



# MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

## Nepean Budgerigar Society

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
BCV / Club registration &  
BCV 2021 ring order and club  
meeting. 7.30pm Dingley

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Class Education Night  
8pm Dingley

Young Bird State  
Championships  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May

### PRESIDENTS REPORT FROM JOHN FREEMAN

Last weekend the Budgerigar Council of Victoria held the Adult Bird State Championship. Our club Nepean had a small team consisting of about 7 birds from myself.

There was some lovely birds on display which made the trip worthwhile. The birds were pretty good. This is why it is always a good experience to come have look at others birds on show. Or when possible put some of our own birds on the bench to not only see some really good birds, but to see how our own birds stack up against the best birds from Victorian breeders. And a chance to chat with these breeders from other clubs and pick up pointers which may help us along the way.

There was some amazing birds on show, in particular a sky blue cinnamon from Vic Murray and a yellow face from Ian Hunter. For me these were the 2 stand out birds from the show, although there were many other good birds on show in all varieties, with over 700 birds entered it just gos to show that even with the Covid crisis going on a good number of breeders still turned out with birds making for a good day.

Some club shows are still going ahead and even if you don't show birds at these shows it is still worthwhile going along to view the birds on show, you don't have to stay long to look or have a chat with other breeders.

My birds did ok, I had a 6th in the Goldenface class, 14th in the Opaline class a (**1st in the intermediate section**), 8th in the green class and some other minor placings as well,

The next Championship shield in May is the Young Bird Shield (green rings).

**John Freeman**

**President Nepean Budgerigar Society**

## 2020/21 New Nepean Members

Nepean Budgerigar Society

Would like to



The last 12 months has seen an increase in memberships across many Victorian clubs. Nepean is no exception! We have been lucky enough to have a few new members. To recap for us all, our new Nepean friends are:

*John Allsop, Brad Griffon, Mark Campbell, Jan (John) Czech, and a special mention and big welcome to our latest member Zoe Plunkett.*

We warmly welcome you all to our club. Now we are now able to hold regular events, we look forward to getting to know you all, and assisting you with your budgie journey! Please do not hesitate to contact any of our members if you have any questions at all. We are also expecting a couple more members to join us this week, so plenty of new faces to to meet.

## BCV Adult Bird Championships

Congratulations to our President John Freeman for representing our club, and doing so well at the recent BCV Adult Champoinships. As mentioned in his report, he achieved some great placings.

A special congratulations to the United Club for taking our fors place on the day. Very well deserved!

Here are some of John's entries.....



Normal Green 8<sup>th</sup> place



Opaline 14<sup>th</sup> place  
1<sup>st</sup> in intermediate



Golden Face 6<sup>th</sup> place

### Condolences

*Nepean Club members would like to extend their deepest sympathies and condolences to our long standing member, and dear friend Steve Ponton and his family, on the recent passing of his wife, Nora.*

*Our thoughts are with you Steve during this difficult time.*

*Nora was a beautiful and much loved lady, who we know will be great missed.*

## Registration Night -2021 Club and BCV Membership and 2022 Ring orders

**Date: This Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March,  
Time: Registration 7.30 pm Meeting 8pm  
Where: Dingley Community Centre**

To make the registration and ring ordering process a little easier, this year we will be hosting a 'Registration Night' For those wishing to join Nepean Budgerigar Society for 2021, and the BCV for 2022 and order 2022 rings. Please come along to this night to complete forms and process payment. This year we are also asking for payment to be made via bank transfer to the Nepean account for records purposes. This payment can be made easily on the night with a mobile phone. If you don't have access to internet banking, cash will be accepted. Forms have been emailed out, you are welcome to print these out and bring them along filled in, or there will be forms available Tuesday to fill out on the night. Stay for a cuppa, chat & something for those with a sweet tooth!



### Class Education Night

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 8pm, at our usual Dingley venue**

At our April catchup, Nepean will be hosting a 'Classing Education Night'.

A great opportunity for our new members to get an insight into what constitutes each class. For others, an opportunity to get revisit the basics, and have a look at some other members birds. Please feel free to bring along any birds you would like to be classed, or to share your breeding results with other members. As always, a cuppa and chat as well.

### 2021 Young Bird Championships

Young Bird State Championships Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, Carwartha College, Noble Park. More details for the day to come. We will also confirm the day of our Nepean Club team selection for this show at our meeting this Tuesday night. This selection day will be our May catch up.

Please note due The ANBC have cancelled their Young Bird National Show, which was to be in Bendigo the week after the Vic state show. This is largely due to concerns over sudden state border closers, and the fact that a large percentage of participants sit in the high risk Covid category.

## Upcoming Club Diploma Shows

There are plenty of club shows coming up for this year all around Victoria, for adult, young birds and ubc's. These are usually well run, great events to attend. It's a really good opportunity to put your birds forward to see how they are going, as well as chance to meet & get to know other bird enthusiasts and have a chat. You never know what tip you just may pick up from an experienced breeder! Even if you have no birds to enter, you are still welcome to go along.

