



CBSA NEWS

Autumn 2017



Clearwing Budgerigar Society of Australia Inc.

(CBSA)

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*Australia's
National
Clearwing
Newsletter*

CLEARWING

BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY of Australia Inc.

List of Office Bearers 2017

PATRON - "BRASEA"

**Honorary Members 2017 - Bruce & Nola Bradford, Jean Gorman
and Dr Ronald Harley Yardley & Mrs Helen Yardley**



President	Warren Wilson
Vice President	Terese Ryan
Secretary	Warren Wilson clearwing@brasea.com
Treasurer	David Wilson
Show Manager	Steve Wackwitz
Show Secretary	Markos Pangalos
Chief Steward	Geoff O'Connor
CBSA News Editor	Bobbie Budgie clearwing@brasea.com
Committee Position	Markos Pangalos - ACT
Committee Position	Steve Wackwitz - NSW
Committee Position	Barbara Wallis - NSW
Returning Officer	Bruce Bradford

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Web site : www.brasea.com/clearwing

**IN ADDITION TO THE CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME EACH YEAR
WE PLAN TO HAVE**

"CLEARWING"

**EVENTS IN EACH STATE OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
LAWN SHOWS, PICNICS, SALES DAYS, ETC, ETC
OR RUN ONE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANOTHER SUITABLE LOCAL
EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU CAN ASSIST**

All Articles and Photos are in full colour on the Web Pages

LATEST “CBSA” NEWS

Well we ran out of summer, so we are calling this issue the Autumn issue and hope as planned, to have the Winter issue out in Winter for a change it is a fair time since the festive season but we hope you all enjoyed the family and friends and are ready for another breeding and showing season with your **clearwings, blackeyes, dilutes and darkwings** in the main of course ... just to tidy up some details from 2016, the South Queensland Lawn show report and pictures have gone and we will have to just remember the day for those of us lucky enough to be at the July event last year – this year it is on July 15th and we will make sure we have a couple of photographers and we will try and develop a script on site to avoid the same fate as the last one – I can assure you the bird that won all of the relevant classes were great and if you live anywhere near the event in Brisbane you should attend. I will be there and no doubt get tasks to annoy as many as possible and influence the judge !!

Without any new or specific Clearwing Articles on our other varieties we are having to resort to older copy some may not have seen or read and for those that may have, we hope you have forgotten the punch line to each article – if you have a relevant article on our lot of varieties please send it in and we will try and include it – or just simply write something on how you breed your champs – there is no correct or right way to operate this hobby there is just your way and no one can say it is wrong – if by chance you are having difficulties in some area, we have very experienced members and someone will reply in the next issue of CBSA News, to any query you present us with, if close to deadline, then in the following issue .

We still have stocks of the Clearwing book from Malcolm Freemantle in UK at \$25 and the Rainbow and Goldenface book from Ken Gray at \$20 which included post in Australia.

There are also a few stickers left at \$10 each but not many blue clearwings .

AND you can direct deposit into the CBSA account at the Commonwealth Bank for memberships, books, whatever, BSB 062-217 Account # 1039 6088 ...

MEMBERSHIP RE-NEWAL TIME for July 2017 / to June 30 2018

we need your support to keep the CBSA in the forefront of everyone’s attention and keep the CBSA Challenge Competition alive and well

**We need your re-newal Please DO IT NOW no change to memberships
\$25 singles or families at the one address, \$ 12.50 Seniors over 60 & Students
\$15 if you want only emails including the CBSA News - half for seniors & students**

If anyone can assist the Society with the **donation of a bird** to be used as a **CBSA Fund Raiser** we would be pleased to hear from you – any variety bird is acceptable - if you have any other ideas let us know.

Remember that in both the Sydney and Brisbane Lawn Shows, the old fashioned or “heritage” variety of bird is what we are looking for in all our classes – clearwings, blackeye, dilute and darkwing – in Sydney we have a class for the “modern clearwing” which most of us dislike, but it is there for the bird with Exhibition style features of the ANBC standard, not necessarily the variety features of our standard which we like ..

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CLEARWING SOCIETY

COMING EVENTS AND AWARDS 2017



The following events are being held
for Clearwing Society Members
to take advantage of – please
try and support these events...

