



CBSA NEWS

AUTUMN 2016



*Australia's
National
Clearwing
Newsletter*

**Clearwing
Budgerigar
Society of
Australia Inc.**

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CLEARWING

BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY of Australia Inc.

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and Dr Ronald Harley Yardley & Mrs Helen Yardley**

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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

Not much new news from the 2015 AGM but a couple of motions which were passed included the dropping of the ring and colour information requested on the Challenge Certificate forms, so now if you send them in with name and address of the winners, we will mail out the Certificates (we will use up the old ones and then start new ones as soon as the old ones run out) There is a new form at the back of this Newsletter

Also we have named several of the CBSA Awards at the Lawn Show.. The Champion Clearwing has been the Bob Gorman Award, The best Heritage Clearwing has been the Harley Yardley Award and the Best Modern Clearwing has been the Harry Smith Award, well now we also have the Best Yellow-wing the Ted Wallis Award, the Best AOV Clearwing the John MacNamara Award, the Champion Rainbow is now the Ken Gray Award and the Champion Darkwing Award is the Frank Amos Award We are not sure how far this will go BUT we do not want to make any plans in case of another loss, so will take it as it comes, so to speak, softly and gently

All the Awards last year were presented and photographed with Dr Ronald Harley Yardley, son of the great Clearwing Breeder Harley Yardley, and with so many of our classes heritage style birds now, it is fitting that we keep honoring those who have bred them and those we remember when we think of those very special varieties – all classes are heritage unless otherwise stated in our Schedules..

We are on the lookout for a major raffle prize similar to the Quilt we had last year and raised over \$600, which is a marvelous result and we are very grateful to Terese Ryan for that generous prize... so to start selling tickets a bit earlier than last year, we need to start looking for a good prize now, so if you know of anyone interested in helping us out, let us know....

BRASEA has not appointed a new Junior President just yet but we are hoping someone in Queensland might get the job and that would be great or the Sth Queensland Lawn Show in July where we have the Junior President assist in judging the Clearwings, Blackeyes, Darkwings and Birds of Colour – when this takes place we will sort out that feature for the event and report it to you as soon as we can remember if you have a Junior interested in any of our varieties they can join CBSA for free up till they turn 18, so sign them up, as there are a lot attending the Sydney Lawn Show now as well as in Brisbane ... It is a shame we missed out on Santa last year and the poor old fellow they found in some stable, sleeping, was a bit past it I think, but at least the kids enjoyed the present, even if it did not come from the bloke in red – we will try and do better for 2016

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.

You can Bank into the Society's Bank account at any time
for memberships, books, the Lawn Show, donations, rings, raffles, anything

CBSA Bank Commonwealth BSB 062-217 Acc # 1039 6088

give us your name as a reference and even send us an email if you can, to wake us up

BOOKS



LAST 50 BOOKS!

\$199.00
+ P&H



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\$34.00
+ P&H



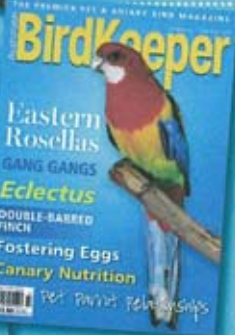
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CLEARWING SOCIETY

COMING EVENTS AND AWARDS 2016



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

- May 8th **Victorian “BRASEA” Awards and “CBSA” Victorian Clearwing Championships 2016** – six major prizes for Clearwings – Contact Eva de Rango United Budgerigar Society or Vic Murray (see back cover) for full details
- May 21st **NSW - BRASEA / South Sydney Avicultural Society Show** – several variety awards Best Clearwing, Best Blackeye White, Rainbow **Mascot Sydney** contact clearwing@brasea.com for full details Schedules available on line mid April copies can be snail mailed..
- June 11th **North & Central Queensland Team Selection Day - Rockhampton Qld** awards for Clearwing and Blackeye, contact Scott for full details and venue
- June 17 – 22nd **Hobart Tasmania ANBC National Championships** – Classes for Book accommodation quickly as limited amount of rooms available at BS rates Clearwings, Dilute & Blackeyes – all details direct through Alistair Home on inside back cov.
- July 2nd **South Australian Ron Norman Annual Show / BRASEA SA Variety Awards** – contact Ben Hale re clearwing award – schedules available from Ben and Wayne Weidenhoffer with all details – see back of Newsletter for contact details
- July 16th **South Queensland “Combined Lawn Show** - details from Di Neale - details inside back cover - Judge Bobbie Budgie, great Day out a must for all Queenslanders to enjoy a fun day out prizes galore, be there everyone welcome Great day for the family and children Brisbane North location **BRASEA Junior President** assisting with Judging and Juniors awards
- October 2nd **Perth - Rare Budgerigar Club WA / “BRASEA” variety Show** – refer Betty in WA for details email betrea@iinet.net.au or Rob Hugo inside back cover ... Many variety awards including CLEARWING Blackeye, Dilutes (Suffused & Grey Factors) and Darkwing

*Canary & Cage Bird Federation
of Australia Inc.*

Federation Dinner 2016

Guests of Honour

John Colee & Ron Hunt

20 August 2016

Ottimo House, 120 Great North Road, Five Dock

7pm

\$65 per head

The evening is held in a private reception lounge with:

- A five course à la carte meal with all wine, soft drink, and water [not spirits];
 - A dance floor and easy listening music, a DJ;
 - An MC to fill the night with excitement;
 - Lucky door prizes - plus a raffle;
 - Easy parking at rear and side streets.
- Special dietary requirements catered for.

