

# AUCKLAND METRO BIRD CLUB

April 2014

# BIRD SALE

**APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 7.30PM PANMURE COMMUNITY  
ROOMS, PILKINGTON ROAD, PANMURE**

**Benching 7.10pm, Buyers 7.30pm**

**BIRD SALE! BIRD SALE!  
BIRD SALE!**

*Presidents Chirp & Squawk – April 2014!*

The late summer continues and it will be interesting to hear comments from around the Clubs as to how this may have affected what from all accounts has been an erratic breeding season once again. Most Canaries and Finches will be well into their moult and hopefully nearing the end of what can be a traumatic time for them. The mozzies continue to bite, in spite of some of my remedies tried and currently I have 16 Rollers all suffering, brought back into the bird room from the aviaries where the mozzies seem to be only attacking this particular breed and no others! Is there a message there?!

**BIRD SALE MEETING!** That's right, the first of our two Bird Sales for the year is to be held at our upcoming meeting, this Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm for buyers or 7.10pm for sellers to set-up. More on this further in the newsletter, but let's hope for our usual excellent turnout of club members and the public, keen to buy or sell!

Your committee met for what was one of our shortest 'long' meetings on record in Pakuranga on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. It was an extremely positive meeting, with the Bird Sale and our 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Show on 19-20 July being the main topics. I am delighted to say that with two rather substantial donations from Mark Dulabh and Eric Green, we are able to maintain our high level of prize money and even increase that in the Budgie section. Traditionally, we have large entries in Novice and Champ Budgies, so it was decided to recognize this fact by proportionately increasing that prize money. In 4 sections last year, we only had 2 exhibitors in each and the total prize money for each of those sections was only marginally less than the Budgie section where over 20 exhibited; with the help of Mark's & Eric's donations, we believe this anomaly has basically been rectified.

There is still time for you as a member to contribute \$35 and sponsor a section, but let a member of the committee know quickly so that it can be acknowledged in the Schedule. Raffle books will be sent out with the May newsletter and again, more will be said on this touchy subject in this newsletter!

I will have samples of short sleeved and long sleeved polo shirts at this Tuesday's meeting. \$36 each, with money paid on ordering please. In a full range of sizes, they look most attractive and will be printed with our club name on the left front. In addition, I will have caps available, navy blue with white piping and club name for \$18 (limited stocks, so be in quick, donated by Andy & Wendy Fenn, German made too!) Some Yearbooks are still to be collected, so please get yours from Derek this Tuesday.

We have heard lots of feedback about our March meeting which was a real hands-on club member effort. If you weren't there, you missed some excellent advice and tips! Lynette Porter spoke on flight feathers and French moult; Chris Agius gave a demonstration of his seed winnower; Vince Huston spoke on splayed legs and gave an update on wild game birds which are prohibited on the show bench; Ray Absalom followed up Vince's talk on splayed leg with his \$2 bag marble solution; Ngaire Madden maintained the 'cheap but effective' theme with her collection of small but practical easy-clean dishes for cage and aviary and Dave Nicholson brought along his hand-reared Turquoise, Gloster, Roller and Satinette, all of whom are great buddies with his Labrador.

Let's see as many as possible at this Tuesday's Bird Sale; tell your neighbours and friends too! Buyers remember to bring along a cage and money (no money machine will be present) and if anyone would like to donate a bird for club funds, it would be much appreciated. Remember, there is no charge for sellers or buyers and no commission will be taken on sales, but we will take around a 'donation bucket' and have a special raffle with 2 or 3 prizes with all funds going into our show this year and/or the National next year. There will be an extra big and onward going supper. Don't miss this one!

*Dave Nicholson.*

### **BIRD SALE – BIRD SALE – BIRD SALE – BIRD SALE – 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 7.30pm**

**Sellers:** benching from 7.10pm, unless you can help set up the benching from 7pm. Please bring your birds in clean, uncrowded cages with fresh seed & water, labelled with type of bird, sex, age, price and your name on the cage. You will be expected to sell and answer questions on your own birds and have enough change with you. Please bring a couple of small boxes from home to put the birds in, just in case the buyer doesn't have a cage or box.

*Please note! Any overcrowded and/or dirty cages or sick birds will not be permitted in the hall and also note that 'green canary' is NOT an explanation of its type! Members are more than welcome to donate a bird, the money from which will go directly into club funds. Please indicate this to Derek, Vince or Dave on arrival.*

**Buyers:** do not enter the hall before 7.30pm or attempt to buy birds before that time as that only holds up proceedings and is not fair to other members! If you intend buying a bird, please bring along cash and a cage/box to take the bird/s home in.