- May 25th** BRASEA Nth Qld Show / Central & Nth Qld Selection Show, North Queensland
- June 10th** **South Australia** Ron Normal Annual Show & BRASEA State Variety Awards / plus **Clearwing** and **Crest** Awards - Adelaide, SA
- June 11th** **BRASEA Auction – Bexley Sydney NSW**
- July 15th** South Queensland Lawn Show - BRASEA / Clearwing Awards / **Crest Awards** & RARES, Brisbane, Queensland / **South Queensland Clearwing Championships**
- July 16th** **BRASEA Auction Strathpine, Brisbane, Queensland**
- July 29th** BRASEA **Tasmanian** Award / Tasmanian Budgerigar Society – National Winter Presentation Show, Kensington Hall, Glenorchy, Tasmania
- October 1st** BRASEA **Western Australia** Show and Rares Awards / with **The Rare Budgerigar Club of W.A. Inc.** Perth WA / **WA Clearwing Society & Crest Club Awards**
- October 15th** **BRASEA Auction Bexley, Sydney, NSW**
- October 28th** Aviculture's Annual Social Night – Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia - Guest of Honour Dinner – Five Dock, Sydney
- bookings warren@brasea.com
- November 26th** Sydney Lawn Show / BRASEA, Clearwing Society, Pied, **Crest**, Rares, etc, St Ives, Sydney NSW / **NSW Clearwing Championships / NS**

SPACE for YOUR EVENT

ALL AWARDS ARE UPDATED ON THE NEW “BRASEA” SITE
UNDER “WHATS ON” www.brasea.com



CLEARWING CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE COMPETITION

THE RESULTS OF THE CHALLENGE AWARDS FOR 2016

2004 Winner Bob Levy WA 2005 Winners Barbara & Ted Wallis from NSW
 2006 and 2007 Winners Wilson & Hoadley Victoria
 2008 Winners The Wilson Family from NSW
 2009 Winners L & J Renn from NSW
 2010 Winner Cedric D'Costa from NSW
 2011 Winner Cedric D'Costa from NSW
 2012 Winner Geoff O'Connor from NSW
 2013 Winner Geoff O'Connor from NSW
 2014 Winner Cedric D'Costa from South Queensland
 2015 Winner Cedric D'Costa from South Queensland
 2016 Winner Cedric D'Costa from South Queensland

2017 Winner "It could be you" 1st - A Prize & \$250 Cash + 6 Runner Up State Awards

WINS RETURNED FOR 2016 as at December, 2016

If you have any query with your points total please contact us or your State Rep or clearwing@brasea.com

WA:	Betty Rea		Sth QLD:	B & G Henderson	1
	Mike Gearing			Johnson Family	1
	Wilma Bunter	5**		Di Neale	1
	Ron Minn	1		Bill Kirstenfeldt	2
	A Day	1		Anna Jansen	1
SA:	Marie & Kerry Murphy	2		Cedric D'Costa	27 **
	Robert Worrall	1		Wright Family	1
	John Mulley	1	Nth Qld	Joanne Towler	1
	Kakoschke & Rice	4**		A Turnbull	
	Vicki Sanford	1		Roal Gardiner	
	D Brunson	2		A & B Fairbank	
TAS:	Blair & Poole	2		Bruce Schuster	2 **
	Kenn & Betty Fulton	4**	NSW:	Geoff O'Connor	
VIC:	Wilson & Hoadley	1		Wilson Family	4
	Murray & Spink	3**		Ray & Sue Condon	3
	Sheppard & Flanagan	2		Markos Pangalos	1
	Doreen Brunton	1		Mick Auckett	2
	Darren Macfarlane	2		Steve Kilduff	1
	De Rango & Skoric			G & M Lynch	9 **
	Brian Abbott	2		C & M Morgan	
	D Bates	1		Andrew Cusack	3
	Rex Stephens	2		S & D Wackwitz	4
	I Gould	1		I & K Manton	
	Leigh Downey	1		Shane & Elsie Sullivan	1

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
CLEARWING BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

*held in the Pickering Pavilion, St Ives Showground, St Ives, Sydney, NSW
Sunday 27th November 2016*

MEETING OPENED: 3 pm

Warren Wilson presided.

The Meeting was declared open by President Warren Wilson who welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending - A minutes silence was observed for our sad loss of our Secretary Rob Hugo and for anyone else lost from members families

IN ATTENDANCE : Warren Wilson, Steve Wackwitz, Barry & Terese Ryan, David Wilson, Michael & Gerry Lynch, John Patterson, Peter Jansen - no proxies were tabled...

APOLOGIES : Scott Eriksen, Betty Rea, Cedric D'Costa, Vic Murray, Di Neale, Markos Pangalos, Ray Galbraith, Ernie Wise, Bruce & Nola Bradford, Ben Hale, Derek Poole, Eva de Rango, Kenn & Betty Fulton, Bill Kirstenfeldt, Ray Condon, Garry Job, Bob Pitt.....

MINUTES : The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were tabled, moved John Patterson, seconded Michael Lynch that they be recorded as a true and correct record of that meeting, carried..