Bookings

Warren Wilson: 02 9747 6642

warren@brasea.com

Ron Robertson: 02 9452 2396

birdclubs@aapt.net.au

Payment at time of
booking would be
appreciated.

Final numbers

Sunday 14th August 2016

***No refunds after this
date.***

How I learnt about linkage

I often mention the importance of linkage so I thought it might be helpful if I explained how I cottoned onto the idea many years ago.

I thought I understood how the dark factor always travels in a connection with colour. If a Dark Green is split for Blue the dark factor can be attached either to the green or the blue, but not both. If a Dark Green split for Blue is mated to a Skyblue the result is either Dark Green and Skyblue babies or Cobalt and Light Green babies, but usually not a mixture.

I thought I understood sex linkage, where hen birds can't be split. For sex linked varieties cock birds were just like recessive varieties, and could carry the SL varieties in hidden form.

There were not many Opaline Cinnamons about, so I decided to experiment to see if I could get the two varieties to combine. My first mating was of an Opaline cock with a Cinnamon hen. I figured that this would mean any young cock birds bred would just look Normal. Sure enough, I bred a Normal cock bird. The next year I mated him to an Opaline hen and to my astonishment they produced three young hens, one Opaline, one Cinnamon and one Normal. I thought every young hen would have to be Opaline or Cinnamon and here was a baby, just plain Normal, carrying no Cinnamon or Opaline. Where had the Opaline and Cinnamon gone to? No naughty Normal cock bird had sneaked into the breeding cage, and I did not think Budgerigar hens stored male gametes for future use.

I asked every expert I could find, and consulted the standard text of the time, *The Cult of the Budgerigar*, and I was none the wiser. No-one could explain how this could happen. Eventually I learnt that the explanation is that when the sperm and the ova are produced there is a remixing of the features being passed down. Sometimes features can simply be dropped off and, even more interestingly, features that were separate can become connected together. In addition, I learnt that this doesn't just happen in sex linkage. Links are formed or broken continuously.

In more recent times I have learnt that some linkages are formed and reformed constantly, while some are very strong and are only broken very rarely. Two very obvious examples are sex linked combinations. Cinnamon combined with Ino makes Lacewing and Cinnamon combined with Opaline makes Opaline Cinnamon.

The link between Cinnamon and Ino occurs rarely. Cinnamons were crossed

with Inos for about twenty years before people noticed birds showing the typical Lacewing characteristics. Once the link was established the Lacewings bred as though they were a single variety. On the other hand the link between Cinnamon and Opaline occurs very commonly. As a result the combination is recreated frequently. The process works in two directions. If the link is easy to make it is easy to break. Conversely, if it is hard to form a combination it is just as hard to break it.

So, how does this help us in trying to breed our budgerigars? The most obvious use is that we can see how Opaline Cinnamon and Lacewing can both be bred as though they are single varieties, so it makes sense to give them separate recognition in our show classes. The linkage between Cinnamon and Ino is stronger than the link between Opaline and Cinnamon, but for practical purposes you can outcross either of these combinations with Normals with confidence that you will be able to breed the combined variety from the splits. Other combinations (such as Opaline and Greywing) are easy to make and just as easy to break because they are not linked.

The second use is that it might help us to understand why it can be so difficult to breed desirable features even when we are breeding from birds showing those features. I think it is very likely that the gene for beautiful clear wings in the Clearwing is very closely linked with tight feathering and small boned structure. Crossing Clearwings with larger, more feathered birds always leads to loss of clarity and brightness. It may be impossible to break this linkage.

Like Clearwings ???

The makeup of feathering occurs by the combined effect of a number of genes working together. When we mate birds together each with different desirable feathering we are often disappointed because we don't see the features combined in the babies. This is probably because we are trying to create a combination of linked features and it may be that it will require quite a large number of cross matings before the combination occurs. When it does – when you see the desired features combined on a single bird – you must treasure that bird because it may have the capacity to pass the linked combination on as a single unit.



