

Chatter

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Welcome to the Winter edition of Chatter!

The Nationals are over, and what a proud moment it is to be South Australian. For the first time since 2014, South Australia has finished in third place at the National Championships, edging out the home state of South Queensland by 10 points. It was a result years in the making and one that means so much to our state.

At the closing of the event on Sunday, John Mulley reminded me, *"You've only been writing about this and willing it into existence for three whole years. You might have believed when many of us didn't."* That belief has finally become reality, and I want to personally thank every one of you who represented South Australia and made this possible.

Our final score of 474 points was South Australia's highest-ever total and only the fourth time we have exceeded 400 points. It was a tremendous achievement and a result every South Australian exhibitor, breeder, volunteer and supporter should feel incredibly proud of.

A special shout out to Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer, who took home the line honours in the Normal Violet class, and to Graham McCallum on his maiden Nationals win in the Normal Greys. These wins are immortalised towards their Hall of Fame tallies, with Jason and Wayne only one win away now. Congratulations to both winners, who did their State proud.

As most of you would expect, I could not resist having a look at the state scoring data to see what it told us. The numbers are useful, not because they take away from the enjoyment of the weekend, but because they help show just how strong South Australia's team effort really was. For



those unfamiliar with the National scoring system, points are awarded on a 14-point scale, with the first two birds from each state in any given class receiving points. Each state benches three birds per class, meaning the third bird does not contribute to the points tally.

As a state, our challenge was to place two birds on the top bench (positions 1 to 10) across all 28 classes. In 2022, South Australia had 40 birds finish in the Top 10 from a possible 84. In 2023, that number increased to 45. In 2024, it rose again to 47, before dropping back to 36 last year. This year, we returned to 47 birds in the Top 10, while South Queensland finished with 46.

To put that into perspective, South Queensland finished third overall in 2023 with 48 birds in the Top 10, only three more than South Australia achieved that year. In 2022, when South Queensland finished second overall, they had 55 birds in the Top 10. It shows just how fine the margins can be. Often, the difference between finishing in the Top 3 or just outside it can come down to seven or eight stronger birds across the entire team.

In fairness to our friends in South Queensland, they did have a Black Eyed Self running first that was disqualified. Had that result stood, they would have received 14 and 7 points in that class, and would have had 47 birds on the top bench, the same number as South Australia. Instead, they received 8 and 7 points. South Australia finished



*Class 04 - 1st J&W
Weidenhofer - SA*



*Class 05 - 1st Graham
McCallum - SA*

third and twelfth in the same class, receiving 12 and 4 points respectively. Had the disqualified bird remained in first place, our result may have shifted to 11 and 3 points. In that scenario, South Australia would have lost two points and South Queensland would have gained six. Even then, it would not have been enough to overtake our final points tally.

When you compare the points scored class by class, South Queensland recorded 10 classes with 20 points or more, and South Australia did the same. Compare that to 2024, when we finished just six points short of third place. That year, South Australia had six classes scoring 20 points or more, while South Queensland had nine. In 2024, we finished with an average points score of 16.5 per class. In 2026, we lifted that to 16.9.

What ultimately got us over the line was the depth of the South Australian team. Our average points score was only marginally higher, but across 28 classes, those small gains matter. South Australia had two class wins, while South Queensland had four. However, South Australia placed 15 birds in the Top 3, compared with South Queensland's 11.

While both states were remarkably close, it was our depth across the team that helped lift South Australia into third place overall. That result was only possible because of the excellent turnout at the Logan Shield and the strong participation

shown across so many classes. A 29% uplift in birds at the Logan Shield is something to be proud of, and it says a lot about the enthusiasm that exists across our clubs.

But as proud as we are of the result, it is important not to lose sight of why most of us are involved in the first place. The Nationals are not only about points, placings and statistics. They are about the pleasure of breeding and showing birds, catching up with friends, sharing ideas, supporting one another, and enjoying the spectacle of seeing the best birds from around the country on the bench.

Looking ahead, the data simply gives us a guide to where South Australia can continue to grow. Second place recorded fifteen classes with 20 points or more, five more than South Australia. They also placed 19 birds in the Top 3, compared with South Australia's 15. Their average points score was 19.25 points per class, which was 2.35 points per class higher than South Australia. That gives us a clear picture of what continued improvement can look like, without taking away from what has already been achieved.

The important lesson is that the next step does not require every breeder to chase every variety or feel pressured to do more than they enjoy. It is about steady improvement, shared knowledge and participation across the entire State. Small

gains across several classes can make a real difference over time, particularly when they come from people breeding birds they genuinely like and varieties they are passionate about.

Of course, putting a team together like this would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, committee members and everyone who quietly works behind the scenes. Whether you are a committee member, a state bird carer, a mentor, judge, exhibitor, steward, or someone lending a hand at shows, your contribution is the heartbeat of our community. The effort matters, but so does the enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who helped make this result possible and who continues to bring this hobby to life.

The exciting part of where South Australia now finds itself. We finished third, we have momentum, and we have a clearer understanding of our strengths and opportunities. This year proved that South Australia has the quality to compete with the

very best. The next step is about building carefully and enjoyably, supporting breeders across every club, every variety and turning up to every show.

Whether you breed one of our strongest varieties, work away quietly with a more challenging class, or simply enjoy being part of the club and supporting others, there is a place for you in this next chapter.

Third place was a milestone, but it does not have to be the destination. It can be a platform for continued enjoyment, shared learning and steady progress. If we keep turning up, keep supporting our newer breeders, keep celebrating our wins and keep enjoying the birds, South Australia will continue to move forward.

The challenge now is simple: keep enjoying the hobby, keep supporting one another, and keep building in a way that is sustainable. Bird by bird, class by class, and club by club, South Australia is moving forward.



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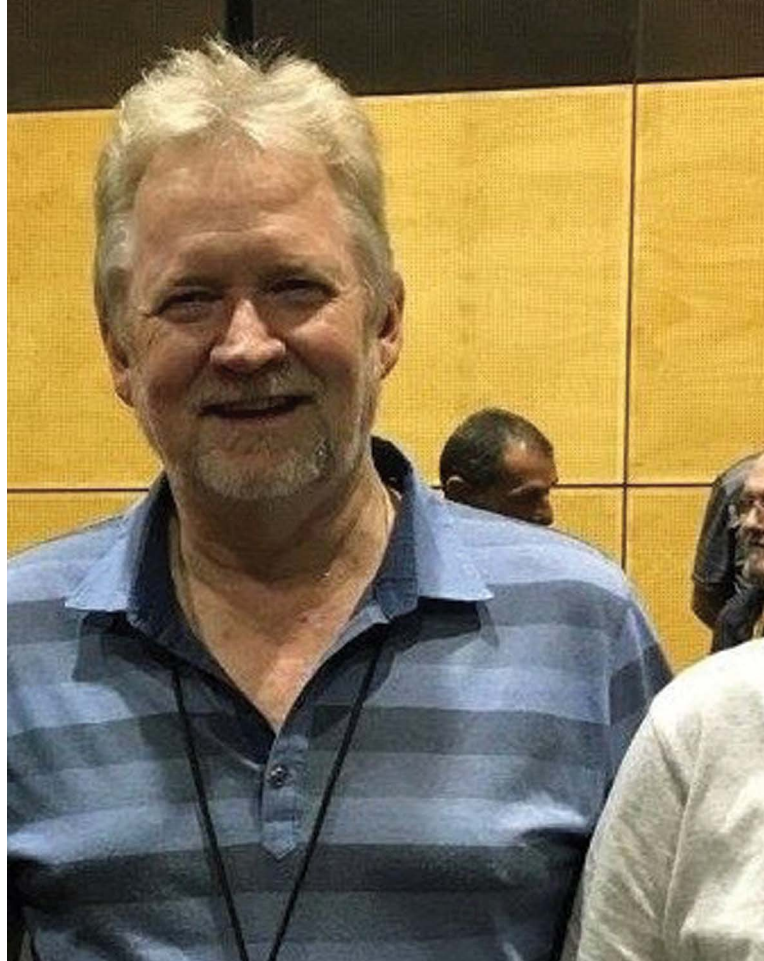
In the world of budgerigar breeding, where patience is currency and progress is measured in feathers rather than years, few partnerships have earned the quiet respect and admiration that **Sheppard & Flanagan** command. What began as two friends breeding birds in separate sheds has, over time, become a benchmark of consistency, discipline, and balance in Australian exhibition lines.

The story of *Sheppard & Flanagan Budgerigars* is not one of sudden success, but of refinement, of taking the long road, trusting the process, and never losing sight of the love for the bird itself. As Col Flanagan reflected during the interview, *“You can’t rush quality. Every pairing you make should be with a purpose, and that purpose isn’t always about the next show, it’s about building the family.”*

The Early Years

Both Bruce and Col began much as many in the fancy do, with a fascination for colour, a few pairs of budgies in backyard aviaries, and a hunger to learn. Over the years, their shared passion brought them into contact at shows and sales, where conversations about feather direction, shoulder width, and linebreeding eventually gave rise to a partnership built on mutual respect. They were blessed to be local to Frank Gardiner, a namesake for the Victorian Young Bird Shield.

Col recalls that formative period with a sense of humility. *“You never stop learning,”* he said. *“Even*



after all these years, the birds will teach you something new every season, so long as you’re paying attention.”

That attitude has become a defining trait of their success. Col acknowledged that their partnership worked because they balance each other out. Bruce often reminded him to put his hand back in his pocket at an Auction, as they had better at home. Their aviaries, though separate, are connected by purpose and philosophy.