FINANCIAL REPORTS : The financial reports were tabled, moved Steve Wackwitz, seconded Gerry Lynch that the accounts as tabled & circulated be accepted, carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2017 The following office bearers were elected:

PATRON	"BRASEA"	PRESIDENT	Warren Wilson
VICE PRESIDENT	Terese Ryan	SECRETARY	Warren Wilson
TREASURER	David Wilson	SHOW MANAGER	Steve Wackwitz
SHOW SECRETARY	Markos Pangalos	CHIEF STEWARD	Geoff O'Connor

It was then moved by John Patterson, seconded Barry Ryan that all other positions be re-elected in block, as no advice had been received indicating any encumbered person did not wish to continue, The Secretary's position was available to a volunteer in any State Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS :

Moved Steve Wackwitz, seconded Terese Ryan that Bruce & Nola Bradford, Dr. Ronald Harley Yardley and Mrs Helen Yardley and Mrs Jean Gorman be awarded Honorary Membership of CBSA for the 2016/2017 year. Carried unanimously.. It was advised to members that Mrs Jean Gorman was now in a Retirement with assistance situation and it was doubtful she would be attending any further Lawn Shows or other events

Warren advised that fundraising efforts were still required, even more so – that is, by way of donation of birds to the Clearwing Society, for sale, donation at Auctions, etc. Any other Fund Raising initiatives would be welcome as would any ways of increasing our membership to the many people who breed Clearwings, Blackeyed Selfs, Darkwings and Dilutes, especially the Heritage clearwings, which we are losing from the Show bench .."BRASEA's" Birds of Colour competitions will help give Clearwings a good promotion for their colour and several had been benched in the competitions run by BRASEA so far. . . Steve Wackwitz reported that there would again be a CBSA Raffle at the BRASEA March Auction with all funds going to CBSA. **Also it was mentioned that we need to encourage the return of Show Results for our annual Challenge Competition from ALL over Australia**

It was further advised that in 2017 there would again be a CBSA Lawn Show in South Queensland on July 15th, the NSW Lawn Show was still scheduled for November 26th .. Victoria would have their Show Awards at the United Show in Melbourne in May next year, North Queensland changed to May, Tasmania with the Presentation show, South Australia in July and WA in October still at the BRASEA show, NSW would from now on be at the Sydney Annual Lawn Show Deletion of the ring details for our Challenge Competition had been implemented and new forms were being printed in the CBSA News – Old Certificates were being used up There being no further scheduled business – the Meeting was declared closed at 3.45 pm ..

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Getting those young hens to feed

Fred Wright UK

It's that time of the year when budgie breeders will probably be full of enthusiasm for breeding but if there is one thing that takes the shine off progress, it's when those hens will not feed those first chicks that hatch.

Young or first year hens are the birds to cause problems. Over-year hens that have bred the previous season usually manage to do the job. It's always good to get the young hens feeding on softfood before you pair up.

They need to know what it is and they will usually go for it when they incubating and as soon as the first chick hatches, they will take it and feed their baby.

The problem comes when the hens just don't feed. In recent years I have used millet sprays, soaked them and washed them well and cut them into small pieces. A small piece at the back of the nestbox when a chicks hatches encourages the hen to feed.

A young hen will often not feed her first chick to hatch and we find it squashed. At that point I usually place an older chick under her that is about 6 or 8 days old. One that is probably just a bit too young to take a ring on its leg. It's old enough to demand/call for food from the hen and she will respond but feeding. I always think of it as teaching the hen to feed.

As soon as the next chick hatches, she will usually feed it instantly, and we will see its crop full when we check the box. I don't like leaving that older chick with the hen or it

See part 2 after

How to check a Box

“SYDNEY ANNUAL LAWN SHOW” 2016

The 2016 Sydney Annual Lawn Show (SALS) was held at the St Ives Showground in Sydney, on November 27th attended by Members and Friends from all over the State, some travelling hours from Tamworth, Central Coast & Newcastle and Canberra, all the awards were contested and won ...Santa could not come once again unfortunately for the children, but we still had his presents for the children which were handed out by some Old Fella and the luncheon BBQ style for 60+ people was certainly enjoyed and many queued for seconds especially the sweets.....Thanks to Northside BSNSW for tremendous help, catering and selling the birds and the set up and clean up and putting me in the car pointing home !!!!

The event is a continuing initiative of the three specialist Australian Clubs, **the Clearwing Budgerigar Society of Australia, the Pied Budgerigar Society of Australasia and the Crested Budgerigar Club**, supported by their Patron **“BRASEA”**, Budgerigar Rare & Specialist Exhibitors of Australasia, plus the **Australian Bush Budgerigar Organisation** and **“BRASEA’s” Miniatures and Birds of Colour** sections. ... The BBQ luncheon, Gold coin raffle with over 20 prizes to choose, Sale of birds, Clearwing & Crest Club Meetings, complete casual interaction by all, in a picnic atmosphere plus the fabulous **Lawn Show** with major prizes for every variety in our Schedule – what a marvellous array of awards on the special winners table, where you could choose your own prize ... Everyone took on jobs again which makes the day - 172 Birds were placed by judge **Jean Painter**, many thanks...

