

**AUCKLAND METRO  
BIRD CLUB**

June 2013

**IT'S**

**SHOW**

**TIME**

**JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**Ormiston Senior College, 275 Ormiston Road,  
Flatbush.**

Monthly meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30 pm Panmure Community Rooms, Pilkington  
Road, Panmure.

## **President's Chirp & Squawk!**

It's SHOW MONTH! How could you possibly forget?! And what about those raffle tickets? Or the offers of help? Or promoting the Show far and wide? Pleasing to see a number of people have already returned their raffle tickets (sold!) or have contributed towards the grocery prize hampers or have volunteered to help over the weekend. If you can help in any way at all, do let us know at this Tuesday's meeting, or you could phone any of the members listed over the page. Whatever you can do to help maintain the high standards we traditionally set at our Annual Show, will be much appreciated. If you are relatively new to exhibiting, then do come along to the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June, as we will have show advice, including filling in the correct paperwork, preparing your bird, the showcage & even yourself! There is even a special award for a newcomer to showing! Stewards are still required and this is probably the best way you can find out more about birds and exhibiting. Remember that all raffle books must be returned sold or unsold and be accounted for by 12 Noon on 30<sup>th</sup> June as the draw will be made at our prize-giving on that day. If you have any spare grocery items, or even vouchers, please bring them along to Tuesday's meeting. Also at the meeting will be more show posters and supermarket cards. It doesn't matter where you live in Auckland, please do what you can to promote the Show in your area. The local papers and radio are doing their bit too. If you have any questions relating to the Show, bring them along on Tuesday or give either of our Show Managers a call (Vince: 534 4988, Taco: 266 6798) If you have birds to sell, make sure the cages have fresh seed & water, are not overcrowded & the cages are clearly labelled with type of bird, sex, price & it would be helpful to even put your name on for easier identification (Phone Roy: 266 6179) We will be setting up the hall (Ormiston Senior College, 275 Ormiston Road, Flatbush) from 3.40pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June, so help with that, or benching from 5pm will be really appreciated. Anyone interested in going to dinner at approx. 7.15pm on the Saturday night, 29 June, to the Howick Darts Club, at a cost of approx. \$25 let us know at the meeting or by phoning a committee member listed; bookings essential!

A big thanks to Eric who has contributed 2 great hampers and a carton of groceries for our raffle; it just goes to show what can be done with a positive attitude and a belief in what you are doing. Eric has also prepared stands for displaying the best birds in each section, so again Eric, many thanks for your grand work. Ray & Margaret have been busy delivering colouring competition forms to local schools and unless Whitcoulls agree to provide winning vouchers, is there a club member who would consider fronting up with some relevant prizes for a winner in each of the 2 sections, with 3 consolation prizes in each section? (Phone Ray/Margaret: 533 9015)

Terry Patten's talk on Budgies, including the housing, management, breeding, genetics, health etc at last month's meeting was very interesting and Linda's judging of the birds Terry brought along was very enlightening.....even for Terry! Good to see some very relevant questions asked and to note that what applies to one sort of bird, can be also applicable to another (except buff to buff!!)

This Tuesday's meeting will be a relatively informal affair, with some good showbirds on display, hints on show preparation, an update on where we are at in terms of the show, eg finances & help still needed, the chance to return your raffle tickets and of course, a good chat over super and the chance to win an exceptionally good prize in our 'pre-Show special meeting night raffle!'

See you there, 7.30pm, Panmure Community Rooms, 1 Pilkington Road, Panmure. Dave.

## **Annual Show – 29-30 June, 2013**

*This is the one time of the year when we respectfully ask ALL MEMBERS to help out. There is a lot of work that goes in to the hosting of the Show and even though a lot is done beforehand, to make things run smoothly, we need as many as possible to help out over the course of the weekend, even if only for a couple of hours.*

### **Helpers still required for:**

- 1) Setting up benching & benching birds from 3.40pm Friday 28 June at Ormiston Senior College, 275 Ormiston Rd, Flatbush. Show Managers, Vince & Taco would particularly appreciate this!
- 2) Front Door public entry and raffle sales Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning
- 3) Enquiries/New Members Desk Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning
- 4) Sweepers/General Helpers onward going both days
- 5) Helpers for de-benching, carrying birds to exhibitors' cars from 1.30pm, Sunday afternoon
- 6) Clean-up duties Sunday afternoon (probably 1.45-2.45pm)

### **If you can help, please see or contact the following:**

**Benching, de-benching, any bird related matters in the main hall: Vince 534 4988; Taco 266 6798**

**Bird Sales: Roy 266 6179**

**Enquiries Desk/New Members: Rae 269 4226**

**Kitchen:**

**Front Door/Public/Raffle Sales: Dave 576 2535**

**Stewards! A very important and enjoyable job where you can find out so much about birds. We try to match a steward with their own interest area but sometimes this is not always possible. At our June meeting, we will run through the duties of the Steward and do a rehearsal; should be lots of fun! Please let me know asap if you would like to steward & for which section as below with the respective judges:**

**Yorkshire Canaries, Robin Archer; Border Canaries, Jim Middleton; Norwich Canaries, Frank Petterd; Colour & Non Colour Fed Canaries, Marion Merrin; Gloster & Lizard Canaries, Don Birch; Roller Canaries, Trevor Lyon; Budgies Champ, Jason Walker; Budgies Novice, Phil Hill; British/Mules/Hybrids, Foreign & Cockatiels, Murray Luxford; Lovebirds, Jim Newton; Zebra Finches & Bengalese, Colin Green.**

**Stewards will need to be at the Show venue at about 8.30am Saturday 29 June & will be provided with morning tea and lunch with duties finishing around 1pm.**

For all your seed supplies contact Mark Dullabh 09 426 3021



- NZ Made Products
- NZ Sunflower
- NZ Canary



**Quality bird and  
small animal feed**

Quality Bird Supplies

## **YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU**

Help is still needed over the show weekend. Every member can do their bit by promoting the show in their area or amongst friends, family and work colleagues etc.