Building the Bloodline

At the heart of the Sheppard & Flanagan stud lies a disciplined approach to linebreeding. Early on, the pair identified the importance of **stability and predictability**, not just producing a single standout bird, but developing a line that could reproduce type, generation after generation.

Col explains, *“You don’t just chase outcrosses or trends. You build your own identity within the stud. If you’re always bringing in new blood, you never get to see what your line is capable of.”*



Their foundation birds came from a blend of strong English bloodlines, names whispered with respect in the hobby. Yet over time, the pair have stamped their own identity firmly on their birds. Their birds are often described as having 'big shoulders, good balance, and that unmistakable Sheppard & Flanagan look', a testament to years of patient refinement.

"We've made mistakes, of course," Col admitted. "But you learn more from your bad pairings than your good ones. The key is to not lose your North Star. Every decision you make should feed back into the vision of what you're trying to breed."

That vision centres around **consistency**. Whether it's a Normal Cobalt cock on the top bench or a young Normal Grey Green hen moulting in the flight, there's a recognisable family likeness, a quiet strength that carries through the line.

Partnership and Philosophy

What makes Sheppard & Flanagan stand out is not only the quality of their birds but the strength

"You can't rush quality. Every pairing you make should be with a purpose, and that purpose isn't always about the next show, it's about building the family."

of their working relationship. Each brings something different to the table, yet both operate from a shared understanding of what matters most, the welfare of the birds and the sustainability of their line.

"We never argued much," Col laughed. "If we disagreed, we just look at the birds and they'll tell us who's right."

Their decision-making process is deliberate, thoughtful, and grounded in observation rather than impulse. Pairings are discussed months in advance of the June Long weekend when they pair up. One of the key tools they use is some great



June 8th 2009

advice from Roy Reid, and that is to grade your birds by variety. The pair use these discussions not only to plan the breeding season but to refine their vision of the ideal bird. That clarity of communication and patience has underpinned their success.

"At the end of the day, if we're not bringing people into the hobby, we're doing it a disservice," Col said. "We were all helped by someone once. You've got to pay that forward."

The Hallmark Look

Ask any exhibitor at a major show to point out a Sheppard & Flanagan bird, and most could do it in a heartbeat. Their birds possess a hallmark blend of width and shoulder. They're powerful, yet refined, strong yet clean, with length of mask and spot impact.

One judge described them as *"birds with presence"*, something that fills the show cage and commands attention through balance and deportment. Col attributes that to a breeding philosophy that prioritises overall harmony over exaggerated features.

"Big birds win once in a while, but balanced birds win for years," he said.

That belief has guided every decision they've made, from selection of stock to the structure of their breeding program. It's not uncommon for Col to hold a bird back from pairing for an extra season simply because it hasn't "matured into its type" yet, the type of patience few are willing to exercise.

"Everyone wants results now," he said. *"But the moment you rush, you lose control of your line. This hobby rewards patience, not impatience."*

Success and Recognition on the Show Bench

For years, the Sheppard & Flanagan partnership has been a fixture at state and national shows, with 38 National wins to their name, second only to Henry George with 41. Their birds are known for more than just winning, they represent a consistent standard many aspire to match. From early successes at club level through to consistent placings at state championships, their results tell a story of measured progress rather than bursts of luck.

Col still remembers the feeling of that first major win. *"It wasn't the ribbon that mattered,"* he said. *"It was seeing a bird we bred stand out in a class full of great competition. That's when you realise your plan's starting to work."*

Over the years, the stud has produced a long line of high-quality cocks and hens that have held their own against the best in the country. What makes their success so enduring is the predictability of their type - the ability to produce a team that looks related, balanced, and unmistakably Sheppard & Flanagan.

"We chase our own standards," Col explained. *"If the bird fits what we're breeding toward, the results will look after themselves."*

That approach has paid off in consistency. Even in seasons when others struggle with feather or fertility, their birds maintain condition and balance. Ask around the circuit and most will agree: when a Sheppard & Flanagan makes it onto the show bench, you notice. There's a calm confidence about the way their birds carry themselves, the product of years of selective breeding and thoughtful management.

Inside the Aviaries

Behind every champion bird is an environment built on discipline and observation. Col's breeding room is an immaculate setup. It is clean, quiet, and designed with bird comfort front of mind.

Each has rows of breeding cabinets laid out for maximum airflow and light, with attention to hygiene bordering on obsessive.

"Cleanliness isn't optional," Col said. *"If the birds aren't healthy, they can't show what they've got."*

Every nest box is checked daily and even twice a day if hatching is occurring, chicks are handled from an early age, and detailed records are kept for every pairing. Each season's results, from hatch dates to feather quality, are logged meticulously. When one line drifts from the desired type, they're not afraid to make hard calls.

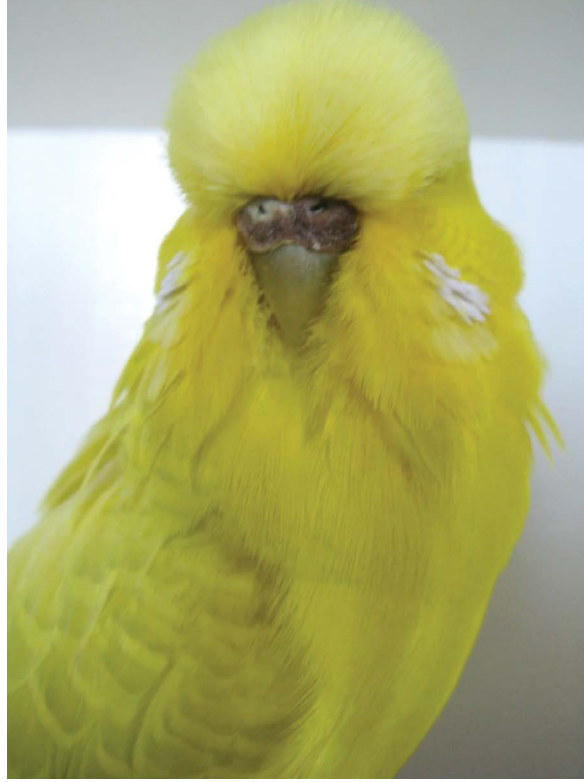
Their aviaries are home to a balance of proven breeders and promising youngsters. Breeding pairs are selected not only on phenotype but also pedigree and compatibility. The goal is always the same - to strengthen the line without diluting the traits that make it unique. And they often find that their best birds come from that second row of breeding cabinets - the lesser bird related to the super bird.

While some breeders chase numbers, Col is firm about quality over quantity. *"You don't need hundreds of birds,"* he said. *"You need the right ones. If you can't manage them properly, you can't improve them."*

Each season starts months before the first egg is laid. Pairing discussions begin with a review of last year's outcomes, which matings worked, which didn't, and what needs adjusting. Photos, notes, and feather samples are reviewed, and decisions are made with calm deliberation rather than impulse. Col's next box cards feature comments like *"Must Pair Again"* scrawled across the bottom.

The Rhythm of the Season

When the first eggs are laid, the routine becomes second nature. Feed, water, clean, check boxes - repeat. There is a rhythm, discipline and structure to the whole process that Col finds grounding. Col speaks of breeding season not as a frantic period, but as a focused stretch of time where observation



is everything. It starts on the June long weekend, and is done by Christmas, so he can get down to Inverloch with the family for the Summer break.

Col often walks the flights in the evening, watching how the birds perch and interact. *"You can tell a lot just by standing still,"* he said. *"A good breeder knows what a healthy bird looks like, but a great breeder knows when something's just a little off."*

Chicks are rung early, weaned in groups, and moved to nursery flights where they can develop strength before moulting. One of the key observations Col makes is the width of skull. His best birds have 22.5 mm of width, but he has some that may average 18.5 mm. His aim is to continue to monitor and grow that width – a key take away from his recent Europe trip. This disciplined cycle of observation, selection, and refinement is repeated, year after year. It's not glamorous work, but it's what turns potential into predictability, which is evident in the wins that partnership has had.

Mentorship and the Next Generation

One of the most respected qualities about Sheppard & Flanagan is their openness with

others. In a hobby sometimes clouded by secrecy, they're generous with time and knowledge. Many successful breeders today can trace part of their learning back to a chat with Bruce at a show bench or a phone call with Col after a club meeting.

"If someone's serious, we'll help them," Col said simply. *"Because someone once did that for us."*

They emphasise fundamentals: understanding genetics and learning to read feather quality. But perhaps more importantly, they remind newcomers that the hobby is supposed to be enjoyable. *"Don't lose the joy chasing results,"* Col warned. *"You'll burn out if you forget why you started."* That philosophy has made them mentors in the truest sense, not just teachers of technique, but ambassadors for the culture of the fancy itself. Their partnership is a reminder that camaraderie and competition can coexist, that shared knowledge lifts the entire community.

Lessons Learned

When asked what the biggest lessons have been over decades of breeding, Col paused. *"Patience, without question,"* he said. *"The birds will test you. They'll humble you. But if you keep working at it, they'll reward you."*



that the partnership works because it's built on respect, not ego. A synergy, where one plus one equals more than two.

"We've been through enough seasons to know that the birds come first," Col said. "If you keep that in mind, everything else falls into place."

Their collaboration has weathered changing trends, genetics, and shifting show standards, yet their philosophy remains steady: focus on shoulder, type, temperament, and time.