CLEARWING CHALLENGE CERTIFICATE COMPETITION

THE RESULTS OF THE CHALLENGE AWARDS FOR 2015

2004 Winner Bob Levy WA
2006 Winners
2007 Winners
2008 Winners
2009 Winners
2010 Winner
2011 Winner
2012 Winner
2013 Winner
2014 Winner

2005 Winners Barbara & Ted Wallis from NSW
Wilson & Hoadley from Victoria
Wilson & Hoadley from Victoria
The Wilson Family from NSW
L & J Renn from NSW
Cedric D'Costa from NSW
Cedric D'Costa from NSW
Geoff O'Connor from NSW
Geoff O'Connor from NSW
Cedric D'Costa from South Queensland

2015 Winner "It could be you" 1st - A Prize & \$250 Cash + 6 Runner Up State Awards

WINS RETURNED FOR 2015 as at December, 2015

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

WA:	Rob Hugo		Sth QLD:	Peter Schellbach	
	Betty Rea	1		Di Neale	2
	Mike Gearing			Bill Kirstenfeldt	3
	Wilma Bunter	4**		K & E Henricks	
	Ron Minn			Cedric D'Costa	18****
	W Kelder	1			
SA:	Marie & Kerry Murphy	1	Nth Qld	Joanne Towler	4 **
	K Murphy & I Jenke	1		A Turnbull	2
	John Mulley	1		Roal Gardiner	1
	Kakoschke & Rice	2**		A & B Fairbank	1
	Neil Fitzgibbon			Bruce Schuster	2
TAS:	Blair & Poole	2	NSW:	Geoff O'Connor	3
	Kenn & Betty Fulton	5**		Wilson Family	3
				Ray Galbraith	1
VIC:	Wilson & Hoadley	1		Bob Pitt	3
	Murray & Spink	6**		Brian Walters	1
	Doreen Brunton	1		Steve Kilduff	1
	I Gould	1		Markos Pangalos	1
	De Rango & Skoric	2		C & M Morgan	2
	Tevelion Family	3		Evans Family	2
	Rex Stephens	2		Jennifer Bell	1
	G Ilic	1		Mick Auckett	2
	F Miceli	3		S & D Wackwitz	2
	Leigh Downey	2		I & K Manton	4 **
				Terry Smart	2
				Sullivan Family	2

Sydney Annual Lawn Show, St Ives 2015



Thanks to all supporters

Photos: Pam Giles

"SYDNEY ANNUAL LAWN SHOW" 2015

The 2015 Sydney Annual Lawn Show (SALS) was held at the St Ives Showground in Sydney, on November 29th joined by Members and Friends from all over the State, some travelling several hours from Canberra, Central Coast & Newcastle and Tamworth, all the awards were contested and won Santa could not come, but we still had his presents for the children which were handed out and the luncheon BBQ style for 60+ people was certainly enjoyed and many queued for seconds especially the sweets and teramisu Thanks to Northside Branch BSNSW for tremendous help ... plus catering and selling the birds ...

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. We also have the support of the **Australian Bush Budgerigar Organisation** .. plus "**BRASEA's**" **Miniatures and Birds of Colour** sections this year for the first time and they went well... The BBQ luncheon, **Special Quilt Raffle which raised over \$600 - thanks to Terese Ryan for donating it**, Gold coin raffle, Sale of birds, Clearwing AGM Meeting, complete casual interaction by all, in a picnic atmosphere plus the **Lawn Show** with major prizes for every variety on our expanded Schedule – what a marvellous array of awards the winners table makes !!!.... Everyone took on jobs again which makes the day - 194 Birds were placed by judges **Jean Painter & Jim Baker** ...

Congratulations to all the 2015 winners (Presented by Dr. Ronald Harley Yardley)

Champion Clearwing (*Bob Gorman Award*), Best Yellow-wing (*Ted Wallis Award*) & Best Heritage Clearwing (*Harley Yardley Award*) **Hannah McKay**, Best Whitewing Clearwing , Reserve Champion Clearwing, Best AOV Clearwing (*John MacNamara Award*) and Modern Clearwing (*Harry Smith Award*) **Gerry & Michael Lynch**, Champion Blackeyed Yellow **Pam & Vic Giles**, Best Blackeyed White **S & D Wackwitz**, Champion Darkwing **E & D Wise**, Champion Dilute **Wilson Family**, Champion Crest **Thanh Vu**, Champion Saddleback **Pam & Vic (Chef) Giles**, Champion Goldenface **G & M Lynch**, Champion Violet **Hannah McKay**, Champion Dark Eyed Clear **Joe Elias**, Champion Rainbow (*Ken Gray Award*) **Gerry & Michael Lynch**, Champion Miniature **Justin Magnee**, Champion Australian Bush Budgie **P & J Kelly**, Champion AOV Class **Abi Haider**, Champion Junior Award **1st & 2nd Orlando Fox & 3rd Jason Henke**, Birds of Colour **1st Thanh Vu 2nd Joel Scott & 3rd Darren Burgess**, Champion Pied & Best AOV **E & D Wise**, Best Recessive **Hannah McKay**, Best Aussie Banded **Dennis Beckett**, Best Clearflight/Dutch **Joe Elias**, Novelty Cage Award - *a deadheat !!* (looking for a new Judge) **Justin Magnee & Ella Cooper**, Best Greywing **Terry Hammerton**, Best Fallow **E & D Wise**, Best Lacewing **E & D Wise**, Best Clearbody **Hilton Smith** ...

