

AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB

March 2014



BRING AND TELL

Bring along a bird, invention, cage or idea and talk about it at the meeting, Tuesday 18th March, 7.30pm Panmure Community Rooms, Pilkington Road, Panmure.

SPONSOR a SECTION at our ANNUAL SHOW and help us continue to provide one of the BEST PRIZE LISTS in the country

President's Chirp & Squawk!

M and M! Translate that as: Moults and Mozzies, which seem to be the order of the day in my aviaries at the moment; what about yours? Most are getting through the moult ok with regular baths and a few extra 'goodies' helping the process but as I frequently find around this time, mosquitoes are making their presence felt by biting the canaries on the toes. I bring the worst cases into the birdroom and treat the ugly sores with Rawleights or Tea Tree Oil. I also spray the shelter and around the roofline with flyspray. Occasionally nearing nightfall, I will burn a citronella candle in the safety porch. Any other ideas?

Our BIRD SALE will be held at our meeting on 15th APRIL. By then, our birds will be through their moult and you will probably have decided which to keep and which to move on and what stock you need to buy in. Mark this date down now; further details in this newsletter, but please do your best to promote this sale far-and-wide. Other bird clubs have already been notified and invited to participate, so here's hoping that our own members will support this sale by bringing birds along to sell or by bringing a spare cage or two and a few dollars to buy! We will discuss the format at this Tuesday's meeting.

Also at this Tuesday's meeting, I will have samples of a new Auckland Metro Bird Club polo shirt for members to consider. It is a bright mid blue with white piping and is long-sleeved in a modern 'dri-fit' material, so that it will wash up well, and not lose its shape or colour. We will discuss whether to logo it with our bird emblem and writing or just the club's name on the left chest. Price will be around \$36 (depending on numbers ordered), making it excellent value, as the shirt alone retails at \$40 or more. It will be ideal to wear to meetings, shows, sales, fundraising activities etc. I will also have a short sleeved sample. If you cannot get to either this meeting or the April one, please phone me (Dave, 576 2535) and order your shirt (sizes small-5XL)

The Show Season kicks off on May 3rd, but our Annual Show isn't on until July 19th. If you would like to offer a donation or to sponsor a section, please let me know asap so that it can be acknowledged in the Show Schedule which we will soon be preparing. Similarly, if your workplace or business could contribute in some way, please let me know. Sections available to sponsor are listed in this newsletter. If anyone could help out with videoing parts of our show (especially good shots of the viewing public, behind the scenes and the winners) do let a member of the committee know as we would also like a full video made of the National we are hosting next year.

A huge "THANK YOU" to those club members who helped out at the sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings in Botany last month: Ross McChesney, Trevor Kemp, Keith Howarth, Sheryl Baron, Lynnette Porter, Chris Agius, Alan Frear, Taco van der Voorn, Jeff Page and Tina, Vince & Lynne Huston and Dave Nicholson. Remember, if club members who live out West or on the Shore would like to organise a fundraiser, we are more than happy to help! After all, we cover the greater Auckland area and are in fact, the only bird club between Kaitaia and Pukekohe!

Too often I hear, 'what can the club (be it any sort of club!) offer ME?' Well, what I would like members to consider is: 'What can I offer my club?' A few years back, one member organised an aviary crawl. In other words, it doesn't necessarily have to be a committee member who organises something. If you have an idea, please let us know and all the better if YOU would like to carry that idea through to its fruition!

We have had very pleasing numbers at our two meetings so far this year, so let's hope this positive attitude continues. The topic this Tuesday is 'Bring and Tell', where we invite ALL members to come along with something, eg a bird, an invention, a tip, an improvement you have worked on....anything to do with birds and their upkeep and just say a few words. I challenge 4 Budgie, 4 Canary, 4 Finch & 4 general interest bird people to help contribute to this Tuesday's meeting! Enjoy our supper, raffle, club shirt sample and general discussion! See you there, 7.30pm, Tuesday 18 March. *Dave.*

Present at the last meeting:

Derek & Esme Lourens, Vince & Lynne Huston, Dave Nicholson, Chris Agius, Eric Green, Ngaire & Barry Madden, Fiona Ji, Wayne Huang, Brian Southee, Bob Cranston, Lynnette Porter, Peter Roberts, Adrian du Plessis, Ray & Margaret Absalom, Ross McChesney, Keith Howarth, Jackie Clements, Ray Webber, Elaine Turner, Rae & Carol Miller, Jeff Page & Tina Park, Roy Stone, Mark Dulabh, Alan Frear, John Quedley, Jeni Hart, Victor Couwenbergh, Trevor Kemp. APOLOGIES: Graham Quayle NB. Eric Green's corrected number is 838 3284

NEW CLUB LONGSLEEVED POLO SHIRT!

