a single DNA molecule running the entire length of each chromosome. Since chromosomes are paired (2N), the bird carries its genome in duplicate, apart from the Z sex-linked genes in hens.

**Genotype** – In the broad sense, it refers to the genetic makeup of an organism – its complete set of genes. In the narrow sense, it refers to the pair of alleles present at a specific gene. Genotypes in combination with environmental conditions (our husbandry) are associated with a corresponding phenotype.

**Heterozygote** – An individual with alternative genetic variants (alleles) at a given gene. Recessive alleles are hidden unless homozygous. Budgerigars carrying a hidden recessive mutant

allele are heterozygous, traditionally described by budgerigar breeders as “splits”. A Normal split for Greywing or Fallow, for example, is heterozygous (split) for the mutation at the gene responsible for Greywing and Fallow.

**Homozygote** – Presence of two wildtype or two mutant alleles at a gene. In the case of homozygous mutations, the mutation may be at the same position, or different position within the gene but with the same effect. If the mutation is at the same position in the gene, leading to the same amino acid substitution in the corresponding protein, then it may be identical by descent through inbreeding (each copy of the mutation derived from the same ancestor). For example, a Dilute is homozygous for the Dilute mutation, present in two doses, one located on each of the paired homologous chromosomes that carry the gene. Mutations on the Z chromosome can be homozygous in cocks but in hens with only one Z chromosome are said to be **Hemizygous**. A blue budgerigar is homozygous for the same mutation that blocks manufacture of yellow pigment. That mutation in all blue budgerigars is identical by descent since it was derived from a single ancestor, enabling scientists to apply a DNA sequencing technique to map the gene to chromosome 1 and then go on to identify the responsible gene.

**Phenotype** – Visual appearance of an organism arising from the interaction of its genotype with environmental influences.

**Genetic Linkage** - Two genes are linked if their DNA sequences are close enough on the same chromosome to be inherited together more often than due to chance. That is, they are located close enough on the same chromosome to distort their independent assortment. Independent assortment is described by Mendel's second law of inheritance, so genetic linkage is a departure from Mendel's second law whereby the chance of genetic recombination between traits encoded by two genes is reduced. Refer to the earlier mention

of meiosis at the time of gamete formation where recombination occurs.

**Mendel's Second Law, also known as the Law of Independent Assortment** – This describes the independent segregation of two traits encoded by two genes during gamete formation. In other words, different traits have an equal opportunity of occurring together. This is not the case with linkage. For example, the sky blue/green allelic pair are not associated equally with transmission of dark factor and depend upon the linkage phase (the distribution between homologues of the alleles of the colour gene for green and blue and the gene mutated to dark factor, both genes located in proximity on chromosome 1). Since Golden Faced Blue, Yellow Faced Blue and White Cap are mutations in the same gene as Green and Blue, then their



assortment in relation to dark factor is not independent either, and the same recombination frequencies between the two loci apply.

**Sex linkage** – In budgerigars this is the inheritance of features determined by mutations on the Z chromosome. The genes which when mutated confer Cinnamonwing and Opaline are loosely linked on the Z chromosome because they don't assort independently. The Cinnamonwing and Red Eyed Self genes are very tightly linked ie their loci are so close to each other on the Z chromosome that their mutations are almost always inherited together, as in Lacewings which are a Cinnamonwing Red Eye composite.

**Autosomal** – Inheritance of features determined by genes on chromosomes other than the sex chromosomes. The normal *MuPKS* gene that makes wild type levels of yellow pigment is located



on chromosome 1. Since distortion of Mendel's second law of inheritance demonstrates linkage of the yellow pigment colour gene with Dark Factor, then the Dark Factor gene must also be on chromosome 1. The gene mutated to Grey Factor is very tightly linked to the gene mutated to German Fallow, so they are on the same autosome, but their assignment to a specific autosome remains unknown.

**Genetic modifiers** – Heritable DNA elements external to the coding DNA sequence of a gene that affect the expression of the gene and its associated phenotype. Modifiers can be other genes. The Dilute has been changed by selection for genetic modifiers that remove green or blue body colour suffusion to create the yellow or white Black Eyed Self. Clearwings remain true to the Standard through selection for modifiers that minimise or remove wing markings. Modifiers affect penetrance and expressivity of the crested gene.

**Multiple alleles** – More than two alleles known for a given gene in the population, but no more

than two alleles can be carried by any individual because chromosomes are only present as pairs (2N). The *MuPKS* gene and the gene responsible for Greywing, Clearwing and Dilute are examples where multiple alleles at a single gene display different phenotypic expression.

**Genetic heterogeneity** – More than one gene responsible for the “same” phenotype, as in German, English, and Scottish Fallows caused by three different genes at different locations in the genome, and probably on different autosomes.

