



OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Nepean Budgerigar Society

UPCOMING EVENTS

October Meeting Night
Tuesday 15/10 8pm start.

November Training Night
Tuesday 19/11
Details to come

December – Bunnings
Sausage Sizzle Tuesday 3/12

Please check this newsletter
for dates of upcoming 2019

PRESIDENTS REPORT FROM JOHN FREEMAN

Spring is here and the sun is out!

It is extremely important that your birds have sunlight every day. We can give them vitamin D3 as an additive and this works well, but you can't beat the natural sunlight. Having access to natural sunlight will help get your birds in tip top condition and ready for showing and breeding. To get the full benefits of the sun's rays, the sunlight must be direct and not via glass windows or laser light roofing.

Even though we only had a few entries in the UBC (unbroken cap) State Championships it was great to see Chris and Debra gain a first place in the beginner's class for Clearbody's in only their first show. A big well done to Chris and Debra!

Our next state show is the Adult shield in February. Let's all get behind our club and get a good team together for that one.

The show season is fast upon us to end the year out, good luck to all that are showing, and don't forget anyone who has any questions at all please don't hesitate to call as we are only too happy to offer assistance where possible.

Please note there has been a slight change in the October / November club schedule, swapping the training night and meeting nights. Please check the schedule for more info.

See you all at next week's October meeting on the 15th, and hopefully at a few shows!

John

Nepean Budgerigar Society

Would like to



You!

Upcoming Club Shows

There are plenty of club shows coming up for the remainder of the 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. Keep an eye out in your emails or Facebook for further details about the clubs shows.

Below is a schedule of upcoming shows for the remainder of the year. Please note this one also includes the Dandenong Club Championship, that wasn't in the last newsletter.

We also now have 'Nepean' stickers available for helping to find your cages at collection time at the shows. Just ask Mim for some at the shows, or at our club events.

12	Sa	Oct	<i>UBC Show</i>	United	Scout Hall, Irvine Road, Ivanhoe
13	Su	Oct	<i>Club Champ</i>	Goulburn	Congupna Comm. Hall, Congupna, 3633
19	Sa	Oct	<i>Club Champ</i>	Dandenong	Dingley Community Centre, Marcus Rd, Dingley
26	Sa	Oct	<i>UBC Show</i>	S.W. Victoria	Fonterra Comm. Hall, Drummond St, Dennington
27	Su	Oct	<i>Club Champ</i>	Eastern	Bedford Pk Yth Hall, Rosewarne Ln, East Ringwood
3	Su	Nov	<i>Club Champ</i>	Clyde	Carwatha College, Noble Park
10	Su	Nov	<i>Club Champ</i>	Western Sub.	Masonic Hall, Werribee
16	Sa	Nov	<i>UBC Show</i>	Colac	Colac Youth Hall, Hearn Street, Colac
17	Su	Nov	<i>Club Champ</i>	Baw Baw	Exhibition Hall, 15 Howitt St, Warragul

Good luck and happy showing!

October Meeting Night

Tuesday next week, 15/10, will be our club meeting night. All welcome!

November Training Night

Nepean will be holding its next training night on Tuesday November 19th. We are still just waiting on our final confirmation on our guest speaker and topic, so watch this space for information about another informative evening! The venue will be at our usual Dingley Village Community Centre location.

Website 'About Us' Updates

Please don't forget each club member has the opportunity to have their own 'about' page on our website. Please email Mim some images and a blurb, and she can pop it up for you. Anyone with an existing page, you can always email Mim any text or image updates as well.

This Month's Article

A timely article with the club shows coming up. Some greast tips here, and worth a read.

Preparing Birds for Exhibition

By G. Nicholson, U.K.

One of the fascinating aspects of budgerigar culture is exhibiting at Local and Open Shows. To be a successful exhibitor of budgerigars, it is necessary to know how to prepare and train them. They need to be spotlessly clean, perfectly steady and display themselves to their best possible advantage.

Condition is one of the most important items for a show bird. Many excellent exhibits have been put down just because they were out of condition. It is better to leave the bird at home or to send a substitute, if one is available. Budgerigars differ greatly from many other exhibition birds. The irregularity of their moult often upsets our well laid plans.

Fanciers have different "specialist" techniques for show preparation, but in principle they are basically the same.

