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## **“Chirp & Squawk”**

### **February 2015 Newsletter**

**Next Club Night: Wednesday 11 February  
7.30pm-9.30pm – Club Night**

#### **President's Report:**

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new year. The 2014 Christmas Dinner at Fisherman's Table was another great success. Thanks to all who turned up (even those extras we hadn't accounted for but luckily the restaurant were prepared for us ☺).

\*\* Apologies for the delay in your newsletter arriving. I sent it to Don on Wednesday but it seems to have gotten lost in the ether. \*\*

#### **February Club Night: Wednesday 11 February 2015 from 7.30pm**

This month's meeting is our usual welcome back meeting, but as we have brought this year's Exhibition forward a month, this will also be our main Exhibition preparation meeting. See below for more details on the Exhibition.

#### **Guest Speakers**

Yes it's that dread subject again – Guest Speakers. We can never seem to get enough of them. We did well in the second half of last year but as always – we are on the lookout for speakers especially those bird related and even better if they have never been to talk to us before. Of course, this doesn't mean we can't have other interesting guests come along or repeat guests. So if you know of anyone who would be willing to come along and talk to us or someone that could be approached, please let Adam or Helen know.

#### **Breeding Season**

I hope everyone is having a good season so far. Any problems, don't forget we have oodles of experience in the club that we can tap into. Feel free to ask questions and I am sure someone will be able to provide some assistance.

#### **Seed 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. See Jan and Denise on club night.

#### **November's Seed Order Problems**

Those members who ordered seed in November will have an extra letter enclosed with this month's newsletter explaining the problems we had with the order. Please ensure you read it.

#### **March Seed Order**

The next seed order is due in March, but the pickup date now clashes with our Exhibition. We propose to still take the order on March's club night but will delay the actual ordering one week so it arrives the weekend after the Exhibition. The last thing we need is to have to scramble around 1+ tons of seed while trying to get all of the Exhibition stocks in and out of the container.

## **March Exhibition**

Yes you are reading it right – this year's Exhibition will be in March instead of the usual April timeframe. The reason – we are having our Exhibition on the same weekend as the Sustainable Home and Garden Show – Saturday 21 March 2015. I can already hear the “are you mad?” comments from some people, but there is a reason behind our madness.

Historically we have always deliberately dodged that weekend for various reasons, mostly along the lines of “there will be no parking for our visitors”. Well I cannot deny this reasoning, except I and the committee (and some other members as well) think the obvious counter to this is “well what about the hundreds (or is it thousands) of people that will be walking PAST the Community Centre going to and from the Garden Show being held next door??? They won't have parking either but they still come and they are possible candidates for visitors for us as well.

So, next week's meeting will be the usual assigning of tasks to members. Don't forget – if you aren't there you might get volunteered for something anyway (☺).

Outside of the help setting up on Friday afternoon and the help on the actual day, the main thing outside of club stocks we required is two trailers and two vehicles to tow them. These will both be required Friday afternoon (usually a 3-3.30pm start) at the Met Office Container to pick everything up and take it to the venue, one Saturday morning to help put out the on-day signs and both again from 3pm Saturday afternoon to help pack up and take everything back to the Container again. If you have a trailer and/or a towbar capable vehicle you are willing to bring/donate, please let us know at the meeting on Wednesday.

## **Club Library**

Noel and Janice have sorted through the books and added another selection of books for you to read. They also ask that if you have any outstanding books to please return them. The latest Birdkeeper magazines are also 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 our new librarians know. We are having major problems finding up-to-date additions/replacements for the library so any help will be much appreciated.

## **Club Rules:**

We are bound by a set of rules – our constitution – the little green book! If you do not have one of these, get a note/email to Don (Treasurer) for your copy.

## **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 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.

Helen has also spoken to most of the lower North Island clubs and we have their permission to publish their newsletters on our website as well so feel free to check out what they are doing. NZ Federation minutes are available to read on club nights and on the website as well.

## **Raffle**

Don't forget to get your tickets for this month's raffle. These have been selling very well so don't miss out!

**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.

**Community Centre Storage**

Due to (new?) Health and Safety requirements, we have removed our storage cabinet from its current location in the hallway next to the kitchen at the Community Centre and moved what we could into our new storage. Initial thoughts of it being bigger than we currently had was partly right – the problem is the shelves they put in do not work with our current containers and we lose out on a lot of potential storage space. While they said they won't be changing these shelves (they paid a lot of money in a short timeframe to get them done – pity there wasn't some prior consultation on shelf locations with the potential users but there we are). If we have a friendly carpenter, we may try and see if we are able to get the shelving change somewhat to help us in our storage needs. Watch this space.

**Wanted to Sell:**

- Bird cage for sale: 6' long x 2' wide x 6' wide square welded mesh with a total of six compartments, on wheels so can be moved as needed, cupboards along bottom for storage, fold-out shelf, comes with 2 ramps made from treated wood total length about 6' and plastic for wind break on outside if needed. Open to offers.