**Composites** – These are phenotypes arising from the interaction between two different genes. Examples are Lacewing (Red Eyed Self with Cinnamonwing) and Dark Eyed Clear (Clear Flighted or Dutch Dominant Pied with Recessive Pied).

**Polygenic** – Multiple genes responsible for a phenotype. This probably applies to flecking because there is continuity in expression of this abnormality, and applies to many exhibition features such as body size and feather quality. Cresteds probably belong in a zone between monogenic and polygenic since more than one gene is likely to be involved in determining the presence, type, and distribution of crests.

**Complex inheritance** – This combines polygenic inheritance with environmental effects. For example, flecking likely has a polygenic architecture but can be modified by environmental conditions, such as use of certain medications that lead to heavier flecking.

As breeders our priority is to breed sufficient birds so that we can select enough for breeding the next generation to maintain the quality of our stock and preferably to improve our stock. Hopefully the genetic basics as outlined above provides some useful insights. It's true that you can apply selection to breed winners without needing to know and understand much of what has been covered above. So, reading about the technical aspects is a personal choice.





# The Owl shape

By Ali Bouresli – Kuwait

There has been many evolutions of the modern day budgerigar over recent years. From the old key hole shape through to the buffalo effect the world of exhibition budgerigars has always been shocked at the vast changes that have been made from a few forward thinking master breeders.

In the last few years, since starting with budgerigars only 8 years ago, I believe I have dramatically and quickly changed the face shape on my birds.

Initially I introduced the Umbrella head shape which has a symmetrical shape and straight feathers. This was quickly followed by the Cobra style which I have had in my breeding team since 2021.

Combining both these characteristics is something initially you can just dream about. But not resting on this massive achievement and impressive style of budgerigar, through hard work and dedication I have continued to push the boundaries available to combine both of these features into a single bird I talked about it in a previous article in Jun 2023.

In 2021 I noticed something different on one of my birds, a Normal Cinnamon Yellow face, when looking at this bird's face straight on I noticed a feature I hadn't seen before. At the side of the beak, on the cheeks, when the bird was fully relaxed and his head feathers were blowing the cheek area also "blew" and the feathers raised up, the more I looked at it I knew this was something different. It was extremely happy with what I was seeing as it gave the face a fuller look, more or less a full circle when looked at face on.



What I like so much when I see this is the more this new feature lifts/raises the beak almost disappears deep into the soft feathers just showing the cere and a little of the beak, a feature I am so happy to see.

Owl Shape features highlighting the hidden cere and beak After seeing this feature I decided I wanted to put it on all of my birds throughout my stud and because it reminded me of the face of an Owl, I now call this new feature "The Owl." This is simply because I have developed a line of birds when viewed full frontally resemble the face of an owl.

When viewed from the side the point from the bottom of the mask to the top of the face gives a flat straight horizontal line resembling that of an owl side on.

This 2023 baby which I have called "Baby Owl" is a great example of the new feature in my Stud.

Imagine you draw a horizontal line along the cere we then look at how far the head feathers come halfway down to the beak "Umbrella effect", it is almost like a full circle, now our new feature either

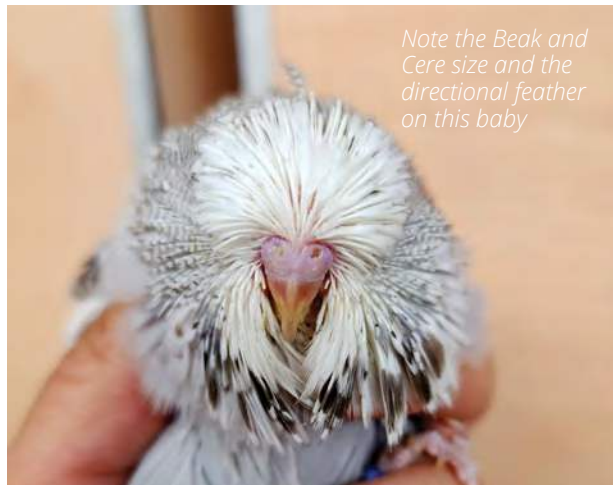


*Owl Shape features highlighting the hidden cere and beak*

*Side View*



*Baby Grey with Owl Look*



*Note the Beak and Cere size and the directional feather on this baby*



*Baby Dominant Pied with Owl Shape*

side of the beak which pushes and lifts the at the same time as the head feathers are blowing forward and sideways creating the Owl feature.

What is so pleasing for me is to see this feature in many other varieties including Yellow Face, Grey Dilute and many more here in my bird room in Kuwait.

Through hard work and very careful pairing 2023 has now seen me produce many youngsters featuring this new style of which I am so happy and very proud.



