



Budgie Bulletin



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022-2023

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NORTH EAST B.S. NEWSLETTER

Issued quarterly for the members.

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 January 1st, 2024.

(Also applies to new members who join after October 1st, 2023, who will be financial for 2024)

SINGLE \$20.00, DOUBLE \$30 (Single fee plus 50%)

FAMILY Single fee (\$20.00) plus 50% single fee for each person over 18 years of age
Under 18 years – no charge in family situation

JUNIOR \$13 (65% normal fee)

PENSIONER Single \$16, Double \$24 (Both 80% of normal fee)

PARTNERSHIP \$15 per person (75% of normal single fee)

**For electronic transfer of membership fees use your name as the reference, and Bank SA BSB
105-146, Account number 547328040.**

BCSA Membership fee: \$15 per person

Members must be financial with North East Budgerigar Society and BCSA to purchase 2023 rings.

**Club meets at Kilburn Hall at 49 Le Hunte St, Kilburn, at 7.30pm on the second
Wednesday of every month except December.**

Website: <https://www.northeastbudgerigarsociety.com>

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Editorial

EDITORIAL: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

An alternative plan would be welcome, but there must be a plan in place by April 12 to determine if it is feasible for NEBS to order rings for 2024 and continue as a club.

The Committee hereby gives notice to the membership of an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on April 12 to coincide with the April monthly General Meeting. **Purpose:** To lock in firm nominations by April 12 for vacated Committee positions in advance of the August 2023 AGM to enable NEBS to commit to ordering 2024 rings. The club has been drifting without a full Committee since 2017-18 with some on the Committee covering more than one constitutionally defined Committee position. Monthly meetings are now attended primarily by Committee members, so we are keeping the club going just for ourselves. Too few members are supporting shows with more buying rings for not showing than there are buying rings for showing.

Positions that need advance nominations:

- NEBS Secretary or NEBS Show Manager: Requires two nominations. John Mulley can commit to one of these roles but no longer to both positions beyond the AGM on August 9, 2023. Nominations for both positions would be welcome.
- Ring Officer to take effect from the date of the AGM on August 9, 2023.
- Two vacant Committee member positions. New faces are needed on the Committee to reinvigorate the club with attendance at meetings now routinely less than 10 members comprised mainly of long-term Committee members.
- **Failure to receive the above advance nominations means that the current Committee will be responsible for winding up the club and distributing assets after honouring the availability of 2023 rings until the end of 2023 via a Supplementary ring order if required. The motion will read "That the North East Budgerigar Society be wound up with effect from December 31, 2023."**
- The timings set out above enable members to make alternative arrangements for sourcing their 2024 rings if the required advance Committee nominations are not received at the April 12 Extraordinary General Meeting. (The South Australian 2024 ring orders are due with the Belgian ring maker by August 31, 2023).

To summarise, there are three problems:

1. Failure to fill Committee positions for management of the club

Members should note that situations like the above are also expected to occur over the next several years. Current Committee members of very long standing simply cannot keep going forever. Over the next several years the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary (or Show Manager) will become vacant.

2. Failure to attract members to face-to-face meetings

3. Failure of members to support club shows

If Committee positions can be filled, then the next challenges will be getting members back to meetings and back to exhibiting budgerigars at our shows.

Background

Magazine editorials dated February 2019 and December 2019 warned that members were required to nominate for Committee positions for the club to remain viable. Some positions have been vacant since 2017-18. A magazine editorial dated June 2021 was the final warning that the club will fold if we cannot fill the Committee. These editorials, plus warnings from the Patron at each AGM where positions have not been filled have failed to resolve the problem. The first meeting back from the Covid interruption attracted 40 members and socially it was a great night. That rapidly dropped off to consistent attendance of less than 10 members mostly

from the Committee. It is not practical to organise external speakers for presentations to so few attendees when our professionally presented topics have failed to attract members to the meetings. Monthly meetings and monthly Committee meetings have consistently failed to reach a quorum.

Only three members exhibited for NEBS at the 2022 UBC Interclub Challenge. The last Breeder Show did not reach the number of entries to qualify as a status moving show. Status moving shows need to attract sufficient exhibitors whose primary club affiliation is with NEBS. Entries from breeders whose primary affiliation is with other clubs are a very welcome bonus to increase the size of the shows, but core entries are required from exhibitors whose primary club affiliation is with NEBS.

There were 54 NEBS members in 2022

- Some members do not live in Adelaide, so are not able to attend meetings.
- Some members have their primary affiliation with other clubs so are not available as potential NEBS Committee members.
- Some members are no longer actively breeding.
- Some members are only interested in sourcing rings to manage pedigrees.
- Not enough of our members who breed exhibition budgerigars support our shows.
- Social media has become a substitute for socialising at face-to-face meetings.
- The internet and social media have become a substitute for accessing information.
- Cost of exhibition quality budgerigars is not helping, both for existing breeders requiring outcrosses and for attracting new members who need stock to start up.

Rings were purchased by 25 members or partnerships (comprising 30 members in total) during 2022. There remains interest in breeding budgerigars as a hobby within the club, but not much interest in managing the club or supporting club activities beyond sourcing rings.

Changes since 2017-18

The Trading Table has been downgraded and managed by the Treasurer. However, the Committee has now decided to cease providing this service due to lack of utilisation by members. Thus, negating the need to fill the vacant position of Trading Table Officer.

Magazine content has been absorbed by the Secretary and the publication frequency has been reduced from every two months to quarterly.

Show organisation, setup and electronics has been absorbed by the Secretary.

