

North East Budgerigar Society  
Established 1974  
Inc.



**Budgie  
Bulletin**



<b>MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2011-2012</b>
---------------------------------------

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE No.</u>
PATRON	BILL DAVIS	N/A
PRESIDENT	LLOYD EDWARDS	8522 4317
VICE-PRESIDENT	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
		Mob 0409288710
SECRETARY	JOHN MULLEY	83310097
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	GRAHAM BELL	8251 0792
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 NORRIS	85246155
	GRAHAM BELL	83961552
	HELEN EDWARDS	8522 4317
* * * * *		
AUDITOR	BRIAN MARSHALL	82614377
BCSA COUNCILLORS	DENNIS LOMMAN	83448363
	PETER GLASSENBURY	8288 7102
	RAY SLADE	N/A



# 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% single fee for each person over 18 years of age.  
Under 18 years – no charge in family situation)

**JUNIOR \$9.75 (65% normal fee)**

**PENSIONER Single \$12.00 (80% normal fee) Double \$18.00**

**PARTNERSHIP \$11.25 per person (75% normal fee)**

**5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP 4 times the applicable membership fee.\***

**BCSA Membership fee: \$15.00 per person.**

Members must be financial with North East Budgerigar Society and BCSA to purchase 2010 rings.  
Please ensure that your membership card accompanies your order for rings.

*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](mailto:nebssa@gmail.com)**

### ADDRESSES: -

Secretary  
Mr John Mulley  
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FIRLE 5070  
(08) 83310097

Treasurer  
Mrs Vicki Sanford  
2 Baymor Crt  
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(08) 8263 7369

Ring Steward  
Mr Dennis Lomman  
10 Muriel St  
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(08) 8344 8363

## ***EDITORIAL***

Hi Everyone, I can't believe it is October already! Another year has gone past since I wrote my last editorial. By now you will be in the middle of your breeding season. I hope you are having better success than I am. My birds have had so many clear eggs it's not funny! How can you improve the quality of your birds if they won't breed for you? Hopefully by the time they get to a second round, they will be better. Unfortunately, I won't have any birds for the Unbroken Cap (Nest Feather) Show because I put them down too late, but hopefully some of you will have young ones. Good luck at the Show, perhaps next year will be my year.

The Club has just had a social day at Ray Slade's home at Clare. It was a lovely day and a beautiful drive through the country. We had a b-b-q lunch which was very tasty, with plenty of salads supplied by the attendees. Hopefully there are some photos of the event in this month's magazine. It was a very sunny day and some of us got sunburnt! Suggestion, with summer coming everyone should have a hat and sunscreen in their car. Don't know where next year's function will be held, but please come because it is a fantastic day and a great opportunity to check someone else's aviary.

Speaking of functions, as Treasurer I will be collecting the money for the Xmas Dinner over the next 2 Meetings. All monies must be to me by November as the boat operators need their money a month before hand. It should be a very enjoyable night. The cost is \$26 per person (Adults), \$24 p.p. (Pensioners) and children are \$20 each. This covers the cost of the cruise, main course and dessert. More details are further on in the magazine. Also don't forget the Xmas Raffle which has some very good prizes. All sold tickets and money will need to be to me by the Xmas Dinner to be in the draw.

Well enough chit chat. Don't forget the Xmas Dinner and Xmas Raffle money to me ASAP! See you at the Meeting.

Your fellow Northeast Member, Vicki.

# Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St., Kilburn on Wednesday **August 10, 2011**

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

APOLOGIES: Peter Glassenbury, Polly Heel

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

1. Clearwing Budgerigar Society of Australia Newsletter
2. Budgie Digest for May – June
3. August Newsletter from SA National Canary and Cagebirds Exhibition Committee
4. Thank you letter from the SA National Canary and Cagebirds Exhibition Committee for participating with our budgerigars and for use of the NEBS staging
5. Notification of fee increase for the hire of this hall
6. Southern Cagebird Society August Newsletter
7. Zoo Times

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

1. Response to Port Pirie Budgerigar Society regarding show dates

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

Due to WA being unable to host the 2012 National Canary and Cagebirds Exhibition SA has volunteered to do it again, after their efforts in 2011. Calling for nominations for judges and asking if they can again borrow our staging

TREASURER'S REPORT: Refer to AGM

RING STEWARD'S REPORT: 100 rings left. Gold rings due September 1. Contact Dennis if you need them before the September meeting.

LIBRARY REPORT: Good selection of DVDs available. 2011 Budgerigar World's now arriving..

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Good selection of specials available tonight.

NEW MEMBERS: Nil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. New syllabus for remainder of the year are available next to the attendance sheets
2. Show schedules and entry forms for the NEBS/BSSA interclub challenge to be held on Saturday October 29, are also available next to the attendance sheets
3. Show schedules for Clare, Kadina and Gawler available out the front

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Club BBQ at Claire. Details in club magazine. Sunday September 25. BYO chairs, salad and drinks. Club will also supply drinks. 17 names so far.
2. Club Christmas Twilight Cruise December 14. 33 names so far.

