

# Budgie Bulletin



#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2010-2011

EDITOR LEA TODD

<u>POSITION</u> PATRON	<u>NAME</u> BILL DAVIS	<u>PHONE No.</u> N/A
PRESIDENT	LLOYD EDWARDS	8522 4317
VICE-PRESIDENT	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
		Mob 0409288710
SECRETARY	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	VACANT	
TREASURER	VICKI SANFORD	82637369
SHOW MANAGER	GRAEME ALCHIN	8380 5803
ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER	MARION STAFFORD	8356 0579
RING STEWARD	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
TRADING TABLE OFFICER	COLIN NORRIS	85246155
COMMITTEE	LEA TODD	N/A
	SUE NORIS	85246155
	GRAHAM BELL	83961552
	HELEN EDWARDS	8522 4317
* * * * * *	* * * *	* * *
AUDITOR	BRIAN MARSHALL	82614377
BCSA COUNCILLORS	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
	GRAHAM BELL	8396 1552
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## NORTH EAST B.S. NEWSLETTER

Issued bi-monthly for the members of the

The opinions and ideas expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the North East Budgerigar Society of South Australia Inc.

### **CLUB OBJECTIVES**

To promote feelings of good fellowship and sportsmanship among its own members and all other persons interested in the budgerigar.

TO PROMOTE THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING VARIETIES AND THE PRODUCTION OF NEW ONES.

TO ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE THE BREEDING OF BUDGERIGARS.

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

All subscriptions become due 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 (Except new members who joined after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011)

SINGLE	\$15.00	DOUBLE	\$22.50
FAMILY	Single fee (\$15.00), plus 50% sin	gle fee for each pe	erson over 18 years of age.
	Under 18 years – no charge in far	nily situation)	
JUNIOR	\$9.75 (65% normal fee)		
PENSIONER	<b>Single</b> \$12.00 (80% normal fee)	<b>Double</b> \$18.00	
PARTNERSHIP	\$11.25 per person (75% normal fe	ee)	
5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP 4 times the applicable membership fee.*			
<b>BCSA</b> Membership fee: \$15.00 per person.			

Members must be financial with North East Budgerigar Society and BCSA to purchase 2011 rings. Please ensure that your membership card accompanies your order for rings. \*Membership not refundable

Newsletter will be forwarded to financial country or interstate members bi-monthly. Metropolitan financial members' newsletters will be available at club meetings. If not collected they will be posted out 3 times per year.

#### Email Address: nebssa@gmail.com

ADDRESSES: -

Secretary Mr John Mulley 13 Dunkley Ave . FIRLE 5070 (08) 83310097 Treasurer Mrs Vicki Sanford 2 Baymor Crt MODBURY 5092 (08) 8263 7369 Ring Steward

Mr Dennis Lomman 10 Muriel St PROSPECT 5027 (08) 8344 8363

## **EDITORIAL**

Some breeders may not be aware that there are several legislative requirements relating to the keeping and housing of aviary birds. The main one that we should already be aware of is the *South Australian Code of Practice for The Husbandry of Captive Birds*. This Code of Practice (CoP) is covered by the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and states that failure to abide by the CoP may result in prosecution. You might be surprised at some of the "must" requirements that are included in this CoP. For example, it states that wooden perches must be of varying thickness. The CoP is available in booklet form on the internet at

<u>http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/animalwelfare/pdfs/bird\_05.pdf</u> It is in the interests of all breeders to at least be aware of the existence of the CoP and its requirements.

The Department of Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) has recently approached the United Bird Societies of South Australia (UBSSA) regarding the need for the bird community to develop a set of biosecurity guidelines for the keeping of aviary birds. This has its origins mainly in the global concern over the threat of bird flu. Most animal industries have their own biosecurity measures and more recently the horse community and PIRSA have jointly released a set of "Horse Biosecurity" guidelines following the outbreak of horse flu in Australia.

Biosecurity requires that practical measures be taken to prevent and limit the spread of infectious diseases and pests, both within an establishment and from one establishment to another and to prevent and control important exotic and endemic diseases of captive birds. While common sense good husbandry practices should be adequate for most bird keepers to prevent infections of bird flu or any other diseases, some may be more at risk than others. For example, those that live close to waterways are likely to be more at risk because it is known that migratory water birds can carry bird flu.

