

**AUCKLAND METRO  
BIRD CLUB**

April 2013

**DON'T FORGET**

**BIRD SALE**

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**BUY, SELL & SWAP**

April 16<sup>th</sup> Benching starts at 7.15pm; Sale starts at 7.45pm

**Panmure Community Rooms, Pilkington Road,**

**Panmure.**

*President's Chirp & Squawk!*

This is a busy time on the bird calendar for us all. Our birds are hopefully finishing off their moult so that the apparent 'ugly ducklings' will have emerged with nice full, thick and stronger coloured feathering and we will be taking on our own 'judge's eye' attempting to assess just how good (or not!) they actually are. That's where I would definitely encourage members to seek the advice of more experienced members within the AMBC, or better still, bring your birds to a meeting for appraisal. The Bird Sales are underway (don't forget OURS is THIS TUESDAY!) and the Shows kick-off in Rotorua 3-4 May.

Our Show is 29-30 June and soon, we will be calling on your help because as you know, events such as these do not simply happen overnight and because we have a relatively large membership, the task of organizing and participating can be shared. Therein lies a major strength of the AMBC and in the past, it has been so gratifying to see so many of our members step forward to assist. You will be receiving your raffle books at Tuesday's meeting or with your May newsletter; if you can contribute a grocery item or even a grocery voucher to help make up the 3 prize hampers, that would be great. I would like to thank those who have so far donated towards our Show and in the May newsletter, we will list the jobs that need filling to make it a well run 'event.' Remember too, that YOU can be the best form of advertising when it comes to our Sale or our Show – tell your neighbours, friends, work colleagues or even make up your own sign or card to go in your local shops, vets, schools and supermarkets. We will have some available in May, but there is nothing to stop you from making up your own, bearing in mind key info such as date, time, place and what there will be to see and do.

If you are considering showing your birds, here's a tip.....DO IT! It can add a whole new dimension to birdkeeping. At our May meeting, we will run a session including preparing and planning for a Show, how to do the correct paperwork and the benefits to be gained. Some experienced exhibitors will be there to run the session and comment on any birds brought along.

Our March meeting was very well attended and Paul Dixon's talk on parrots covered a wide area and his comments on importing birds and the associated problems made for interesting thinking. Let's see as many as possible come along to this Tuesday's 'meeting with a difference!' We will set up the sales tables at 7.15pm for sales to commence at 7.45pm. If you intend buying, then do bring along a cage and cash. Onward going supper and a raffle will be available as usual.

*Dave Nicholson*

**A BIG THANKS TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE DONATED TOWARDS OUR 104<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHOW:** Chris Agius, Jackie Clements & Auckland Pet Funeral Services, Bob Cranston, Mark & Veronica Dullabh & Quality Seed Supplies, Eric & Colin Green, Nicholson family, van der Voorn family, Gary Wells. *NB. You can still donate to the Show & be included in the Show Schedule. Contact Dave, 576 2535.*

**BUY-SELL-SWAP NIGHT, TUESDAY 16 APRIL: Bench Sale Birds from 7.15pm; Sale starts at 7.45pm** Do not overcrowd cages; fresh seed/water; label cages with type, sex & price of bird. Please bring your own money/change & small boxes for transfer of bird to the buyer. Free entry for everyone but a donation from sellers would be much appreciated. If intending to buy, BRING A CAGE!

## WANTED

Any grocery items for our raffle hampers. Non-perishable please. Bring them along to this Tuesday's meeting or either of the next 2 meetings. If anyone could donate a grocery voucher, that would be really helpful too as we have to make up 3 prizes of groceries/vouchers. You will get your raffle books shortly and the draw will take place at our Show Prize-giving on Sunday 30 June. 10 tickets to a book at \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. Your help in this matter is really appreciated.



Each month we hope to have a club member profile in the newsletter, so with that in mind I sent out some questions to various club members.

1. When, how & why did you first get involved with birds?
2. What sort of birds do you keep?
3. What sort of set up do you have?
4. What do you like about birds as a hobby?
5. What advice would you pass on to new members?
6. How did you hear about the AMBC/and any comments/suggestions for the club?