If you would like a new AMBC polo shirt in smart blue with white piping, please view the sample at this Tuesday's meeting (or at our April 15th meeting: The Sale Night!) or phone/email me (Dave 576 2535; d.nic@xtra.co.nz)

Sizes: small, medium, large, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL Cost \$36 (TBC)

SPONSOR A SECTION AT OUR ANNUAL SHOW - \$35 – 19-20 JULY, 2014!

Our Annual Show tends to be the highlight of the year for the Club and it is always pleasing to see so many members of the public come along to enjoy the weekend. We constantly provide one of the best prize lists in the country and this is only possible by club members helping out with donations or helping to provide sponsorship ideas. If you would like to sponsor a section of birds in the Show, please let Bob Cranston (817 3808, Robert.Cranston@xtra.co.nz) and/or me (Dave 576 2535, d.nic@xtra.co.nz) know asap so this can be printed in the Show Schedule. From the following list, please give your first & second choice for a \$35 sponsorship:

Yorkshire Canaries

Border Canaries

Norwich Canaries

Gloster Canaries

Colour Fed Canaries

Non Colour Fed Canaries

Roller Canaries

Lizard Canaries

Budgies (Champ)

Budgies (Novice)

British/Mules/Hybrids

Zebra Finches

Bengalese

Lovebirds

Foreign

Cockatiels Best Newcomer to Showing & Runner-up to Best Bird (\$20 + \$10 for trophies; Best in Show (\$50 + \$20 for trophy)

Your help in sponsoring a section or any leads/contacts you can give or pursue yourself towards Show funds will be greatly appreciated!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday 18th March: 'Bring & Tell.' A fun, practical & informative night is promised with members welcome to bring along a bird, a tip, their record technique etc to share with other members. Sample shirt, raffle & supper as well!

Tuesday 15th April: 'Bird Sale Night!' Sellers must bring their birds in uncrowded cages, clearly labelled with type/sex/age/price of bird/s, fresh seed & water. You will be responsible for selling your birds yourself, so bring along some change. Birds to be benched by 7.20pm please, with selling to commence no earlier than 7.30pm. Buyers should bring along money and a cage to transport their purchases home.

PLEASE NOTE, WE DO NOT CHARGE FOR THIS BUT WILL MAKE A COLLECTION DURING THE EVENING FOR DONATIONS.

Tuesday 20th May: Our very own internal club show exercise! Bring along some of your birds (young & old) & we will have some experts on hand to comment on and assess them. An ideal opportunity to compare your birds with others in the club and to pick up some handy hints. There will be award winning Budgies & Canaries from last year on display which will give a good comparison. Let's hope that there will be a dozen or more of each type of bird brought along (can the Budgie members outdo the Canary members?!) We will also fill in a trial entry form using the Yearbook for the benefit of newer members.

MEMBERS HAVE PLENTY TO THINK ABOUT – EXCITING & POSITIVE TIMES AHEAD!

- 1) Have you collected your 2014 Yearbook yet? 2) Hands-on participation encouraged at our next 3 meetings! 3) Be proud of the AMBC & consider buying the brand new longsleeved polo shirt. 4) Start thinking about what birds you want to sell or buy at our Bird Sale on 15th April. 5) Sponsors/Donors & Helpers required for our Annual Show. 6) Contact Mark from Quality Bird Supplies if you want to order seed & he will bring it to the next meeting – 0800 247 373; 021 617 093; info@qualitybirdsupplies.co.nz

BIRD SALE

NZFBA bird sale **Saturday 5th April (9 -11am)** We would welcome any of those people who may have previously sold at South Auckland auction at the NZFBA bird sale. Entry \$2.00

Papatoetoe Town Hall, St George Street, Papatoetoe.

Dave Allen Ph 09-950-3478 Mob 021 483-066

WANTED

Female Cordon bleu and firefinch, Also Zebra finches for sale \$5.00 each.

Contact Nick Klaassen Ph 4192260

SWAP!

I am looking to swap a couple border show cages for a pair of (show quality) Zebra Finches. I purchased these cages a year or so ago and have not used them. They come with the proper show drinkers.

Contact Karl Hansen – 027 455 9378

Club Member Profile: Grant Wilson

How did I get into birds?

Started with 2 budgies for the family, then zebra finches, cockatiels, quails, and canaries.

Now we have the above birds plus turks and a few other pets.

Found the AMBC through annual shows and advertising through the local newspaper

At meetings would like to find out more about keeping birds, bird health, keeping birds happy, - which I did at Jan 2014 meeting was all good informative stuff.

Unfortunately didn't make the Feb 2014 meeting

Yes would like to hear from interesting speakers.

Regards

Grant Wilson - mobile 021 1525 404

FOR SALE

I have a small cage to give away, needs a little repairing. Also - For Sale - Budgies, Finches, Lizard Canaries, a Java Sparrow, 2 male Quails.

Interested Members can contact me on (09) 533 9015 or 021 105 4958 to discuss prices. All non show birds but Budgies are of good colour.