UBSSA has now established a subcommittee, of which the BCSA is a member, to develop a set of guidelines for biosecurity for aviary birds. Based on initial meetings of the subcommittee, I expect the guidelines to have a focus on the importance of quarantine (something which we should already be practising), risk assessment (self assessment of your level of risk), common sense good husbandry and what to do if you suspect that you might have an outbreak of disease. The biosecurity guidelines should be finalised and distributed to all bird keepers sometime this year.

Dennis Lomman

## NOTICE

## As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 you will have the option of joining for 5 years.

The price you pay will be the equivalent of paying for 4 years.

The fee is 4 times the applicable yearly fee.\*

(Less hassle remembering to pay <sup>(2)</sup>)

\*please note that this membership is not refundable

## **DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MEETING**



This year's December meeting was held at the Buckingham Arms Hotel.

All who attended has a great time and the food was excellent. Congratulations to the winners of this year's Christmas Raffle.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize won by James Leatham
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize won by Helen Edwards
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize won by Sue Norris
4<sup>th</sup> Prize won by Sue Norris

Here are some pictures from the night.









## Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St., Kilburn on Wednesday **January 12, 2011** WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.07 pm. APOLOGIES: Murray and Sylvia Bray. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. Nil

#### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- 1. December Newsletter from Southern Cage Bird Society
- 2. January Newsletter from Southern Cage Bird Society
- 3. October Newsletter from The United Bird Societies of South Australia
- 4. November-December Budgie Digest from BSSA
- 5. November Newsletter from SA National Canary and Cage Birds Exhibition Committee
- 6. Cage Bird Show Schedule from Sydney Royal for 2011
- 7. August edition of Budgerigar World
- 8. BRASEA 2010/2011 Bulletin
- 9. Vetafarm catalogue
- 10. Vetafarm offer of increased support through sponsorship of club publications and any other event we may hold in 2011
- 11. BCSA notification of ring prices for 2012 rings
- 12. January Newsletter from Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society

#### CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

1. Message to members on email notifying them of details of tonight's Meeting

#### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. Nature of the Vetafarm offer of support:
  - a. Gift vouchers to sponsor club prizes and raffles
  - b. Sponsorship of advertising space in club magazine
- 2. Prices for 2012 uncoded rings will be 50 cents and for coded rings will be 52 cents

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Term Deposit	\$19,000.00
Power Saver	\$2,105.17
Cheque A/C	\$ 3,243.48
Total	\$ 24,348.55

RING STEWARD'S REPORT: 250 rings on hand.

LIBRARY REPORT: Nil.

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Jars, bowls and shirts on special. Bag of Broken Hill grit available. NEW MEMBERS: Brad Nunn.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Coded ring orders due by April 1. Later note: needed by March General meeting
- 2. Club memberships due. Note the five years for price of four years option.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS:

- 1. Winners of Monthly Meeting Points Awards (\$30 Trading Table voucher or Show Cage)
  - a. Open Dennis Lomman (Show cage)
  - b. Intermediate Vicki Sanford (Show cage)
  - c. Novice Andrew and Lucy (\$30 voucher)
- 2. New definition of what constitutes a Young Bird (See magazine)
- 3. Revised definition of what birds are eligible for points at NEBS night shows (See magazine)

BCSA UPDATE: Meeting due 12.1.2011. Much activity related to what birds will be exhibited at the 2013 and 2014 National Shows. ANBC is trialling three birds existing classes all benched with first two getting points at the 2011 and 2012 national shows. Then two birds go, no reserves, two birds benched, both get points, but expanded classes yet to be determined, for the 2013 and 2014 national shows. Also some discussion on whether birds



## NOTICE

As an option, this magazine can be emailed to members instead of receiving a paper copy.

You will be sent it as soon as it is sent to the printers.

#### It will be in colour

You can read it on your computer, smart phone, I pad, and eBook reader or you can print it.

If you can't come to nightly meetings, you don't have to wait up to 4 months for your magazine.

If you would like to take up this option please contact the club secretary John Mulley

## **BIRDS ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS AT CLUB NIGHT SHOWS**

Young birds rung with the two latest ring colours are to be exhibited together (this includes Mini shows)

Young birds rung with the earlier of the two colours cease to be eligible as Young birds at night shows on September 1 of each year, to coincide with the issue of the next ring colour, which then takes over as one of the two eligible ring colours. For example, blue rung birds cease to exist as Young birds on September 1, 2011.