He talks about the years it takes to build a line, about setbacks with feather length or fertility, and about the temptation to abandon direction when results dip. *"That's when most people change course,"* he said. *"But if you stay the path, that's when the real improvement happens."*

They've also learned that no matter how many shows you win, the work never stops. Each generation brings new challenges, whether it is balancing length with width, size with feather, power with balance, or mask and spots. It's a constant recalibration.

"You'll never breed the perfect bird," Col said with a smile. *"But the chase keeps you going."*

The Human Side of the Hobby

Beyond trophies and pedigrees lies the reason most fanciers stay - the connections the birds create between people - the friendships forged over decades around a shared passion. For Sheppard & Flanagan, that friendship forms the backbone of everything they have done.

Up until Bruce's recent passing, they talked almost daily. When one faces a setback, the other provides perspective. There's an unspoken trust, a recognition

Reflections on the Fancy

In reflection, Col expressed a deep concern about the future of the hobby, particularly the need to attract and retain younger members. They acknowledge that the modern world offers many distractions, but they believe the budgerigar fancy still holds timeless appeal. *"It's a hobby that teaches patience, care, and attention to detail,"* Col said. *"There's not many things left that do that."* Col advocates for greater openness, more come-and-try nights, more mentorship, and less focus on politics. The future, they insist, depends on the willingness of established breeders to share their knowledge freely. *"If we want the fancy to survive,"* Col said, *"we've got to make it welcoming. Show people that this isn't just about birds in cages, it's about the connections that it creates within the community."*

Legacy and Looking Ahead

As Col looks to the future, he remains grounded. He talks not of awards, but of the satisfaction that comes from seeing their birds improve, from watching youngsters handle their first shows, and from knowing their bloodlines are helping others build strong foundations.

"You don't own a bloodline forever," Col reflected. "You just look after it for a while, add your bit, and pass it on."

That philosophy, part humility, part stewardship, captures the essence of their contribution. Their legacy will not just be measured in trophies, but in the countless fanciers whose birds carry a trace of their influence, and in the culture of generosity they've helped foster.

When asked what keeps him motivated after all these years, Col smiled. *"The birds,"* he said simply. *"Every morning you walk in, and there's something new to see. That never gets old."*

The Enduring Example

In an era when instant results often overshadow process, Sheppard & Flanagan remain the quiet custodians of what the hobby once stood for - discipline, patience, and respect for the bird. Their partnership exemplifies the best of the fancy: not a race for accolades, but a lifelong conversation between breeder, bird, and friend.

Col summed it up well - *"At the end of the day, you can't take the trophies with you. But you can leave behind good birds and good people, and that's worth a lot more."*

Beyond the Show Bench

It's important to recognise that the legacy of Sheppard & Flanagan extends far beyond their achievements in the show bench. Both Col and Bruce have been tireless workers for the fancy, contributing countless hours to the betterment of the hobby at every level. Each has served as President of the Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV), with Col also taking on the demanding role of Secretary and Bruce serving as Ring Registrar. Bruce further contributed his financial expertise as Auditor for the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC), while both men have held the

honour of being Presidents of the ANBC itself. Their commitment has stretched across decades, each a qualified judge for more than 50 years, serving on standards committees, mentoring new judges, and guiding the development of exhibition quality in Australia. Col has twice represented Australia as the national delegate to the World Budgerigar Organisation (WBO), reflecting international respect for his depth of knowledge and fairness. Both men are Life Members of the BCV, a fitting acknowledgment of their sustained dedication. For Sheppard & Flanagan, it has never been merely about trophy hunting, it has always been about stewardship, education, and the ongoing improvement of this great hobby they love.

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Inbreeding and Line Breeding: Part 1

John Mulley

Inbreeding is the general term for the mating between closely related individuals. That can be father to daughter, mother to son, or brother to sister. That is the usual interpretation of inbreeding, which is the mating between first degree relatives.

Line breeding is a less aggressive form of inbreeding focussed on amplifying the features of an outstanding foundation bird. Pedigrees created by line breeding are characterised by half-brother to half-sister matings, grandparent to grandchild matings, uncle to niece and aunt to nephew matings, and cousin to cousin matings.

The foundation bird is usually a cock who appears at least once in the ancestry of both the sire and the dam. It's likely to be more productive for a cock to be used with multiple hens, rather than for a hen to be used with multiple cocks.

To summarise, line breeding is a slower form of inbreeding, balancing trait fixation with maintenance of some genetic diversity to maintain fitness. Inbreeding and line breeding concentrates the recessive genetic potential that already exists within the stud by accelerating homozygosity and therefore facilitating the visibility of desirable features to selection.

To establish line breeding an eye for a good bird is essential to select the features required in a foundation bird. However, inbreeding and line breeding exposes both the desirable features and the undesirable features hidden as recessive genetic variation. Therefore, ruthless culling is needed when the undesirable features are also made homozygous by inbreeding.

Each of the exhibition features of budgerigars are based on recessive alleles at multiple genes. Exhibition features include, for example, body size and shape, feather qualities, bone structure, depth and width of mask, size and shape of spots and deportment and showmanship. These are the metric traits targeted by inbreeding and they are determined by the additive effects of recessive genetic variation across multiple genes that determine each of these exhibition features.

Note that the same genetic architecture applies for example to susceptibility genes for flecking, heavy flights, etc. That is relevant to the ruthless culling requirement that was mentioned above to ensure that faults are not inadvertently cemented into the stud.

We need to be clear about what are alleles and what is homozygosity. Budgerigar chromosomes are paired, except for the Z sex chromosome when present in female birds. So, except for genes present along the Z chromosome in females, all genes are duplicated in the genomes of both the cocks and hens, and each copy of these duplicated genes is termed an allele. When each allele has the same DNA sequence, the genotype (comprised of two alleles carried by the paired chromosomes) is homozygous.

When discussing inbreeding we need to be aware of alleles that are identical by state and alleles that are identical by descent. Alleles identical by state are from unrelated individuals. These alleles have the same DNA sequence, and we could use the example of the blue mutation in the budgerigar colour gene that codes for the amount and distribution of yellow pigment. Homozygosity of two blue alleles gives us a blue budgerigar.

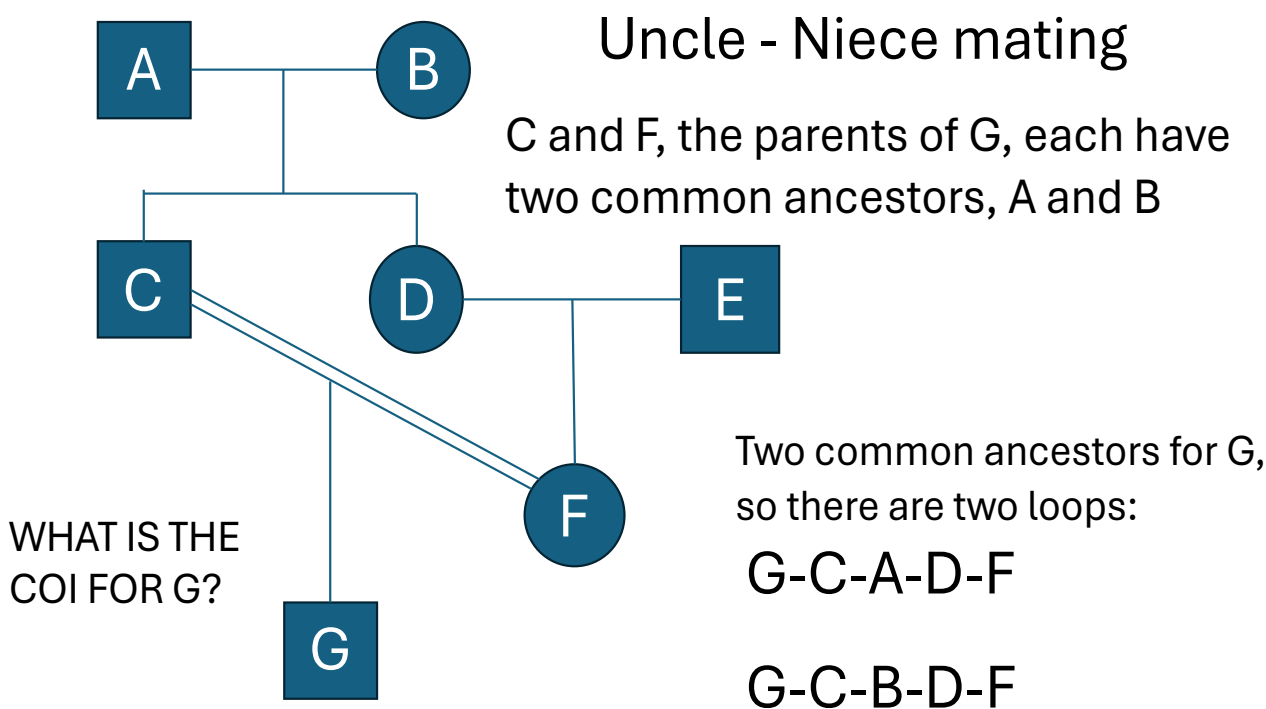
Alleles identical by descent are from related birds. Again, they can have the same DNA sequence, but they are replicates of an allele from a recent ancestor. A blue budgerigar can also be homozygous for the blue allele due to replication of the one blue allele transmitted identical by descent through both the sire and the dam from a recent ancestor.