There is a schedule of the years shows in this newsletter. **BUT** please note that **all** shows are still subject to confirmation due to Covid restrictions, and other factors. This could be due the possibility of unexpected tighter restrictions being put in place, or because a club may not have the extra manpower to ensure the Covid safe plan can be adhered too. (Don't forget there are a large portion of our budgie community in the high-risk category)

*We can confirm the Border show will be on this Sunday 21/3, and United show on Saturday 27/3.*

2021 Show & Auction Calendar for The Budgerigar Council Of Victoria						
Date	Event	Club	Venue	Contact	Phone	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>						
13 Sat	Club Champ	Melton	Melton Catholic Regional College 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West	Amanda Fonti	0414 011 930	
14 Sun	Club Champ	Geelong	T.B.A	John Ennis	0401 914 784	
<b>MARCH</b>						
7 Sun	Adult S/Champ.	BCV	Carwatha College, Noble Park	Rod Turnbull	0400 354 178	
13 Sat	Club Champ	Colac	Colac Youth Hall, Hearn Street, Colac	Ray Slade	0429 540 067	
14 Sun	Club Champ	Riverina	Barooga Community Hall, Barooga	Robert Randall	0438 095 995	
20 Sat	Club Champ	Ballarat	Brown Hill Hall, Humphrey St, Ballarat	Simon Meagher	5335 5454	
21 Sun	Club Champ	Border	Mirambeena Hall North Albury	Darrin Roulston	0415 642 348	
27 Sat	Club Champ	United	T.B.A	Vic Murray	0414 344 081	
28 Sun	Auction	Geelong	T.B.A	John Ennis	0401 914 784	
<b>MAY</b>						
16 Sun	Y.B. S/Champ.	BCV	Carwatha College, Noble Park	Rod Turnbull	0400 354 178	
22 Sat	ANBC	ANBC	Bendigo, VIC	James Smith	budgeman77@hotmail.com	
23 Sun	ANBC	ANBC	Bendigo, VIC	James Smith	hotmail.com	
29 Sun	Auction	Dandenong	KK Auction, Dingley Community Centre	Mrs Judy Wilson	9702 8070	
<b>JUNE</b>						
5 Sat	Auction	Eastern	Bedford Pk Yth Hall, Rosewarne Ln, East Ringwood	Robert Dagg	0409 652 962	
12 Sat	Club Champ	Bendigo	Lockwood Sth Comm. Hall, Lockwood South	Brett Ricardo	0409 572 442	
13 Sun	Auction	Western Sub.	Masonic Hall, Werribee	Wayne Cachia	0412 969 848	
27 Sun	Auction	Riverina	Barooga Community Hall, Barooga	Robert Randall	0438 095 995	
<b>JULY</b>						
10 Sat	Auction	Melton	Melton Catholic Regional College 109-141 Bulmans Rd, Melton West	Amanda Fonti	0414 011 930	
18 Sun	Auction	Bendigo	Lockwood Sth Comm. Hall, Lockwood South	Brett Ricardo	0409 572 442	
<b>AUGUST</b>						
7 Sat	Auction	Clyde	Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd, Dingley	Con Herouvim	0417 277 775	
22 Sun	Auction	United	T.B.A.	Vic Murray	0414 344 081	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						
12 Sun	UBC S/Champ.	BCV	Carwatha College, Noble Park	Rod Turnbull	0400 354 178	
19 Sun	UBC Show	Geelong	T.B.A	John Ennis	0401 914 784	
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
9 Sat	UBC Show	United	Scout Hall, Irvine Road, Ivanhoe	Vic Murray	0414 344 081	
16 Sat	Club Champ	Dandenong	Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd, Dingley	Mrs Judy Wilson	9702 8070	
17 Sun	Club Champ	Nepean	Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd, Dingley	Mim McQualter	0428 857 897	
24 Sun	Club Champ	Eastern	Bedford Pk Yth Hall, Rosewarne Ln, East Ringwood	Robert Dagg	0409 652 962	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						
7 Sun	Club Champ	Western Sub.	Masonic Hall, Werribee	Wayne Cachia	0412 969 848	
14 Sun	Club Champ	Clyde	Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd, Dingley	Con Herouvim	0417 277 775	
27 Sat	UBC Show	Colac	Colac Youth Hall, Hearn Street, Colac	Ray Slade	0429 540 067	
28 Sun	Club Champ	Baw Baw	Exhibition Hall, 15 Howitt St, Warragul	Darren Macfarlane	0418 507 379	



## This Month's Article

### **Beginner Breeding Problems** **by Bill Panter, Champion Breeder**

In discussion with a couple of Beginners recently, the talk turned to some difficulties encountered in the bird room during their second season of breeding budgerigars. The problem which concerns me the most is the misinformation about what is commonly called "splayed" chicks, the condition where a chick from just a few days old is found to be lying flat on its belly with its legs stretched (usually) straight out sideways, or sometimes out behind it, instead of the regular position under it.

The Beginners had all the usual answers to this condition. They had been told by "more experienced breeders" that the problem was the result of the hen 'sitting too tight'. Well maybe, but why only one chick in the nest affected and the others ok?