UBCs will be judged separately and for them ring colour is immaterial Points will be accrued for both Young (as defined above) and UBCs Bird of the night will be chosen from Young birds, except for September, October and November when bird of the night will be chosen from UBCs Best bird of each status will be chosen from Young birds, except for September, October and November when best of each status will be chosen from UBCs

Certificates will replace trophies for bird of the night.

## FROM THE JANUARY GENERAL MEETING QUESTION AND ANSWER SEGMENT:

Can someone explain how it is possible to get a yellowfaced albino out of a pair of lutinos?

The short answer: One parent is split blue and the other parent split yellowfaced blue.

Some background-

- Lutino is a green series Ino
- Albino is a blue series Ino
- Blue is a colour mutation away from green and recessive to green
- Yellowfaced blue is a second colour mutation away from green at the same gene as the blue mutation, and recessive to green, but dominant to the blue mutation
- A green series bird can be split (heterozygous) for blue, or it can be split for yellowfaced blue, but it can't be split for both at once since the colour gene can only occur in two doses, one from each member of a chromosome pair. A bird with both the blue and yellowfaced blue mutations is a yellowfaced blue, since it does not have the green alternative (allele)
- Yellowfaced blue might have got into one of the lutino parents because some breeders speculate that use of yellowface enhances the colour of the mask in lutinos.

Now to answer the question in detail -

Only the following mating can produce the surprise yellowfaced albino (it doesn't matter which one is the cock and which one is the hen):

LUTINO (Lutino /blue) X LUTINO (Lutino/yellowfaced blue) Expectations for offspring:

Lutino 75% (25% pure lutino, 25% lutino/blue, 25% lutino/yellowfaced blue)

Yellowfaced albino 25% (Albino yellowfaced blue/blue )

Note that a pure albino without a yellowface is not possible from this mating because the only way of getting a blue series non-yellowfaced bird (albino) out of two lutinos is for both lutinos to be split blue (with neither of them split yellowfaced blue), or for both lutinos to be split yellowfaced blue (neither lutino split blue) because double factor yellowfaced blue is visually blue (without the yellowface).

Note that the terms "green", "blue" and "yellowfaced blue" as used above can include the grey colour modifier, dark factor modifier and violet modifier which when present changes nothing in the above explanation of how a yellowfaced albino can be bred from two lutinos. Grey, dark factor and violet are all under the control of different genes than are the colour alternatives green, blue and yellowfaced blue. John Mulley

## <u>MONTHLY MEETING - NIGHT SHOW</u> POINTS AWARD 2011 as at January 31st

<u>OPEN</u>	Dennis Lomman	6 points
	Mulley and Stafford	8 points
INTERMEDIATE	Vicki Sanford	6 points
NOVICE	Geoff Hay	6 points

Another year has started and we had 17 birds entered for the Night Show . Mrs Barbara Fisher judged the birds and the Bird of the Night a Double Factor Spangle was won by Dennis Lomman.

For the month of February the bird of the night is

Opaline ASC and Spangle.

In **MARCH** there will be a **MINI SHOW** for Normal Birds. The Schedules for this Show will be available tonight here.

This Show will be for Blue 2010 rung birds and Purple 2011 rung birds only. We hope all members can exhibit birds at this Mini Show to make it a success.

For the April meeting the Bird of the Month will be Clearwing and Normal Blue.

Looking forward to seeing more members enter birds at the night shows as it is good practice for the birds to get accustomed to being in Show Cages.

Graham Alchin and Marion Stafford

Show Manager and Assistant Show Manager

## BCSA Status Movement System – Summary of Results for 2010

Exhibitor	Status	Points Awarded
Sue Adams	Open	30
Laurie Barber	Novice	5
Graham Bell	Open	10
Brodhi Carracher	Novice	5
T&L Cripps	Open	5
Geoff Edwards	Open	10
L&H Edwards	Open	5
Stepehen Elliott	Open	20
Graham Evans	Open	10
Peter Glassenbury	Open	20
Tracey Haskell	Novice	5
Holmes Family	Intermediate	20
G&B Jones	Novice	5
Kakoschke & Rice	Open	185
Olivia Kernot	Novice	5
D&R Lang	Open	30
Dennis Lomman	Open	10
Marshall Family	Open	20
Mulley & Stafford	Open	15
Neville Richardson	Intermediate	5
Peter Simic	Open	55
R&D Simpson	Novice	20
Ray Slade	Novice	25
Ashley Smith	Open	5
Kevin Smith	Open	15
Frank Tilley	Intermediate	10
Nigel Tonkin	Open	25
Diana Trevarthen	Open	5
J&W Weidenhofer	Open	50

