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“Chirp & Squawk”

November 2013 Newsletter

Next Club Night: Wednesday 13 November

7:00pm-7:30pm - Juniors

7.30pm-9.30pm – Club Night

Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

President's Report:

Apologies for the late newsletter. As can be seen below, we have no speaker and I came up with yet another possibility that I didn't hear back a no confirmation until Wednesday night.

Thanks to all those who turned out for Terry's funeral/tangi last week. The club was well represented.

Well its almost that time of the year again when the jolly red fella comes down the chimney and leaves us lots of pressies, some in the form of new baby birds. For those coming to the end of your breeding season, I hope you had a good one. For those of you still going or just starting, I hope you have a good season ahead. There seem to be some thought of a hot summer coming this year so don't forget to have plenty of water available.

November's Club Night:

I have not been able to contact this month's speaker to confirm she is still coming (I understand she is out of the country at the moment) and our backups were already unavailable for November. So this month is a Show and Tell Club Night. Bring something along to Show and Tell – just like back in your school days ☺

On the subject of guest speakers, if you have someone you think would be a good speaker, please contact the committee. We are always open to new ideas, especially when we get into the situation we are in currently with a number of possible speakers but none available for a particular night.

December's Club Night: Wednesday 11 December 2013 Christmas Dinner

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).

Christmas Dinner: This has been booked at Fisherman's Table at Paekakariki. 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 give them an estimate on numbers attending so anyone who wants to go please make sure your name is on the list (at November's club night) or contact Helen (if you are not able to attend November's meeting) before Friday 6 December.

April 2013 Exhibition

If you could start thinking about this as we need to organize a few things already. We need non-perishable items for the raffle please put in the box by the name labels. We also need volunteers for the Exhibition Committee who will organize 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 see Helen.

Seed Order:

It is that time again. Bill will have the seed order forms at November's meeting. Remember no form – no order. Order will go in on Sunday 17th November and will arrive for pickup from the container at the Met Office on Saturday 23rd November (unless otherwise advised by Bill). If you cannot make November's meeting please ensure you contact Bill BEFORE Sunday otherwise you will miss out. Also, a reminder that the pickup window is now **10:00am-11:00am**. If you cannot make the 10:00-11:00 pickup window, please contact Bill BEFORE Saturday to arrange either for an alternate pickup time (which would be during weekday work hours assuming Bill is there) or advising someone else is picking up the seed for them. If someone else is picking up your seed, please ensure they have your payment so Bill can complete the paperwork on the day.

Club Trip

We have booked Nga Manu Reserve – BBQ and tours/walks - for Sunday 16th of February 2014 (Adult \$15, Child under 15yrs \$6 and Family \$35 2 adults and children of that family – Prices to be confirmed in February's newsletter as this will come out before the BBQ day).

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.

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, 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 member will be the database manager – no one else, including other club members, will get 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 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.

Raffle:

June won last month's raffle. Don't forget to get your tickets for this month - \$1.00 per ticket!

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.

Pigeon Express:

We have a number of containers of Pigeon Express available for purchase by club members: \$20 per 750ml bottle. First up best dressed. These will be available on the seed table while stocks last.

Buy, Sell or Swap:**Wanted:**

- Frosted Apricot Red Factor Hen
- 2 young'ish black masked, blue lovebirds

Please contact Helen and we 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. We can use this going forward both as an exercise in egg recognition and as a record of the different bird types within the club. There will be a sheet of paper on the club table/notice board which will have listed all bird types known to be in the club and also what eggs are currently covered and obviously what are still needed. 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.

(Excerpt taken From the Federation Newsletter October 2013)

Breeding Season & Going on Holiday Tips. NB. It's Guy Fawkes soon, so leave a night light on, close any birdroom windows/curtains & if your birds are used to a radio going by day, make sure it is on the night of November 5th!

- 1) Check your birds have constant access to fresh clean water.
- 2) Ensure greenfood is 'spray-free' and removed before it has a chance to go stale.
- 3) Keep your pre-mixed softfood in the fridge.
- 4) Birds love to bathe so keep a shallow container handy for this purpose but be careful it isn't so full that there is a risk of chicks drowning in it.
- 5) Clean river sand is good for birds to pick through and even 'dust-bathe' in.
- 6) Keep a special watch out for traditional threats to adults & chicks such as cats at night, mite, mosquitoes, sudden noises, excessive heat etc.
- 7) Before going on holiday, arrange for a reliable person to care for your birds.
- 8) Before you go, check your aviary, breeding cages etc for any damage/holes.
- 9) Check the locks on your birdroom/aviary.
- 10) Leave a clear list for the carer along with your cellphone number.

Breeding Season Tips Part 2

- 1) Observe your birds' behaviour even more than normal
- 2) Avoid sudden movements or introducing strangers into your birdroom near any sitting hen
- 3) Hovering blowflies often mean dead chicks, so check the young frequently
- 4) Check cage floors frequently as chicks may fall out but can still be revived by a warm hand & gentle breathing on them
- 5) Keep to regular feeding times & a late feed will keep chicks topped up overnight
- 6) Keep accurate ring records