3. Twenty year continuous membership badge presented to Kate Davis.  
Congratulations Kate
4. Vetafarm awards (\$50 vouchers) for the aggregate show entries at our two annual shows: Ray Slade 55 entries; Dennis Lomman 48 entries; Peter Glassenbury 37 entries; Lloyd and Helen Edwards 32 entries
5. BCSA auction: Passed in bird of Ken Seagrott's available to any novice breeder in the club interested in using that bird for breeding. If there are more than one novice breeders who would like the bird, we will have a lucky draw.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THIS POINT

BCSA UPDATE: Next meeting this coming Friday

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Not yet filled.

SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Won by Andrew Stock

ENTERTAINMENT: Presentation of national winning birds by Ian Marshall

QUESTION AND ANSWER SEGMENT: Pass due to time

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Brian Johnson

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Murray Bray; Second: Kay Campbell; Third: Sue Adams

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

1. The idea of combining the Young Stock Show with the Fisher Annual Show on the same day was floated. Response was not favourable.
2. Special treat for supper tonight – cake supplied by Bette Marshall in honour of special milestone for Helen Edwards

#### REMINDERS:

1. Anyone who has not signed the attendance record as they came in, please sign
2. Pick up magazines out the front before you leave

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday September 14, 2011. MEETING CLOSED: 9.25pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

August 10, 2011

WELCOME: President Lloyd declared the meeting open at 8.12pm.

APOLOGIES: As per the General Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING: Nil. CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Thank you to everyone who supports the club meetings and other club activities. Thank you especially to those who show their birds at night shows, club shows and at higher levels. Show entries could be better but hopefully this will pick up. Good luck with your birds at the shows in 2012.

Lloyd Edwards, President

TREASURER'S REPORT: See August magazine for full details, and copies available at the door as you came in. Term Deposit \$19,000. Cheque Account \$2,762.47. Total funds \$21,762.47.

ALL POSITIONS DECLARED OPEN:

ELECTION OF PATRON: Bill Davis

Nominated by Bette Marshall. Seconded Helen Edwards. Unanimous.

Patron Bill then chaired elections of the Management Committee:

PRESIDENT: Lloyd Edwards

Nominated by Helen Edwards. Seconded John Mulley. Unanimous.

VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Glassenbury

Nominated by John Mulley. Seconded Helen Edwards. Unanimous.

SECRETARY: John Mulley.

Nominated by Lea Todd. Seconded Sue Norris. Unanimous.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Graham Bell.

Nominated by Kate Davis. Seconded John Mulley.

TREASURER: Vicki Sanford.

Nominated by Vicki Sanford. Seconded John Mulley. Unanimous.

SHOW MANAGER: Graham Alchin.

Nominated by John Mulley. Seconded Colin Norris. Unanimous.

ASSISTANT SHOW MANAGER: Marion Stafford.

Nominated by John Mulley. Seconded Bruce Stafford. Unanimous.

RING STEWARD: Dennis Lomman

Nominated by John Mulley. Seconded Colin Norris. Unanimous.

TRADING TABLE OFFICER: Colin Norris.

Nominated by Sue Norris. Seconded John Mulley. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE PERSONS (4 of): All elected unanimously.

Lea Todd. Nominated by Bruce Stafford. Seconded Marion Stafford.

Sue Norris. Nominated by Sue Norris. Seconded Colin Norris.

Helen Edwards. Nominated by Graham Bell. Seconded John Mulley.

Ray Slade. Nominated by Bruce Stafford. Seconded Sue Adams.

AUDITOR: Brian Marshall. Nominated Dennis Lomman. Seconded Marion Stafford.

Welcome to the new Management Committee.

Returned to August General Meeting, at 8.34pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President

## **Minutes of the North East Budgerigar Society General Meeting**

HELD: Kilburn Hall, 49 Le Hunte St., Kilburn on Wednesday **September 14, 2011**

WELCOME: President Lloyd Edwards declared the meeting open at 8.00pm.

APOLOGIES: Ray Slade, Alan Hughes, Ian Marshall

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Taken as read.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

6. Club BBQ at Claire. Details in last club magazine. Sunday September 25. BYO chairs, salad and drinks. Club will also supply drinks. 32 names so far.
7. Club Christmas Twilight Cruise December 14. 35 names so far.

8. Presentation of Vetafarm awards (\$50 vouchers) for the aggregate show entries at our two annual shows: Ray Slade 55 entries; Dennis Lomman 48 entries; Peter Glassenbury 37 entries; Lloyd and Helen Edwards 32 entries.

#### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

8. Southern Cagebird Society September Newsletter.
9. Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society September Newsletter.
10. BCSA seeking EOI from financial membership to supply up to 10 cages which will be refurbished at no cost for use at the 2014 national show here in Adelaide. Deadline for EOI December 31, 2011.
11. Notification from BCSA of a new paramyxovirus not previously reported in Australia affecting pigeons in various parts of Victoria with the potential to affect poultry.
12. Special issue of Newsletter from United Bird Societies of SA advising of the paramyxovirus outbreak in Victoria.
13. Fact Sheet from the Department of Primary Industries of Victoria regarding the paramyxovirus.
14. Biosecurity advice from Biosecurity SA regarding the pigeon paramyxovirus.
15. BRASEA Spring Bulletin and Auction catalogue.
16. Budgerigar World April 2011 edition.
17. Reminder from the zoo that it is time to renew our annual donation for our adopted budgerigar.

#### CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

2. Notification to members on email of the outbreak of paramyxovirus affecting Victorian pigeon flocks.
3. Notification to 37<sup>th</sup> National Canary and Cagebirds Exhibition of the willingness of NEBS to again lend their staging for their 2012 national show provided there are no clashes with dates arising between now and the show to be held June 7-12, 2012.

#### BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Paramyxovirus (equivalent to Newcastle disease if it gets into poultry, and not to be confused with bird flu) remains contained to pigeons and contained within Victoria at the present time.
2. Areas affected are in pigeons near Shepparton and in north-western suburbs of Melbourne.
3. Paramyxovirus strains are generally capable of affecting other bird species, including commercial and backyard poultry.
4. Clinical signs include high mortality, loss of appetite, lethargy, respiratory signs, regurgitation and diarrhoea and neurological signs such as head shaking.
5. Everyone is advised to avoid contact between our birds and wild birds.



6. Shall the Committee renew our annual support of our adopted budgerigar at the zoo? Cost \$70.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Term deposit \$19,000; cheque account \$3,205.47; Total \$22,205.47

RING STEWARD'S REPORT: New 2012 rings are now in stock.

LIBRARY REPORT: Many bird related DVDs available for hire.

TRADING TABLE REPORT: Magnifying glasses, glass jars, polo shirts, etc available.

NEW MEMBERS: Visitors Kate and Debbie Jackson welcomed to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4. New syllabus for remainder of the year is available next to the attendance sheets.
5. Show schedules and entry forms for the NEBS/BSSA interclub challenge to be held on Saturday October 29, are available next to the attendance sheets.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Nil.

BCSA UPDATE: Nil, next meeting in November.

LUCKY ENVELOPE: Brian Marshall.

SHOW CAGE ENVELOPE: Not filled yet.

ENTERTAINMENT: Australian yellowfaced blues by Vicki Sanford and John Mulley.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SEGMENT: Incorporated into entertainment.

JUDGES SUMMARY: Peter Glassenbury emphasised the need to have good normals to upgrade the lesser varieties.

Novice winners: Andrew and Lucy; Intermediate: Rick Lewis; Open: Dennis Lomman.

DOOR PRIZE: \$10 Trading Table voucher to Colin Norris.

NIGHT RAFFLE: First: Rick Lewis; Second: Rick Lewis who graciously said redraw, upon which Brian Marshall was drawn; Third: Libby Thomas.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Nil

REMINDERS:

3. Anyone who has not signed the attendance record as they came in, please sign
4. Anyone who missed picking up their magazines last month please pick up before you leave
5. EOI forms for making show cages available for the 2014 national are beside the attendance record as you came in

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday October 12, 2011. MEETING CLOSED: 9.15pm.

Lloyd Edwards, President

## **Congratulations**

**The North East Budgerigar Society congratulates the partnership of Kakoschke and Rice for admission to the Australian National Budgerigar Council Hall of Fame following their latest win at the National Championships held in Canberra during May. This was a remarkable achievement given that Kelwyn had previously earned that honour as an individual.**



## **Are You Prepared for the Breeding Season?** Dr Tony Gestier. BVSc. MACVSc. BMSc.

Breeding season is again just around the corner. You thought you could take a break after all your young were sold or paired up – not so! Preparation is the key to successful breeding, anything else is just a fluke.

In fact the preparation is not so onerous. If you follow a few simple rules, are aware of the common diseases in your birds and have some clue about boosting nutrition for breeding you will do well. Birds have evolved to breed young! We simply need to know how to get the best from them.

Let's start with the obvious. Go out into the aviary and make sure all the perches are nice and secure, and large enough to allow the birds to mate without doing a highwire dance. While you are there, check that the nest boxes/logs are hung so that the birds cannot get trapped behind them, you would be amazed how often this happens.

New pairs should be offered a choice of nest boxes or logs with sufficient height above the box to allow for courtship.

Before you walk out of the flight have a good look around for that stray piece of wire that can hook a leg ring. Many a good breeding bird has been lost for the want of a quick check for these little dangers. From there we move onto a few of the more technical issues.

**Psittacosis:** still the scourge of Australian parrots, but all aviary birds are susceptible. By now, you should have a good understanding of this disease, every bird veterinarian in the country has written or spoken about the disease, its symptoms and the best methods of treatment. In a well managed aviary, all birds will have been monitored, and treated if necessary, with **Psittavet**. Even a mild dose of psittacosis is enough to devastate a breeding season - don't run the risk and allow psittacosis to dictate your breeding results.