Congratulations to Ray Slade who is the first exhibitor to be advanced to the next status under the new BCSA Status Movement System. Ray has been advanced from Novice to Intermediate effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

Further details are available on the BCSA website at <u>www.bcsa.com.au</u>. Details include at which show the points were awarded and for which birds.

#### NEW DEFINITION OF A YOUNG BIRD FROM BCSA

A Young Bird now covers two ring issue periods:

- 2010 blue rung budgerigars are young birds until December 31, 2011
  - Shown at national level (Canberra) in May 2011
- 2011 purple rung budgerigars are young birds until December 31, 2012
  - Shown at national level (Geelong) in May 2012
- 2012 gold rung budgerigars are young birds until December 31, 2013
  - Shown at national level (Towoomba) in June 2013
- 2013 green rung budgerigars are young birds until December 31, 2014

• Shown at national level (Adelaide) in June 2014

• And so on.....

This falls into line with definitions adopted interstate.

### FOR BEGINNERS AND NOVICES CONTEMPLATING A SERIOUS APPROACH TO THE ART OF BREEDING AND EXHIBITING THE MODERN SHOW BUDGERIGAR

As a youth I was a keen follower of the Art of Pugilism. My father ran a racing dog kennel and was also much involved in the horse racing scene (ran an illegal book). One of the craftsmen I worked under grew magnificent blooms for exhibition and another field of expertise was vegetables which were shown at all the local fairs. Now you ask "What has this got to do with budgerigars?" Just this, they are all covered by the same age old adage and I quote "Everything else equal, a good biggin will always be a good littlin".

Now before you run foul of your beloved partner or contemplate spending part of the kid's inheritance, I suggest you make a \$1.50 investment that may well save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars, depending on the depth of your pocket. Go to your local supermarket and purchase a cheap standard bucket, take it home, put it on the table, find a bottle of your favourite tipple and a glass and while you sip away

study that bucket until it is imprinted on your mind; because my friend, the height of that bucket is the length of the `Ideal Budgerigar' as formulated in the revised edition of the Australian National Budgerigar Council Standard in 2003, that is to say 240 millimetres. Bear in mind that allowing a couple of years in the preparation of this revision its concept was almost a decade ago.

Unlike most other forms of livestock, where the standard has remained unaltered, often for more than 100 years, the 'Ideal Budgerigar' has, since 1935, changed always in favour of a larger more powerful bird six times (approximately ever twelve years). Are we about due for another alteration or will sanity prevail at last?

We are already seeing super birds well in excess of 240 millimetres yet still in proportion to the 'Ideal'. Size is paramount. A good judge will first stand back from his class a distance of 2 metres, as required by the National Championship, and the first thing that will catch his eye is size.

Now go and fetch your edition of `The Standard'! What's that you say: "You don't have one and don't intend to obtain one". Well that is fine, purchase a collection of coloured birds, let them breed at will in an aviary, enjoy the spectacle and sell the offspring on the pet market; or maybe join the local rose society or keep white mice because as long as your bum points to the ground you will never succeed as a serious exhibitor.

Those of you who are still with me please turn to Page 19! Unlike the super three quarter view, artist impression, on the facing page, this diagram is drawn to scale and is not full size, never the less, it is perfect to illustrate the following points.

Take a ruler and draw a straight line from the eye to the tip of the tail, whether by accident or as I prefer to believe, by design, this when placed at 30 degrees to the vertical intersects that line putting the weight of the bird directly over the perch.

Note: the mark illustrating the crown is not the true vertical point - this is in fact 7 millimetres towards the left. Now on this 30 degree line is where you build your ideal image. Too much weight forward will pull your bird out of 30 degrees giving the impression of slumping. In this position it will be restless and unsteady on the perch. Not enough weight will give you a tubular effect – these birds often have over length tails and tend to stand too upright.

