



AUGUST 2019 NEWSLETTER

NEPEAN BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

August Training Night :

Tuesday 20th August @ 7.45
'Getting your birds show ready'
Guest Speaker James Smith

Nepean Club Selection for UBC State Championships & BBQ Lunch:

Saturday 31st August @ 11am
John's Factory
42 Nicholas Drive
Dandenong

State UBC Championships:

Sunday 7th September
Carwatha College
Noble park - times tbc

President report from John Freeman

Welcome to the August edition!

In July we held our midyear get together. Quite a few members came along to enjoy the afternoon, great to see so many in attendance!

We have a few events coming up for the club. Tuesday 20th August at 7.45 we will be hosting James Smith at our usual venue in Dingley, where he will be sharing his knowledge about showing birds. Saturday 31st August will be our club UBC state selection day, with a BBQ lunch. Please come along for lunch even if you have no birds to show! The following week, Sunday 8th September, will be the state UBC State Championship. This starts a run of many clubs UBC and Diploma Shows. Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for updates about these shows.

We have been offered another Bunnings Sausage Sizzle day for 2019. It is on a Tuesday, so while some of you won't be able to attend to help being a Tuesday, please contact Rohan or Mim if you can offer any assistance at all. Many hands make light work!

In other news...it's still a bit chilly out with the cold mornings and evenings. It's a good idea to keep covering your aviaries up at night and keep plenty of seed up to the birds (and a bit extra won't hurt) This will help keep your birds weight up for the breeding season and keep them warm. Spring is just around the corner, so most of your birds should have already gone down or are ready soon. You will notice your birds coming into condition by the extra noise and activity of the of the birds. The cock birds especially will have extra vigour and be moving around with dance and mating rituals in the aviary, these birds are ready to pair up in the breeding cage. It would be great if we could let our birds pick their own partners. I find this will most times produce large nests and healthy young with few setbacks, unfortunately most of us do not have the quality of depth in our birds to let this happen so we pair up ourselves. One last tip, don't put a bird down that is not in condition, just because you want him or her to breed as this will often end in disappointment or disaster.

Nepean Budgerigar Society

Would like to



You!

I ventured out this last weekend to the Clyde clubs bird auction. Even though I did not purchase a bird, I found it most enjoyable to talk to other breeders and just have a good look at the birds, this is a good way to learn about the different varieties and dollar values that the birds demand these days.

There is some breeders sell outs coming up, which can be beneficial in gaining access into other breeders lines, thus saving you a great deal of time in the process in reproducing this type of bird with perhaps the features you are after, so keep your eye open on line for these sell outs.

Have a great August and see you at our many events!



Training Night
Preparing your birds for showing & learn what the judges are looking for'

Presented By James Smith

7.45 arrival for 8.00pm start
Tuesday, 20th August

*All welcome to attend this event,
members from other clubs
& those not in a club*

Enquires: Rohan 0428 857 897

Join us at Nepean as 'James Smith' shares some helpful advice to prepare your birds for the show bench, as well as what the judges would like to see in a few varieties.

**Dingley Community Centre
31b Marcus Rd Dingley Village**

Looking forward to what will be an interesting night learning from one of the best in the field! Please feel free to let your friends know about this event and bring along anyone else you think might be keen to learn. Open to Nepean club members, members from other clubs, and those with an interest in the hobby. And as always, a cuppa and chat to finish off the night. At the Dingley Community Centre, Tuesday 20th August, 7.45 arrival for 8pm sharp start. Any queries, call Rohan on 0428857897

Look forward to seeing you there!



**Nepean UBC
State Selection
And
Social BBQ**

Saturday 31st August
11am Sharp

Bring along your UBC's
to be among the mix for
selection for the State
UBC Championships.
Join us then for a BBQ
lunch & chat about all
things budgies!

Please RSVP for
catering purposes
Rohan 0428 857 897

Venue: John's Factor
Poly Wheels. 42 Nicholas Drive.
Dandenong

Join us for our club UBC selection for the UBC State Championship Show. Even if you don't have any birds to show, please still come along for a BBQ and catch up with other club members. Please RSVP to Rohan for catering purposes

Bunnings December Sausage Sizzle

Nepean has been lucky enough to be offered a 2nd Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser for the year. This will be on Tuesday 3rd December. Thank you to those who have already put there hand up. If you can help, please let Mim or Rohan know so we can organize a roster for the day. Any amount of time you can come along for will be appreciated! For 2020, please also pop into your diary, our Saturday date we have been allocated, 18th April. These fundraisers are an important component to the future plans for our club, and are a great opportunity for us.

State UBC Show

The UBC State Championship Show will be held Sunday 8th September at the Carwatha College in Noble Park. Please keep an eye out in your emails, the Nepean website and Facebook page for further details once we have them from the BCV.

Total Bird Supplies – Rob Ponsioen

Most of you will have by now met our newest club member, Rob Ponsioen. Rob has a business that supplies bird products. This includes seed, supplements, toys etc. He is based in Langwarrin, and will look after our Nepean members as best he can. So please, support our members, and hopefully save yourself some money at the same time. Give him a call and have a chat to see what he can do for you!