### **Trichomoniasis:**

**Trichomoniasis** (canker) – primarily in Budgies, but also common in canaries. You need to have treated your breeders about 3 – 5 weeks prior to pairing up. Treatment is with **Ronivet S** and is a simple in water administration for 7 days. If you are unsure about this particular disease in your aviary, you really should be talking to your avian veterinarian.

**Worms:** It always amazes me that, in these days of access to good medicines and information, how many birds die of worms. There are several wormers on the market, but be aware that some have a very narrow safety margin. Check with your avian veterinarian about which products suit your needs – the last thing you need are 200 dead finches because it got hot the day you put the wormer in the water! **Wormout Gel** has a wide margin of safety and can be used "in water" or as a "direct crop" administration. For cropping, dilute the **Wormout Gel** 1 part in 9 parts water, shake well, and then give 0.5 mL (half a mL) per 100 grams body weight. Make sure you always use the largest crop needle that comfortably fits the bird – this reduces the hazard of getting wormer down the windpipe.

**Nutrition:** For those breeders feeding a diet consisting of 80% or more Vetafarm pellets with some fruit, vegetables, read no further as your birds have all the nutrition they will

need. For seed based diets we need to add a little extra. Of course most people try to give their birds the best nutrition they can, but there are “tricks of the trade”. One of those is to boost the Linoleic Acid levels of the hen prior to breeding. This fatty acid is known to enhance egg size and egg numbers from otherwise healthy hens. There is of benefit where a hen lays 4 or more eggs in a clutch or multi clutches. **Breeding Aid**, contains a Fatty Acid blend of Linoleic and Linolenic acids, plus extra Vitamin E and is mixed with dry seed to boost the diet.

Calcium remains a critical breeding nutrient. Make sure the birds have access to several calcium sources. **Calcivet** and **D’Nutrical**, cuttlefish bone, oyster shell and cooked chicken bones can all be used to get that all important calcium into your hens. Do not rely on one calcium source; the best approach is to have several different sources available to the birds. By taking a little time to prepare for the season ahead you will be rewarded with more young on the perch – after all that is what bird breeding is all about.



**EARLY WARNING**

**CHRISTMAS DINNER MEETING  
AND DRAWING OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE  
DOLPHIN EXPLORER  
TWILIGHT DINNER CRUISE**

Two and a half hours

Queens Wharf, Port Adelaide

7.00pm for 7.30 cast off

Wednesday, December 14

30 positions initially booked

Cost: Adult \$26; Children \$20

Main course, dessert, unlimited coffee

Payments any time from now and required no later  
than November 9, at the General Meeting

## 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**

## NIGHT SHOWS SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2011

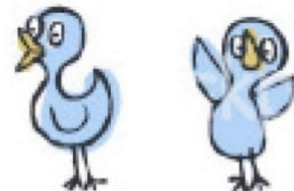
- Blue ring birds cease to be Young birds on September 1, 2011
- Unbroken caps will be judged separately and ring colour is immaterial
- Points will be accrued for Young birds (2011 and 2012 rings)
- Points will be accrued for unbroken caps
- Bird of the night will be chosen from unbroken caps
- Best bird of each status will be chosen from unbroken caps

Sponsors of the North East Budgerigar Society Raffle Table.....

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**MONTHLY MEETING - NIGHT SHOW**  
**POINTS AWARD 2011 as at September 30<sup>th</sup>**

<b><u>OPEN</u></b>	Dennis Lomman	29 points
	Mulley and Stafford	29 points
	Diana Trevarthen	6 points
<b><u>INTERMEDIATE</u></b>	Vicki Sanford	21 points
	Ray Slade	9 points
	Rick Lewis	17 points
<b><u>NOVICE</u></b>	Geoff Hay	14 points
	Andrew and Lucy	14 points
	Tim and Kaye	3 points

18 Birds were entered for the night show and Best Novice bird was won by Andrew and Lucy, Intermediate section was won by Rick Lewis and the Open section was won by Dennis Lomman. Congratulations to all these members and also to the other members who participated by bringing in birds on the night.

Everyone should be busy breeding birds by now and we hope they will be feathered in time for the Interclub Challenge with the B.S.S.A. This show will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2011. We need all our members to participate and bring your birds to this show. Entry forms are available from John Mulley or myself.

Bird of the night for tonight is **LUTINO AND ALBINO** and for **NOVEMBER** it will be **CLEARBODY AND BLACKEYED SELF**.

Members can bring in any variety of birds beside these, this will help to give their birds show training.

Marion Stafford  
Assistant Show Manager.

## 2011 CLUB DAY OUT

We travelled to Clare on a lovely sunny day on Sunday September 15, arriving around elevenish, to enjoy the hospitality of Ray and Jayne. We demolished a delightful BBQ lunch in front of Ray's aviary and then were entertained over the back paddock with some extraordinary aerobatics by Bruce's model glider. A few of us then retired to the lounge room to be entertained by a recently produced DVD describing the Molokentini stud in South Africa. All in all, we all enjoyed the day very much.