Now, instead of the recessive blue allele of the colour gene, an example of a visible mutation that we are all familiar with, think in terms of any recessive allele, at any gene, that contributes to any of the exhibition features of the budgerigar. Inbreeding aims to accelerate homozygosity of desirable recessive alleles that are identical by descent so that we can act upon them through selection for desirable exhibition features.

The coefficient of inbreeding (F) for an individual is a measure of inbreeding. It is the probability that two alleles at any gene locus in an individual are identical by descent from a recent common ancestor of the two parents. Inbreeding increases homozygosity therefore leading to greater

uniformity and predictability of a heritable exhibition trait.

An inbred individual has an inbreeding loop in their pedigree. An inbreeding loop is defined as a path that runs from an individual for whom we wish to determine the coefficient of inbreeding up to the common ancestor through one parent and back down to the other parent, without going through an individual twice. A loop is needed to fix a feature (make genotypes homozygous) with recessive alleles for that feature transmitted on both the sire and the dam sides of the pedigree. The number of loops is equal to the number of common ancestors.



The Coefficient of Inbreeding F is calculated by summing all the probabilities that an individual receives the same allele from the father's side and the mother's side. Every individual has a 50% chance (0.5) of passing on a given allele to the next generation. The formula to determine F depends on 0.5 raised to the power of however many generations separate the individual from

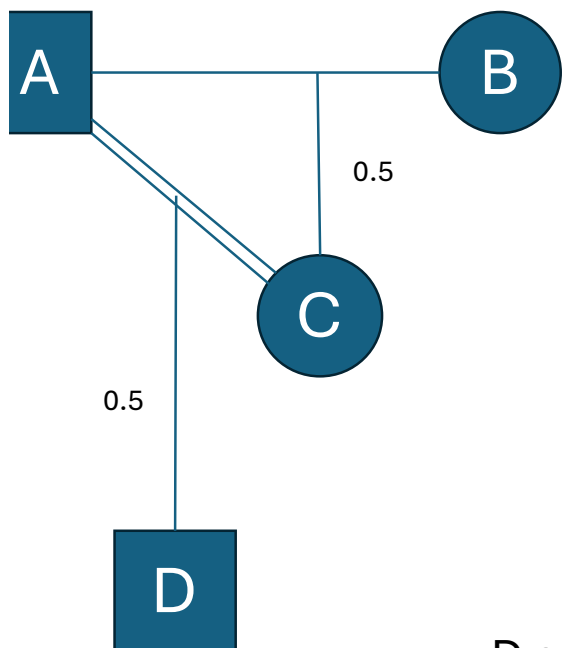
the common ancestor of its parents, on both the father's side and the mother's side.

The coefficient of inbreeding F of an individual "X" can be calculated with the following general formula:

$$F_x = \sum 0.5^{n-1} \cdot (1 + F_A)$$

Take inbreeding as opposed to Line breeding:

FATHER X DAUGHTER PEDIGREE

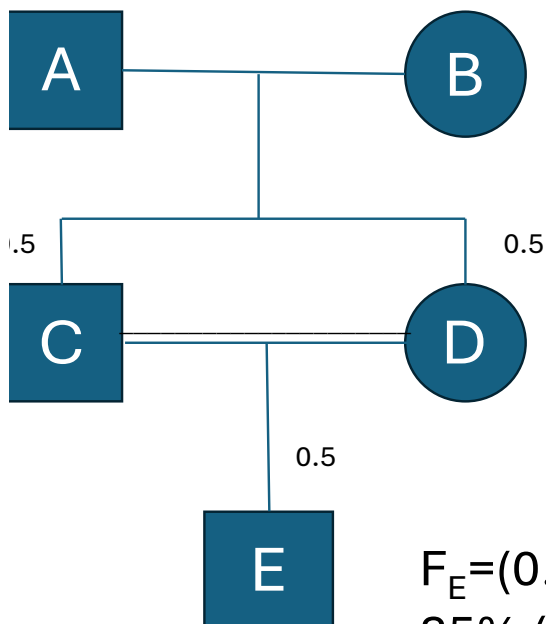


Father X Daughter
 (Mother son will be the same, these are examples of inbreeding)

$$F_D = (0.5)^2 = 25\%$$

D contains 75% of the genome of A

BROTHER SISTER PEDIGREE



Brother X Sister mating
 An example of inbreeding

Common ancestors of E are A and B

TWO LOOPS
 E - C - A - D
 E - C - B - D

$$F_E = (0.5)^3 + (0.5)^3 = 12.5\% + 12.5\% = 25\% \text{ (Same as for parent offspring)}$$

How long will brother sister matings generation upon generation remain viable? Take highly inbred isogenic mouse lines as an example. These are used in biomedical research to unify genetic backgrounds in every mouse through genome wide homozygosity. After 20 generations of brother sister matings isogenic mouse lines are considered homozygous at most genes. The Coefficient of Inbreeding after 20 generations is 99%. This shows that a line with repeated close inbreeding with selection to maintain vigour can remain viable.

So, why do we inbreed in budgerigars? Remember, exhibition features in budgerigars are determined by recessive genetic variation. Inbreeding brings to the surface this hidden recessive genetic variation by making it homozygous, and therefore visible to the breeder for selection. The homozygotes created by inbreeding are comprised of alleles that are identical by descent in pedigrees with inbreeding loops. Once desirable exhibition features become visible as homozygotes, the breeder can select parents to fix or emphasise these desirable exhibition features.

The Hardy-Weinberg law of genetic inertia is also known as the Binomial law. Take a single gene: gene frequencies for A and a are p and q. The recessive allele "a" is associated with a desirable

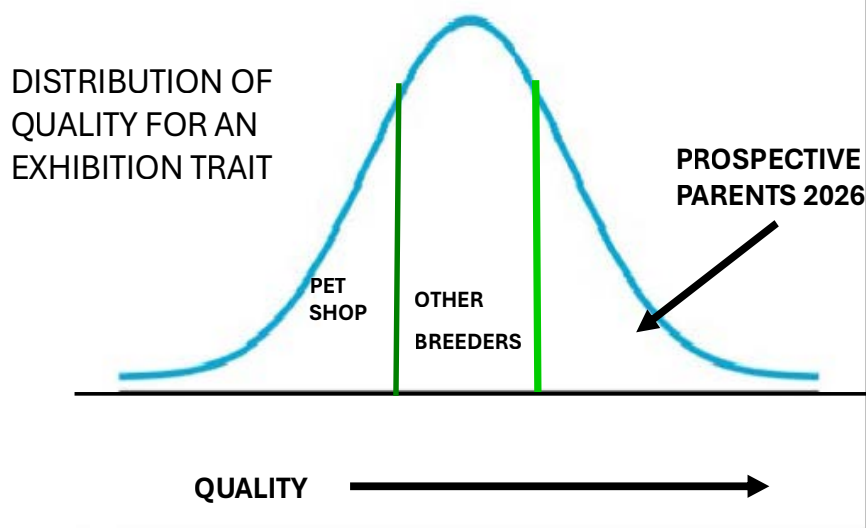
feature. Alleles "A" and "a" combine to give three genotypes in the population:

Genotypes	AA	Aa	aa
Genotype frequencies	p^2	$2pq$	q^2

In large random mating populations in the absence of selection and inbreeding, the gene frequencies p and q, and the corresponding genotype frequencies p^2 , $2pq$, and q^2 , remain unchanged from one generation to the next. Perhaps colony breeding in a very big aviary would be an example that approximates a large random mating population.

Now consider mass selection, which is simply choosing the best birds in the flock to produce the next generation. Each breeding season we might breed with 50 pairs of budgerigars, giving us 200 chicks, so when we cull, we look at 300 birds to get numbers back down to 50 pairs for the next breeding season. The curve shows the distribution of quality for an exhibition trait. Without actively inbreeding, if we select the best birds for the next breeding season, we are slowly shifting the curve to the right. The best of the rejects may be useful to other breeders, and the lower end of the distribution are consigned to the pet shop.

CONSIDER MASS SELECTION



Getting back to the Hardy-Weinberg Law, adding the effect of selection:

Genotypes	AA	Aa	aa
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Genotype frequencies	p^2	$2pq$	q^2
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Selection for aa increases the frequency q in the next generation, so the law of genetic inertia no longer holds, when selection is applied to the population. Add to that the effect of inbreeding that enriches for aa by increasing homozygosity, that accelerates the opportunity to apply selection for aa, further increasing q, the frequency of allele "a" which is the allele associated with desirable exhibition features (or undesirable features to cull).

The following mathematical expression is known as Wright's Law, which quantifies the deviation from the Hardy Weinberg Law when the population is subjected to inbreeding:

Genotypes	AA	Aa	aa
-----------	----	----	----

Genotype

frequencies	$p_0^2(1-F_t)+p_0F_t$	$2p_0q_0(1-F_t)$	$q_0^2(1-F_t)+q_0F_t$
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The derivation involves some complicated algebra which we won't go into, but it is the proof for the statement that inbreeding increases the frequency of homozygotes. The increase in homozygosity attributable to inbreeding for desired exhibition features due to identity by descent is q_0F_t .

[Meaning of symbols: Gene frequencies at generation zero are p_0 and q_0 . The expressions p_0F_t and q_0F_t , where F_t is the Coefficient of Inbreeding at generation t, show the increase in homozygosity of AA and aa due to identity by descent by inbreeding at generation t].

Simply stated, the above inbreeding outcomes can be expressed as follows:

- The stud is enriched for homozygous recessive genetic variation unlocked by inbreeding where the alleles are identical by descent from the mating of related individuals.
- That identical by descent inheritance hastens homozygosity beyond the chance

homozygosity that might be created through random mating of unrelated individuals where alleles are identical by state, as in mass selection.

