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## “Chirp & Squawk”

### September 2017 Newsletter

**Next Club Night: Wednesday 13 September  
7.30pm-9.00pm – Club Night**

#### **President’s Report:**

With the breeding season into its second month, hopefully we are all having new babies in the nests. I realise not everyone may have started so don’t panic if you have nothing in the nest yet. Don’t forget, if you are having problems or just need some help or guidance, we have lots of experience we can access both in and out of the club, so let Helen or Adam know and we can match you up with the right help.

I am a bit short on news this month as things have been very quiet on the bird front in general, so I’ll try and find some handy hints at the bottom. If anyone has something that would be useful in the newsletter, be it news, hints or whatever, please let me know. Ideas for speakers wouldn’t go amiss either ☺ I am waiting to hear back from Topflite to tee up their speaking spot.

Don’t forget subscriptions are now overdue. For those who have already paid – thank you.

#### **September Club Night: Wednesday 13 September 2017 from 7.30pm**

This month is a club night as I have not been able to secure us a speaker. We still need a volunteer to bring a bird or two along for show and tell so if you haven’t had a go yet, now is the time to stick your hand up ☺

#### **Subscriptions:**

Subscriptions are due from 1 August 2017. Forms were enclosed with last month’s newsletter but if you missed out or have lost it, just let Helen know and we can get you another one. 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.

### **Handy Hints**

#1 Place a leaf of Aloe Vera plant in the birds drinking water. Replace after you clean the dish, leave for at least a week. Not only does it worm them, but also gives them all of the vitamins that they need.

#2 Use Essential Peppermint Oil (1 drop per 10mls of water) to deter Mice and all crawling insects including ants. Spray nest boxes and walls of cages and house areas.

#3 Save eggshells (well cleaned) and bake in the microwave for 2-3 min. Crush and mix with grated cuttlefish bone.

#4 Feed Bee Pollen in February to help with body and feather growth. Mix with seed or add to soft food.

#5 Bay Tree leaves placed in seed storage or hoppers help deter codling moth.