Congratulations to all the 2016 winners (Presented by Dr. Ronald Harley Yardley)
and what a huge triumph for the Lynch Family – Congratulations Gerry & Michael Lynch on taking out - Champion Clearwing (Bob Gorman Award), Best Yellow-wing (Ted Wallis Award),
Best Heritage Clearwing (Harley Yardley Award), Best Whitewing, Reserve Champion Clearwing, Modern Clearwing (Harry Smith Award) and Champion Rainbow (Ken Gray Award),
then Best AOV Clearwing (John MacNamara Award) Hannah McKay, Champion Blackeyed Yellow and Champion Saddleback Pam & Vic (Chef) Giles, Best Blackeyed White S & D Wackwitz, Champion Darkwing R & S Condon, Champion Dilute, Champion Violet and Goldenface Ernie Wise, Champion Crest (Rob Hugo Award) Thanh Vu, Champion Miniature and Champion Dark Eyed Clear Joe Elias, Champion Australian Bush Budgie Darren Burgess, Champion Junior Award 1st & 2nd Orlando Fox & 3rd Hannah McKay, Best Bird of Colour Thanh Vu, Champion Pied & Best AOV Jim Baker, Best Recessive Hannah McKay, Best Aussie Banded and Best Clearflight/Dutch Joe Elias, Novelty Cage Award no entries, Champion AOV Class Ernie Wise, who also won Best Lacewing and Best White Cap, Best Greywing Terry Hammerton, Best Clearbody Hilton Smith, Best AOV Bird Bryan Martin, the Fallows had no entries, so we will have to seek them out for 2017

Thanks to those who assisted with the Lawn Show, to Elenbee, to those who donated prizes for the raffle, who brought along sale birds and especially Vic our **chef of the day** – we plan to do it all again on **26th November 2017** – at the St. Ives Showground - put it in your diary



Presenter in most photos was Dr Ronald Yardley

A- Jim Baker Champion Pied of Show

B- Black Eye Yellow

C- Joe Elias Champion Dark Eyed Clear

D- Dr Daniel Yardley, Bronwen, Emma Yardley, Arthur, Mrs Helen and Dr Ronald Harley Yardley – the name lives on in descendants of the great Harley Yardley.

E- Pam Giles [Won Blackeye Yellow Trophy] with Dr Ronald thanks for all the photos and hard work – Husband I- Joe Elias Champion Pied & Dutch/ Clearflight Pied

Yancy Lawn Show 2016

J- Michael & Gerry Lynch scoops the pool Champion Clearwing of Show, Best Yellow-wing, Best Heritage Clearwing, Best White wing, Best Modern Clearwing, Reserve Champion Clearwing, Champion Rainbow

K- Champion Crest of Show

L- Ernie Wise from Tamworth Champion Violet

M- Thanh Vu Champion Crest of Show

Vic was Chef of the day

F- Steve Wackwitz Champion Blackeye White always ready to work for the day.

G- Ernie Wise Champion Goldenface

H- Darren Burgess Champion Aussie Bush Budgie

I- Joe Elias Champion Pied & Dutch/ Clearflight Pied

How to (and why) ----- check a budgie nest box - Fred Wright UK

Nestboxes are where it all happens during the breeding season so it's vital to keep checking them, keep them clean and get into a routine when checking them. I use a concave at the bottom of the box with the hollowed out area furthest from the entrance hole.

I soak the boxes and a concave in a mite deterrent before they are set up, with plenty of mite powder, and a handful of dust-free sawdust on top of the concave to soak up any dampness and it makes the box easier to keep clean.

Check boxes in the mornings or in the evenings. Hens tend to lay around the middle of the day so we don't want to be pushing a hen out of the box when she is due to lay and then she drops the egg in the cage!

Check from day one with the pair

Every day I check the boxes - sometimes twice. I like to get the pair into the routine of checking. Tap on the front and encourage the hen to leave the box. It's vital to get the hen into this routine when checking. Take the opportunity of checking the pair - both cock and hen every time as you check the box. Get into the routine of clearing any droppings that appear in the box.

Eggs on alternate days

Expect the first egg in about 10 - 14 days after the birds are paired. The droppings will become large and usually wet and that's a clear indication that eggs are due. Get into the habit of noting when the eggs are produced on the nest card or record book. I place a marble alongside the first egg and it stays there to keep the chick up when the first egg hatches. I don't mark any eggs unless it's necessary to move an egg. I don't touch and if I do - I wash my hands before touching. Care needs to be taken that bacteria from the fingers does not get absorbed into the egg. The hen will lay on alternate days and a full clutch will depend upon how fit the egg will be - anything from 4 to 8 or 9 - sometimes more!

Check every day

Every day the boxes need to be checked and everything needs to be recorded on that nest card. Push the hen out, check the pair - especially the hen and remove any droppings to keep the box as clean as possible. Once incubation begins any fertile eggs will start to show signs of fertility after 5 or six days. At that point I mark the outside of the box with a coloured pin to show there's fertility in the box.