My observation of the "splayed chick syndrome" began when I was also a Beginner and I too received similar advice from so-called "more experienced breeders". The advice given then was to leave in the affected nest unhatched eggs or put in glass marbles or imitation eggs or switch in larger chicks to "keep the hen up". Then of course you must bind the "splayed" chick's legs together to rectify the problem.

All this advice would be reasonable if the problem was indeed caused by a hen sitting too tight, but that is not usually the cause. In fact it's a condition found in many other birds and animals which is known simply as rickets, caused by a lack of calcium in the system or an inability to absorb it.

Just because there is cuttlefish bone and shell grit in the cage does not mean that the hen (and thus the baby) will get sufficient calcium from it. There is also a requirement for vitamin D3 to assist in the absorption of calcium into the chick's system.

The earliest sign of the "splayed chick syndrome" is a dark red discoloration of the knee joint noticeable at about 5/6 days of age. Later, both the knee and the hip joint are discoloured, followed by the chick lying flat and being under developed. In the most extreme cases feather formation is also affected - if the chick manages to live long enough.

If you observe the condition at an early enough stage (4 to 7 days) the only treatment needed is the addition of liquid calcium to the water plus a suitable source of vitamin D3. Birds treated in this manner generally completely recover, even to the extent of making it to the show bench.

The problem birds are those not noticed until 10 days or older. Treatment is as above, plus the need to tie both legs of the chick together for about two weeks. This can be achieved by putting a ring on both legs and tying the rings together with a piece of nylon thread. The baby will complain noisily at first and sprawl

awkwardly around but soon get used to the discomfort. It's also best to minimize the number of chicks in the nest to reduce competition for the hen's attention.

I have in the past used Elliot's Calcium Supplement (which contains calcium lactate) at a rate of 8 ml per 30ml of water for six days, then reverted to clean fresh water without further trouble in the nest. Another product which is proven effective is Calcivet which is a calcium, magnesium and vitamin D3 mixture in a readily acceptable form. It may be used in drinking water, over green food, on soft foods or given directly via crop needle in cases of rickets.

While on this subject of calcium deficiency, it should be noted that hens laying soft shelled eggs do not have or are not converting enough of their body calcium for the shell making process. Just add liquid calcium to the water in that nest box and see the improvement.

Egg binding in laying hens is often as a result of calcium deficiency too. Although this is not the only cause, a deficiency can be prevented by a little forethought. Why not put a small amount of liquid calcium in the drinking water when the birds are first paired up? It's a worthwhile and harmless precaution. And remember to always follow the manufacturer's instructions when giving medication of any sort to your birds - just because a little is good, more is not necessarily better! In fact, the exact opposite is usually the case.

*Budgie News 2nd Quarter 1995*

### **Fruits and vegetables to feed your budgies**

Fruits, vegetables and greens should account for approximately 20 - 25% of the daily diet. Pale vegetables, with a high water composition (i.e. Iceberg or cos lettuce or celery) offer very little nutritional value. ***Avocado is potentially toxic.***

Fruits and vegetables must be washed thoroughly to remove chemicals. Cut them into manageable pieces depending on the size of the bird. It is not necessary to take the skin off. Offer fruits and vegetables in a separate dish. If your bird appears to develop a particular fancy for one food item, reduce its volume or stop feeding it temporarily to promote the eating of other foods.

***Some suggested food items include:*** apple, cherries (not the pip), peaches, apricots, chinese vegetables (bok choy, wom bok etc), pear, asparagus, coconut, peas, banana, corn, capsicum, beans, cucumber, pineapple, chickpeas, dates, plums, lentils, pumpkin, figs, grapes, raspberry, silverbeet, kale, blueberrys, kiwifruit, spinach, broccoli, melons, sprouted seeds, brussel sprouts, mango, squash, cabbage, nectarines, strawberry, orange, sweet potato, carrot, paw paw, tomato, zucchini, parsley and green grass.



## Monthly Chuckle

Three men are in the middle of a desert when their car breaks down. For their hike to town, they each decide to take one thing with them.

One man takes a jug of water. The second man takes a sandwich. The last man takes one of the car doors.

The first man says to the last man: "I'm bringing the water because if I get thirsty, I can take a drink. And it makes sense to bring a sandwich in case we get hungry, but why bring a car door?"

The last man replies, "If I get hot, I can just roll down the window."



### Nepean Market Place

*Nothing to advertise in this month's market place.*



*Do you have anything bird related for sale you would like to advertise in our newsletter? Or are you looking for something? Please email Mim on [info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org](mailto:info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org) with a short description, and an image if you have one.*

*Also please feel free to email through any news, information or tips you think may be of interest in our newsletter.*

### Would you like to join a family friendly budgerigar club?

Please call or email one of our club contacts. We would love to hear from you!

#### Club Contacts

Emails – [info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org](mailto:info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org)

Venue – Dingley Community Centre

President: John Freeman 0419 146 911

31b Marcus Rd, Dingley Village

Secretary: Mim McQualter 0421 085 974

Treasurer: Rohan McQualter 0428 857 897

Website: [www.nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org](http://www.nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org)