**Relaxing**



**Enjoying the Nice Weather**



**Talking about birds**

**Our thanks go to Ray  
Slade and family for  
hosting this day out.**



**Master Chef**



**The real brains of the operation**

# Budgerigar Society Of South Australia – Raffle

A Pair Of Quality Related Exhibition Budgerigars Bred and Donated  
To The B.S.S.A – By Stephen Elliott

Raffle drawn at the B.S.S.A Breeders Show May 2012

**Tickets \$10.00 Each – 100 Tickets Only – Be Quick.**

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# Mainly Dark Eyed Clears but also Dutch Dominant PIEDs, Continental Clearflights and Recessive PIEDs

by John Carter



*The following article is based on presentations that John Carter has made, on behalf of the Pied Budgerigar Society of Australasia (PBS), to Branches of the Budgerigar Society of NSW (BSNSW). John is a long-time supporter of the pied varieties in general. He is a member of the BSNSW's St George Branch, is currently the Secretary of the PBS and is a BSNSW judge. John can be contacted through his email address, johncarter@exemail.com.au*

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**Dark Eyed Clears (DECs) are on the comeback in Australia**, mainly due to the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) recognising them in the budgerigar Standard, albeit currently only in the Any Other Standard Variety (AOSV), along with Saddlebacks, Suffused Yellows/Whites and Darkwings.

This has meant that since 1 January 2004, there is now a standard for these beautiful birds, and we are seeing many more on the bench. Most annual shows in NSW will have at least a couple of DECs in their show; in fact, more than 20 Dark Eyed Clears were exhibited in a recent show of the Pied Budgerigar Society (PBS). It is rewarding to note that the number of fanciers who are breeding these beautiful birds is growing.

The PBS has encouraged breeders of Dark Eyed Clears to make their surplus DECs available to other clubs through auctions and, preferably, by donations to leading breeders of Recessive PIEDs. In fact, a yellow and a white DEC were recently donated by the PBS to the Budgerigar Society of Tasmania. They were placed on show at the recent Australian National Budgerigar Championships in Tasmania in their AOSV exhibition class. These DECs are currently being bred with some very good quality Recessive PIEDs and, hopefully, the Tasmanians will soon be exhibiting some quality DECs.

It is pleasing to note that some branches of the Budgerigar Society of NSW (BSNSW) and some specialist societies are setting up classes for

Dark Eyed Clears, outside of the AOSV class. This has contributed even more to the current, albeit still limited, success of this variety.

As a youngster I can remember seeing some DECs in England in the late 1950s, and even at that tender age I was interested in their unusual genetic make-up. Regrettably, I did not have the opportunity of keeping any until I again took up breeding (and showing) birds in Australia, when Dave Cook from Queensland gave me a Dark Eyed Clear cock and a Dutch Dominant Pied cock.

Although on the comeback, it must be said that the DEC is still one of the rarer varieties and still on the endangered list. As we all know, the budgerigar fraternity in Australia is a fickle lot; it is often difficult to foresee what varieties will be successful and what varieties will fade away into oblivion. For the DEC to be successful we need more people to breed and show the DEC. If this happened it would soon come off the endangered list.

One of the steps that the BSNSW could take to assist the DEC gain popularity is to support the recommendation that the Suffused Yellows/Whites are taken out of the AOSV class because there are so many quality birds of this variety. The DEC (Saddleback and Darkwing) are, at this stage, unable to compete against the Suffuseds.



## Breeding rarer varieties

I do believe that one of the main reasons why many breeders do not breed some of the rarer varieties is because there is not enough encouragement from the governing bodies. However, we are lucky as the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) and the BSNSW have both shown good and effective leadership in the case of the DEC; a leadership which I personally hope will be reflected, in the short-term, in DEC's being shown much more regularly at a Branch level and also hopefully will result in the DEC recognised as a full stand-alone variety at the interclub and national levels.

In my opinion, the DEC should immediately be recognised as an exhibition class in its own right at BSNSW shows. Local breeders should be encouraged to lobby the BSNSW for the DEC to be included in the NSW State Team Challenge Competition by 2012. This time frame would give all Branches an opportunity to establish their own stocks of this charming variety.

It serves no purpose if the DEC's have to compete in the same class as Suffused Yellows and Whites, as they normally will not be competitive against them. In fact, if you check the 2009 State Team Challenge Competition results for the AOSV, I think that the first 14 birds were suffused.

It is often difficult to know what encourages breeders to breed a particular variety and why, as so often happens, certain varieties fall out of favour. Reasons for varieties not maintaining their popularity include, amongst others, the emergence of new varieties, frustration because the quality of the variety does not improve at a

rate which is satisfactory to breeders, and the initial breeding stock is difficult to obtain and/or prohibitively expensive.