Ordinary Committee positions have been vacant for some years reducing the pool for the advancement of new ideas and providing varied entertainment at meetings.

For Information:

Secretary role in association with the Assistant Secretary: Responsible for correspondence, hall bookings, Agendas for General Meetings, Committee Meetings and AGM and their subsequent minutes, the electronic member database to manage the magazine dispersal, magazine content unless another Committee member comes forward for that, magazine distribution, act as the Public Officer.

Show Manager role in association with the Assistant Show Manager: Compiling show schedules, organising judges and trophies, receiving show entries, electronic show setup, distributing show cage stickers, staging plan, running the electronics at the show, managing night shows.

Ring Officer role: Assemble and submit ring orders, distribute rings, maintain ring register.

Committee positions: Contribute to club activities such as ideas, entertainment, organising supper, running raffles and social media.

*******NOTICE TO MEMBERS*******

**As of the April 2018 Meeting
The start time for the meeting will be 7.30pm.
The day will still be the second Wednesday of the month.**

DID YOU KNOW?

**YOU CAN SELL BIRDS AT ANY CLUB MEETING
PUT A PRICE ON THE CAGE WITH RING NUMBER, YEAR AND SEX
IF THE BIRD SELLS, THEN DONATE \$2 TO THE CLUB**

2023 RINGS

2023 Ring Issue

NE coded club rings for 2023 (Blue) are available for purchase at 50 cents each in multiples of ten.

To ensure that you have all the rings that you are likely to need for the breeding season, you should purchase all your 2023 rings **now**. If you get halfway through the breeding season and find that you are going to need additional rings, then you may find yourself having to ask other members if they have any spares that can be transferred to you.

A supplementary ring order for 2023 rings can be made in June, however the club will only order rings for those members who have requested them.

Dennis Lomman
Ring Officer
March 2023

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- ▶ Wood shavings
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- ▶ Medications
- ▶ Paswell products
- ▶ Kitty litter
- ▶ Dry dog food
- ▶ Hay bales
- ▶ Garden requirements
- ▶ Rat traps...and more!



UBSSA SUPPORTERS SCHEME

NEBS is affiliated with The United Bird Societies of South Australia Inc but are you aware that you as individual members can be UBSSA Supporters? For an annual subscription fee of \$15 from July 1 you can contribute to the operating costs of the UBSSA and give it strength through numbers. The UBSSA has an impact on government on matters related to bird keeping that affects all of us. The UBSSA motto is "Strength through Unity". Contact details are on their website www.unitedbirds.asn.au.



A further question and answer from the proceedings of the International Forum as part of the 2007 ANBC Show hosted in Adelaide by the BCSA with comment at the end on the context of the answer fast forwarded to 2022.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM

On the Tuesday evening (29th May) of the 2007 ANBC Nationals held in Adelaide South Australia, a very interesting forum was attended by about sixty fanciers.

The forum panel were Marcel Buhler from Switzerland: Ricky Watts from The United Kingdom: Warren Wilson from New South Wales: Alan Gamble from New Zealand: Ron Pearce from The United Kingdom.

Question: *A fancier from New South Wales: My question is, over the last eighteen months there has been no period at all where at least not 15% to 20% of my birds have been in a moult. Most of the birds have been in a big moult so is there some way I can get my birds started into a moult so they are through it by show season or is there any way I can have control of this at all?*

Alan Gamble: I think we are all taught we must get our birds through the moult as quickly as possible and sometimes we must artificially help them through it by either altering the temperature or spraying the birds. I have never had a continuous moult in my aviary, but I am fortunate as I come from a very cold place in the world. The birds have probably got to grow feathers to keep warm.

Rick Watts: This is a common thing in the UK. I often have different birds in a moult all year around. I have birds just coming through and suddenly there is a drop in temperature and the birds just go to pieces. I don't think the birds normally go through one single moult a year – they are in and out throughout the year and I think that is the modern-day budgie.

Ron Pearce: We don't hesitate in the UK to maybe four times a week give all our bird room a very fine spray. It can either be cold water or a little bit of F10. If you go around the breeding cages, you can spray the birds that are in the breeding cages, and you will find that just a very light spray will bring a bird through the moult as quick as anything.

Statement: *Brian Hollingsworth from South Queensland: This gentleman has a problem with moulting birds, and I think it could have been from the drought. There has never been feathers' dropping like this ever before, but it may be too that a lot of us are breeding all year round so the budgies are moulting all year round. Ages ago we all used to pair up on Anzac Day and now we pair up all year through, so I feel that is our big problem. We are disadvantaged in Queensland with the heat because sometimes in my outside aviary it can get up to 35 to 40 degrees and that is hot. I can remember buying a Pekinese dog in Melbourne several years ago and about eighteen months later it had hair on it like a fox terrier – because of the heat it had dropped its coat and I feel that is the problem with the birds.*

Peter Simic of South Australia added to Brian's statement stating he induced a moult every February/ March by putting them on a skinny diet of only French Millet. "That works for me, and they come through the moult fairly quickly and then I put them on a luxurious diet to bring them in".

Warren Wilson: My fellow guest speakers are a bit disadvantaged as they have different climatic conditions to us. But the vets will tell you that if you breed all year round like I have for many years, then the birds that are breeding will not go through the moult - it is very rare for breeding birds in their cabinets to moult – so if you have sixteen to twenty cabinets breeding then at some stage you are going to be putting about forty birds out into the flights that have not gone through a moult therefore they are out of sequence with your other birds.