- Inbreeding to increase the frequency of homozygosity creates a "stud", which is defined as a collection of related individuals.
- Then it's over to the skill of the breeder to identify and select those features made more visible through inbreeding that will move the stud forward.

Part 2 of Inbreeding and Line Breeding, in a later issue, will discuss the concepts of fitness, inbreeding depression and heterosis, and the extent to which inbreeding is playing a part in our aviaries, even if we are not consciously following a predetermined inbreeding program.

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Ali Bouresli, Kuwait

When I was invited last year by the Australian National Budgerigar Council to make a lecture at the 2026 National Show, the 50th anniversary event, I was very proud. Of course, I accepted the invitation.

This is not a small event. How many 50th anniversary shows can one person catch in his lifetime? For me, this was something very special. And my first time to Australia.

The show management team led by Garry Hibberd arranged everything behind the scenes for my flights and accommodation with Alex at Cruise Advisors, but in our area, the war between America and Iran made everything uncertain. One day it was possible to travel, the next day it was impossible. Between yes and no, safe and not safe, we watched the news very carefully. But I told myself, I will do everything possible to make this trip happen. Three times, our flights got cancelled and changed. Thank you Alex for your perseverance to get me to Australia.

On 15 May, I packed my bags and headed to the airport in Kuwait. First stop was Dubai, and from there I jumped on another plane to Adelaide. This was the longest flight of my life, with one leg being 14 hours. And you know, I am a heavy smoker, so without, the time feels double.

I arrived at Adelaide Airport on 16 May, and yes, my first Australian FU happened straight away. Customs gave me a written warning for bringing in too many cigarettes. Only two packets allowed.

I brought two cartons. I learned quickly that cigarettes in Australia are very expensive, and they don't sell my brand.

Troy Holmes picked me up from the airport at 10:40 pm on the Saturday. I had a quick meal, then straight to bed, but not before many cigarettes.

The next morning, 17 May, I woke up and Troy was standing there with a shirt in his hand and said, "Wear this. You are judging the South Australian State Championship today." I slept as a guest and woke up as a judge. Troy said one of the judges had called in sick. From this moment, I knew I had a new boss in this country.

We went to the Logan Shield, the South Australian State Championship for budgerigars, and I started judging with the judging team. You judge in pairs, and you get a certain number of the 28 classes. You judge down to 9th. No Best in Show. This show gave me a lot of knowledge because there were many varieties I had only seen before in Standard books. But because this show gives equal points for each variety, I was able to see them all live and judge them. That was a very good experience.





I was also very happy to see breeders like Troy and Kelly showing more than 100 birds. This made me feel I am not crazy. For sure, Troy and Kelly are crazy too.

After the show, we went to Troy and Kelly's bird room. I really liked this room. You could say it is a complete room for breeding budgies, with top birds across many varieties, a very good setup, and a dust extraction system.

Then came the big surprise. Troy told me he had some birds to prepare for the National Show the following weekend. These are birds that had finished 1st through 3rd at the State selection show. I said, "Ok, this is no problem for Ali," because I thought he meant a few birds. Maybe seven.

I remember counting the tenth bird, and after that I stopped counting because my fingers were bitten all over and there was still no pain – they had gone numb. Do you know why I said I realised there was a new boss in this country for me?

We worked with birds almost four whole days, from Sunday afternoon to Thursday morning. But honestly, I really enjoyed those days. Troy, Kelly and all their family treated me perfectly. I felt like

one of the family. Thank you very much to this three-generation family for their hospitality.

On Thursday 21 May, we left Troy and Kelly's house in Adelaide at 7:00 am to go to Adelaide Airport. We met with the team of carers for South Australia, who were looking after the birds. John Mulley, Michael Smith, Paul Wilton, Kelly and Troy. We all travelled together with the birds - next stop was the biggest event, the National Titles on the Gold Coast. I arrived, checked into the hotel, and it was very nice to meet many old and new friends.

On Friday 22 May, Con Herouvim picked me up because Troy had a lot of work to do at the show to get birds ready and with media commitments for the publicity of the event. It was the first time I met Con in person. What a good man. I also met his budgie show partner Robert Rodrigues and another person, Derrin Ray. We spent a very good day together, and they took me with Brad Hargraves to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary to see some Australian wild animals and birds.

That night was Experts on the Perch, which you can watch on YouTube. It was a big production



with Peter Thurn and Nic Hayes from the media. When I saw the show hall full, I was shocked. It felt like almost 500 people were there. To be honest, I felt pain in my stomach from this number of people, because the next day I had to give my lecture to the biggest crowd ever. The good thing was Peter took me on stage for a short time that night to break the stress. After the event, we had a good meal at the show.

On Saturday 23 May, judging started in the morning. I really liked the way they judged the birds. Yes, it takes a long time, but for an event like this, I think it needs to be done this way. Each state puts three birds each, in each class, so 21 birds per class. They judge Classes 1 to 18 from 1st placed through to 21st place on the Saturday, with one class for each variety. Each variety is equal, there is no Best in Show. I liked this very much because it encourages all varieties equally.

That night, Richard Miller started with a lovely talk by Zoom, and after that I began my lecture to the attendees on the stage. I was joined by Stephen Thompson - what a nice man. Every time I looked at his face, the stress in me flew away. I think we

did well, and I hope the breeders enjoyed and benefited from the lecture!!

On Sunday 24 May, Joel Keune took us to visit his bird room. He doesn't live far from the Nationals. It was very nice and clean, with some awesome budgies there. Afterwards, he took us to the Gold Coast to show me the city, but I am sure he chose the wrong spot. Welcome to the FU club, Joel! And thank you very much for this wonderful day.

When we returned to the show hall, judging continued with the later classes (Classes 19 to 28). I also met Carol Gough, who had a big box full of pins. She really made my day. Thank you very much, Carol. That night, Ali did not sleep. Ali was dancing on the bed, so happy.

This weekend event show was really good. Honestly, without any exaggeration, this show was something different. I am very proud to have been part of it. Perfect hall, good people, massive attendance, excellent organisation, awesome birds, specialist judges, everything on time, and most importantly, everyone smiles at you. And lots of media promoting the birds.



chicken sandwich, and without exaggeration, it was the best chicken sandwich I have ever tasted.

On Wednesday 27 May, Vic picked me up from my show cage and took me to see Bondi and Coogee beaches, and some other places too, but I do not remember all the names.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone I met during this trip. From Adelaide to the Gold Coast to Sydney, I was treated with kindness, friendship and great hospitality. I came to Australia for budgerigars,

but I left with much more. New memories, new friendships, and a very special place in my heart for the Australian budgie people. Best of all, everyone smile for you.

On Monday 25 May at 7:00 am, I packed my bags and headed to Gold Coast Airport with Con and his friends to catch my flight to Sydney. When I arrived, Vic Kokoski was waiting and took me to my hotel near his house. After that, we stayed and chatted about birds and pins. Before dinner, he told me to come to the grill — in Australia they call it a BBQ. I said, “No, you go. I will stay here with your pins.” Really, one hour with the pins flew like one minute. I am so thankful for all the pins the Australian people pass onto me.

When Vic finished with the grill, his lovely wife prepared a table with more food. It was a very special and delicious Macedonian meal with his family. After that, Vic took me to my hotel room. For the first time in my life, I felt what birds feel when we put them in a show cage. The room was nice and clean, but very small. Luckily, there was no judge to push me up with a stick.

On Tuesday 26 May at 9:00 am, Vic and his friend Rubin picked me up to see the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge. The weather was a problem, with heavy rain, but at least we got some photos and had a very nice breakfast there. After that, we went back to the city and then to Vic’s house. Later, he took me to dinner at a very nice place. I ordered a



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Understanding Budgie Droppings

It may not be the most glamorous part of keeping budgerigars, but droppings can tell us a great deal about a bird's health. For pet owners, learning what is normal and what is not can make a real difference. Budgies are very good at hiding illness, so small changes in their droppings may be one of the first signs that something is wrong.

A normal budgie dropping usually has three parts. The first is the faeces, which is the solid part. This is often green, brown or dark olive, depending on the bird's diet. The second part is the urates, which are usually white or creamy. The third part is urine, which is the clear liquid around the dropping.

Once you know what is normal for your own bird, it becomes much easier to notice changes.

What Is Normal?

There is no single perfect dropping that applies to every budgie. Droppings can change slightly depending on diet, stress, activity, water intake and whether the bird has recently eaten fresh greens or vegetables.

A healthy dropping is usually reasonably formed, with a solid section and a white or creamy section. There may also be a small amount of clear liquid. If your budgie has eaten wet foods such as leafy greens, vegetables or fruit, the dropping may look wetter for a short time.

The key is pattern. One unusual dropping is not always a disaster. A repeated change, or a change that comes with other signs of illness, should be taken seriously.



Watery Droppings

Watery droppings are one of the most common concerns for pet owners. However, it is important to understand the difference between diarrhoea and extra urine.

True diarrhoea means the faecal part of the dropping is loose, mushy or unformed. Extra urine means the solid part may still look normal, but there is much more liquid around it.

A budgie may produce wetter droppings after eating fresh food, drinking more water, being stressed, travelling, bathing or experiencing a change in routine. However, ongoing watery droppings can also suggest illness, kidney problems, infection or dietary issues.