The DEC is often confused with the Inos and the Double Factor Spangles (DFS), as they do look similar. In fact, I have shown a collection consisting of a Yellow DEC, a Lutino and a Yellow DFS. However, the emergence of a new variety to compete with these varieties is currently most unlikely.

The other two factors, as mentioned above, should not be restrictive to breeding the DEC because good stock is readily available through the PBS, Branches of the BSNSW and at auctions (particularly the BRASEA auctions) at very reasonable prices. They can be quickly improved by using quality Recessive Pieds, amongst other matings.

## What is a Dark Eyed Clear?

I would encourage readers to look at DEC's in the Standard. All BSNSW Branches have some Standards for sale, or else you can view the Standard on the ANBC website ([http://www.anbc.iinet.net.au/c&s\\_the\\_standard.htm](http://www.anbc.iinet.net.au/c&s_the_standard.htm), p. 37).

Basically DEC's are pure yellow or white birds, and this ground colour (that is the yellow or white) should be free from any markings. They resemble Inos and Double Factor Spangles, except for the eye. Inos have a red eye with a white iris; Double Factor Spangles have a black eye with a white iris, whilst DEC's have a dark eye, but without an iris. In the adult DEC it is really a dark plum eye, similar to the eye of a Recessive Pied.



**Dark Eyed Clears**  
The photograph on the left shows the particular eye features of the variety.

*Photographs kindly provided by Ghalib Al-Nasser, UK.*



The DEC is a composite variety, as it is made up from two distinct types of peds (refer to later notes). Contrast this to the Double Factor Spangle and the Inos. The former has two factors for Spangle, which eliminates virtually all of the markings through suppression of the melanin. The Inos, which can come in all varieties (including the DEC), are the result of the suppression of virtually all markings through albinism.

### **Breeding Dark Eyed Clears**

The easiest way to breed Dark Eyed Clears is to start with a DEC and mate it to a Recessive Pied—theoretically you will get DEC's and Recessive Peds in a 50/50 ratio.

However, the genetic background of the DEC is quite involved and indeed it was poorly understood for many years. It is therefore really worthwhile discussing the history and background of the DEC's, going back to when they were first identified in Europe in the 1950s. In those days it was found that by breeding a Continental Clearflight with a Recessive Pied, the theoretical results were 50 per cent Continental Clearflights / Recessive Peds and 50 per cent Normals / Recessive Peds.

There is nothing particularly unusual about the above mating or the expectations. However, the early breeders found that when mating a Clearflight / Recessive Pied to a Recessive Pied, a certain percentage would be DEC. However, this is not a mating that we would generally use in Australia as theoretically only one in four of the progeny would be DEC's.

Theoretical expectations for a Clearflight (single factor) / Recessive Pied x Recessive Pied mating are: 25% Recessive Pied; 25% Normal / Recessive Pied; 25% Clearflighted (single factor) / Recessive Pied; and 25% Dark Eyed Clears.

The DEC's are not Recessive Peds in appearance, but are considered to be the Recessive Pied expression of the Continental Clearflight. You may wish to refer to Ghalib Al-Nasser's excellent article, which you can find on the Internet (<http://www.budgerigars.co.uk/rare/dec.html>). Ghalib, who has a profound knowledge of

Budgerigars, regards DEC's as really Clearflighted Recessive Peds.

I currently consider that this should be further amplified to include the Dutch Dominant Pied, because I believe that the genes for Clearflight (which are incredibly close to the genes for Dutch Dominant Peds) work in a similar manner when combined with Recessive Pied. However, whilst similar, in my opinion the gene for Dutch Dominant Pied and Dominant Clearflight are unique; hence the ANBC Standard recognises a standard for both of these varieties.

There are some knowledgeable breeders that maintain that the Dutch Dominant Pied and the Continental Clearflighted Pied are different phenotypes of the same genotype. At the time of writing, I do not subscribe to this opinion and even believe that our Dominant Clearflighted Pied in its purest form is different to the original Continental Clearflighted Pied.

Getting back to the easiest ways to breed DEC. Firstly DEC x DEC—if they are single factor Dark Eyed Clears, then one out of four would theoretically be a Recessive Pied, and the other three out of four birds would be DEC. Secondly, Recessive Pied x DEC would produce 50 per cent DEC's. Remember here that a DEC requires a dominant gene for Clearflight (or Dutch Dominant) and two Recessive Pied genes in order to express the Dark Eyed Clear variety.

I do not intend to discuss double factored DEC's or double factored Dominant Clearflights at this point of time. Perhaps I will discuss the double factor effect at a later date if there is sufficient interest.

### **Reverse engineering**

We are all familiar with this term—that is, taking a finished article and breaking it up into its component parts to see how the article was actually made.

If we did this with the DEC then you would expect to be able to identify what went into the DEC to make it what it is. If the genetic make-up is as we have been told (and discussed above), then you would expect to be able to 'reverse engineer' a DEC and isolate birds which are

Continental Clearflights, simply by mating a DEC to a Normal.