So, you are going to have the situation that they are going to go through an artificial moult, and you look at your birds and think you have moulting already but it is only your breeding pairs. So, you have birds moulting week in and week out. In the old days with our little Aussie birds, used to always moult in April or October. In those days we all bred to the show season, and you had very few breeders who bred all year through. You go to most of the leading breeders in this country and about 70 to 80% of them, their cages are never empty. I go around writing articles and every single breeder we turned up at through New South Wales and elsewhere, every single one of them had birds up breeding. Not their full complement of course but they all had birds down breeding.

Editorial comment in the context of 2023:

A complicated topic that probably has different answers depending upon where one lives and whether one has air conditioning to allow breeding throughout the year. Where I live in the metropolitan area in the Adelaide Plains my birds always begin to moult from late March through April with a few weeks leeway either side depending upon weather conditions for that year. My aviary is not air conditioned, so I don't breed all year round and don't want to because both me and the birds need a break. I like to attempt to synchronise the moult across the aviary by drastically changing the seed mix for a few weeks from about the middle of March on a plan like that conveyed above by Peter Simic. Additionally, I like to present a "luxurious" diet from December through to February as a recovery strategy for birds that have been in breeding cages since about the end of July. Since I fly the new crop of young birds with their parents, I like to optimise their diet as well, during this early part of their growing period. Having been a SA bird carer at the national show over a period of two decades I can report that its not uncommon for some birds in the team to still be in the tail end of their moult at the end of May. They were all in optimal feather those few years when the nationals were held in June. Optimal feather condition is a key indicator for when they are in breeding condition.

Now for the second annual moult, where I live, around November and December. In many cases this is probably induced by moving birds out of breeding cages into the aviary. Birds not used in breeding cages might shed some feather upon arrival of warmer weather. Otherwise, it's the babies shedding nest feathers as they change into their adult plumage, and this extends into January for the late bred chicks. Fanciers who breed throughout the year will see an entirely different pattern. Fanciers living in the cooler Adelaide hills probably experience a different pattern to what I see on the Adelaide Plains. Distance from the coast and distance from Adelaide also come into play, and the traditional breeding patterns of the past are now being disrupted by more fanciers breeding all year round. And 2022, in my opinion, has been a very different year weatherwise.

John Mulley

NEBS CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

In addition to Life members already recognised, congratulations to the following members:

20 YEAR BADGES

Graeme Alchin, Vicki Sanford, Shiralee Reardon, John Farrugia-Gay, Sue and Colin Norris, Sue Adams

30 YEAR BADGE

Nigel Tonkin

40 YEAR PLAQUES

Ian Marshall, Malcolm Loveridge, Doug and Ruth Lange

Please inform the Secretary if anyone with continuous membership has been overlooked.

MAGAZINE

Next magazine for 2023 financial members will be issued in June

Fee structure as per page 2 of previous magazines

Bank SA BSB 105-146

Account number 547328 040

RINGS

Rings for 2023 available until the end of 2023

By-law 8(a)

Social Media Policy for The Australian National Budgerigar Council

1. Overview and Purpose

The Australian National Budgerigar Council will be recognized in this document as “The ANBC” Affiliated Zones will be recognized as “The Zones”.

The ANBC recognizes that there is a massive explosion and growth in Social Media. Indeed, in many cases it is becoming the prime means of communications for the Clubs and Members in the Zones. Social Media encompasses a broad range of online activities including but not restricted to:- Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Youtube, MySpace and many others not listed here. The ANBC recognizes the importance of social media as a powerful tool and recognizes the importance of Social Media in the growth of the ANBC, the Clubs and Members in Zones and throughout Australia and the World.

2. Scope

The Policy is guided by the principles set out in the “ANBC By-Law 1A” and must be read in conjunction with the other policies of “The ANBC”.

http://www.anbc.iinet.net.au/ANBC_New/ANBC_Show_Rules.htm

3. Policy Statement

“The ANBC” are committed to engaging in Social Media activity transparently, responsibly and with respect. The ANBC expects the same commitment from the Zones and any deviation from such commitments may be subject to disciplinary review or other appropriate action and will be deemed as “bringing the Hobby into disrepute”.

4. Your Conduct in Social Media Activity

It is important that the social media activity that the Zones engage in is in accordance with the aims of “The ANBC” – as laid out in the Constitution of the ANBC. The conduct of each Zone has the potential to harm our reputation and as such, you must be conscious of the behavior and wording used towards others and about issues pertaining to our hobby. The following are very relevant points –

- a. Ensure your Zone does not imply that it represents “The ANBC” or the other “Zones” in any of your Zones Official posts or comments “online”.
- b. Consider when posting content whether it may damage the reputation or future of “The ANBC” or other “Zones”.
- c. Act with Honesty and Integrity, in an ethical and professional manner and avoid conflicts with other “Zone” representatives.
- d. Be polite and avoid personal, professional or hostile communications or credibility attacks and keep your comments respectful, informative and certainly never condescending.

- e. Do not post images or content that are inappropriate, adverse or offensive or that discriminate, intimidate or harass or are otherwise demeaning, defamatory or disparaging about any person or indeed “The ANBC” or other “Zones”.
- f. Be sure to post accurate and truthful content and promptly correct any errors that you may inadvertently make.
- g. Do not deny or affirm rumours – the comment should always be “No Comment”
- h. Remember that online communications may be held in the same legal standards as traditional media communication.
- i. Remember content may be Global – Social Media is “omnipresent” and can be viewed anywhere in the world.
- j. Notify “The ANBC” via the Secretary if you witness any negative, disparaging or inaccurate content about “The ANBC” or any other “Zone” on any Social Media Platform.
- k. Use your best judgement as there may be consequences to what you publish. If something you wish to publish makes you uncomfortable – then rethink whether you should post it or not!
- l. Exercise sound judgement and common sense.