#### Club member profile Werner Krieger

1. Way back in Germany 1950. I was 12 years old and got a siskin (European) for my birthday. I loved this bird, it got very tame and I could later breed hybrids with a canary. These birds were perfect singers and I could sell them and could then buy a canary cock bird and this was the start to my canary career. You should also know, that money was in short supply and my pocket money per month (!) was only 40 cents. A siskin would cost DM 2, a goldfinch DM 3 and a canary cock bird about DM 10. The DM can be counted like our \$. But at this time the average wage was very often only DM 200 per month (not per week!).
2. Since then I was never without birds. Sometimes I had only 2 breeding birds (because of the circumstances, such as little room), sometimes more. Most of the time I had canaries, visited also shows in Germany with some good results, was involved in the local club in my home city etc. Later I became a kind of an expert for colour canaries. These birds were still very rare in Germany at this time. The main breed was the Roller Canary.
3. Since I have lived in NZ (1989) I had mainly canaries. But also Gouldian finches at some time, Plumheads and Bengalese. Also some Goldfinches. Because of bad health and my age I keep now only some canaries and 2 Pairs of Goldfinches. I might have to further reduce because of my health problems.
4. A birdhouse with 2 indoor aviaries and one outdoor aviary. But I might soon move to town because of my health problems and might not have enough space for many birds. But certainly, I will never be without birds, unless I am bed ridden or really very sick and weak.
5. This question is not easy to answer. I simply like birds.

6. Keep only those birds you really like and not because they are expensive and you might expect some income. Keep birds simply because you like them. And find out what kind of birds you like most. Follow your feelings. When you start, inform yourself about the needs of the birds you want to keep (Food, housing, breeding habits, are they social and can be kept together or do they need separate spaces or cages etc.).
7. At one of the shows in Auckland many years ago.
8. Carry on as usual. Make the shows as interesting as possible. Perhaps not only for insiders (competing and judging the birds), but also consider to have small aviaries with different birds. Many visitors want to see birds kept in more freedom and not only in small show cages. Perhaps an aviary with plants would provide a perfect show effect. Back in Germany we always had two or even more aviaries with different birds, decorated with branches from evergreen trees (pine, fur), the floor covered with rocks and mosses or made like the forest in case we had European birds. The housing always was decorated to the environment the birds would naturally live in. These aviaries were always a magnet for all sorts of visitors.

Well, that's all I have to say. Keep going and keep a good friendship, help each other, have an interesting show every year. Have somebody available to show visitors around, explain what kind of birds are in the cages, explain how they are kept, what they feed, and the like.... In other words: Have a member who is a kind of a PR-person.

Kind regards

Werner Krieger

## **New Zealand National Bird Show Schedule**

Could you please ask your members to advise if they need a schedule for the 2013 National.

They can email me [dbbirch@clear.net.nz](mailto:dbbirch@clear.net.nz) or [ray.dnbird@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ray.dnbird@xtra.co.nz)

The close off for donations is 13th April and we hope to have them printed in time for the show season, so as we can hand deliver as many as possible.

Cheers Don Birch, Napier.

**WANTED - Budgie drinkers x 6. Contact Garry Wells 298 1073**

## **FOR SALE**

Fabulous ring neck parakeet looking for a special **home**. The bird is 18months old, very friendly and a real character. He talks and wolf whistles and loves to be on your shoulder. He needs someone that is home all day as he is a real companion bird. We are not sure of the bird's sex but have called it Alfie. Ph 09 536 4669 Joan Reynolds, Beachlands. All we want is \$100 ono for the cage.

## **OBITUARY**

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of junior member's, Johanna Gallichan's father on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time.

### **Attendees at last month's meeting**

**Chris Agius, Dave Nicholson, Taco van der Voorn, L & V Huston, E & C Green, Don Hutchings, G. Wells, G. Quayle, Lyn Howard, Terri Marchant, Ray Webber, B. Reinen, Rae & Carol Miller, Roy Stone, D. Grant, Elaine Turner, Krystal & Marie Gillbanks, Rae & Margaret Absalom, Bob Cranston, Barney Tremeer, Jackie Clements, Katie Beeson, B Verschuren, Ken & Craig Hughes, Ngaire & Barrie Madden, Brian Southee**

**Apologies to any one I missed but I could not read all the signatures. (Editor)**

***Don't Forget....it's our Buy-Sell-Swap Night Meeting this Tuesday. There will be Budgies, Canaries, Finches, Bourkes, Turqs etc as well as seed (Topflite) and accessories (including nestboxes suitable for Budgies, Finches, Mid-sized birds & Parrots) breeding cages & bird toys. We are even having out-of-towners bringing their birds to sell, so its an ideal way to buy in new stock. If you intend buying a bird or birds, please bring along a cage or cages and cash....we don't have a money machine! Sellers set-up from 7.15pm; Buying starts at 7.45pm. No entry fee or commission but a donation to the AMBC would be appreciated. Supper & Raffle available as usual. See you there!***

***Don't Forget....if you want to donate to our Show, there is still time & we will list it in the Schedule. Please see Dave at the Sales meeting or phone him on 576 2535.***

***Don't Forget....if you can contribute a grocery item or vouchers for our Show Raffle prizes, do bring them along to our meeting nights.***