Due to hatch day 18

The eggs come on alternate days so they hatch on alternate days. The incubation period is 18 days so be ready when they are due and keep a careful eye on newly hatched chicks.

8 - 10 days it's the ring on

These days with larger rings it seems that we have to be in no rush to get the rings on. I leave mine now until about 10/12 days and then they don't fall off. Conventionally it used to be 8/10 days! Once the rings are on and it's recorded on the nest card, those chicks can be moved to any nest where they are best to be reared. If there is any red mite about in the birdroom they will appear in the box as soon as chicks are about. Look out for them and act accordingly.

All the rings on - clean the box - fresh concave or not - fresh bedding

Once all the rings are on in a box, I like to remove all the chicks and clean the box properly. Replace with a clean concave and fresh sawdust. Always use some mite powder under the concave.

Check under the beak, clean the feet

When the chicks are about 16/18 days old it's worth keeping a check on the beaks of the chicks when food can dry and deform the beak if it's not removed. Keep the feet clean and remove any waste that collects around the ring. It's always an easier job if the boxes are clean themselves.

Last clean for the box

Once the chicks start to get to that 30 day stage when they are soon to leave the box, I clean the box completely and sometimes offer a clean new box with fresh sawdust. If the hen is fit she will be keen to start laying her first egg of the second round. Let her lay in a clean box and let her have a fresh start.

Getting those young Hens to feed part two

will be too big in the box with any newly hatched chicks, and I tend to return it to its original box and get the ring on as soon as possible.

Positive action must be taken when those hens don't feed. It is no good sitting back and watching the chicks die. Over the years I have found that often we can get a young hen feeding by offering chickweed. Just a small piece offered will usually get that hen feeding and we will quickly see the crop full and when it's green, we know that the chickweed has done the trick.

Sometimes I cannot get a young hen to feed chicks as they hatch so I add to that older chick I had placed under her so she has three or four youngsters and I let her rear them properly until they leave the nestbox. I let her go down on a second round and she will always feed - maybe she matures when rearing a nest of chicks.

Ask the Judges

Question: Why is it that Clearwings are so harshly judged by judges looking for really clear winged birds? They tend to favour lesser birds with clear wings, over good quality Clearwing budgerigars with reasonably clear wings. Yet when they judge Spangles, they put up birds with poor spangle markings, or Normals that do not have black finite markings. It seems to be a cop-out that they do not penalise these other varieties as much as they do to Clearwings.

Answer: Craig Buckingham speaking as a senior panel judge, representing the judge panel and committee says: **CLEARWINGS:**

now as the name suggests, birds in this class should have wings clear of any markings, body colour of good contrast, and the overall budgerigar should meet the standard of perfection as close as possible.

However when judging classes of clearwings at most shows we tend to see predominately two variations on this ideal:

1. Beautifully clean wings free of markings, body colour of good contrast and a poorer quality of bird; and
2. Moderately clean to dirty winged birds, body colour of good to average contrast and generally a better quality of bird.

Now based on the current standard and the assessment of points, most often, bird number 2 tends to come first in the class. Therefore, I would tend to disagree with your observation that judges tend to favour lesser birds with clearer wings, however judges are often trying to find very clean wing birds that are of a good quality budgerigar.

Maybe the assignment of points should be altered in the standard for this variety to reward and encourage the breeding of beautifully clean winged birds with good contrast in body colour and less emphasis on the quality of bird as this variety will probably never meet or come close to the current standard of perfection. It would be good if this happened before we lose the clearwing completely from our show bench.

In regard to the spangles and normals being placed or preferred on the show bench with faults such as poorly marked spangle wings or smudged markings in the wings of normals,

you only seem to be looking at these points in isolation and not as a judges. The judge first looks

at the overall bird in comparison to the competition in that particular class on the day. Again as judges we have a standard to guide us to choose the bird that should win the class, by assessing all aspects of the bird in relation to the points allocated for colour, markings and type. So yes, sometimes we see birds placed first that may have specific faults that you have mentioned, but relevant to their competition on the day they are generally correctly positioned and "do I think it's a cop out by judges" as you have expressed, NO, judges cannot afford to look at wing comparisons in isolation.

Jean Painter would like to emphasize that the point scores in our Standard dictates what the Judges have to consider when selecting the best birds in any variety.

Unfortunately the 60- 40 allocation means that often the best examples of the variety birds are placed down the line because they are inferior in head quality, size, type, etc. and regardless of whether we are talking about

Clearwings or Spangles or any other variety the BEST BUDGERIGAR will win, not the best example of the variety unless it is both.



We all admire the Clearwings with that wonderful contrast between the body colour and the pure white or yellow wings and the spangles that have the bullseye spots and clearly defined markings and the recessive pids with just the right amount of melanin in the wings and the clear head because they are the ideal variety birds but until we can persuade the ANBC to change the point score in the Standard in favour of variety markings the Judges have to judge to the Standard regardless of personal preferences.