With thanks for the wonderful assistance all day, to those who donated prizes for the raffle and brought birds for sale, plus so many who worked so hard to make the day a success, especially the **chef of the day** – we plan to do it all again on **27th November 2016** – at the St. Ives Showground please put the date in your new 2016 diary now, so you do not miss out

Looking for quality in young birds

Looking for quality in young birds and keeping them well cared for at this important stage - **Jeff Attwood**

If we are looking at young budgerigars for the exhibition fancier it's all about aspirations, hopes and even dreams. We should never forget just how important breeding and showing quality birds is to most budgie fanciers. It's all taken so very seriously and so should it be!

Checking out the quality starts in the nestboxes. When your hand enters the box and you feel those heavier, solid babies you begin to wonder what you might have bred. Its then excitement starts to kick in! Just before the babies come from the box you begin to see the qualities more clearly.

It's a stage when I get a bit concerned about new fanciers constantly getting these exciting chicks out of the box and start taking pictures - and sending them to mates. It's a special time for these baby birds and they are best left well alone, checked regularly but left to the parents to feed properly. The parents resent interference.

As they come out of the boxes we can get a closer inspection. We are looking for a bit of bulk, a bit of natural directional feather in the cap, plenty of blackness in the face that will eventually become spots, and may be a bit of body length. It's a time to make sure they have everything they need - a few soaked oats, may be naked oats that are high in protein, softfood, and those ever popular soaked millet sprays that the babies just love! Remember they delight in feeding Japanese millet - its sweet, soft and they eat it with relish. It's all about keeping those crops full.

As soon as I know they are feeding properly themselves I get them away in groups of 10 or even 12 into stock cages. Keeping up with all the good food. It's vital to be sure the perches are not too close to

each other or the birds will chew tails and flights - never overcrowd them.

I like to handle the birds frequently. I run them through my hands and keep checking them. I always check feet, and make sure there are no toes and claws missing. Check the rings are on properly and that back toe has been pulled through the ring. Handling the birds will give them confidence and make them into better show birds.

Once they are mature enough I like to get them into slightly larger flights so they can build up the muscles. Birds are meant to fly and I don't like to see budgies kept in cages for longer than necessary. There will always be dominant birds and these will help to bring along other birds, babies will feed each other too.

Budgies have developed massively over the last 15 years. They have different feather in the cap, in what we call directional feather, they are longer feathered in the cap too, and they have to carry good wide faces and shoulder. A wide enough shoulder is required to carry the spots later in their development. We are looking for well feathered birds but especially the birds that carry that thick down as under-feather that makes the birds look bigger and the feather thicker.

We have been influenced by the German birds in recent years but a characteristic of the German bird was that they tended to be a bit short in the body. The English bird is slightly longer - always has been and it's what we want in the modern bird.

We must never forget how important deportment is for a top show budgie. People talk about a straight back but I am not so sure. We need a bit of a hollow back - only a slight hollow and that gives the bird character. We need a bird to stand up well and we need to train the bird to move from one perch to another.

In nest feather birds we don't want to see too much blackness in the face. Too much and it's going to be greatly over spotted. What we do want to see is depth in the face and that only comes with longer feather.

As the birds moult, we don't want to see faults. These include flecking which is where the blackness in the face seems to appear in the cap of the bird. Flecking is severely penalised on the show bench so it's a major fault and needs to be avoided. It's also something that is just not going to disappear - without intervention with the pairings. The other major fault to look out for is that opalistic marking at the side of the face. It's that excess of white or yellow feathering on the side of the head and down through the shoulders. It's another massive fault and needs to be eliminated.

When the birds get to that 11/12 week stage it's what I call the "horrible stage" when you look at birds you thought would be winners and they suddenly look disappointing. It's a stage they all go through so never be tempted to sell birds before they are 9/10 months. Birds seem to improve slowly these days so it's vital not to make important decisions too quickly. Great cocks seem to hit you in the face early but the hens take time to show their full potential. If you are to sell anything year, sell cocks and keep the hens for a bit longer.

We are looking for qualities to appear - directional feather, size and shape of spot. We want large round spots. We are looking for all we hoped in the babies that left the nest to re-appear in the moulted birds.

As the birds develop its worth running them through a show cage. It gets them used to the cage. Years ago it was popular to attach a show cage to the end of a stock cage and encourage the young birds with a piece of millet spray to run into the show cage. It's all show cage training!

Never forget that different varieties require different qualities and strengths. Dominant Pieds need a full set of spots to do well on the bench. Don't forget that Dominant Pieds need contrast in the body too, even if some judges seem to have forgotten. Lutinos need good colour and free from suffusion. Think about the requirements of the different varieties and look out for them.