Rob can be contacted on: Mobile 0418 533 322 or email robertponsioen@hotmail.com

This Month's Article

What Constitutes a Winning Bird?

by Alistair Home

Let me say from the outset that I am not claiming to have any of the top winning birds. My greywings that are doing pretty well at National level don't really compare with the very best birds in the major varieties, but the principles of what goes into the make-up of a good bird apply in all cases. I am drawing on a little bit of my own experience and a lot on the comments of other people that I have gleaned from articles and interviews I have read. My main point is that we should not become so obsessed with one aspect of the ideal that we forget the whole bird.

I think there are three main elements that go to make up the winning show budgerigar and they are; physical constitution, feather structure and varietal display. All three are determined genetically and can therefore be influenced by our skill in selective breeding (spiced with a bit of luck, of course), but husbandry also plays a major part in what is finally produced.

Physical constitution

The bird should feel a real handful when held. There should be thickness across the body as well as length in the body itself. Smooth line is maintained if the bird is well muscled, not carrying too much fat. We should not think that a densely feathered bird is large - the ideal is a bird that is physically substantial.

The common idea in the UK is, "*you can't breed rats from mice*". Many of our imported birds are rather small in body - perhaps that is why they have been sold. The lesson is that at least one partner in every mating should

have body substance and length if we hope to breed substantial birds. Two small birds won't breed large offspring even if there are large birds in their ancestry.

The quality of the feeding from their parents in the nest can determine youngsters' final appearance. I believe very strongly that in addition to seed, grit and green food we must provide vitamin and mineral supplementation as a part of our feeding routine. Personally I use Murphy's Pro-System (which is available in Victoria from Sonia Berger) and I have found it to be very satisfactory. I do not, however, rely on it alone. I also feed my birds on hard boiled egg during the breeding season, especially when they have chicks in the nest. I notice that the world famous German breeder Jo Mannes also uses it as a supplement. Sometimes I feed it alone, sometimes in a mixture with bread and carrot.

Feather quality

Much has been written about 'directional feather' and we can see the benefit of that feather in the winning birds today, particularly above the eye. We should become very conscious of feather qualities, looking for how they sit on the bird and selecting to favour feather that gives the best final appearance. Coarseness may be beneficial, but it can bring problems too if the feathers do not sit neatly.

Of equal importance is density of down and softness of feather. Fred Sherman delivered a very interesting talk in Hobart about his experiences in introducing English stock into his aviary in Zimbabwe. The most telling point he made was that he examined the down of all birds bred and selected for density. It is this density which gives the correct line to the feather placement and it should form a part of our thinking when culling and mating up. In relation to softness Jo Mannes says that a major factor in his line of birds has been selection for softness as well as length of feather. Fanciers who have visited his aviary vouch for the impact of the feather of his birds. In the management of birds with this extra feather I'm led to believe that breeding performance will be enhanced if the feathers around the vent are trimmed prior to pairing up. You don't need to worry about "guide feathers", just make sure that the thick down and long feathers do not prevent proper contact between the mating birds. Research in England suggests this is the only significant factor in enhancing the breeding performance of the exhibition bird.

Variety

It's essential to remember that 40% of the points for a show bird is for its variety. An opaline with bad markings and patchy body colour for example must lose most of that 40% - it would have to be a long way ahead in other respects to win with that sort of handicap. The common saying is that we should judge the bird first. NO! We must judge the whole of the bird INCLUDING ITS VARIETY. The bird that is excellent in shape, size and feather has its place in the breeding team, but unless it is also good in variety it has no place in shows. It's not true to say that faults in variety can be readily corrected. They are no easier to remedy than any other faults, and sometimes can be frustratingly difficult.

In summary then, I believe that when we are establishing an exhibition family we should try to keep in mind all aspects of the bird so that the end product is a balanced, well proportioned, attractive specimen

Do you have anything bird related for sale you would like to advertise in our newsletter? Please email Mim on info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org with a short description, and a image if you have one. Also please feel free to email through any news, information or tips you think may be of interest.

Nepean Budgerigar Society Club Events August– December 2019

- August 20th Training night – Dingley Community Centre @ 7.45pm.
'Getting your birds show ready' with guest speaker James Smith
- August 31st UBC state selection & social BBQ Saturday @ 11am
Venue - Johns factory Poly Wheel 42 Nicholas Dve Dandenong Sth
- September 8th UBC State Show Venue – Carwatha College, Noble Park
- October 15th Training night - Dingley Community Centre @ 7.45pm. Topic TBC
- November 19th Committee meeting (for committee members)
- December Christmas get together – Date and Venue TBC

BCV Club Shows

- September 22nd Geelong UBC Show
- October 12th United UBC Show
- October 13th Goulburn Club Champ
- October 19th Dandenong Club Champ
- October 26th SW Vic UBC
- October 27th Eastern Club Champ
- November 3rd Clyde Club Champ
- November 10th Western Suburbs Club Champ
- November 16th Colac UBC Show

Club Contacts

Emails – info@nepeanbudgerigarsociety.org

Venue – Dingley Community Centre 31b Marcus Rd, Dingley Village

President: John Freeman 0419 146 911

Secretary: Mim McQualter 0421 085 974

Treasurer: Rohan McQualter 0428 857 897