5 Promotion of Birds on Social Media

This component relates specifically to the Zone Selection Shows to select Representatives to be show at the ANBC National Show. None of the THREE birds selected in any of the classes or the RESERVE from any of the classes that have been selected to represent any of the “Zones” at the National Show are to be promoted or discussed in any post on any Website or Social Media page until AFTER the ANBC Show is concluded. Penalties for doing so may be applied – including disqualification of the promoted bird/birds or the Zones entire Team from being able to compete at the ANBC National Show⁵

6. Judges Code Regarding Young Bird State Championships and ANBC Show

If an ANBC Accredited Judge has been selected from a Zone to Judge at an ANBC Show they should exclude themselves from Social Media and Exhibition Budgerigar related Internet Activity for at least ONE MONTH prior to the ANBC Show. They are not permitted to attend the Zone Selections for that ANBC National Show nor be involved in ANY ASPECT of the Zone Selection Show to enable maintenance and integrity of the ANBC Show.

7. Compliance With This Policy

“The ANBC” will be monitoring Websites and Social Media going forward to monitor compliance in this policy.

8. Consequence of Breach

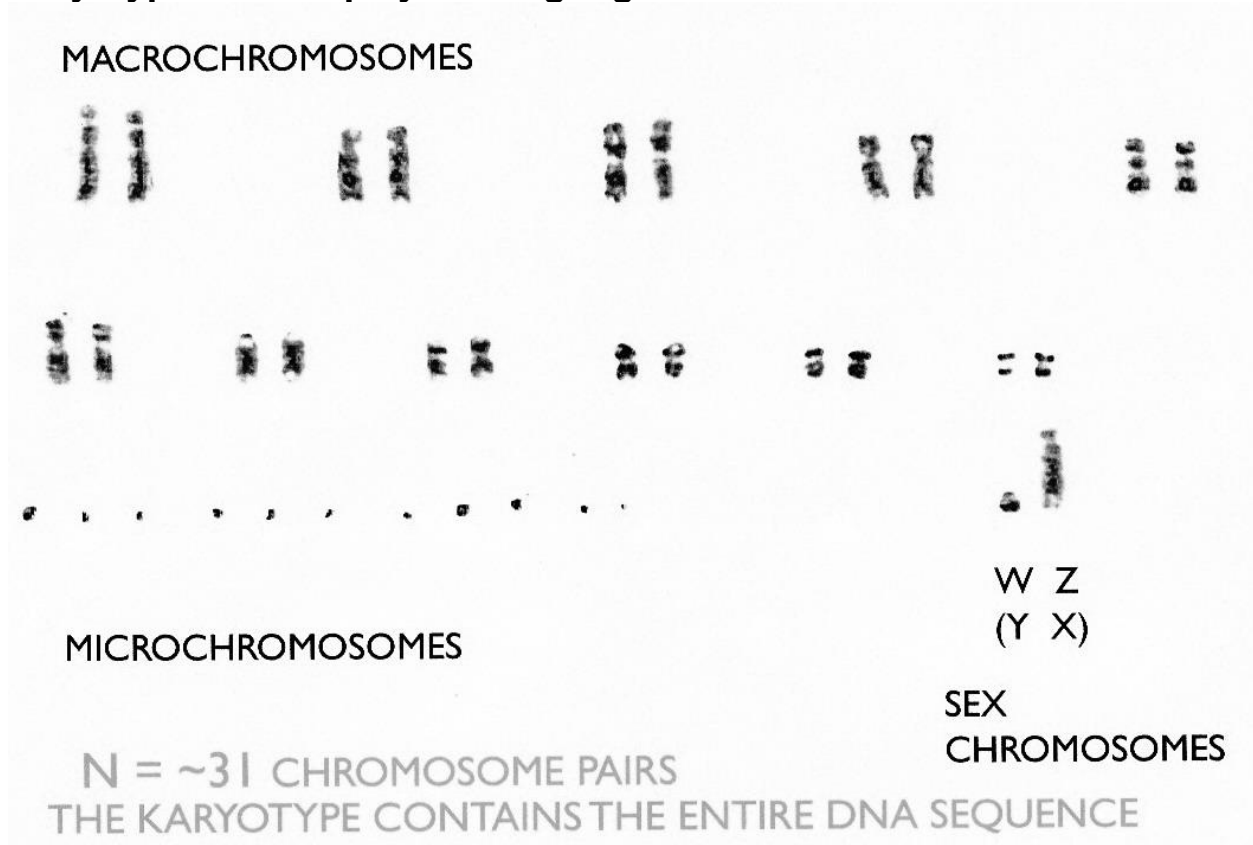
Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary or other appropriate action as noted in our “Constitution” – which could relate to or include fines, disciplinary actions or expulsion from “The ANBC”.

The Greywing-Clearwing-Dilute-Black Eyed Self Allelic Series, and their relationships to Darkwing and Rainbow

John Mulley, March 2023

If younger members are to be attracted to the hobby, then we need to use terminology they are familiar with from their school science classes. A basic genetic understanding is required for breeding animals and for budgerigars is fundamental for understanding the basis for Greywings, Clearwings, Dilutes, Black Eyed Selves, Darkwings and Rainbows.