Opalines need a clean back or what we call mantle. If you get an opaline with a clean back its worth keeping - and showing. The opaline classes are generally weak and don't take a lot of winning these days. It's also a great variety for those who not have those big feathery normals that can be expensive to acquire - the opalines can be a great variety for the fancier who does not have those normals to show.

As the birds mature and develop they need flights. I happen to like outside flights that are covered and protected from the wild birds. Plastic sheeting on top does the trick. It's my view that you can tell a bird that has been exercised in an outside flight, it's muscled up and with strong wings and shoulders. Try to get the birds flying up and down, and around corners.

If you have room for an outside flight, they come highly recommended, if not, make the room for an inside flight and don't keep budgies all the time in stock cages . Good exercise is vital !

HARLEY YARDLEY

We have been Lucky enough to secure a picture of the Late Harley Yardley and his wife, in front of their Aviaries in Five Dock NSW - we had the privilege of visiting them a few times to marvel



at the Clearwings, Blackeyes and other varieties in magnificent colours - thanks to Dr Ron Harley & Mrs Helen Yardley for this copy. CBSA honours his work every year

Breeding Masterclass 2 – Colour & Flecking

Let's look at colour and what we mean by colour. In most varieties it's about an intense, strong body colour. Some varieties seem more susceptible to a loss of deep colour. Some varieties have specific colour loss problems like lacewings, lutinos and some others. Let us look at some of the general colour problem before we look at some of these specifics.

It's going to be unpopular but I have to say it – colour loss is difficult to overcome and one of the best ways to control it in a stud is to eliminate the birds with the problem. Try not to use normals of any colour with a very poor colour. Cinnamons tend to soften the colour but there are plenty of poor coloured cinnamons about – try to eliminate them!

It's no coincidence that colour is all about feather. The hard feathered birds tend to have longer feather and sometimes pointed. If you look carefully at this type of feather you will see the ends of the feathers are far more yellow or white than you would expect. The feather with the more intense colour is the softer, rounder feather. It's yet another great case for trying to establish that softer, wider, rounder feather.

I am not so sure there is any way of really overcoming the problem – but we can look at some of the “tricks” that can help. Running dark factor birds through a stud definitely helps enormously. It's worth always keeping a few dark greens and cobalts just for the purpose of improving and maintaining good body colour. Never forget that greys and grey greens can carry a dark factor too. The grey greens look just that little bit darker and dark factor greys seem to have that bluish tinge to the body colour.

There has always been a belief that using blue series birds with greens helps to keep the colour of the greens strong. I am not totally convinced but it's a good reason to keep a few blues series birds running through those greens. Anyway, I am never a great fan of pairing two birds

together of the same colour so I tend to mix my pairings of greens, blues, greys and grey greens. But we will return to this later.

At one time I was a great fan of breeding opaline cinnamons – especially grey greens and greys. They are probably two of my favorite colours. I used to improve the colour of those grey greens by introducing the yellow-face factor. It has the effect of giving a body colour on the cinnamon opaline grey green a real deep mustard colour when the green series bird is masking the yellow-face. Remember that green-series birds can mask yellow-face and it comes out again in those white faced series birds later. It's a colour improvement that really makes you look at them twice. I believe the effect is very similar on all green series birds but far more obvious on the opaline cinnamon grey greens.

Opalistic marking can easily be considered under flecking. Under the new BS guidelines it's a major fault and after 2013 a bird carrying the faults can win a class but go no further. There is no degree of opalistic marking – it's either marked – or not. This means its vital to control it in the breeding cages.

It's a fault I hate and have never liked. Its that unpleasant white on a blue or grey series bird and yellow on a green series bird – around the neck. It's a difficult concept to get hold of but vital we understand what it looks like. The first step to control it is to eliminate it from the breeding room. Very easy to say but it's a method of control that works well.

Really it's a lack of blackness in the bird – a lack of melanin. It's the very reason we rarely see flecked birds with opalistic marking. That one may need some thought so think about it carefully. If that is true, its worth thinking about using a bird with a small excess of melanin with a bird with opalistic markings in an effort to average out the melanin.

As I have said – I have never liked the fault so I have been working at eliminating the problem in my birdroom for many years and have

gained lots of experience. Years ago I discovered that it was more likely to be produced when birds of the same colour were paired together – two skyblues, two light greens – two greys. There seems to be some strange reason why this should be so I have tried to avoid making these pairings and it seems to work.

Careful pairing and thinking about using flecked birds and not pairing birds of the same colour together seems to help considerably. However, with the fault becoming a major fault under the BS guidelines, its going to be vital that everyone gets to grips with the problem quickly. For sure its a problem of great proportions outside the UK so everyone will have to put their heads together to get to grips with the challenges.

Flecking is something I believe we have worked with for many years and we have learned to manage it. Some have managed to problem by almost eliminating oplaines – and it's a problem closely associated with opalines. We have seen the numbers of opalines and opaline cinnamons at shows so greatly reduced hat they have become nothing less than specialist varieties.

