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“Chirp & Squawk”

August 2017 Newsletter

**Next Club Night: Wednesday 09 August
7.30pm-9.00pm – Club Night – Pre-Breeding Night**

President's Report:

Another year and another show season comes to a close. The Grand Nationals were held this year in Christchurch and saw a total of 1142 birds benched. Some Kapiti members made the long trip south. Tom & Nola Edser came away with Best AA Border and Barry Dwyer won Best Novice Yorkshire Canary and earned himself a Silver medal for his efforts. We came away with a mixed bag of prizes so the trip south was worth it. Best CYCR Cockatiel in two out of three classes, 2nd Best CYCR overall, 4th and 5th Best Cockatiel overall out of a field of nineteen.. On the Finch side, 3rd, 5th and 7th Best behind Dave Nicholson's Green Singer (again!! It won in Napier a few years back as well) and a Gouldian Finch. Interestingly, there were four quails on the bench – one Chinese and three Japanese – all from South Island breeders – and four Doves. It was nice to see a variety of non-hookbeaks on the bench for a change, although disappointing that the overall number count was so low. Many of the big showing members from the North Island did not make the trip south, so this was to be expected.

Congratulations to all winners and to the Christchurch Club for putting on a great show. For those interested, the Grand National next year is another South Island affair with the Timaru Club hosting the 2018 show. Plenty of time to start thinking about it and saving up ☺

First day of the last month of winter and breeding season is about to begin again (or already has for some). Do not forget we have a wealth of knowledge both in and around our club so if you have questions, bring them along. If you have an urgent query, get hold of Helen or Adam and we can point you in the right direction.

I hope everyone who ordered seed last month found the container ok. I have not heard any feedback about the day as I was in Christchurch at the Nationals but I can only assume that no news is good news.

At the Nationals, I spent some time speaking to the Top Flight reps. We will be arranging a visit from our local rep based in Whanganui to come as a Guest Speaker on a Club Night. Keep an eye out for further information on this event. One thing I did learn was they are all about feedback – good, bad or otherwise, so if you have any questions or complaints or even ideas for new mixes they may want to look at, bring them along for Trace and if she cannot answer them, she can get us answers from Oamaru.

August Club Night: Wednesday 09 August 2017 from 7.30pm

This month is pre-breeding preparation night. Bring along your questions and help will be on hand. I understand this month's bring-a-bird(s) will be some Ringnecks that one of our members needs some assistance on, so all your Ringneck experts out there – polish up your knowledge – and for the rest of us, prepare to learn something new ☺

Subscriptions:

Subscriptions are due from 1 August 2017. Enclosed with this month's newsletter is the 2017/2018 Subscription Form. As decided at the AGM, the Subscription prices are as follows:

Partnership or Family \$30;

Single \$20;

Junior \$5;

Federation Year Book (comes out January of the following year) \$10.

Club Library

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

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.

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.

Club Facebook Page:

Check out our Facebook page - search for Kapiti Bird Club.

Raffle

Don't forget to get your raffle tickets! \$1 per ticket. Comments on the new format welcome.

Federation and Other Clubs Newsletters

There will be a copy of these on the table beside the name tags for those who are interested. The Federation comes out every two months and other clubs monthly.

Show Season

The official Show Season is over but there is one Bird Sale left for the season:

August Sun 14 Kihikihi Bird Sale – Benching: 9am Starts: 9.30am Kihikihi Town Hall