Karyotype: The display of budgerigar chromosomes



Terminology:

Karyotype – Above is the karyotype from one of my budgerigars, a hen with the ZW sex chromosome complement. The karyotype is a display of the entire chromosome content found in the nucleus of each cell. It is derived by photographing the chromosomes from a single cell, cutting the chromosomes out manually or electronically, then pairing each chromosome with its homologue. There are about 31 paired chromosomes in budgerigars with the exact number difficult to determine since birds possess many micro chromosomes that are difficult to detect microscopically. The sex chromosomes in birds are designated Z and W, as opposed to X and Y in humans. The hen carries ZW and the cock ZZ; hence, only the cock can be split for the sex-linked mutations Cinnamonwing, Opaline, Red Eyed Self (Lutino and Albino), and Clearbody, all of which are located on the Z chromosome. The autosomes are the other chromosomes, and they carry mutations determining various other varieties. Chromosome 1 carries the mutations of the *MuPKS* gene affecting the amount and distribution of the yellow psittacofulvin pigment determining colour (colour being green-golden faced blue-yellow faced blue-white cap-blue).

Chromosome – The physical structures comprised of structural protein that support the DNA molecule comprising the genes. Chromosomes are paired so the entire chromosome complement (apart from the Z chromosome when present as a single copy in hens) carries two

alleles at each of approximately 20,000 genes which taken together comprises the budgerigar genome.

Gene – The basic unit of heredity comprising a defined region of the DNA sequence that encodes a corresponding protein via the intermediaries comprising the mRNA message and tRNA mediated amino acid assembly into protein.

Gene locus – The position within the DNA sequence where a particular gene resides.

Allele – An alternative form of a gene, present in pairs on homologous chromosomes. Allelic expression is subject to dominant or recessive transmission relative to its allelic partner located on the other the homologue.

Factors – These are alternative names for alleles as traditionally used by bird breeders. For example, mutant alleles at the three colour modifier genes are referred to as dark factor, violet factor, and grey factor.

Genome – The whole heritable DNA complement consisting of a single DNA molecule running the entire length of each chromosome. Since chromosomes are paired, the bird carries its genome in duplicate, apart from the sex-linked genes in hens.

Genotype – In a broad sense, refers to the genetic makeup of an organism – its complete set of genes. In a narrow sense, it can refer to the variant forms of an individual gene (alleles). Genotypes in combination with environmental conditions are associated with a corresponding phenotype.

Heterozygote – An individual with alternative genetic variants (alleles) at a given gene. Recessive alleles are hidden unless homozygous. Budgerigars carrying a hidden recessive mutant allele are heterozygous, traditionally described by budgerigar breeders as “splits”. A Normal split for Greywing, for example, is heterozygous for Greywing.

Homozygote – Presence of two identical alleles at a gene. In the case of homozygous mutations, either as identical independent mutations, or the same mutation identical by descent through inbreeding. For example, a Dilute is homozygous for the Dilute mutation, present in two doses, one located on each of the paired homologous chromosomes that carry the gene (except in hens with one Z chromosome which are designated as **Hemizygous** for alleles that are sex linked).

Phenotype – Visual appearance of an organism arising from the interaction of its genotype with environmental influences.

Genetic Linkage - Two genes are linked if their DNA sequences are close enough on the same chromosome to be inherited together more often than due to chance. That is, they are located close enough to distort their independent assortment. Independent assortment is described by Mendel's second law of inheritance.

Sex linkage – In budgerigars this is the inheritance of features determined by mutations on the Z chromosome. The genes which when mutated confer Cinnamonwing and Opaline are loosely linked on the Z chromosome. The Cinnamonwing and Red Eyed Self genes are very tightly linked ie their loci are very close to each other on the Z chromosome and almost always inherited together, as in Lacewings.

Autosomal – Inheritance of features determined by genes on chromosomes other than the sex chromosomes. The *MuPKS* gene that makes yellow pigment is located on chromosome 1. Since distortion of Mendel's second law of inheritance demonstrates linkage of the yellow pigment colour gene with Dark Factor, then the Dark Factor gene must also be on chromosome 1. The gene mutated to Grey Factor is very tightly linked to the gene mutated to German Fallow, but their assignment to a specific autosome remains unknown.

Genetic modifiers – DNA elements external to the coding DNA sequence that affect the expression of a gene and its associated phenotype, or other genes that affect various steps in a multistep biochemical pathway that slightly alters another genes' phenotype.

Multiple alleles – More than two alleles known for a gene in the population, but no more than two alleles possible for any gene in an individual.

Genetic heterogeneity – More than one gene responsible for the “same” phenotype, as in German, English, and Scottish Fallows caused by three different genes.

Dominance Relationships between the Normal, Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, Black Eyed Self allelic series:

Normal – Dominant to Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, and Black Eyed Self so can be split (heterozygous) for Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, and Black Eyed Self.

Greywing – Recessive to Normal, co-dominant with Clearwing, dominant to Dilute and Black Eyed Self

Clearwing – Recessive to Normal, co-dominant with Greywing, dominant to Dilute and Black Eyed Self

Dilute - Recessive to Normal, Greywing and Clearwing

Black Eyed Self - Recessive to Normal, Greywing and Clearwing

Black Eyed Self – Dilute Relationship - The same primary gene mutation is responsible for both, with continuity in degree of body colour suffusion theoretically from zero in the Black Eyed Self (yellow or white) to ~30% green or blue body colour suffusion in the Dilute, as determined by genetic modifiers.

[Darkwing – Incomplete dominance since the phenotype is different between the single factor and double factor forms, but Darkwing is a markings modifier not part of the Greywing-Clearwing-Dilute-Black Eyed Self allelic series].