If watery droppings continue, or your bird is fluffed up, quiet, losing weight or sitting low on the perch, veterinary advice should be sought.

Green Droppings

Green droppings (if solid) can be completely normal, especially in seed-eating budgies. Many healthy budgies produce green or dark olive faeces.

However, bright green, lime green or very unusual green droppings and loose can sometimes indicate a problem, particularly if the bird is not eating properly. When a bird eats less, the

droppings may become smaller and darker, sometimes with a stronger green colour.

Green loose droppings should be watched carefully if they appear suddenly, continue for more than a short period, or are paired with weight loss, vomiting, tiredness or a change in behaviour.

Black or Very Dark Droppings

Very dark droppings may occur after certain foods, but black, tar-like droppings can be a warning sign. In some cases, this may indicate digested blood or another internal issue.

This is not something to ignore. If a budgie produces black, tarry droppings without an obvious dietary cause, an avian vet should be contacted.

Red Droppings

Red in the droppings may come from food, such as beetroot or coloured treats, but it can also be blood. If there is any doubt, treat it seriously.

Blood in the droppings, blood around the vent, or red staining that cannot be explained by food should be considered urgent. A small bird can deteriorate quickly, so prompt veterinary care is important.

Yellow Urates or Yellow Staining

The white part of the dropping, known as the urates, should generally be white or creamy. If the urates become yellow, greenish-yellow or strongly discoloured, this can sometimes point to liver or other internal health issues.

One odd dropping may not mean much, but repeated yellow staining should not be ignored.

Undigested Seed

Seeing undigested seed in droppings is a concern. Budgies hull their seed before swallowing, so visible whole or partly digested seed in the

droppings can suggest a digestive problem.

This may be associated with conditions such as avian gastric yeast, also known as *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster*, an infectious fungus, or other illnesses affecting digestion. If undigested seed appears in the droppings, especially with weight loss or increased appetite, veterinary testing is recommended.

Fewer Droppings Than Usual

A sudden drop in the number of droppings can be just as important as a change in colour or texture. Fewer droppings may mean the bird is eating less, is unwell, stressed, egg-bound or has another issue.

Pet owners should pay attention to what appears on the cage paper each day. If there are far fewer droppings than normal, check whether the bird is eating and behaving normally.

Droppings Stuck Around the Vent

A clean vent is a good sign. Droppings stuck around the vent may suggest diarrhoea, weakness, obesity, poor feather condition, infection or another health concern.

This is especially important if the bird is also fluffed up, sleepy, quiet or not perching normally. A dirty vent should not be dismissed as simply messy.

Smell

Budgie droppings usually have very little smell. A strong or unpleasant smell can indicate infection, digestive upset or spoiled food in the cage. If the smell is coming from fresh droppings and continues, it is worth investigating.

How Owners Can Monitor Droppings

The easiest way to monitor droppings is to use plain paper on the cage floor. Newspaper, white paper or paper towel can make it easier to see colour, liquid and quantity. Avoid using loose litter that hides changes.

Check droppings at the same time each day. Morning droppings may be larger, especially if the bird has held them overnight, so compare like with like. It can also be helpful to take a photo if something looks unusual. This gives you a record to show your avian vet.

When to See a Vet

Seek veterinary advice if droppings remain abnormal, contain blood, appear black and tar-like, include undigested seed, become very watery without an obvious reason, or are accompanied by other signs of illness.

Other warning signs include fluffed feathers, sleeping more than usual, weight loss, vomiting, tail bobbing, heavy breathing, reduced appetite, sitting on the cage floor or a dirty vent.

Budgies can hide sickness until they are seriously unwell. When in doubt, it is always safer to ask an avian vet.

Final Thoughts

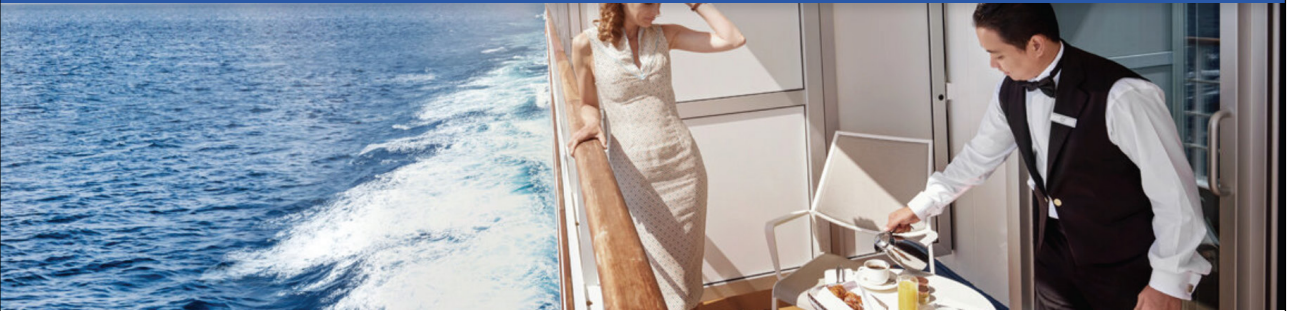
Understanding budgie droppings is not about panicking over every change. It is about knowing your bird's normal pattern and noticing when something is different.

For pet owners, the cage paper can be one of the simplest daily health checks. A quick glance every now and again may provide an early warning that your budgie needs help.

It may not be the prettiest topic in the bird world, but when it comes to caring for pet budgies, droppings really do matter.



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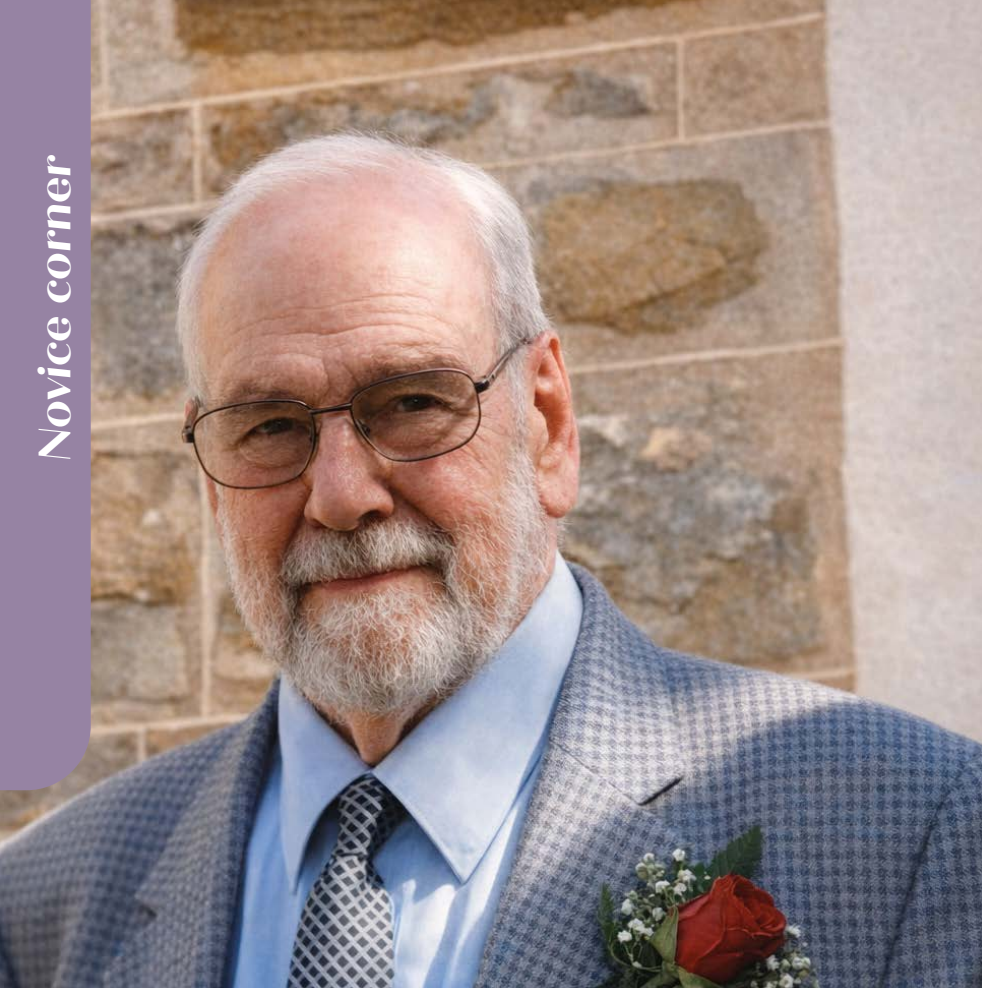
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Stress in Budgerigars

Gordon Lowe

**Presented as a lecture in
May 1988 Hobart National Event**

For the purpose of this discussion we will consider stress in Budgerigars to mean any factor or any situation which interferes with or disrupts their peaceful existence.

In recent years a study undertaken on behalf of the Budgerigar Society - England, has shown that the pet household budgerigar has the chance of living about twice as long as an aviary Budgerigar.

When fanciers were asked to comment on the higher mortality in their aviaries, they suggested it was because of breeding stress. I believe they were spot on in regard to the stress factor, but I also believe that stress in its most violent form occurs in the flight.

In most Australian aviaries, Budgerigars are open to the full view of their predators, be they dogs, cats, owls or rats. When threatened in the bushland, Budgerigars escape to the tops of the trees. When terrorised in the flights, they can only flee to the other end - about ten to twelve feet. It is important, therefore, to have perches at each end of all flights.