Ray Absalom

UPCOMING SHOW DATES 2014

MAY: 3-4 NORTH TARANAKI & POVERTY BAY; MAY 10-11 ROTORUA; MAY 17-18 TE AWAMUTU, CAPITAL & VALLEY CITIES; MAY 24-25 WAIRARAPA; MAY 31 WHAKATANE; JUNE 7-8 STRATFORD; JUNE 14-15 BAY CITIES; JUNE 21-22 HAMILTON & LEVIN; JUNE 28-29 HUNTLY; JULY 5-6 PALMERSTON NORTH; JULY 12-13 PIAKO; JULY 19-20 AUCKLAND METRO

BIRD SALE ! BIRD SALE!

ALL INVITED! ALL INVITED!

The **AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB** is having the **FIRST** of its **TWO** sales this year:

TUESDAY 15TH APRIL, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

PANMURE COMMUNITY ROOMS

1 PILKINGTON ROAD, PANMURE, AUCKLAND

(Just by the Library at the Panmure main street end of Pilkington Road)

Benching from 7.00pm – 7.25pm; Sale starts 7.30pm

Birds, Accessories, Seed, Supplements & Books/Magazines

- Please label your cage/s with type, sex, age & price of bird and your name
- No overcrowding of cages
- Fresh seed & water in cages
- You are responsible for selling your own birds (bring your own 'float!')
- Entry is free to the public & sellers/buyers; commission on sales is NOT asked for by the AMBC, but a donation will be politely requested during the evening

We will have a great Raffle Draw & onward going supper will be available.

**Further details from: Dave Nicholson 09 576 2535; 021 237 0453
Vince Huston: 09 534 4988**

STRESS IN BIRDS

Stress can play a large role in the overall health of both humans and companion animals. Because pet birds are naturally very sensitive creatures, they tend to not be able to deal with stress as easily as other types of pets such as cats and dogs. Being able to recognize stress in your pet bird is important to maintaining an environment that your feathered friend can mentally and physically thrive in, so it's a good idea to bird owners to learn how to monitor their birds' stress levels and make adjustments as needed to keep their pets healthy and happy. The points listed below will help you recognize common signs of a stressed bird, and offer advice as to how you can keep your feathered friend calm, confident, and content in his or her home.

Stress Bars

One of the most common physical indications of stress in pet birds is the appearance of [stress bars](#) on a bird's feathers. Stress bars are small lines that run horizontally across the shafts of a bird's feathers. While it can be difficult to assess stress bars in feathers that are still on a bird, examining moulted feathers can give a quick indication of whether or not a bird is having issues with a stressor in its environment. Stress bars can be caused by a variety of factors, so the presence of stress bars will not indicate exactly what is stressing a bird. Rather, they are a red flag that bird owners can use to start looking for potential sources of stress that their pets may encounter.

Aggression

The sudden onset of aggression in a pet bird can also be a big indicator that the bird is experiencing stress in its environment. [Aggressive behaviours](#) such as biting, hissing, lunging, and excessive screaming can manifest almost overnight when there is an environmental stressor involved. If you notice this sort of behavioural change in your pet, it may be a good idea to schedule an appointment with an avian vet to rule out any possible health problems. If a clean bill of health is given, then you can begin to work with your bird to figure out exactly what triggers the behaviour, and how you can adjust your bird's environment or routine to make him or her more comfortable.

Fearful Behaviour

If a bird that is normally happy to be [handled](#) suddenly begins to act fearful of you or other family members, then it is a sure bet that there is something about the person who triggers the behaviour that is causing stress to your feathered friend. It may not even be something that the person is doing directly to the bird -- something as simple as a brightly coloured shirt, a hat, or a new beard or mustache can be a trigger for a bird's fearful behaviour. Once you are able to identify a trigger, it is normally easy to remedy this sort of situation. However, if necessary, it is possible to condition a bird to eventually accept this sort of stressor through patience and practicing proper [bonding techniques](#).

Loss of Appetite

If a bird who normally has a healthy appetite suddenly begins to show less interest in eating, it can be an indicator of stress and/or health problems. A good rule to follow in this type of situation is to schedule an appointment with an avian vet to make sure that the bird is not sick or injured. If your feathered friend's health checks out, you can then begin to try and decipher possible stressors in your home that may trigger appetite loss in your bird.

Destructive Behaviour

Birds who begin to exhibit destructive behaviour are quite possibly very stressed, and the most likely culprit in this scenario is boredom. Being the extremely intelligent creatures that they are, pet birds in captivity often do not receive a healthy amount of mental stimulation, which can lead to frustration, stress, undesirable behaviours, and even health issues. If you discover that your bird is becoming overly destructive, try a few techniques for [preventing boredom in birds](#) and see if the problems subside. If they do not, it is advisable to seek help from your veterinarian and/or a [parrot behaviour consultant](#) to resolve the issue.