*Baby Yellow Face Cinnamon Grey – front & side view of Owl Shape*



*Cinnamon Grey with the Owl Shape Features*

*Dilute Grey with the Owl Shape Features*



*Baby Cinnamon Grey with Owl Shape*



## To recap here are the main features:

1. Neck: Subtly buried into the shoulders, creating the illusion of its absence.
2. Shoulders: Broad and expansive, providing a substantial frame to complement the bird's head.
- 3 Back Line: The feather at the back of the head contributes to a solid back line, reinforcing the "no neck" illusion.
4. Shoulder Feather: Extra buff feathering atop the shoulders, forming a distinctive "scarf" akin to an owl's appearance.
5. Face/Head: The dome-style feather at the head and face, combined with a small, concealed beak, mirrors the unique head shape of an owl.



6. Face/Side View : From the side view there is a straight horizontal line from the bottom of the mask to the top of the face.



# Considerations For Buying Your First Budgie

Budgerigars, affectionately known as budgies, are a popular choice for pet lovers. In fact, Wikipedia goes so far as to say the humble Aussie budgie is the world's third most popular pet. How you go about caring for your budgie is an important consideration before diving into purchasing a pet. This guide is dedicated to helping you create the ideal home and providing the best care for your budgie.

## Considerations Before Buying a Budgie

Budgerigars, or budgies as they are affectionately known, are among the most intelligent and vibrant companions in the avian world. Renowned for their ability to memorize hundreds of words and perform a variety of tricks, budgies offer a unique blend of companionship and entertainment. With a potential lifespan extending up to 15 years, these charismatic birds require a long-term commitment from their caretakers, underlining the importance of thoughtful consideration before bringing one into your home. Considerations include the household environment, security and safety, your ability to provide enrichment and exercise for the bird, and your willingness to accept their chatter or trill.

### THE IDEAL HABITAT:

Ensuring you have a suitable cage is paramount. Budgies thrive in environments that offer ample space for flight and exploration. The cage should be spacious enough to allow for exercise, equipped with perches at various levels, and enriched with toys to stimulate their keen minds. The United Bird

Societies of South Australia (UBSSA) code of practice for husbandry of captive birds states that *"a bird's accommodation must protect it from extremes of climate, providing clean fresh air and adequate ventilation, as well as draught-free shelter. It also needs to protect the bird from predators, vermin, and harassment, and be fitted with well secured, wooden perches of varying thickness with sufficient space for all birds. An adequate number of feed and water stations to meet the requirements of all birds, and adequate floor drainage and light, are also necessary. The minimum sized cage for a single budgie is 30 cm wide x 25 cm deep x 40 cm high. For two budgies together in a cage, the minimum size jumps to 60 cm wide x 40 cm deep x 40 cm high"*.

### SECURITY AND SAFETY:

Providing a secure environment is crucial for your budgie's wellbeing. This involves not only a safe cage but also a home free of potential hazards such as toxic plants, open water sources, and unattended electrical wires. Avoid rope-based toys that can cause crop impaction. Your vigilance in creating a safe haven will play a significant role in your budgie's health and happiness.

### ENRICHMENT AND EXERCISE:

Are you prepared to allow daily supervised time outside the cage inside an escape proof location? Budgies benefit greatly from regular opportunities to explore and interact with their environment beyond the confines of their cage. This supervised freedom is essential for their physical health and psychological well-being, allowing them to stretch their wings and engage with their human family. Its also great for the family, providing much needed interaction with their beloved pets.

### ACCEPTING THEIR VOCAL NATURE:

While budgies aren't as loud as a Sun Conure and other like birds, they are naturally sociable and vocal creatures. Their chatter ranges from soft murmurs to lively squawks as they communicate with you or express their emotions. Embracing their



vocalisations is part of the joy of budgie ownership, offering a glimpse into their personalities and moods. However, it's important to consider your comfort with their level of noise, as their talkative nature is an inherent part of their charm.

## Feeding Your Budgie

A balanced diet is crucial for your budgie's health. A budgerigar seed mix is an excellent base, supplemented with leafy greens and occasional fruits. Avoid chocolate, lettuce, avocado, rhubarb, alcohol, fruit seeds, or caffeine. To that end, these foods are poisonous to budgerigars. Ensure fresh water is always available daily and avoid placing water bowls under perches to prevent contamination.



## Grooming and Health Care

A healthy budgie exhibits clean feathers, an alert posture, clear breathing, and no discharge around the beak, eyes, or ears. For first-time budgie owners, it's advisable to start with one bird. However, remember that budgies are social creatures and may thrive with a companion to prevent loneliness and depression.

Budgies regularly groom themselves. Occasionally, you may need to clip their nails and feathers. For health care, watch out for signs of illness like fluffed-up feathers, lethargy, or discharge around the eyes or beak. Consult your vet for required check-ups and any signs of illness.