Flecking is an excess of melanin within a bird. Its appeared in our birds through a craving for big spots. Once the spot fills the spot-feather the blackness has to come out in other places. In some its appeared as "multi-spotting" – in others it comes out as spots on the head. The problem is that we now have flecking as its called on the head as flecking in various forms – central cap flecking, markings over the eye and what have become described as shadow markings. The aim must be to eliminate flecking of any kind. So – not using flecked birds is one way forward and that is exactly what happened 20 years ago when flecking was a major problem. The breeders with flecking birds sold them to others. Not the best way forward!

Flecked birds seem to have so many other qualities that makes fanciers reluctant to show them. Features like wide shoulders, big spots, that loved extra feather and the list goes on. There are really no short cuts –

flecking needs to be eliminated as best we can in the breeding rooms. It's going to be a painful battle but one we need to manage.

In the short term its going to mean extra care with any opaline. It's probably going to mean taking budges back a step or two. Care is going to be necessary will all pairings. One thing I know from my past experiences is that if we eliminate flecking and opalines – we will see a very quick loss of big spots.

I suggest we move forward with great care – try to control it rather than doing away with it completely. If we believe it's about too much melanin in our birds its worth pairing flecked birds with birds that lack it – those with opalistic markings and small spots. However, I think we are entering a time when heavily flecked birds do not form part of a breeding programme.

I do believe we are entering a time with budgerigars when colour is going to be a major concern and flecking – or the lack of it becomes a huge priority.

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Breeding Masterclass 3 “Top End”

What do we mean by Top End?

- Cap – directional feather
- Lift over the cap including length of feather
- Width of mask and shoulder
- Mask/spot size and shape

Everything about a budgerigar is important but there is nothing more important than Top End. Like it or not – it’s the first thing a judge looks at. Perhaps it’s not even about looking for the features – its top end that hits them in the eye!

Probably the greatest change to budgerigars in the last 15 years is in the head. Directional feather in the cap has become absolutely vital in the winning modern bird. Now most of the top birds have achieved this feather we seem to have moved on to increasing the feather length in the cap.

The old-fashioned birds had “lift” which usually meant that the back of the head was shade flat. The birds were said to lack “backskull” Directional feather arrived which took the feather across the cap rather than up and over. In fact the feather spreads out over the top of the eye. The first birds that carried this different feather seem to go back to Germany but it’s a fashion and birds with this feature have become popular throughout the world.

Most top breeders have worked towards getting birds with directional feather. It’s all been about selecting birds with the feature and reproducing it with selective breeding. Sometimes the feather is too long and the feather goes completely across the top of the eye. Some of the feather actually starts to touch the eye and then the eye becomes irritated. It’s not a feature to be over-done! When it’s necessary to cut the feather back over the eye when in the breeding

cage and feeding youngsters – it's probably gone too far. Always watch out for the problem.

Over the last 3 or may be 4 years has seen a slight change in the heads of the better birds – longer feathering in the cap – it's become a trend. Birds with this feature are extremely attractive are I am sure it will become even more popular over the next few years. We have to look where this trend started. A Midlands partnership here in the UK seems to have started the trend here and it's also been happening in Switzerland. What is interesting is that the feature seems to be quite dominant when it's used in the breeding cages. I have seen several birds purchased from these two studs used and the feature soon becomes established which is no bad thing!

Let's look at spots – this feature seems to receive little attention these days. Spots may only be just a small part of the bird's make-up but they are vital to attract the judge's attention. They need to be large and round. I believe it is more important to look at the shape of the feathers upon which the spots appear. These feathers need to be rounded and then the spots will then tend to carry the same shape. Hard feathered birds tend to have pointed feathers so these birds tend to have pointed spots. When you are pairing birds, consider feather together with spot and pair accordingly. Try to eliminate those hard feathered birds – it's not a good characteristic for so many reasons - as well as spot shape. Spot shape is not totally about the shape of the feather but pair to get round spots.

Spot size is fairly easy to manage. Remember that the spots cannot be larger than the feather – spot can only fill the feather and no more. Increasing the spot size might be about increasing the size of the feather. If the feather is large enough, its easy to use a larger spotted bird with a bird that is down in spot to increase the amount of melanin. It's actually a good idea to use a bird with a bit of flecking that can be described as "over-spotted" to increase spot size.

It's here we need to talk about using opalines and the opaline factor. These are usually bigger spotted birds with that extra feather. It's with these opalines that flecking seems to come so restrict their use. Use them with normals to increase feather and spot size. I am not a great fan of opalines because of the problems they sometimes bring to the pairings but they have their uses, but do not overdo the idea of using them or you will run into problems.