Initially we select the birds, which in our opinion are worthy of being shown. To get the birds steady we cage them in 'stock' cages approximately three feet long (1 metre). Do not put cocks and hens together. Apart from fighting it quickly puts young birds out of condition when the sexes are mixed in this way. Six to eight birds to a cage is quite sufficient.

These cages should be kept spotlessly clean as Budgerigars have a habit, after being sprayed, and while preening themselves, to continually rub their heads against the wire fronts. If they are slightly dirty this dirt will soil their masks and heads, very quickly.

Time To Settle & Steady

Our selected show team should be transferred to stock cages approximately eight weeks prior to the first show. This will allow time for them to settle and steady. If we have the odd bird, which does not show to it's best advantage when placed in a show cage, intensive training must be given. Two to three times a week it must be left in a show cage for three to four hours at a time.

We now come to the matter of when to spray and when not to spray. Always spray early in the day, never at dusk. Birds must have at least four hours to dry out completely. If possible use an automatic spray of the type operated by air pressure. It is easier to handle and gives a fine, dense spray.

In my case, the birds are transferred to an old all-wire Canary hanging cage which I use specially for spraying. This gives the opportunity to spray the birds all round. If you spray the stock cages there are always birds which will not turn around to be sprayed on both sides. I usually put four birds in the spraying cage at once.

Approximately eight weeks prior to the show, I check the birds for any broken wing feathers. Tail feathers, which are broken or missing, are similarly checked. If new tail feathers are growing, all well and good, but sometimes the old tail feathers have broken off and only the short stumps can be felt. These must be removed so that the new tail feathers can grow. This takes about six to eight weeks, so make sure you remove them in good time. The same principle applies to any damaged wing feathers. At this time do not bother about the spots as it only takes three weeks for these to grow. Wait until nearer the show before trimming the mask. Trimming consists of removing the spots that are covering the four main throat spots. The spots under the cheek patches must not be removed.

Commence spraying four weeks prior to the date of the first show. In the first week, the birds are sprayed twice with hot water.

The automatic spray is filled with hot water, but by the time the spray of water has reached the birds it will only be luke warm. Warm water penetrates the feathers and makes certain the birds are thoroughly soaked. Also if any of the birds have pen or quill feathers on the crown of the head, the warm water will help these to open.

Spray Twice Per Day

In the next two weeks the birds are sprayed twice each day with cold water. This has a stimulating effect, just like a cold shower toning up the human system.

The week before the show the birds are only sprayed lightly. Stop spraying two days before the show. This gives the birds ample time to recover the natural oil in the feathers.

If you wish, you can add a bird shampoo to the spray water for the last spraying. This will give an extra sheen to the plumage.

Beginners have asked my advice regarding the pin feathers on the frontal crown of the birds head. They have managed to acquire a good show standard apart from one or two pins which spraying with warm water has not cleared. Take a pair of tweezers, the ones you have used to trim the mask, and gently squeeze them on the bottom of the quill feather and you will find that the quill, which is only a sheath protecting the feather, will slowly slide off.

If you wish to straighten a bent tail, fill a cup with very hot water into which you slowly dip the birds tail. This will straighten out the main quills and also the smaller feathers.

Finally, make sure the show cage is perfectly clean. If the judge's first impression is that of a dirty battered cage, he will have difficulty to eradicate it from his mind.

Remember, your show cage is your shop window and nobody buys from a dirty shop. Besides, you do not want to ruin the work of the previous eight weeks, do you?

Original Version BW Issue 10



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



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 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

Monthly Chuckle...

So I was driving around and see a sign in front of a house:

"Talking Dog for Sale"

I ring the bell, and the owner tells me the dog is in the backyard. I go into the backyard and see a dog sitting there "hey doggie, You talk or what?" I ask.

"Certainly do," he replies. I ask him "So, what's your story?"

The dog looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young, and I wanted to help the government. So, I told the CIA about my gift. In no time at all, they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger, so I wanted to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired."

I'm amazed & go back in and ask the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars." he replies I say, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap

" Because he's a bloody liar. He didn't do any of that \$hit."



Nepean Budgerigar Society Club Events October – December 2019

- October 15th Meeting night - Dingley Community Centre 8pm start.
- November 19th Training night Dingley Community Centre @ 7.45pm. Topic TBC
- December Christmas get together – Date and Venue TBC

BCV Club Shows

- 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

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

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