Although I have not done it often, on the few occasions that I have mated a DEC to a Normal, I have never produced a Continental Clearflight. However, I have produced Dutch Dominant Pies and Normals (naturally all are split for Recessive Pied).

Does this mean that the gene for Dutch Dominant Pied and Dominant Clearflighted Pied are different genes, but are acting in the same manner when combined with some Recessive Pied genes to produce the DEC?

There are many breeders that are much more knowledgeable than me, as far as budgerigar genetics are concerned. They consider that the Dutch Dominant Pies and the Continental Clearflights are different expressions of the same genetic make-up; that is, two different phenotypes but the same genotype—once described to me as the same gene but wearing two different overcoats!

As you would have gathered, I do not subscribe to this theory. I believe that while the genes are close, they are unique. Further, I have now reached the point that I do not believe that I have seen a genuine Continental Clearflight on the show bench in Australia, although I have seen many purporting to be such. Yet again this is a contentious issue!

What I do believe is that I have seen 'mongrel' birds purporting to be Clearflights that have some (most or even all) of the visual characteristics of the Dominant Clearflight (as called for in the Standard). However, genetically they are not the Continental Clearflights (Dominant Clearflights) as indicated in the Standard.

This comment should be seen and considered in a constructive light and I endorse the Pied Budgerigar Society's efforts to try and get more Clearflights on to the show bench. I also endorse their objective of trying to establish a line of genuine Clearflights which only carry a minimal burden of additional genetic baggage.

It now requires the ANBC (or the BSNSW) to establish the Dutch Dominant Pied and the Clearflighted Dominant Pied as a genuine invitational class at the National level (or at the

State Team Challenge Competition). They should be included, say, in a strict rotation with the other varieties that are being protected. What do you reckon?

Further, I subscribe to the theory that we have a Clearflight which is different to the Continental Clearflight because it normally has a dark tail and not a tail with ground colour. (Note that the Standard calls for the Dominant Clearflight's tail colour to be either yellow or white.) I recommend that birds exhibited in a Dominant Clearflight class that do not have at least one primary feather that is ground colour should be automatically 'wrong classed'. However, if they are wrong classed, then where would they be shown?

### **An Australian Clearflight**

For the sake of another name, I will call this Clearflight with a normal coloured tail an Australian Clearflight. But I really do have an aversion to birds being named after places or regions!

This so-called Australian Clearflight (if it really does exist) has all but been lost, mainly due to indiscriminate mating with the old winged Pied and other birds that fall into the category of the 'Variegated Pied'. The so-called Australian Clearflight birds that I have seen on the show bench have, in most cases, been birds without any intrusion of pied markings in the body. The ground colour of these birds often goes into the secondary as well as the primary flight feathers.

Currently some of the shows provide classes for Australian Dominant Pies, Clearflighted Pies, Variegated Pies, Recessive Pies and Dark Eyed Clears. But very few (if any) provide classes for the Dutch Dominant Pied, although it is a standard variety. Maybe we should ask ourselves the question, 'Why is this so?', as we do have many examples of quality Dutch Dominant Pies in NSW and very few Dominant Clearflighted Pies.

### **Confusion could be eliminated**

Many exhibitors are confused about the overall lack of direction with respect to the pied varieties in general. However, I do consider that the ANBC Standard is clear, concise and correct in its representations of the Pied varieties. It is the implementation that I believe is wanting. In

my opinion, our problem has been a failure of communicating and clearly interpreting the contents of the Standard.

In NSW I see the solution lying with the Branches and the specialist budgerigar clubs (the PBS included) to provide a little more leadership in this area. The more that club members know about all of the pied varieties, the higher the probability that some of the, for now, less popular pied varieties will be bred and shown.

### Showing your Pied Budgerigar

Through the Standard we are informed that a Pied Budgerigar is:

*One of a variety (or varieties) and colour described in the Standard which also displays areas of ground colour in place of body colour and/or markings.*

From this clear and concise starting point, we know what constitutes a pied bird. So if your bird is pied, then where is it shown?

Perhaps this is the right time and place to discuss the different classes of piers recognised in the ANBC Standard effective. Only three forms of pied Budgerigars (apart from DEC)s are recognised by the Standard. They are:

1. Australian Dominant	Not normally included in Branch show schedules.
2. Variegated Dominant	Normally included in Branch show schedules.
3. Recessive	Normally included in Branch show schedules.

I have noted that some exhibitors (and even show secretaries) get confused with the Australian Dominant Pied class. The Australian Dominant Pied is only for banded piers.

The Australian Dominant Pied class is normally only found at specialist variety shows. It caters for what some of the more senior breeders amongst us call the Australian Dominant Banded Pied. In my opinion the Banded Pied is the most beautiful of the pied varieties, and one that warrants significantly more support from the ANBC and Branches of the BSNSW.