However, opalines are a variety that have their place in the specialist birdroom. They are a lovely variety and can be bred as a specialist variety if the problems of flecking can be contained. There is certainly a place for them as a variety and there are great opportunities for any breeders to undertake them as a specialist variety. For me – they are about using them for the qualities they bring to improve the normals. I particularly like to use opaline hens as they are a sex-linked variety.

Opalines can bring another feature – width of shoulder. It's the increase of width across the wing-butts. The modern exhibition birds need width here. They need wide shoulders to carry the large spots. If the spots are large and the spaces between each spots should be the size of the spots themselves – it's easy to understand there has to be lots of room to position the mask. Wide shoulders are vital or the large spots will be touching and need to be spread out. Width is vital but frequently overlooked when pairing.

All these features have to be introduced and it is about selective breeding to reproduce them. There seems that with careful pairing, all youngsters will improve slightly every year. It is about working with these youngsters and moving forward. Try to introduce birds with the required features but at the same time eliminate birds without the features you require. Fanciers need to understand that selective breeding is about what you pair together but at the same time it's vital eliminate birds that do not carry the features you want.

Forget the idea that you have to constantly be going out to buy the features you require. It's about using what you have properly. You just

cannot keep spending money to buy birds. Work slowly with a plan and it will eventually come together. You obviously have to buy the features sometimes but I never believe that fanciers really use their imports properly. Over long periods it's the people who buy wisely, and work hard with their birds that achieve the most success over a long period of time. Buying might buy instant success but the "big spenders" never seem to stay around long enough to win over the long period.

Think about that one!

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Joanne Towler North Queensland

Ian & Kathy Manton NSW

Vic Murray & David Spinks Victoria

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Breeding Masterclass 4 – Using outcrosses

Let's talk pedigree breeding for a minute – it's about pairing birds together that are related to establish a high percentage of the initial bird or birds upon which to form a family. It's a way of getting a lot of babies all closely related and looking like the original bird or birds.

Line breeding is quite simply about pairing not so closely related birds together like cousins, nieces and nephews, grandfather to granddaughter. In-breeding is pairing more closely related birds together like mother to son, father to daughter and then pairing closely again.

There are lots of advantages to pairing related birds in both of these ways. It establishes families quickly, they all tend to look alike and generally the youngsters tend to produce consistently decent babies. However, it's still important to select the pairs carefully and not to double up on the faults. Pedigree breeding is about ruthlessly eliminating the faults and doubling up on the qualities.

As we have always explained – breeding quality budgerigars is not as simple as we can sometimes suggest. Establishing a family is not so difficult but deciding where to take these related birds is less easy. You can only get out what you put in so to make serious improvements on features it's usually necessary to bring something new in – and use it.

There are not all advantages to pedigree breeding. Over a long period pairing related birds tends to see a reduction in size of the youngsters but this only happens over a long period. It's not going to happen over just two or three generations. Weaknesses start to creep in eventually; – the birds tend to become less vigorous. They start to breed less well – fertility can become a problem. Dead in shell starts to become a problem too. It's the result of a weakness that causes the chicks to die-back inside the egg.

As pedigree breeding is carried out over a lengthy period, the birds themselves seem to get smaller. There is little doubt there is a loss of size. May be this is about loss of feather bird the birds appear smaller

and the feather seems to become less buff. It is something those bantam chicken breeders use to their advantage. They want their birds small so by in-breeding they can reduce size – exactly what they want. Over-coming the problem – if it is a problem with budgerigars, calls for pairing to an unrelated bird – an outcross.

We then need to bring in what is called an “outcross” – a totally unrelated bird. It brings in what is called “hybrid vigor” to the breeding birds. For one moment think about any pedigree animal like a dog. Mongrels are strong, bred from unrelated parents and not susceptible to problems. Pedigree dogs are not so strong, they suffer problems associated with the breed and there can be serious weaknesses in the breed. I am not suggesting we need mongrel budgies but from time to time we do need to introduce new blood to add that all important strength and vigor.

When we bring in an outcross there are two reasons –

- To bring in that hybrid vigor to give the strength and vitality
- To bring in extra qualities to make improvements and add features.

Bring in an outcross and you need to bring in the very best bird you can get your hands on. Decide carefully and think long and hard as to what you need to improve and think about the added or increased features you need to improve. Think about where you are going to buy or even exchange a bird for your outcross. An exchange will sometimes make a particular bird available that is not available to purchase.

Introduce the bird – and it’s usually a cock but it can be a hen. Some fanciers will suggest you test the outcross and see if it works with your stock before you use it with too many of your birds. They usually work because you tend to pair them with your best birds – but sometimes they just do not “click” with your birds. The added strengths like increasing fertility take a while to see the bonuses. However, you can be fairly sure that those bonuses do come in time.

There are other bonuses we have not talked about so far. In-breeding and line-breeding brings a loss of feather and a reduction in size. Many will not want to admit this – because they have learned (and been told) that breeding budgerigars is all about pedigree breeding and they base their sales pitch on their pedigree birds – selling pairs of related birds!