## Conclusion

Ensure you have all the essentials for your budgie, including a suitable cage, perches, food, and toys. To that end, we at the BCSA are happy to help. Alternatively, consult your local veterinarian or pet shop for specific products and advice.



## Navigating the Complex World of Bird Breeding: Advice from One Former Novice to Another

Embarking on the journey of bird breeding can be an exhilarating yet daunting venture, especially for those new to the scene. As someone who has navigated the choppy waters of this unique hobby, I've encountered my share of pitfalls and learned valuable lessons along the way. Here, I aim to offer guidance and advice to fellow enthusiasts, particularly those who, like me, started as novices in the fascinating world of exhibition budgerigar breeding.

### The Common Pitfalls to Avoid

#### 1. THE TEMPTATION TO BUY RANDOMLY:

One of the first mistakes many new breeders make is purchasing birds randomly from various breeders. Often, this is just to fill breeding cabinets, or to satisfy a feeling that you want to



have more birds. This approach not only lacks strategy but also prevents you from developing a coherent breeding program. It's crucial to have a clear direction and purpose for your breeding efforts right from the start. My advice is firstly to go to the shows, and see the birds that are winning, and who is breeding them. You can research results online – good websites for bird clubs have the most up to date show results easily accessible. And when you find the bird that is winning, that you like, make a point to introduce yourself to that breeder, and see if you can visit their aviary, to understand if what you liked is that person's norm, or whether what you liked isn't representative of the rest of the birds in that person's aviary. You'll be amazed sometimes at what you find.

#### 2. DIVING INTO THE UNKNOWN:

Often, novices are drawn to the allure of breeding varieties they know little about. While exploration is part of the learning curve, diving headfirst into breeding unfamiliar budgie varieties can lead to challenges that could have been avoided with a bit



more research and preparation. There are “main stream” varieties, which I wouldn’t call specialist varieties as such – I think most of us have one of more of these in our aviaries. I’m talking about Normals, Cinnamonwings, Opalines, Dominant Pieds, and Spangles. But if you decide to dive into a variety that has anything other than sex linked or dominant transmission, like Dilutes, Black Eyed Selfs, Clearwings, Fallows or Crests, you could be in for a challenge. Even breeding Lutinos and Albinos that are the correct colour takes a lot of skill, so as a novice entering the hobby, be aware of this.

### 3. OVERPAYING FOR LOW-QUALITY BIRDS:

In the excitement of acquiring new birds, it’s easy to overlook the quality versus cost factor. Paying too much for birds that aren’t of sufficient quality is a common error. Remember, the value of a bird is not solely determined by its price tag but by its health, genetics, and potential to contribute to your breeding goals. I grew up in England, and at the time, we were offered some birds that were as visually appealing as pet shop birds, for 100 quid

*‘One of the first mistakes many new breeders make is purchasing birds randomly from various breeders.’*

each. At the same time, I had purchased a colour champion for 250 quid from Margery Kirby Mason, to put that price in comparison. As a novice, it’s likely you may not immediately get the very best out of a bird, as you fumble, like I did, through learning how to breed them, and the peaks and troughs. An old rule of thumb used to be that you would sell ten birds to buy one. And if you were a novice, you’d take your money, and buy from an Intermediate breeder. That Intermediate breeder would sell ten birds, and go to the Open breeder, and buy one. And the Open breeder – well, they were out there battling in the no holds barred contest, so they were only buying what their competitors were willing to let them have.

*‘As a novice, its likely you may not immediately get the very best out of a bird, as you fumble, like I did, through learning how to breed them, and the peaks and troughs.’*

#### 4. THE ONLINE AUCTION TRAP:

With the digital age, buying birds from online auctions has become increasingly popular. However, this method often doesn't allow for a thorough assessment of the bird's condition, lineage, or breeder reputation. My advice is to proceed with caution. I always prefer in-person transactions when possible. I always recommend buying a bird you've seen yourself, where you've taken the time to see the breeder, or the aviary. You can achieve that with an online auction by popping over and seeing the breeder. In the case where that breeder is a distance away (interstate), find a trusted person who has a similar eye for birds as you do, and have them look for you.