When Budgerigars are relaxed they do not like to perch shoulder to shoulder. They have an uncanny knack of spacing themselves 18-20 per six feet of perch. So allow 4 inches of perch per bird on each end of the flights.

Exhibition birds should not have to compete for a place to perch.

Water Dishes

My pet aversion is the inverted lemonade bottle with its one communal drinking point, sometimes one bottle per 100 birds. Regurgitated food particles settle in the bottom of the bottle. During our long hot summer months the heated water, with its pollution, acts as a culture for bacteria and bugs of all kinds. Drinking water should be available from the surface, not the bottom of the container.

I use enamel dishes placed six inches above floor level. It is cooler there. Water dishes are changed every day. Used dishes are placed in a bucket of water containing swimming pool chemicals or White King. Keep your water fresh and clean. Strict attention to these suggestions will reduce the risk of 'Enteritis' and Trichomoniasis.

Stress In The Breeding Room

In some respects there is less stress in the bird room than in the flights. The breeding pair are well protected against straying animals.

The introduction of wire breeding cages has catered for the Budgerigar's gregarious nature. In effect, wire cages provide a controlled form of colony breeding. In my opinion, the use of trays or plastic sheeting between the tiers is negating the see-through principle.

Thoughtful positioning of the perches, feed dishes and water bottles will control the problem of falling debris. Breeding stress has virtually been eliminated, but do not forget to pay strict attention to water bottles - change the bottle on a daily basis.

The focal point in the bird room is the breeding box. This is the stage where the dramas are played out. Poor fertility, dead in shell, nestling mortality, etc. Foetal stress, leading to dead in shell is a continuing problem. The cause is not obvious, but the following questions should be answered:-

Are my breeding pairs comfortable? Check for parasites, mice, flashing lights, etc.

Am I feeding the best possible ration? Budgerigars are seed eaters. Give a wide range of seed. But seeds alone will not provide a balanced ration. Vitamin 'A' is an essential to health.

If you don't grow it you will have to buy it.

Budgerigar foetuses need strong legs, strong beaks and necks to break free from the eggs.

Make sure your breeding stock have access to calcium and the other essential vitamin 'D3'.

And one more very important question — can the level of hygiene be improved in my nest boxes?

All this raises the question of show stress. Do our birds suffer unduly from stress? Sadly, some untrained birds do, but show stress is avoidable. The process of imprinting will greatly reduce any risk in this respect. Imprinting is a word to denote the learning habits in early life.

Try to select the pick of your young birds at the age of five to six weeks. At this early stage put two in a show box and leave them there overnight. A couple of days later put them back in the show cage, one per cage and leave for 24 hours. They will forever know the show cage offers no threat.

Box them up again, take them by car to your night show. Again they are imprinted with the belief that the car, the judge and the night lights are not threatening. If this is done at the earliest possible age, they should never suffer from show stress.

Be content in the knowledge that the people who conduct our shows at Club, State or National level, are experienced and capable. Little or no harm is likely to come to show trained birds.

In the years I have attended our National Shows, I have seen only one bird that, in my opinion, suffered from show stress.



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A Time of Reflection

Nigel Tonkin

Upholding *The Standard* Description of Perfection

Reflection is valuable, and I freely acknowledge that I have made errors along my judging journey. While reflection cannot undo the impact of a poor decision on the exhibitor who worked tirelessly to present a bird aligned with *The Standard*, what truly matters is how one responds after such an error. Growth, accountability, and recommitment to *The Standard* must follow.

The Standard exists as a guiding document. Its intent is perfection. It is therefore appropriate to revisit its wording and reaffirm the expectations it sets for judges and exhibitors. I have taken this moment to revisit its wording, reaffirm its intent, and record additional explanations that will assist me in maintaining a precise and consistent interpretation going forward.

I trust this might help others that have found themselves to be in a similar situation to myself.

1. CONDITION – PARAMOUNT AND NON-NEGOTIABLE

The bird must present in immaculate condition: clean, sleek, complete in feather, and display vitality and good health. No sign of injury or disease is acceptable. Condition forms the foundation upon which all other attributes are assessed.

2. TYPE – ESSENTIAL TO CORRECT FORM

The bird must taper gracefully and be proportioned in accordance with the pictorial of the time. It should stand well off the perch at an angle of approximately 30 degrees from vertical, with the beak tucked deeply into the mask. The backline is expected to sweep gently in a slight concave

from the back skull to the tip of the tail. Any lump at the back of the neck is considered a fault, as it disrupts the required elegance and detracts from the harmony of outline. The body line should flow smoothly out from the beak through the mask to the chest, then taper back to the lower tail coverts.

3. LENGTH – DESIRABLE, BUT NEVER AT THE EXPENSE OF BALANCE

The ideal length is 240 mm from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. While desirable, length must not override balance, proportion, or harmony. A long bird lacking balance is not superior to a shorter bird that meets *The Standard* more completely.

4. WINGS – A CRITICAL STRUCTURAL FEATURE

Wings must be firmly braced, close to the body, neat, and neither broad nor excessively long. Secondaries form part of this assessment. Ideally, the secondaries should be so well fitted that they are scarcely visible. Primary tips should meet at or just above the Cushion of Tail. Seven or eight visible primaries per wing are acceptable.

5. TAIL – ESSENTIAL TO STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

The tail must be straight, tight, and in correct proportion to the bird with two primary tail feathers in place as best as is possible, with the preferred tail length being 35% of the bird's total length. A bird lacking both primary tail feathers should not be benched, and, if presented, must be disqualified. A single primary tail feather is acceptable, but a penalty must be applied. Exhibitors are strongly encouraged not to bench birds missing both primary tail feathers, rather than relying on the possibility that a judge may mistakenly identify the secondary tail feathers as primaries.

6. HEAD – THE DEFINING FEATURE OF THE MODERN EXHIBITION BIRD

The head should appear large, rounded, and wide when viewed from all angles. Feathering should flow outward, sideways, and downward from

the cere before lifting upward over a full back skull, merging seamlessly into the backline and shoulders. Pin feathers should be absent where possible, minimal at best; minimal flecking will be tolerated, though the preferred state is none.

7. EYES

Eyes must be bright, set deep in the head, positioned well down from the crown, and slightly closer to the beak than to the back of the head.

8. CERE

The cere must be neat, shapely, and of solid, even colour.

9. BEAK

The beak must be smooth, clean, and unobtrusive.

10. MASK AND SPOTS – ESSENTIAL TO VISUAL IMPACT

The mask must be clear, wide, and deep, extending beyond two large cheek patches. Where required, six evenly spaced, large, round throat spots must be present, with the outer two partially obscured by the cheek patches. Without these features, the bird's visual impact is significantly diminished.

11. LEGS AND FEET

Legs and feet must be clean, with two toes and claws forward and two back gripping the perch. While three forward toes can occur, judges generally manage this anomaly appropriately. Regardless, the exhibit must still be able to grip the perch in the required manner. If the bird is unable to maintain the correct grip, it is to be disqualified.

12. MARKINGS

Where required by the variety standard, markings must be clear, well defined, and consistent.

13. COLOUR

Colour must be pure and uniform unless otherwise specified in variety standards.

Positive Judging – But Not at the Expense of Ignoring Major Faults

Positive judging is an important principle, but it must not come at the expense of common sense. Major faults cannot be overlooked simply because a bird excels in one or two features. To do so is to drift into feature judging, which is contrary to the intent of The Standard.

The whole bird must be assessed. Only by adhering to both the written word within The Standard and the pictorial can we preserve the balanced, harmonious exhibition budgerigar that generations of breeders have worked to develop.

A Call for Immediate Attention

At present, some within the fancy (and this included me) are trending toward an overemphasis on isolated features at the expense of overall balance and correctness. If this trajectory continues, we risk a decline that may not be reversible.

Action is required now to safeguard the integrity of The Standard and the future of the exhibition budgerigar.

I have found that by reviewing the existing wording and incorporating additional explanations or any missing intent, I can maintain a consistently high standard of clarity. This approach will serve me well going forward and provides a valuable tool within the South Australian judges' training program.



Photos courtesy of the ANBC

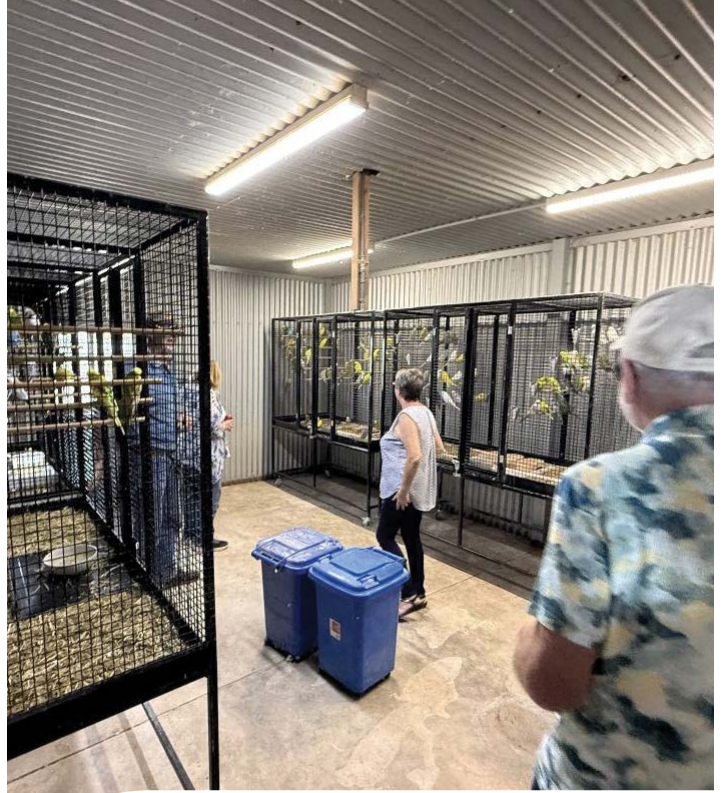


North East Budgerigar Society

The North East Budgerigar Society has enjoyed a strong period of learning and preparation, coming together for several presentations and workshops at their Hectorville home, as well as having a presence at the Lower Murray Bird Expo in Murray Bridge. The quarter included informative sessions on Inbreeding versus Line Breeding, a nostalgic look back at "A Blast from the Past – Budgie Bill Davis", and a practical Logan Shield preparation workshop designed to help members achieve the very best results at the State Selection show. The efforts didn't disappoint, with the North East bringing home the Logan Shield with an impressive 695 points, ahead of BSSA on 358 points and Port Pirie on 222 points.

