

"Chirp & Squawk"

September 2011 Newsletter



www.kapitibirdclub.org.nz

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Next club night: Wednesday 14 September

7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

Community Centre, Ngahina St
Paraparaumu

President's Report I am a little disorganised this month I am afraid. We are moving house so things a little out of kilter.

Two big thank you's to Tom Edser. The first for modifying our name tag holding box to make storing and sorting our name tags a little easier. Also, there will now be a small basket next to the box for members to drop their nametags in after the meeting. This will allow one person to sort all the nametags in the correct order rather than have people drop them in willy nilly as seems to happen now, thus making it easier to find next time.

The second thank you for Tom is for representing our club (at the last minute) at the recent Nationals held in Auckland. See below for Tom's report on the event.

Club Night

I have had a number of members over the last few months come to me asking for a night on seeds, specifically seed mixes – what we are feeding our birds and why. I was going to do this next month but with us moving house this weekend, I haven't had time to organise a guest speaker for this month, so we will switch September and October's club nights around. September will be on seed mixes and October will be a guest speaker.

Those of you who mix their own seed, please bring along a sample of your mix, a small note on what is in the mix and why you use what seeds you use. Obviously, as always, any secret squirrel stuff can be left out of the notes. Before the seed mix talk we will have a little competition – "Know your seeds!" A number of different seeds will be passed around and you will get to identify them – so brush up on your seeds! Thanks to Tom and Nola for lending us their seed sample stocks.

Seed Sales

Remember, Bill does keep some spare seed on hand for those who misjudge and under order. While this stock isn't extensive, it might help you through to the next order due in November. Talk to Bill at the meetings.

Also, for those with smaller flocks, there are smaller seed sizes being sold by the club at the meetings for some more common seeds:

- 1kg bags of Budgie Mix - \$2.40
- 1kg bags of Canary Seed - \$2.40
- 1kg bags of Fine Oyster Grit - \$1.20
- 1 bag of 25 Millet Sprays - \$6.50
- 3x Cuttlefish - \$1.50

See Helen at the seed table on club night.

Subscriptions	These are now due. Please refer to the documentation you were sent last month.
Club Library	The Library will be available for perusal and loan-out as usual.
Raffles	Last month's raffle winner was ME! Thanks for the chocolate biscuits and nice bottle of wine to wash them down with. I wonder what this month's prize will be? Don't forget to buy your tickets this month - only \$1 per ticket!
Photographs	I have received some photographs and they will be scanned and put up on the website once our house move is completed. We are still looking for information on the club photo albums that have been missing for at least two exhibitions now. Any news on their whereabouts gratefully accepted. Please contact the webmaster (Adam) for either of the above.
Xmas Dinner	<p>I only received three different suggestions for this year's Xmas Dinner venue. One stood out with eight votes and the other two had two votes each. So these three options will be looked at for pricing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monteiths • Cookies • Pot Luck Dinner at Community Centre <p>The last option will be much like our mid-year dinner, but with a little more forward planning. Watch this space.</p>

Nationals Notes	Here are Tom's notes from the Nationals:
<u>Entry</u>	1500, less than I would have expected from major city show
<u>Hall</u>	Spacious, poor light for judging
<u>Attendance</u>	Large public attendance well advertised and signage
<u>Sales</u>	Large number of birds for sale, great sales
<u>Benching</u>	Birds rather disorganized
<u>Debenching</u>	Diabolical!
<u>Bus Trip</u>	Scenic Tour of Central Auckland. Conducted Tour of Eden Park, fabulous. Bird Barn, large suburban pet retail eye-opening - price of birds unbelievable
<u>Conference</u>	Low key – positive
<u>Social</u>	Venue great, nice food spoiled by being cold
<u>Show Results</u>	<p>Murray & Jan: Best Colour Fed, Best and CYCR Non Colour fed</p> <p>Tom & Nola: 3rd Best Border</p>
<u>Judging next year in Christchurch:</u>	<p>Murray: Colour Fed</p> <p>Tom: Border Canaries</p>
<u>Overall</u>	<p>Good show. Great Atmosphere.</p> <p>National Show 2012 definitely in Christchurch. Will bring details of venue accommodation to next meeting. Suggest book early. Let's see a good contingent travel south. Christchurch is always a great show</p>

Thanks again to Tom and congratulations to all of the winners mentioned above.

For Sale	Bengalese, Isobel, Turquosine, Canaries, Cockatiels, breeding cages. For information and prices ring Paul 06 3672525
Wanted to buy	Two red factor canary hens ring Paul 06 3672525

Canary Breeding – some basic principles *(from Federation Newsletter)*

The usual time to start conditioning canaries is mid-winter and at this time, in addition to their basic seed mixture they should be receiving soft food, condition see (niger, rape) and additional supplies of grit plus a little charcoal. The rearing food should be provided twice a week for three months prior to breeding. Hens should be given as much exercise as possible during this period and it is wise to dust all birds with an effective mite powder at least three times. Many breeders will trim the vent feathers of both hen and cock to improve the chances of effective mating. Cages should be thoroughly cleaned and, if necessary repainted, dusted or sprayed to help prevent any mite infestation. Nest felts will need to be purchased and thoroughly dusted with mite powder before being sewn into nesting pans. A supply of nesting material will also need to be provided – eg teased hessian or carpet underfelt, egg boxes (to store eggs pre-incubation) labelled to avoid mix-ups. A supply of dummy eggs will be needed. These are used as substitutes for the first three eggs in each clutch which are then returned to the nest once the fourth egg has been laid. This procedure ensures that each chick has a good chance of being successfully reared. Breeding fitness should be assessed by the condition of the hens. They will start to carry small pieces of material in their beaks or shred paper used to line the floor of breeding cages as the breeding season approaches but often they will do this a month or so before they are fully ready. As their condition improves many will be seen trying to pull feathers from their breast to start building and they will be continually ‘calling’ to cock birds.