On the subject of tails these are 35% of the length of the bird - to the layman, like you and me, approximately a little over 1/3 below the perch. Now the head of your bird, to be a champion, would be about level with the back point of the ceiling of the standard show cage and the tail about 10/15mil from the floor.

Take another drink and stare at the bucket because this bird should give the impression of filling the cage!

To familiarise yourself it is necessary to attend some major shows, ideally the Nationals Championships, and get a fixed impression in your minds eye of Champion birds. Without this you will stumble along from one mistake to another.

Don't rush and try to buy a Champion because it is not for sale. Beware of auctions usually someone else wants the best bird as well and testosterone, being what it is, you will end up paying three times it worth. The sensible thing to do is observe, who over the years, is consistently at the top end of the show, not a once off flash in the pan, and approach this person and try to buy direct. Most top breeders are very reputable and once convinced of your sincerity will almost certainly be only too happy to help at sensible prices.

I also advise that you, at this point in the hobby, stay with the strong varieties - Normals; Cinnamons; Opalines and Spangles. Try to avoid things that spoil the outline. The wings should appear mean and meet on the cushion ie rump, long heavy flights are bad news; even worse are secondary feathers that stand up giving a `shark' in appearance; also flights standing up on the body line – this I call the `Sydney Opera House' effect, often accompanied by a drooping tail.

Many good birds are spoilt by the lack of backskull'. Good width of shoulder and a bull neck will support a large mask and dispense with that terrible keyhole effect so often seen in yesterday's bird. Our modern bird has a large face, rising high above the cere, and also curving downwards from the same point giving it the buffalo look. Some splendid examples of these features can be found in European magazines or sourced on the Internet.

Also try to avoid the trap of jumping into the lesser varieties. I use the word `lesser' hoping that you will never do so - it is demeaning and a disgrace when used to describe any variety of Budgerigars.

Rarer or to be precise harder is a far better description.

At this point of your venture into the hobby I have refrained from touching on the subjects of Recessives; Sex Linkage; Partial Dominance; Color Intensity Modifiers; Chromosomes; Genes etc. Many successful breeders, after years in the hobby, still only have a scant knowledge of these.

Learn the basic things first then most certainly take on a more scientific approach each according to the extent of his own enquiring mind. Besides there are far better sources of information available in book form than anything I can produce. That's all for now; put away the bottle and glass but leave the bucket.

All the best Cec Gearing.

#### THE DARK FACTOR

The two commonly recognised baseline colours are light green and sky blue. The other two baseline colours not so widely recognised as such are the Australian yellowfaced (goldenfaced) sky blue and the English creamface.

The first official report of a dark green came from France in 1915. But they had been present in wild exports to Europe at a frequency somewhere between 1/10,000 and 1/20,000. They must therefore have been present in nature long before 1915. The olive was seen in 1916 after two dark factor greens (or laurels as they were once referred to) were mated together.

Cobalt was reported from France in 1923. That was a natural progression from combining sky blue (established in Europe in 1910) with the dark factor. Mauve was seen in 1924, likely the result of inevitably pairing two cobalt blues together.

The expression of dark factor is additive:

GREEN SERIES		
No dark factor	Light green	
One dark factor	Dark green (laurel)	
Two dark factors	Olive	
BLUE SERIES AND THE TWO YELLOWFACED BLUE SERIES		
No dark factor	Sky blue	
One dark factor	Cobalt	
Two dark factors	Mauve	

Violet is inherited independently of the abovementioned dark factor gene locus. It too is a dark factor, but a different dark factor. Violet evolved in Australia sometime during the 1930's. Precisely when isn't clear – it was not initially distinguished from cobalt. It is a dominantly inherited colour intensity modifier superimposed upon the other colours, including those with the other dark factor. Notably, **visual violet is expressed only in combination with cobalt (one dark factor) in the blue series and the two yellowfaced blue series**. Apart from visual violet, the violet factor darkens light green, dark green (laurel), olive, sky blue and mauve.

The value of dark factor or violet is to enhance contrast between body colour and ground colour wing clarity in clearwings. It enhances colour in lutinos and blackeyed yellows. It provides desirable colour contrast in the two yellowfaced blue series. On the flipside, it adversely affects wing clarity in clearwings, suffusion in albinos not protected by the grey factor and clarity of ground colour in the body of clearbodies.