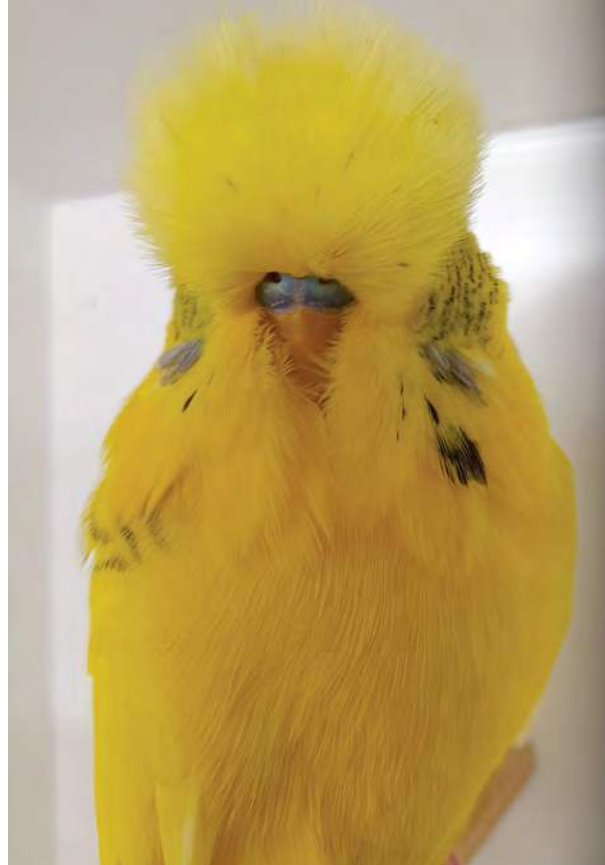
### Strategies for Success

#### 1. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY:

One of the best pieces of advice I can offer is to find a bird breeding club or community. Making friends within these circles and visiting their aviaries can provide invaluable insights. I can visit someone and see that their Gazzard bloodlines gel well with the Kelleher bloodlines, and so forth. Observing the depth of quality throughout an established breeder's aviary is enlightening and sets a benchmark for what to aim for in your breeding program.

#### 2. VALUING EXPERIENCE:

When looking to expand your flock, consider



acquiring older birds from established breeders. There's a reason these birds have been kept around by seasoned breeders. Older birds can offer a wealth of genetic benefits and often come from carefully curated lines. Their contributions to your breeding efforts can be significant, providing a solid foundation to build upon. I would normally recommend cocks over hens, only because breeding with hens over 4 years old can be problematic for a novice, however at times, beggars can't always be choosers.

### In Conclusion

The journey of bird breeding is filled with learning opportunities and moments of both challenge and triumph. By avoiding common pitfalls and adopting strategic approaches, you can navigate this journey more effectively. Embrace the community around you, learn from those who have walked this path before, and remember that patience and persistence are your greatest allies in the pursuit of breeding excellence. Here's to your success and the many lessons and joys that bird breeding has to offer.



# Results from our “You Be The Judge” Competition

**Thanks to the BCV for the Judge’s comments, provided by Heath Chasemore;**

## **1ST PLACE: F – CLEARWING COBALT COCK**

Showing very good active cap feather and good depth of mask, this bird stands well off the perch and exhibits very good deportment. Slightly darker in wing colour and penalised accordingly, but still the best bird in class.

## **2ND PLACE: H – CLEARWING DARK GREEN COCK**

Another well-presented bird in excellent condition, very good depth of mask, with good natural head width providing for a fuller face, excellent body colour and wing contrast. Could benefit from better cap feather release, nice deportment and stands well off the perch.

## **3RD PLACE: C – CLEARWING DARK GREEN COCK**

Appears slightly smaller than exhibit F and H, nice depth of mask and width of face, not quite the cap feather of birds F & H. Presented in excellent condition, with very good body colour and wing contrast.

## **4TH PLACE: A – CLEARWING VIOLET COCK**

Nice depth of mask and height above the eye, photo shows flights not sitting correctly and detracting from the overall outline, darker in the wing and penalised accordingly.

## **5TH PLACE: D – CLEARWING LIGHT GREEN HEN**

Stands well off the perch and displays a nice style, nice cap feather length but lacks the depth of mask of birds above her, side on view makes it difficult to fully appreciate her width. Colour contrast isn’t quite as pronounced as birds placed above.

## **6TH PLACE: G – CLEARWING DARK GREEN COCK**

Good length of body and style, slightly smaller than bird placed above, nice depth of mask, but not the cap feather of the birds placed above, good body and wing colour contrast.

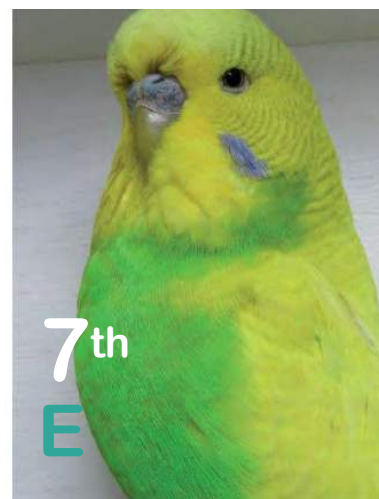
## **7TH PLACE: E – CLEARWING LIGHT GREEN COCK**

Light green cock, stylish bird that stands well off the perch, lacks the depth of mask, cap feather and width compared to the other exhibits. Nice colour contrast.