There are still a few breeders successfully breeding this variety. They have had a degree of success in getting their birds to have well marked and well placed bands. These breeders should be shown every encouragement to continue breeding and showing this variety. I believe that clubs and Branches of the BSNSW should always include a class for the Australian Dominant Pied in their show schedules.

Note: If you have an Australian Dominant (Banded) Pied, and there is not a class for Banded Piers (that is, there is no class called Australian Dominant Pied in the show schedule), then your Banded Pied will be shown under the Variegated Pied class.

Earlier on, I complimented the authorities in the work that they have done with the Dark Eyed Clears. However, now I am laying a great deal of the blame for the demise of the beautiful Banded Pied in Australia on the same authorities. I do put the responsibility on the ANBC for the amalgamation of all Dominant Piers into one class for the National Championships. I admit, however, that I am not sure of all of the details leading to this decision. (Did the PBS protest this decision at any time?).

Many breeders believe that a very well marked Golden Face Violet Banded Pied (Australian Dominant Pied Violet + Australian Golden Face Double Factor) is one of the most striking examples of the budgerigar varieties around and well worth every protection that can be offered by all authorities and breeders. This variety is often seen by many overseas breeders as the 'flagship' variety of Budgerigar—an Australian bird—an Australian variety!

The class for Dominant Piers that you see at virtually all shows is the Variegated Dominant Pied. There are three standard recognised varieties that are shown under the classification of Variegated Dominant Pied. They are the Variegated Dominant Pied itself, the Dutch Dominant Pied and the Dominant Clearflighted Pied.

I have seen some superb examples of Variegated Dominant Piers. However, in my opinion this class, by being so expansive, not only allows all kinds of piers to be legitimately

shown but also, sadly, encourages the breeding of mongrel peds specifically to be shown in this class. Many breeders are taking a quality Normal Budgerigar and breeding it with a Variegated Pied, regardless of what the pied is masking, just because they are 'good Budgerigars'.

### A final word

For the purposes of this article, and in summary with respect to Dark Eyed Clears, I would like to see all Branches build up stocks of DEC's, with the assistance of their specialist Recessive Pied breeders. They should also support their members by ensuring that they include a class for DEC's in their annual and young bird shows.

I would also like members to ensure that their Branches lobby the BSNSW to recommend the inclusion of the DEC as a full variety in the State Team Challenge Competition as soon as is practical. Until such time, the DEC should be included as an exhibition class in its own right.

To improve the current quality of the DEC's, I would like to see Club/Branch members sharing stock (at minimal or no cost) with other members of their Club or Branch who undertake to breed and show this variety.

With respect to Dutch Dominant Peds and Dominant Clearflighted Peds, I would like to see the establishment of pure lines of both varieties which breed true to type and, as far as possible, to the Standard. This would then confirm whether the Dutch Dominant Pied and Continental Clearflighted Pied are different phenotypes of the same genotype or not.

Finally, I would like to see Branches and Clubs recognise these rarer pied varieties by putting on specific classes at their shows. They should also regularly update members on these varieties through specialist discussion groups at their meetings.

I note that there are some contentious comments in this article—these comments are mine alone. The Pied Budgerigar Society would welcome feedback from readers who wish to contribute to our understanding of the Pied varieties. Please address your comments through the editor of *Pied Piper*, the PBS magazine, at <mholyoak@optusnet.com.au>.

*Colour photographs of the various pied varieties can be found on either the BRASEA or the Pied Budgerigar Society of Australasia websites.*



## FIND THE 'LOST PIED VARIETY'!

The Pied Budgerigar Society of Australasia (PBS) is requesting budgerigar breeders, in general, to assist them in locating a 'lost pied' variety. This campaign is '*just a bit of fun*', intended to generate interest in the pied varieties and the Pied Budgerigar Society in general. However, it also has a serious side, as there is genuinely a lost pied variety of Budgerigar.

Details will be revealed at the All Pied Show, which will be held at the Revesby YMCA on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2010, in conjunction with a BRASEA auction.

Why not join in the fun now? Contribute your ideas with respect to the lost pied variety to The Editor at the PBS Editor, <mholyoak@optusnet.com.au>, and attend the PBS All Pied Show and find out whether you are a winner. Good luck!

**RESULTS OF THE BUDGERIGAR SECTION  
KADINA A H & F SHOW  
Held 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**95 birds benched**  
**Judge: Shiralee Reardon**

<b>Grand Champion:</b>	TREVOR RUSSELL
<b>Champion Opposite Sex:</b>	MALCOLM LOVERIDGE
<b>Reserve Champion Cock:</b>	TREVOR RUSSELL
<b>Reserve Champion Hen:</b>	BOB SIMPSON
<b>Best Intermediate:</b>	RAY SLADE
<b>Best Novice:</b>	BOB SIMPSON
<b>Best Young:</b>	MALCOLM LOVERIDGE
<b>Aggregate Points 2010/11:</b>	RAY SLADE

Thank you to the North East Budgerigar Society for your continued support.

Convenor

*M Loveridge*

Malcolm Loveridge