On the previous page of this response are two pictures of Clearwings. They are the Wilson Family's winner of the 2004 National Show and the second placed bird in 2004 owned by Barbara and Ted Wallis. Photographs by Andrew Bourne, 2004.



Above we have Nola Bradford's photos of the 2015 National winner owned by Kakoschke & Rice along with the three NSW selections owned by Brian Walters (7th at the National) and Mick Aukett (10th & 14th at the National).

Response from Andrew Bourne: It is pretty clear from the photographs that judges at the National Level and the NSW level are doing a great job of choosing the best bird overall given all the variations you see in the Clearwing class. It is also clear (to me at least) that Clearwings are improving overall year to year under the current judging.

The **Ask the Judges** section has been added to Budgerigar magazine. You can help support this new section by sending your questions to editor@budgerigar.com.au, I will arrange for the judges to answer your questions. The earlier you send in your question the more time we will have to prepare a detailed the response.

I would especially like to thank all the judges on the BSNSW Judges committee for their prompt and considered response to this Ask the Judges question.

Margery Kirkby-Mason

Budgie Greats Series – Fred Wright UK

Editor BB.. if you think putting Opaline into Ino is a great idea, this story will enlighten and amaze

Margery Kirkby-Mason was known as the Lutino Queen. She was based in Devon, and showed in partnership with her great friend, Len Dabner. All their birds carried the famous K41 ring number and were known as the Kirkby-Mason & Dabner Partnership. Margery was based in Devon and kept the birds at her home known as “Seaspray”, on the Esplanade at Seaton. Every bird they ever showed was home-bred with the K41 ring number.

Margery was not a judge, did not get involved in running societies – she just concentrated her efforts into breeding and showing super budgerigars – especially her favoured Lutinos. They showed a few normals but for many years they dominated with Lutinos and always showed a few top quality opalines too. She joined the Budgerigar Society UK in 1934.

Margery took an interest in birds as a child and she told me once a lovely story of when she was young, she was offered an umbrella with either a silver handle or one with a parrot handle. She chose the parrot handle!

Little is known of Margery’s early life but she attended the Royal Academy of Music as a singing student and lived at the time in a flat at Balham, south London. She first saw a Lutino at a show she was visiting with Len. She tried to buy it but it was not for sale. It was not long before they were showing and winning with Lutinos and beating one of the Lutino greats – Percy Norman.

For many years the partnership dominated with Lutinos throughout the country – but especially the south. She described her greatest win as best in show at the National Exhibition of Cage & Aviary Birds. Her Lutinos were always of the very best colour. Her birds were always of a good strong yellow and she would not sacrifice size and feather for colour. It was colour that dominated! She described the poor coloured Lutinos as like a pale lettuce. When the partnership showed they took a team of between 30 – 40 birds – mainly Lutinos.

I first met her as an exhibitor with Len at the London & Southern Counties shows at Alexandra Palace in the late 1960s when there were in excess of 2000 birds benched each year. Their birds were collected from the railway station but she was usually there to get the birds out of their transport boxes. When the birds arrived there was always a buzz that surrounded the arrival of the cases. At the time I always thought of her as being quite unapproachable, but Len was very different because he was a local man and I knew him as a local fancier.

Len eventually died and Margery was devastated, but she decided to continue with the birds and continued to dominate the shows with her Lutinos. I visited her at “Seaspray” one afternoon and was taken into both birdrooms. Most people never made it into the main breeding room but as I knew Len, I was allowed in! It was quite a sight seeing so many Lutinos all in one establishment. What always remains fixed in my mind was her comments about bringing in new birds to a stud. She told me that she tried not to bring in birds as there was always the danger of bringing in disease. At that time there were no bio-security guidelines about bringing in new birds like today. At the time I thought it was such an odd comment!

Her other advise was that **all her best Lutinos were in fact opalines** but it was being masked by the Lutino factor. She told me that you breed quality opalines and then use the Lutino mutation on top of it. Many of her opalines were dark greens and grey greens. It’s still an interesting way of looking at the breeding of lutinos.

The last time I met with Margery was after she had decided to sell all her birds and “retire” from the hobby. She decided to sell all of her birds to her friend and local breeder who already kept red-eyes and was doing well with Lutinos – Hazel Treby. Roy Stringer and I were writing a series of books at the time and I went to interview Margery at Hazel’s home. The birds had only been with Hazel at the time for a few weeks. It was a fantastic experience interviewing and just chatting with Margery that afternoon. She had “retired” and talked freely about the birds and the people from the past. It helped that I had known Len so well.

There have been some great fanciers who have done well with Lutinos – Amos & Thumwood, Ray Steele, Harry Harrison, Tom Clarke and others but I am not so sure any have dominated for so long as Margery Kirkby-Mason did in the UK – The Lutino Queen.