## **8TH PLACE: B – CLEARWING SKY HEN**

The exhibit with the clearest wing with excellent colour contrast. Smaller bird tending to lay over the perch and ruining her outline. This exhibit lacks the features of contemporary style of bird, mask depth, height above the eye and width across the face.

No winning entrant from last edition received.



# You Be the Judge Competition is on again

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 eight birds in sequence from first to eighth 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

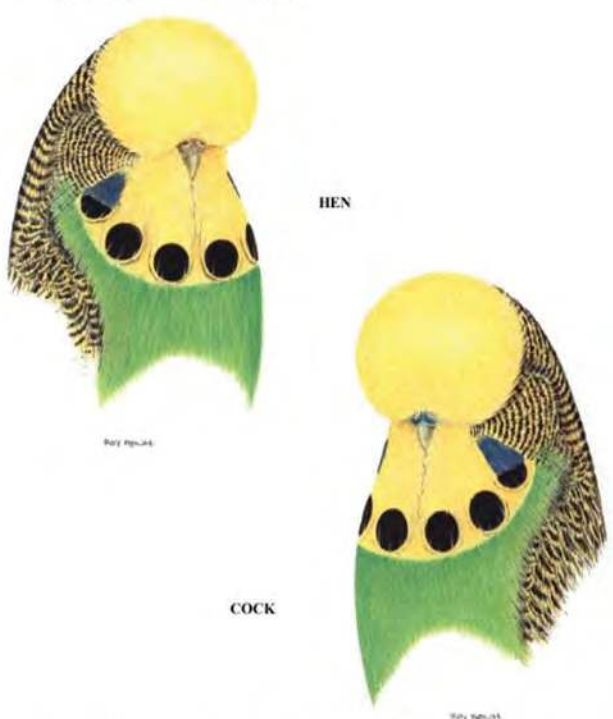
Troy Holmes at [president@bcsa.com.au](mailto:president@bcsa.com.au) with your results in the order you would put them on the show bench (please use the letter assigned to each bird to indicate your ranking).

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 2024 edition. For this competition, assess the Lutino 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 10 March, 2024.**

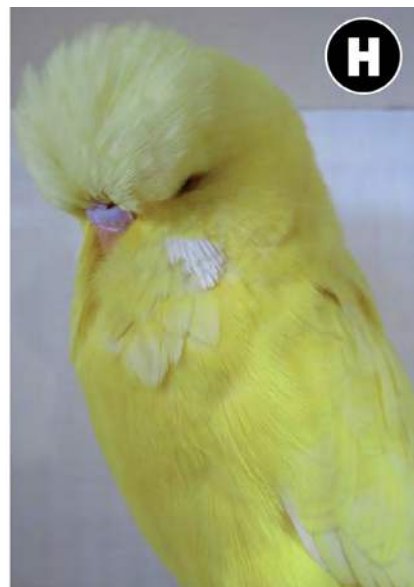
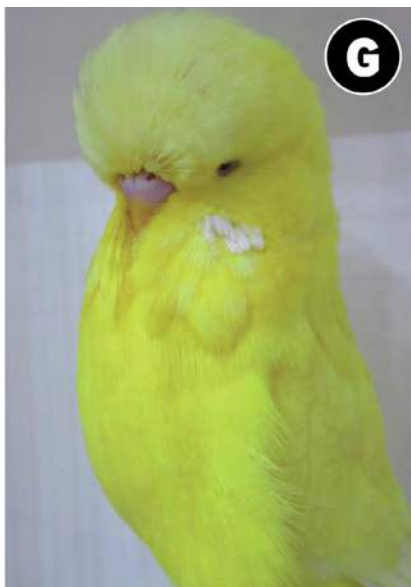
IDEAL HEN AND COCK - BUST



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





# Around the Clubs

## Blast from the Past

**Peter Glassenbury**



### 1960 BSSA Annual Show

I was able to read the contents of the Budgerigar Society of South Australia year book for 1960 and thought I should share with current members some of the content of the showing schedule in that period.

Of particular note from the figures below is the size and scale of the show and also the level of entries in classes that we now view as rarer variety birds.

