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“Chirp & Squawk”

December 2013 Newsletter

**Next Club Event: Wednesday 11 December 6.30pm-9.30pm
6.30pm-9.30pm – Xmas Dinner – Fisherman’s Table, Paekakariki**

President’s Report:

Compliments of the season to all members on behalf of the committee. We hope you all have a very Merry Xmas and a safe and happy New Year.

December’s Club Night: Wednesday 11 December 2013

Junior’s:

There will be no Juniors Night in December due to the Xmas Dinner. Junior’s night will resume in February (as we do not have a meeting in January).

Club Event:

Christmas Dinner: This has been booked at Fisherman’s Table at Paekakariki. As requested, we have made a group booking but everyone will be ordering their own meals off the normal menu rather than off a fixed menu. This allows everyone to order what they want rather than forcing everyone to order the same thing. Booking has been made for 6:30pm. We need to confirm the actual numbers by Monday 9th, so anyone who wants to go and whose name was not on the list by November’s club night, please contact Helen before Sunday 8 December. Please also bring a small xmas present gift wrapped up to the value of \$5 for swapping with others during the meal.

February 2014 Nga Manu Reserve – Sunday 16th

We have booked Nga Manu Reserve – BBQ and tours/walks - for Sunday 16th of February 2014 1:45pm as eel feeding is at 2pm which is seconds from where we enter the Sanctuary. Prices: Adult \$16.20, Child under 15yrs \$7.20 and Family 2 adults and children of that family (\$Price to be confirmed\$).

April 2013 Exhibition

If you could start thinking about this as we need to organise a few things already. We need non-perishable items for the raffle please put in the box by the name labels as you enter the club rooms. We also need volunteers for the Exhibition Committee who will help organise the Exhibition – up to 10 people by December. This is extra to the volunteers on the day. Please put your name on the list or contact Helen.

A Peek in Your Aviary

We are currently in discussions with one of our neighbouring clubs to have an Aviary Crawl in March 2014 with the possibility of a return crawl either later in the same month or the following month. Watch this space. Those interested in allowing their aviaries to be seen on the return trip please let Helen know so we have an idea how many aviaries are available.

Seed Order:

Thank you to everyone who arrived on time. Always makes for a quick turnaround for those of us handing out.

Club Rules

We are bound by a set of rules – our constitution – the little green book! We have been a bit lax these last few years and some members may not have a copy. Get a note/email to Don (Treasurer) for your copy or Helen (Secretary) will have spare copies at the Club meetings.

Bird Database:

If Helen has not contacted you about your birds for the database, feel free to either approach her at the meeting or call her (number is at the top). The club gets many queries about birds, whether someone is interested in buying or selling or just general information regarding a particular bird breed. Should a query come in from our website, the database can be consulted and the database manager can then contact the member in question. At this point it is up to the member whether they contact the person querying or not – this is not compulsory. Also, the only person contacting the club member will be the database manager – no one else, including other club members, will get any contact details. All information remains confidential.

Club Library:

The latest Birdkeeper magazines are now available for loan. Don't forget: if you can think of any other books that may be suitable for the Club to purchase, feel free to let Bev or David E know. We are having major problems finding up-to-date additions/replacements for the library so any help will be much appreciated.

Club Website:

Remember if you can't find a newsletter or want to ask a question, or have birds for sale/want to buy – go to our Club's website (<http://www.kapitibirdclub.org.nz/>). Remember this and you can advise other people interested in birds to check out the website or join the Club! I have added links to a couple of forums we use a lot and a couple of others I found. If you have any good links you want to share with the members, please let me know and I will get them added. There are also newsletters from other Bird Clubs and the Federation too.

Raffle:

Don McAlpine won last month's raffle. As we are at the Xmas dinner, there will not be a raffle in December. Raffles will return in February.

Federation Newsletter:

There will be a copy of these on the table beside the name tags for those who are interested. They come out every two months.

Seed Table Sales:

For those with smaller flocks or you need something before the seed order, there are smaller seed sizes being sold by the Club at the monthly meetings of the common (and some not so common) seeds.

We are trialing some other seeds in smaller amounts at member's requests and if they do not sell, we won't be getting them again:

See Jan/Lyn at the seed table on club night. There are also samples of the seeds Top Flight supplies in small containers so you can look at the seed selection.

Buy, Sell or Swap:

There are a number of birds from last month's list still for sale and wanted. Call Helen if you are interested and she will pass you on to the relevant buyer or seller.

Wanted: Your spare unhatched eggs. Helen wants to expand her current collection of eggs and is going to make a set for the club as well. She is looking at two of each type of bird's egg that cover all our member's different varieties/species. Feel free to talk with Helen about this for further information or with your donations. Remember this is a long-term task – we are asking this now so people will have it in their heads to save some eggs that would otherwise be thrown away.