“BRASEA” Auctions for 2017

Sydney (Bexley):

June 11th

October 15th

Brisbane (Strathpine): July 16th

Taking eggs away with Budgies

Fred Wright UK

We tend to take eggs from one nest and put them in another for various reasons, to save the chicks that are inside them or to get even more eggs. When I was new to budgies, I can never remember people talking about moving eggs or writing about them. Moving eggs is something people don't seem to advocate or more importantly wish to discuss. We move eggs to save the chicks - they might have become cold when a hen has died while breeding, she might have just abandoned the eggs and let them get cold, or we might have a few chicks hatch in the nest and decide that if any more eggs hatch in the nest, the new chicks will be squashed.

When I was a beginner, I was told that if you are going to move eggs, move them just after they are laid. Once they are obviously fertile, and are moved, more than often, they "go wrong" and the chicks seems to die-back, inside the egg. Over the years I have been forced to move eggs when they are well developed, and yes, they usually "go wrong".

Recently, I had a pair with fertile eggs in the box. One morning I found the hen dead in the box, and the eggs were cold. Quickly, I moved them to a hen with clear eggs - and they never hatched. They eventually, seemed to go very dark and I knew they had gone wrong.

Another pair included a big, buff cinnamon opaline hen, a hen that you always know is going to be an unreliable breeding bird. Before she laid, she had made a tremendous mess with droppings in the box. She started to lay, and still the mess continued and every day I removed as much as possible. She was one of those hens that would be reluctant to leave the box, and was always fidgeting, and I am never sure she incubated the eggs. The eggs were messy and none showed any sign of fertility. On her second round, I decided to remove the eggs as they were laid and place them in another box. Each time replacing the taken egg with a dummy egg. I managed to get six fertile eggs away, so a major result.

These two experiences with moving eggs has encouraged me to think about the subject and write about it.

In the past I have "pulled" eggs. This is a process of taking eggs from a hen and she will always try to keep laying until she produces a full clutch of 6 - 8 eggs in the box. The way I have done this is to take the first two or three eggs and replace them with a dummy egg each time. Then every eggs she lays, I would take away but not replace it with a dummy. I have usually managed to get 10 - 12 eggs from the hen each time. It's a fantastic way of getting extra chicks from the best pairs. I would usually rest her for a while and repeat the process again.

I hate hens that never seem to incubate properly. You just know when they are constantly on the move. The same happens with the cock goes into the box and you hear the eggs being moved. The eggs might be fertile but they usually die back in the egg. The lesson is to note this and when the pair starts to lay the next round, take the eggs away and put them under another hen but take them as they are laid.

A hen will usually rear four or five chicks well but any that hatch after that stand the risk of being squashed when they hatch. I usually like to get a ring on the oldest chick and move it to another box. Sometimes it's not possible to ring and move so we get tempted to move the eggs still to hatch - they usually fail to hatch. Chicks can be moved without rings but it's worth marking the backs of the moved birds with a felt-tip pen or even placing a smaller, finch ring on the leg of the moved chick to identify where the bird has come from. It's vital to remove the small ring when the official ring is placed on the leg. The "experts" will tell us it's the different temperature and or the humidity of another box but I really don't know. All I know is that it seems to work if the eggs are moved within the first couple of days of being laid, but after that it's highly unlikely they will hatch. The moral of this problem is to **move the older chicks and not the eggs.**

Moving eggs is all about saving eggs and getting more chicks. Eggs can be marked with a felt tip pen - those "experts" tell us that if

you use a permanent marker, it kills the chick inside. It's worked for me for many years. If you use a water-based pen, the marking comes off in a couple of days and it's a problem to know where the egg has come from. I put two bits of information on the egg - a date laid and a nest number from where it was laid, and out of habit, I put a ring around the nest number!

I actually don't like touching the eggs. I have been unsuccessful using those egg tongues that can be used to move eggs as I tend to drop the egg. If you handle the eggs, it's possible for the bacteria from your hens to enter the egg and that kills the chick inside, so I wash my hands properly BEFORE I touch an egg and move it.

If you are going to start moving eggs, you need to keep groups of pairs all at the same stage. It's why I always put six or eight pairs up all at the same time and then you have places to move eggs - and chicks if necessary.

It's not as popular as it was many years ago but most breeders used to keep a few pairs of lesser quality birds and use them as feeders. This means using these pairs to rear the chicks from the better pairs. However, it does mean throwing the eggs away from those lesser pairs and many breeders are not happy to do this.

Moving eggs is a great way to increase the numbers of good chicks bred every year but it needs some careful thought before you start the season. It's also why breeders do far better with their birds when they spend lots of time in the birdroom and work hard with the birds, especially during the breeding season.

- Pair in groups to give you the places to move eggs
- Move eggs early - before they start to develop
- Get a few dummy eggs before the season starts
- Think about a few feeders, or lesser quality pairs to rear chicks from other nests
- Wash hands properly before you touch eggs
- Practice marking eggs to record date and pair number
- Move the older chicks not the eggs

Budgie Greats - Dr Alf Roberson - Durban, South Africa

We tend to think of Budgie-Greats as those from the UK but there are some from outside the UK. - Dr Alf Robertson from Durban in the Republic of South Africa (RSA) was just one of them!