Included was also an extract from the Treasurers report stating that “ring sales fell from 41,700 in 1958 to 25,554 in 1959 and these factors contributed to a small show attendance”

#### Oh how things have changed!

| Colour or Variety    | Class Numbers | Old birds  | Young Birds |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Light Green          | 1-2           | 42         | 39          |
| Dark Green           | 3-4           | 19         | 27          |
| Olive Green          | 5-6           | 10         | 8           |
| Grey Green           | 7-8           | 17         | 18          |
| Light Yellows        | 9-12          | 25         | 25          |
| Sky Blue             | 13-14         | 43         | 42          |
| Cobalt               | 15-16         | 23         | 36          |
| Mauve                | 17-18         | 16         | 7           |
| Violet               | 19-20         | 49         | 41          |
| Grey                 | 21-22         | 10         | 14          |
| Albino               | 23-24         | 14         | 8           |
| Lutino               | 25-26         | 42         | 31          |
| Silver               | 27-28         | 6          | 7           |
| Cinnamonwing         | 29-40         | 39         | 55          |
| Cinnamon Yellow      | 41-42         | 9          | 15          |
| Opaline              | 43-52         | 22         | 18          |
| Greywing             | 53-60         | 16         | 13          |
| Pied Evenly Marked   | 61-72         | 17         | 25          |
| Pied Unevenly Marked | 73-84         | 50         | 57          |
| Pied AOV             | 85-90         | 10         | 8           |
| Fallow               | 91-98         | 17         | 21          |
| Yellow Face          | 99-102        | 7          | 4           |
| Clearwing            | 103-116       | 28         | 43          |
| AOV                  | 117-118       | 4          | 5           |
| Pairs                | 119           | -          | 11          |
| Ladies               | 120           | -          | 6           |
| <b>Total</b>         |               | <b>535</b> | <b>584</b>  |

#### ADVERTISING RATES FROM JANUARY 2024:

##### Full Page Ad

\$600 per annum (4 editions)

##### Half Page Ad

\$350 per annum (4 editions)

##### Quarter Page Ad

\$200 per annum (4 editions)

*All advertising enquiries*

*to [president@bcsa.com.au](mailto:president@bcsa.com.au)*

## Around the Clubs

### North East Budgerigar Society



### North East Budgerigar Society

At our February meeting Dennis Lomman described the evolution of the exhibition budgerigar. That was a tough gig in direct competition with competing Valentines Day commitments. Three lucky members went home with chocolate door prizes.

The pictures of native budgies reminded us of where our exhibition budgies came from. The bird has been transformed over the past century through domestication and selection, with changes accelerating over the past two decades. Sequential photos over the past 20 years tracked the improvements. Prior to domestication, from what little information that can be gleaned from the fossil record, size and shape remained stable for at least 4 million years and who knows for how long before that! Their speed and agility have served them well.

The next meeting on March 13 will be a Novice pairing night. The idea is for Novice breeders to bring along some birds and either suggest how they are going to pair them or seek advice from experienced breeders for further suggestions. The onus will also be on experienced breeders to bring along examples of their birds to describe some of their pairings and to show what came out of them. That way we can all refresh our basic knowledge of genetics.

Looking ahead to the April 10 meeting, NEBS will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We invite present and past members, and members of the other clubs. There will be a pizzeria van giving away snacks leading up to the meeting formalities, a special guest speaker on a topic of general interest to members and partners, and an almanac capturing many of the forever memories over the club's 50 year history.





North East  
Budgerigar  
Society

# North East Budgerigar Society 50th Anniversary

## Nostalgic look at SA 1974-2024

Wednesday 10 April, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn

6.00pm **Pizza on platters**

7.30pm **Official welcome:**  
Introduction by Vice  
President Shiralee Reardon

7.40pm **Historical  
overview:** by  
Kelwyn Kakoschke

8.00pm **Nostalgic look  
at SA 1974-2024**  
Graeme Goodings

**Raffle draw:**  
Details to come

8.45pm **Supper**

Past, present and future  
NEBS members, members  
of BSSA and Port Pirie clubs,  
**are invited to celebrate a night  
down memory lane with us.**

FREE  
PIZZA

Historic  
Almanac  
GIVE  
AWAY

For more information, contact  
Shiralee Reardon on 0427 095 566.  
[www.northeastbudgerigarsociety.com](http://www.northeastbudgerigarsociety.com)





# Topics for the BSSA for 2024 Meetings

**UNLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
18 ARTHUR STREET, UNLEY**

## **TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2024**

Aviculture Speaker David Pace will present. Lutino & Albino are the varieties of the month.

## **TUESDAY, 2 APRIL 2024**

Talk from a Vet. Lacewing is the variety of the month.

## **TUESDAY, 7 MAY 2024**

5 Best Tricks for Preparing Birds. Yellowface is the variety of the month, while there will also be a Sex Linked Variety Show.

## **TUESDAY, 4 JUNE 2024**

Novice Come & Try Night. Recessive Pied is the variety of the month.

## **TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024**

Christmas in July. Fallows are the variety of the month. Normal Variety Show.