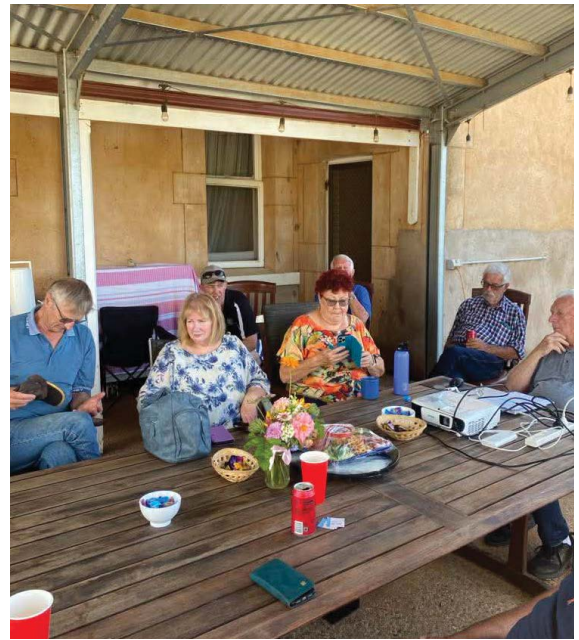






The Port Pirie Club came together this quarter for an aviary tour of the Longbottom Family in Spalding. They also held their Annual Young Bird Show, the Harry Johnstone Show, at Crystalbrook, with Tony Van Den Brink taking out the top honours.







The BSSA had a busy quarter, with the Murphy Classic, the Stan Watson Young Bird Show, as well as several meetings.





Logan Shield

The BCSA enjoyed a record number of entries in recent years at the Logan Shield State Selection Show. A wonderful day was had, with 17 exhibitors going on to represent South Australia at the ANBC National titles in Southport the following week.

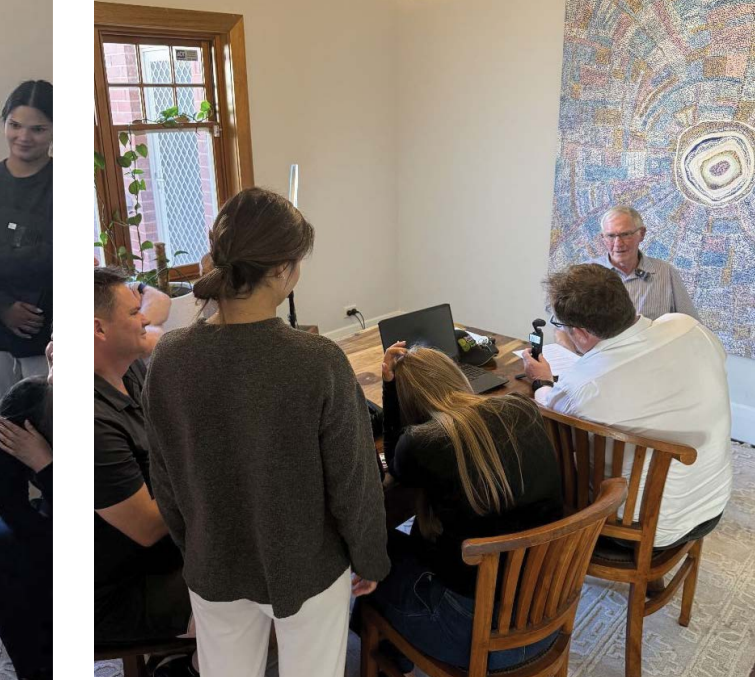




BCSA 30th Birthday

The BCSA celebrated its 30th anniversary at the Max Amber Community Centre in Athelstone in April. Graeme Goodings and Nic Hayes took the crowd back to the beginnings of the BCSA in 1996.

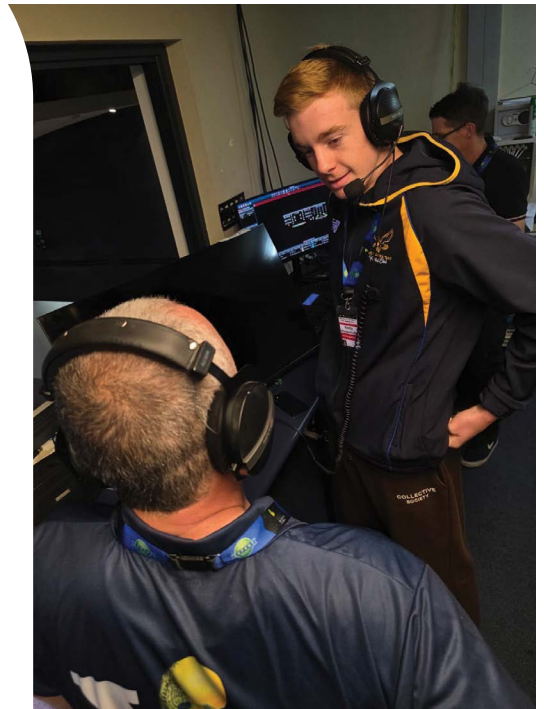






ANBC National Titles

South Australia delivered an outstanding performance at the 50th Annual Trill™ Expert National Championships, recording a record-breaking 474 points and finishing third overall, 10 points ahead of South Queensland. Congratulations to Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer and Graham McCallum on claiming National Titles — a tremendous achievement and a proud moment for South Australia. A sincere thank you also goes to every South Australian who made the journey to Southport on the Gold Coast to support, exhibit and represent our state with pride.







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RETIRED MAJOR AWARD JUDGES

Roy Deslandes (Deceased)
George Duffield (Deceased)
John Fisher (Deceased)
Gordon Lowe (Deceased)
Stan Watson (Deceased)
Trevor Weckert
Bruce Stafford
Glenn Stearnes
John Rice (Deceased)
Peter Glassenbury
Larry Jeffries
Ken Harris

JUDGES REPRESENTATIVE & SECRETARY



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MAJOR AWARD JUDGES



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Wayne Bandt
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ANY CORRESPONDENCE FOR JUDGES & STANDARDS CAN BE DIRECTED TO:

Judges Representative & Secretary - John Mulley 0488 224 446 jmulley@bigpond.net.au

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

Kakoschke & Rice - 12 Wins
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005, 2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016

Holmes Family - 8 Wins
Grey Green - 2018, 2025
Normal Blue - 2022
Cinnamonwing - 2025
Dominant Pied - 2025
Aust White Cap - 2023, 2025
Crested - 2024

J & W Weidenhofer - 6 Wins
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Dilute - 2022, 2023
Greywing - 2024
Violet - 2026

John Mulley - 2 Wins
Opaline AOSV - 2000
Blackeyed Self - 2003

Marshall Family - 2 Wins
Albino - 2007
Recessive Pied - 2014

Doug & Ruth Lange - 2 Wins
Normal Green - 2009
Crested - 2014

Ray Slade - 2 Wins
Blackeyed Self - 2016, 2017
The next 5 wins were with BCV

Dennis Lomman - 2 Wins
Violet - 2014
Normal Green, 2024

Helen Brooks - 1 Win
Fallow - 1996

Ron Norman - 1 Win
Hens Class - 1996

Rob McKie - 1 Win
Opaline - 1997

M & R Rafferty - 1 Win
Opaline AOSV - 2001

Michael Crossley - 1 Win
Yellowfaced Blue - 2002

Sue & Colin Norris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2002

Peter Glassenbury - 1 Win
Blackeyed Self - 2009

Peter Simic - 1 Win
Recessive Pied - 2010

Ken & Janet Harris - 1 Win
Dominant Pied - 2023

Kelwyn Kakoschke - 1 Win
Clearwing - 2023

Graham McCallum - 1 Win
Normal Grey - 2026

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
- 2024 – Mr Doug Lange
- 2024 – Mrs Ruth Lange
- 2025 – Mr Ian Marshall



The Budgerigar Council of South Australia (BCSA) is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all members and visitors to budgerigar shows and events. Specific forms of misconduct to the BCSA Policies, including victimisation, gossiping, discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment are strictly prohibited and may result in expulsion from the BCSA. All members are required to treat others with dignity, courtesy and respect. The BCSA is committed to equality, ensuring all fanciers enjoy a supportive and welcoming environment.

**For further information
regarding the Council,
Affiliated Societies,
membership or events
please contact**

**BCSA President, Troy Holmes
on president@bcsa.com.au**



www.bcsa.com.au