The Greywing-Clearwing-Dilute-Black Eyed Self Allelic Mutations

Greywing, Clearwing, and Dilute are multiple allelic mutations of the same gene. No bird can carry more than two of these allelic combinations at once, as either homozygous or heterozygous genotypes. Black Eyed Self is a phenotypic variant of Dilute created by breeders selecting the Dilute for enhanced body colour, determined by selecting for genetic modifiers that improve colour. There is some phenotypic continuity among all four of these varieties, so the onus is on the judges to ensure fidelity with their variety descriptions given in the Standard when breeders stray from the ideal. Some degree of phenotypic continuity raises the possibility that that Clearwings and Greywings could have been derived from Dilute similarly to the directional selection that created the Black Eyed Selves but such gradual transformation has not been documented and awaits molecular analysis for resolution. Darkwing is not part of the Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, and Black Eyed Self set of multiple allelic mutations. Darkwing is a mutation in a separate gene with its phenotypic effect apparently seen only in Greywings, Clearwings, Dilutes, and Black Eyed Selves. The chromosome assignment is not known for either the gene responsible for the Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, and Black Eyed Self allelic series or the gene for Darkwing. The reader is referred to the Australian National Budgerigar Standard for detailed descriptions for each of these varieties in their range of colours.

Greywing: Greywing is dominant to Dilute so Greywings can be split (or heterozygous) for the Dilute allele. Dilutes bred out of a pair of Greywings split for Dilute are not Dilute Greywings. They are Dilutes. The intensity of the wing markings on Dilutes bred out of Greywings may be fainter than on Dilutes bred out of Normals split for Dilute due to genetic modifiers associated with optimising the mid-grey markings on Greywings. A fault with Greywings is smudged wing markings rather than clearly defined mid grey markings, though there are some Greywing families where markings are stronger than mid grey. Greywing body colour approaches full intensity. Greywing-Clearwing hybrids are referred to as Full Body Coloured Greywings due to body intensity stronger than Greywings and with grey wing markings; however, in my experience wing markings carried by the Full Body Coloured Greywing with a Clearwing parent tend to be smudged compared with the wing markings of the Greywing parent. The Greywing and Clearwing alleles are codominant because the hybrid has features of both parents. There are no exhibition benefits from crossing Greywings with Clearwings.

Clearwing: Clearwing is dominant to Dilute so Clearwing can be split (or heterozygous) for Dilute. Dilutes bred out of a pair of Clearwings split for Dilute are Dilutes, not Dilute Clearwings. Wings on Dilutes bred out of Clearwings are relatively clear compared with Dilutes bred out of Greywings and Normals, probably because of modifiers for clear wings selected in Clearwings. The common Clearwing fault is markings creeping into the wings, usually associated with visible spots and dark primary tail feathers. Clearwings with clear wings are now seen only in Australia since elsewhere breeders have concentrated on improving Type with heavily marked wings at the expense of Variety. Clearwing greens dominate Clearwing blues on the show bench since faint wing markings are easier to conceal on a background of yellow compared with a background of white. Faint spots are a fault associated with wing markings and need to be removed when preparing Clearwings for shows. We rarely see Clearwing Grey Greens and Clearwing Greys on the show bench probably because their darker tails are not compatible with the Standard. Dark factor is desirable to provide contrast between body colour and clear wings, and Violet factor has the same effect irrespective of a green or blue background. To conclude, it is easy to breed Clearwings with good Type and marked wings, easy to breed small Clearwings with excellent wing clarity, but it is extremely challenging to breed Clearwings with good Type with clear wings.

Rainbow: The Rainbow has Clearwing content and is perhaps the most beautiful of all budgerigar phenotypes surpassing even the Clearwing Violet when you breed one of those with pure white wings. The ideal Rainbow genotype is the combination of the Opaline, Clearwing, and Double Factor Golden Faced Blue mutations. Easier to breed next best are Single Factor Golden Faced, Yellow Faced and White Cap variations of the Opaline Clearwing Blues. Rainbows (except for the White Cap variant) need to be benched as Opalines in conventional show schedules due to the structure of the Matrix and therefore are not competitive on the show bench, with their Clearwing content. The White Cap variant needs to be benched in the White Cap class due to the structure of the Matrix. There is no reason why clubs can't promote the Rainbows as a separate class or a special case for inclusion in the Any Other Standard Variety class given its beauty and popularity.

Dilute: Dilute was the first mutation to be recognised in budgerigars and can occasionally be seen in wild flocks. It's a mutation reducing body colour down from Normal intensity, so Dilute is preferable to Suffused as a descriptor. Worldwide they have long been recognised as a strong exhibition variety. Exhibition standard Dilutes appeared in Australia out of splits among the English imports of the early 1990's and are now a separate exhibition class in Australian show schedules. They are recessive to Normal. Body structure is comparable to Normals, with which they are inter-crossed to maintain Type and vigour. Prior to the 1990's the exhibition form of the Dilute in Australia was restricted to the Black Eyed Self phenotype. The Dilute phenotype now described in the Australian Standard is the form present worldwide rather than the Black Eyed Self phenotype that is restricted to Australia and bred to a different Standard.