Alf Robertson qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Cape Town and ran a general practice in a town called Kroonstad in the Free State, one of the nine provinces in the Republic RSA ...

"Doc" as he was affectively known, moved from Kroonstad to Durban joining a group of four medical practitioners and was allocated amongst others, the medical care of sailors from ships that docked in the Durban harbour. On a number of occasions and at all hours, day and night, he would often be flown out by helicopter to attend to a sick sailor at sea.

Doc started with budgies in 1936 when he joined the Kroonstad Budgie club and later moved to Durban joining the Durban Budgerigar Society. He judged his first National show in 1942 and again at the 1992 National show exactly 50 years later.

His successes with budgerigars are well documented - he was a top exhibitor and regularly took the major awards at the National shows. He was a confirmed "in-breeder" and it is for his views on pairing pedigree birds together to produce his quality stud. Up until the end of the 1980s, it was Doc who everyone in South Africa turned to for breeding stock. He was a popular fancier and always keen to offer help and advice but getting top birds out of him was never easy. His favourite line was "I will put your name and request in the book" - but the book never existed!

It was not just his "in-breeding" techniques that were well known, it was his ability to pair two super but flecked birds together to produce clear-headed youngsters. He knew his birds, and knew exactly how and what they could reproduce. The story is that they were characteristic of a real stud - they all looked alike!

It was during the mid-1950s that he purchased birds from Ken Farmer from Bedfordshire in the UK, who is widely considered as THE man who took budgies into what they have been in the last

couple/few decades. One of those bought birds was a split opaline cock and he produced lots of opalines from him and Doc decided to really concentrate on these opalines and improve them. Doc dominated the show bench for the next 20 years and more, and this was no easy task as for many of those years there was an import ban and budgies could not be brought into South Africa.

In later years he was still known for his quality, clean opalines but he became known as a bit of a grey green man. One of these grey green cocks took the award for best young bird and best in show at a National show during the 1980s when the then editor of Cage & Aviary Birds, Brian Byles was judging at the show. Brian loved the bird and was so taken by it that Doc gave the bird to Brian on the understanding he showed it at the London & Southern Counties show. The bird, with others were quarantined and imported into the UK and later in the year was shown at the London & Southern Counties show when there were some 1600 birds benched. The bird took the top award and won that best in show glory. It was Doc's way of judging his birds against the best in the UK - and he then knew he was breeding birds of the right standard and quality.

I visited Doc on one of my first trips to South Africa with Ron Pearce, and we stayed a couple of days with him. I remember arriving at his home late one evening and he sat us down in his large kitchen and said he wanted to talk with us. He fired questions at us for hours and we talked budgies - he wanted to know all about the UK fancy. He was a regular reader of Cage & Aviary Birds together with the BS magazine so he was well informed. It was a fantastic experience for Ron and I - we realised he was one of the greats - and he talked with such insight about budgies.

Some years later I was judging in Durban when Doc had retired, sold his large home, given up the birds and was living in a flat. I sat with him the day before the show and we talked and talked about budgies. I had taken out some pictures of the winning birds from the UK and Europe, together with a set of pictures of the modern Mannes birds. He loved the Mannes birds and could instantly see how budgies had been taken forward by Jo Mannes with a very different head conformation and directional feather.

After the show we picked him up and took him to the show hall on the Sunday morning. The show was in a lovely hall inside one of the Durban prisons! Doc loved seeing the birds again and chatting to some of the old faces and friends. They asked him to present a couple of the awards. It was the last budgie show he visited.

To me, Doc was very special. I have interviewed lots of greats over the years for magazines and Doc probably was the most interesting. He had been successful, and was really able to explain why he had done certain things. Harry Bryan was very special but he was not always able to explain why he did things - Doc was able to give you all the reasons, while Harry just seemed to have "green fingers" ..

My most memorable chat with him was in that Durban flat when he no longer had birds. I asked him why he used to sell many of his top winning birds at a show and never take them home - but still managed to breed the winners again the following year.

He looked at me and smiled - he said, "You know I am known as an "in-breeder" and I am, but the bit of the story I have never told is that you get the benefit of in-breeding when you outcross. The outcross seems to give the youngsters that vigour - extra feather and extra quality in the first generation. The best seem to be like a flower fully opening! **The best in shows come from that outcross."**

I asked him why he did not keep these birds - he told me, "well, if you are an in-breeder, you don't want those birds bred from the outcross - they are mongrels."

Lots of things fell into place for me, as when I have interviewed many people in the past they have told me that their best in show bird was the result of an outcross. **Now we know why!**

Yes - Doc was one of the greats - a super budgie man but with a super budgie-brain too!

Fred Wright UK

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