## **TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2024**

Breeding Program Continuous Improvement. Violet is the variety of the month.



## **TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Quiz Night. Spangle, Spangle AOSV, DF is the variety of the month. Recessive Variety Show.

## **TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024**

Novice Come & Try Night. Crested is the variety of the month.

## **TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2024**

A Virtual Aviary Tour of the Holmes Family Stud. Normal Blue (Sky, Cobalt, Mauve) is the variety of the month. There will also be a Crested & Rare Variety Show.

## **TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2024**

Christmas Party





# TRAVEL DIARY FROM SINGAPORE AND CAMBODIA

FREE  
ENTRY



## Join us to hear David Pace from the Avicultural Society of South Australia

Back by popular demand, David Pace from the Avicultural Society of SA, has returned from an overseas trip and will talk about his Travel Diary from Singapore and Cambodia. In Singapore he visited "Bird Paradise", an aviary located in Mandai which replaced the Jurong Bird Park which is Mandai Wildlife Reserve. The aviary covers approximately 17 hectares, and is larger than the previous Jurong Bird Park with double the walk-in aviaries.

**Tuesday, 7:30 pm,  
5 March 2023**  
at the Unley  
Community Centre  
18 Arthur St Unley.

Annual Membership  
Single Membership: \$20.00 | Family Membership: \$20.00 | Junior Membership: \$5.00  
For more information, contact BSSA President Chris Murphy [cmurphy68@msn.com](mailto:cmurphy68@msn.com)  
or BSSA Webmaster Danny Brill [dannybrill@hotmail.com](mailto:dannybrill@hotmail.com) | [www.bssainc.org.au](http://www.bssainc.org.au)



# Senior Judges Panel

## NATIONALLY ACCREDITED JUDGES



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



**John Mulley**  
(08) 8331 0097 jmulley@bigpond.net.au



**Shiralee Reardon**  
0427 095 566 shiraleereardon@gmail.com



**Nigel Tonkin**  
0407 976 790 nigeltonkin50@gmail.com

## MAJOR AWARD JUDGES



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



**Larry Jeffries**  
0457 707 482 jeffers2@bigpond.com



**Kelwyn Kakoschke**  
(08) 8278 3514



**Malcolm Loveridge**  
(Retired National Accreditation)  
0407 8825 3939 mjloveridge@bigpond.com



**Ian Marshall**  
0413 257 495 ianmarshall68@gmail.com



**Kerry Murphy**  
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**Shiralee Reardon**  
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**Nigel Tonkin**  
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**John Mulley**  
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**Wayne Weidenhofer**  
0435 032 125 wayneweedo@tpg.com.au

## JUDGES



**Wayne Bandt**  
0409 099 582 bandt@internode.on.net



**George England**  
0418 819 705 gendland8@bigpond.com



**Ken Harris**  
0456 160 553 ken.harris5@bigpond.com

## JUDGES EXECUTIVE



**Nigel Tonkin**  
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**Shiralee Reardon**  
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**Peter Glassenbury**  
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**John Mulley**  
(08) 8331 0097 jmulley@bigpond.net.au

## 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 - 4 Wins</b> |
| Clearbody - 2015, 2018                |
| Dilute - 2022, 2023                   |
| <b>Holmes Family - 3 Wins</b>         |
| Grey Green - 2018                     |
| Normal Blue - 2022                    |
| White Cap - 2023                      |
| <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>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                         |
| <b>Ken &amp; Janet Harris - 1 Win</b> |
| Dominant Pied - 2023                  |
| <b>Kelwyn Kakoschke - 1 Win</b>       |
| Clearwing - 2023                      |

## 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
- 2023 – Mr Kelwyn Kakoschke
- 2023 – Mr Dennis Lomman





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**<https://www.facebook.com/aussiepetconnections/>**



**North East  
Budgerigar  
Society**

# Join with passionate enthusiasts of the Australian Budgie?

**Meet with us every second  
Wednesday of the month,  
unless otherwise advised,  
at 7.30pm in the  
Kilburn Community Hall,  
49 Le Hunte Street Kilburn**

Join our community of enthusiasts to:

- forge new friendships
- deepen and enhance your knowledge of Budgerigars with presentations from seasoned experts
- to purchase budgies
- enjoy complimentary social days and aviary visits
- stay informed about upcoming events
- participate in annual shows.
- engage in various community events.

We're committed to fostering fellowship, sportsmanship, and the continual improvement of budgerigar breeds among our members.

**Dive into the world of budgerigars  
with us and discover a community that  
cherishes these captivating birds.**

For more information, contact Ian Wise on 0437591843  
[www.northeastbudgerigarsociety.com](http://www.northeastbudgerigarsociety.com)





For further information  
regarding the Council,  
Affiliated Societies,  
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)