Black Eyed Self: The Black Eyed Self was imported from Europe in about 1900 after breeders had eliminated body colour suffusion from the Dilute by careful selection of genetic modifiers for purity of ground colour. It is a man-made variety with the yellow form best presented with dark factor to enhance colour. Quality of colour was maintained in Australia until a few decades ago. I had small Black Eyed Yellows without any trace of green suffusion back in the early 1990's and I am told large pure yellow Black Eyed Yellows existed prior to that. Breeders in their quest for improving feather and head qualities have subsequently made significant improvements in that direction, but at the expense of adding pale green or blue body colour suffusion moving them slightly back toward features described for Dilutes. Grey factor is necessary for minimising blue suffusion in Black Eyed Whites and was not a problem in Black Eyed Yellows when colour was superior to the modern exhibition Black Eyed Selfs. Overuse of grey factor in the modern exhibition Black Eyed Yellows temporarily destroyed their colour until the Standard was changed to allocate 40% for colour and absence of body colour suffusion to apply pressure to bring back

pure buttercup yellow and eliminate pale green suffusion and the dull mustard colour associated with grey factor. These mustard yellows are now correctly classified as Dilute Grey Greens. Australian breeders need to be careful to conserve the Black Eyed Selves since they have been lost everywhere else except in Australia. There may still be aviaries with true buttercup yellow Black Eyed Selves that we don't necessarily see on the show bench. Rarely do we see Black Eyed Whites on the show bench since body colour suffusion is easier to minimise on a yellow background compared with a white background. Faint spots are a fault straying from the ideal and need to be removed when preparing Black Eyed Selves for shows. Body colour suffusion and wing markings are minimised by breeding on a Cinnamonwing background. To summarise, its easy to breed good Type with body colour suffusion approaching that of the Dilute, easy to breed pure colour with small body structure, but nowadays extremely difficult to breed good Type with pure yellow or white colour despite that being achieved in the past when I am told that this variety use to win Grand Champion Awards.

Darkwing: The following summarises the content of a very informative article by Ken Yorke, since I have not bred Darkwings. Darkwing can be expressed as single or double factor. The markings are more intense on the double factor which is the preferred expression. Opaline and Cinnamonwing variations are allowed. Darkwing phenotypes are expressed in all members of the Greywing-Clearwing-Dilute-Black Eyed Self allelic series and although present in other varieties is masked with its effect not visible. The Darkwing mutation is not part of the multiple allelic series Greywing-Clearwing-Dilute-Black Eyed Self series since a budgerigar with their paired chromosomes can only carry two alleles at a gene locus. Therefore, the Darkwing mutation superimposed on a Clearwing for example, must be a mutation at a different gene. Darkwing Greywings with Darkwing superimposed upon Greywing have markings much darker than seen in non-Darkwing Greywings. Darkwing Clearwings have markings like those of Greywings. To avoid confusion, it would be preferable to breed exhibition Darkwings on a Dilute or Black Eyed Self background with Darkwing Dilutes likely to be of superior Type to Darkwing Black Eyed Selves. Breeders should avoid dark factor Dilutes to avoid confusing Darkwing Dilutes with Greywings. Since such Darkwings are composites rather than within the Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, Black Eyed Self allelic series then strictly speaking they should be referred to as Darkwing Dilutes and Darkwing Black Eyed Selves rather than Darkwings.

Distinction between Greywing, Clearwing, Dilute, Black Eyed Self, and Darkwing Dilutes and Darkwing Black Eyed Selves:

Demarcation needs to be recognised between Greywing and Clearwing, based on wing clarity and markings, and between Greywing, Dilute, and Black Eyed Self based on diminishing body colour and diminishing intensity of the cheek patch. Variation in the intensity of the cheek patch is crucial. Darkwing Dilutes and Darkwing Black Eyed Selves have blue or black tails with smokey black tail quills.

The following features characterise the key similarities and differences: **Greywing:** Body colour: Approaching full intensity; Wings: Mid-grey and clearly defined; Cheek patch: Violet or grey; Tail quill: Grey; Tail: Various. **Clearwing:** Body colour: Approaching full intensity; Wings: Pure ground colour; Cheek patch: Violet or grey; Tail quill: Neutral; Tail: Neutral with ground or body colour suffusion. **Dilute:** Body colour: Diluted by ~70%; Wings: Pale grey; Cheek patch: Pale blue to pale violet or pale grey; Tail quill: Neutral or pale grey to black; Tail: Various. **Black Eyed Self:** Body colour: Buttercup yellow or white; Wings: Faint markings; Cheek patch: White suffused pale violet or suffused pale grey; Tail quill: Neutral; Tail: Neutral with ground colour suffusion. **Darkwing Dilutes and Darkwing Black Eyed Selves:** Body colour: Yellow or white with various degrees of body colour suffusion. Wings: Marked; Cheek patch: Pale violet to pale grey; Tail quill: Smoky black; Tail: Blue or black.

Variety versus Type

Variety versus Type is a balancing act for Clearwings and Black Eyed Selves. There is a myth that the use of splits is necessary to maintain size in the recessive varieties. Provided enough of a given variety are bred and selection of the largest offspring provides enough parents to maintain numbers in the next generation, then splits are not necessary to maintain size. Size is a quantitative character determined by variation across multiple genes that exist across the genome of all varieties. However, splits are necessary to maintain size to counter the loss of vigour associated with inbreeding if only small numbers are bred and they are necessary to introduce a feature such as directional feather into a variety if there is not sufficient genetic variation present within the variety to achieve the desired phenotype by selective breeding.

There is, however, a cost associated with splits. The outcross can affect wing clarity in Clearwings and quality of body colour in Black Eyed Selves that requires careful selection in subsequent generations to restore wing clarity in Clearwings and body colour in Black Eyed Selves. The Standard allocates points for colour and markings as described by the three variety groupings aimed at maintaining an optimal balance between type and varietal features.



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Minutes of the Northeast Budgerigar Society General Meeting

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday January 11, 2023 at 7.30pm.