All raffle books need to be returned.

Grocery items/vouchers accepted.

### **UP COMING SHOWS**

Hamilton Cage Bird Club - 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> June

Piako Bird Club - 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> July

North Taranaki Bird Club(Inc) - 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> July

## READY TO SHOW

By Kevin Wirick

The show season always seems to sneak up on some individuals whereas others are well prepared for the event. You can pair your birds so that only the highest quality birds are produced but if you fail to prepare them for the show bench, you will not be in the winners circle.

I go through the summer catching birds and looking at the color and hoping that they will be all I want. I catch out the promising individuals and place these in flights where only my "show stock" will be housed. I normally will pick ten more birds than what I have show cages just to be sure I have enough birds in case of an accident or another problem.

If you are showing canaries, judge your birds under Vitalights at home. Since the birds are to be judged under this light, see how they look prior to bringing them to the show.

Eight weeks prior to the show, I pick the birds to go. Again, I will save back a few; just in case. Take the birds from the flight cages and examine their tails and wings; if a few feathers are broken, pluck these out by the quill. If you do this to a red ground canary, be sure to continue to color feed. Pulling the birds this early and plucking their feathers will allow them enough time to grow back in before the show. Also, trim their nails and rub their legs and feet with olive oil. Should you have Frill canaries do not cut their nails. Top birds will have "corkscrew" nails to be shown. After the show these can be trimmed.

For smaller birds such as budgies, canaries and finches put them in a small cage such as a double breeding cage. If your birds come out of flight cages you may notice that their wings are crossed. This is caused by muscles that the birds build up when they fly long distances. These muscles will relax after a week or two and will be fine for the show. Keep your birds in the smaller cages for a few weeks. After that you could put a divider in to get him/her used to a smaller cage. After a few weeks in the smaller cages bring out the show cages. The birds are put in the cage for a week or so. Then back into the smaller breeding cages until a few days before the show. Handle our birds in the show cages so they won't be afraid of the judge. In spite of your efforts I have seen birds that will not get on the perch for the judge. Another little tip that will help the timid birds is to wrap paper around the front of the show cage. Usually the birds want to see what is going on around them and they will raise themselves up to see what is going on around them.

Show cages for the smaller birds always have seed on the floor for them. A word of caution; if you are using a seed mix with flax seed in it will stick to the bottom of the cage if it gets wet and will be very difficult to remove. Most breeders prepare a seed mixture without this seed for the bottom of the show cage.

Baths are given often while the birds are in the wire cages but not in the show cages. I like to bathe the birds during the last week in ice color water that was in the refrigerator; this will tighten up their feathers. Stop giving baths the last three days prior to a show to allow the birds a chance to bring out his/her own natural oils.

This certainly is a great deal of work; no doubt about it. As a breeder, I get a lot of satisfaction out of seeing birds that I raised on the show bench. To often your birds may have loose points because of show preparation. This is something you can control; if you do your part, your bird may be on the winner's table at the next show.

## 10 QUICK BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

1. Background, background, background. If you don't have a clean background you don't have a good bird photo. Pick your backgrounds before you decide where to shoot.
2. It's nearly impossible to photograph song birds, some raptors and other birds without setting up a perch and drawing the birds in. You need four things to do this. A clean place for the bird to perch, cover, food and water.
- 3, If you decide to set up a perch make sure you use local vegetation – it both aids in drawing in the birds and it makes the photograph more believable. You won't find many arctic terns nesting on a cactus. Darker coloured perches are less troublesome exposure wise.
4. Bird feeders are the easiest way to attract birds but if you're going to put out a feeder make sure you use quality feed, and that you feed consistently, otherwise the birds will get sick or grow to rely on the feed and perhaps not find sufficient nourishment if you stop feeding. Tray feeders located near a water source and good perches will keep you shooting all day.
5. Use the smallest tray feeder you can find. Otherwise too many birds will just stay on the feeder and not land on the perch.
6. Remember that birds tend to fly or hop from perch to cover while they eat. They typically like to land on the same perch over and over so just be patient. When the bird leaves the perch there's a good chance it is coming right back.
7. Use a long lens. Something in the 400-600mm range will give you enough distance from the birds that you shouldn't scare them.
8. Shoot from a blind. Inexpensive bag blinds or hunting blinds are ideal for concealing yourself from the birds. They will be much more likely to hit your perch if they can't see you lurking nearby.
9. Allow plenty of distance between your perch and background. The further away the background is from the perch, the more pleasing the picture..
10. If you're photographing water birds, find a way to shoot from ground level. Water birds never look right when you are shooting down on them.