However, bringing in an outcross – an unrelated bird, suddenly brings a boost of feather to many of the youngsters. It all comes with that hybrid vigor. Never take this theory as a way forward to constantly pairing unrelated birds because it will not work. It is all about pairing the result of pedigree breeding to an outcross that brings the added feather – and what appears as size.

Let's look at a fantastic example or two. Over the years I have interviewed many breeders and they tell me the story of how they breed their quality birds by pedigree breeding. I dig in a bit deeper and ask about a particular bird that was a super bird and may have taken several best in show awards. They still tell me the story of pedigree breeding and start to get somewhat vague. It has happened too many times to be any coincidence! I dig deeper and suddenly they realise it was bred from an outcross paired into their pedigree birds. They look amazed! Some have even had to look it up in their records to show me.

I can back this up with a story of a top pedigree breeder in South Africa of years gone by. He frequently used to sell his top winners at the shows and never take them home. He had finished with birds, left the hobby and was very old the last time I sat with him and I asked him about this arrangement of selling his best birds.

He smiled – and told me they were nearly always bred from his pedigree stock paired to an outcross. He then told me that he did not want to use these youngsters back in his birdroom and I asked why? He quietly told me – “they are mongrels boy – and I do not want to breed with mongrels in my birdroom – I am a pedigree breeder”

I rest my case!

Breeding quality budgerigars is about pedigree breeding but never forget that you cannot do it for ever without bringing in fresh or new blood. Select that outcross wisely, and use it even more wisely. When you breed that super bird from that outcross paired into you closely related stock – remember breeding budgerigars successfully is about pedigree breeding and then using that outcross wisely!



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**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 29th November 2015*

MEETING OPENED: 3.15 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 Ted Wallis & John MacNamara in the past year and for anyone else lost from members families

IN ATTENDANCE : Warren Wilson, Steve Wackwitz, Barry & Terese Ryan, David Wilson, Michael & Gerry Lynch..... no proxy forms were received for this Meeting

APOLOGIES : R Hugo, Scott Eriksen, Betty Rea, Cedric D'Costa, Vic Murray, Di Neale, Markos Pangalos, Ray Galbraith, John Patterson, Ernie Wise, Bruce & Nola Bradford

MINUTES : The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were tabled, moved Gerry Lynch, seconded Terese Ryan that they be recorded as a true and correct record of that meeting, carried..

FINANCIAL REPORTS : The financial reports were tabled, moved David Wilson, seconded Michael Lynch that the accounts as tabled & circulated be accepted, carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2016 The following office bearers were elected:

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

Two Positions were vacant and nominations were received for Terese Ryan, Vice President and Ben Hale, SA Representative, moved Gerry Lynch, seconded, Michael Lynch that they be accepted, carried. It was then moved by David Wilson, 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, except those as mentioned.... Carried ..

A vote of thanks was accepted for Robert Worrell who had been forced to retire as SA Rep through continued ill health, we all wish him well and thank him for his help over the years.

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 2015/2016 year. Carried unanimously..

Warren advised that fundraising efforts were still required – 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. . 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 2016 there would again be a CBSA Lawn Show in South Queensland on July 16th, the NSW Lawn Show was still scheduled for November 27th .. Victoria would have their Show Awards at the United Show in Melbourne in May next year, North Queensland in June, Tasmania with the Presentation show, South Australia in July and WA in October at the BRASEA show Deletion of the ring details for our Challenge Competition was left to the President & Secretary to implement

There being no further scheduled business – the Meeting was declared closed at 4.20 pm

.....Chairman

CLEARWING BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA Inc



PATRONS: "BRASEA" - Budgerigar Rare &
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Show

Please indicate what type of Show – Annual, Young Bird or Club Challenge show between two clubs or more

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there were Clearwings benched

if there was more than one section and each section had a winner judged, then one point can be earned
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Name(s).....

Postal Address of Exhibitor

.....postcode

Phone.....email.....

.....Signed by
Secretary/President of Club organising the Show/Clearwing Society Rep or BRASEA Rep
confirmed that this Show was an Annual Show, Young Bird Show or Challenge event and **NOT** a Table Show

CLEARWING BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

PO BOX 141 CROYDON NSW 2132

TELE: 02 97476642

Mobile Service: 0418 916 685

FAX: 02 97157165

Secretary – Rob Hugo Phone 08 9377 2420

EMAIL: clearwing@budgerigarrare.com or Rob unique1@bigpond.com.au

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

Tick a Box

☐

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

☐

NEW MEMBERSHIP

1/We wish to apply for membership of the
Clearwing Budgerigar Society of Australia Inc.....

Names (s)

Postal address

.....

Telephone: (.....)Fax: (.....)

Email:

Currently breed ClearwingsYes / No

Currently exhibit Clearwings.....Yes / No

Would be willing to hold Office in the Society if elected Yes / No

Would be willing to assist with Society activities in my areaYes/ No

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