WELCOME: President Graeme Alchin opened the meeting. Door prize tickets distributed.

ENTERTAINMENT: Vicki Sanford on Golden Faced Blues and derivatives. Generated broad ranging discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 2022 night show winner of the \$30 cash award was Dennis Lomman. Jonathon Trubshaw has a dozen show cages to give away to a Novice.

RING OFFICER REPORT: 2023 rings have been distributed.

TREASURER REPORT: Funds in bank \$19,425.48. TRADING TABLE: Usual range.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM ANYONE: Jonathan Trubshaw presented various statistics associated with visits to the website. During 2022 there were 25-30 hits per months.

DOOR PRIZE WINNER: Michel Smith.

NIGHT SHOW RESULTS: Best Open: John Farrugia-Gay. Bird of the night: Golden Faced Blue: John Farrugia-Gay.

JUDGES COMMENTS: Best bird was a large greygreen. Cap was clean with modern features.

NEXT MEETING: Next General Meeting will be held on February 8, 2023. Entertainment will be the Rosella breeding program by Dennis Lomman. Bird of the Night will be Young Yellow Faced Blue.

REMINDERS: Nil.

MEETING CLOSED: 9.00pm.

Graeme Alchin, Chairperson

NIGHT SHOW AGGREGATE POINTS TO JANUARY 2023

	Points	Shows entered
Open		
John Farrugia-Gay	9	1
John Mulley	3	1

Highest aggregate points in each status each year will win \$30 cash. Eligibility: minimum of three night shows entered.

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St. Kilburn on Wednesday February 8, 2023 at 7.35pm.

WELCOME: President Graeme Alchin opened the meeting. 15 members present. Door prize tickets distributed.

APOLOGIES: Shiralee Reardon, Sue Adams, Lloyd and Helen Edwards, John Mulley.

ENTERTAINMENT: Dennis Lomman gave an informative general presentation on Rosellas and in particular breeding the Golden Mantle Eastern Rosellas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hard copy show schedules for the Recessive Variety Mini Show are on the table to take. Electronic copies were emailed out to members last week with the meeting reminder.

Continuous membership awards have been presented:

20 Year badges: Graeme Alchin, Vicki Sanford, Sue and Colin Norris, Shiralee Reardon, John Farrugia-Gay, Sue Adams

30 Year badge: Nigel Tonkin

40 Year plaques: Ian Marshall, Malcolm Loveridge, Doug and Ruth Lange

Please inform the Secretary if we missed anyone.

RING OFFICER REPORT: Plenty of 2023 rings available. Blue colour.

TREASURER REPORT: Funds in bank \$20,174.95.

TRADING TABLE: Items held are being reduced but some good buys still available.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM ANYONE: None

DOOR PRIZE WINNER: \$20.00 - Paul Schroeder \$10.00 - Ian Marshall

NIGHT SHOW RESULTS: No birds benched due to heat policy – forecast temp above 32.

NEXT MEETING: Next General Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 8, 2023. This will be the first of the two MiniShows for the year, based on recessive varieties.

REMINDERS: Don't forget to collect the show schedules.

MEETING CLOSED: 8.30pm

Graeme Alchin, Chairperson

THE NORTH EAST BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY HONOURS AND AWARDSIN THE BCSA ERA

NATIONAL CLASS WINNERS WHO REPRESENTED NEBS IN THE LOGAN SHIELD

1996	Helen Brooks	Fallow	Cairns
1997	Rob McKie	Opaline	Melbourne
2000	John Mulley	Opaline AOSV	Adelaide
2001	M & R Rafferty	Opaline AOSV	Freemantle
2002	S & C Norris	Dominant Pied	Hobart
2003	John Mulley	Blackeyed Self	Cairns
2007	Marshall Family	Albino	Adelaide
2009	Peter Glassenbury	Blackeyed Self	Burnie
2014	Dennis Lomman	Normal Violet	Adelaide
2014	Marshall Family	Recessive Pied	Adelaide
2014	D & R Lange	Crested	Adelaide
2018	Troy Holmes	Normal Grey Green	Penrith

NATIONAL JUDGING APPOINTMENTS WHILE A NEBS MEMBER

1994, Malcolm Loveridge, Perth.

1999, Shiralee Reardon, Gold Coast; 2000, Peter Glassenbury and Nigel Tonkin,

Adelaide; 2002, Malcolm Loveridge, Hobart, 2003, Peter Glassenbury, Cairns.

2007, Nigel Tonkin and Peter Glassenbury, Adelaide; 2008, Peter Glassenbury,

Busselton; 2010, Malcolm Loveridge, Rockhampton, 2012, Peter Glassenbury, Geelong.

2014, Nigel Tonkin, Adelaide, 2019, Peter Glassenbury, Brisbane, 2022 John Mulley, Victor Harbour

NATIONAL SHOW MANAGER WHILE A NEBS MEMBER

2000 & 2007, Bruce Stafford, Adelaide; 2010, Nigel Tonkin,

Rockhampton; 2014, Doug Lange, Adelaide

NEBS LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Lowe (dec); Bob Hancock (dec); Betty Fisher (dec); John Fisher (dec); Arthur Harvey (dec); Coral Harvey(dec); Julie Kakoschke; Kelwyn Kakoschke; Brian Marshall; Bette Marshall; Bruce Stafford; MarionStafford; Lloyd Edwards; John Mulley; Graham Bell; Helen Edwards; Lea Todd; Dennis Lomman

Please notify the Club Secretary if you know of any errors or omissions in the above