Despite the desirable variation in colour that dark factor and violet provides when expressed in many varieties, these colour modifiers are not seen as regularly on the show bench as light green and sky blue. Why is that, given that such birds would represent valuable outcrosses for varieties such as clearwings, greywings, lutinos and blackeyed yellows? Small numbers are indeed competitive with birds not carrying a dark factor but generally their head qualities in relation to body size deteriorate proportionally with the number of dark factors (including violet) carried by the bird. That accounts for why we don't see so many on the show bench, particularly at higher levels of exhibition where the competition is serious.

John Mulley

## Have You Got The Knack?

by Terry A Tuxford

"Breeding budgerigars is easy!" However, breeding good'uns is a different story all together. Put in context – any one can put a cock and hen into a breeding situation and produce chicks, and lots of them. The important factor, not necessarily linked to quantity, is whether any of them are of sufficient quality to a) do well on the show bench and b) take the fanciers stud forward onto the next stage of development.

Many fanciers, and we are no different, find themselves regularly breeding with three or four year old birds because they have not bred anything better in the intervening years. Alternatively, they have not had the courage to work with the youngsters produced from the good-looking parents because they have not shown visual improvements over their parents.

It has been said by innumerable breeders on more times than I would care to count that the best chicks come from the lesser brothers and sisters. If this were true it would then follow that the disappointing youngsters from the visually appealing parents have the same potential. What we are suggesting is that the quality is there, it is just genetically hidden from us. The logic then follows, that if this is true, the features that we as fanciers categorise as quality are recessive and it takes two doses of them to make them visible – something I doubt as both parents can possess features which are not passed on to their offspring. Alternatively, they could be dominant but need to be in a double-factor form to be seen – I think we can also rule this out, as we would all be able to control our results almost totally. So what is the solution to this mystery – answers on a post card please!

## **Consistent Winners**

If you look at the exhibition side of the hobby over the years you will see that certain fanciers are consistent winners, a few are occasional winners and the rest, the majority, make up the numbers. Amongst the successful fanciers there are breeders and the buyers. While both categories seek to purchase birds, the breeders tend to look for features that they can inject into their lines. Whereas the buyers do not usually have lines and look to buy near complete birds – satisfied with a quick win, offering a number of years advertising potential.

The breeders that I have greatest admiration for are those that can produce winners year in and year out, and even after major setbacks or a few lean years can come back in at the top. They not only keep up but they stay ahead. It would be unfair to name names but I am sure you know who these people are in each of the countries around the world where budgerigars are exhibited. They seem to have the knack to predict the outcome of specific pairings. Knowing your own birds is a great help but I am sure that there is a kind of sixth sense that comes into play. An example of this comes from birds we sold a few years ago. They had several generations of our breeding in them and the buyer bought this particular pair because they appealed to him. They were related but not closely. The result was a CC winning Opaline Light Green and others that featured highly in the section run-down. Why did we sell those birds you may ask? I only wish I knew!



100 Penola Road Mount Gambier SA 5290 AUSTRALIA

Telephone +61 (0)8 8725 4229 Facsimile +61 (0)8 8723 2155 www.bcsa.com.au

PRESIDENT Nigel Tonkin president@bcsa.com.au

SECRETARY Nigel Tonkin secretary@bcsa.com.au 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011

To all Secretaries,

The following needs to be highlighted to all members:

- That by no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of March all affiliation / memberships / ring orders should be with Doreece Brunton for 2012
- Unbroken Cap / Nest Feather sections of shows are able to have two rings – that is the previous and current and from the one breeder only
- An open breeder is entitled to be called a Champion breeder for the ensuing year provided they accumulate a total of 85 points in the previous showing year – this will commence and be worked out at the completion of the next years showing season. Note there is to be no Champion section at shows nor trophies – this is recognition gaining the above points. Potentially a Certificate will be issued by the BCSA.
- A Diploma for the highest point scorer will be awarded by the BCSA in each status annually this will commence and be worked out at the completion of the next years showing season.

A comment re Exhibitor Points – could all clubs print the names of all exhibitors that gained points last year (and where) in their magazines noting that not all have computers / access to the www.

Kindest regards

Nigel Tonkin