AMBC Polo shirt orders will be taken (\$36 each) and AMBC Caps (\$18 each) some seed & accessories will also be on sale. A very good raffle with 3 prizes will be run (3 tickets for \$2) a 'donation bucket' will be brought around and there will be an onward going supper

The Bird Sale will be held at our normal meeting venue: Panmure Community Rooms, 1 Pilkington Road, Panmure. If you have any queries, please phone Vince/Lynne (534 4988) or Dave (576 2535)

## **2014 Show Programme & Let's Think About Car/Bird-Pooling!!!**

Showing your birds can be fun, interesting, rewarding and challenging! Going to other shows can broaden your network of friends, contacts, opportunities and expose your birds to a variety of judges. Never think your birds aren't good enough. You will never know until you exhibit them! Don't be put off by lack of a show cage or the thought of filling in a show entry form. Ask a more experienced member to help you with a form or supplying a cage or two. I would encourage members to think ahead and plan which shows they would like to go to. Discuss with others and share the transportation duties. For example, Bernard Reinen will take birds to the Rotorua Show on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, if someone can bring them back on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

3-4 May: North Taranaki, Poverty Bay

10-11 May: Rotorua

17-18 May: Capital & Valley Cities, Te Awamutu

24-25 May: Wairarapa

31 May-1 June: Whakatane

7-8 June: Stratford

14-15 June: Hawkes Bay

21-22 June: Levin, Hamilton

28-29 June: Huntly

5-6 July: Palmerston North

12-13 July: Piako

19-20 July: Auckland Metro

### **Planning for our 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Show is underway!**

Remember our Annual Show is on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July at Ormiston Senior College, Ormiston Road, Flatbush. Our own members are encouraged to enter and participate and we will have open discussions on this at our upcoming meetings. The Show Schedule will be emailed out to most of our own members and members from other clubs who habitually exhibit their birds. If there is no email address, we will post them out. However, if you haven't shown before, do let Bob Cranston or Vince Huston know so that you can get a Schedule as this is basically the 'programme' for the weekend!

We will have a number of jobs to fill and one of the most important and also enjoyable is that of Steward. A Steward helps the judge and it is a good way of finding out more about birds. A list of jobs will be run in subsequent newsletters. Also, if you would like to sponsor a section of birds for \$35, please let Bob, Vince or Dave know asap. Thanks to Mark Dulabh, Eric Green, Chris Agius, Bob Cranston and Vince & Lynne Huston who have already committed to a donation.

Promoting the Show all over Auckland is important. We normally promote it in local newspapers, on radio, street signage and supermarket signs and we ask all members to help do their own little bit as word-of-mouth is frequently the best form of advertising. Why not design your own poster for the local vet, pet shop, retirement village, mall or school? Once again, if you have any extra ideas for sponsorship or advertising, do let us know or better still, action it yourself. Organizing a bird show is quite a task and we really do appreciate all the help YOU can give. The hall is modern and well lit, the helpers' luncheon is scrumptious, the informal members/judges/guests dinner on the Saturday night is a cheerful (and cheap!) night out, our members are encouraged to welcome members from other clubs and the public and the hall is a 'buzz' of noise and colour during the whole weekend. Your committee invites YOU to be a part of it all!

### **Open Invitation to the Pied Budgie Society Function 13th April in Hamilton**

Everyone is invited to the Pied Budgie Society Function on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1pm-4pm at the Grosvenor Motor Inn, 165 Ulster Street, Hamilton. Bird specialist Vet Hamish Baron will give a talk with questions and answers as part of the afternoon. Afternoon tea will be provided. Cover charge of \$3 single, \$5 double. Further details from Jim Ziarno: 07 855 6586.

### **Annual Show Raffle**

Yes, I know selling tickets can be a bit of a chore, but this is a good revenue earner for the club and it is one way members, especially those who can't frequently get to meetings or help at the Show, can contribute. Sadly, some members constantly don't bother to even return their books whether sold or not. Reading through the list of those who didn't sell or return them last year was disappointing and in some cases quite surprising. If you have a moral objection to selling tickets, please let us know in advance and perhaps you could contribute in some other way. So when the raffle books are sent out in May, your committee asks that everyone does their very best to sell what they can.

### National Show & AGM, Gore, 2014.

Vince Huston & Dave Nicholson will be the AMBC reps this year. Any remits should be brought to a club meeting and must be in with the NZ Federation secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> May along with nominations for the Federation positions.

### WANTED

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

Contact Nick Klaassen Ph 4192260

Thinking already to send some birds to a few shows, if they are good enough, I am wondering if there is any one that could bring back some birds from the Rotorua show for me. I can take birds there on the Friday afternoon hoping that they can bring back my birds on Sunday. Regards, **Please contact** Bernard Reinen 09 424 7245

## Hummingbird a rare find - MPI

Thursday 27 Feb 2014 4:30p.m.



Hummingbirds can weigh as little as 2 grams

A humming bird has been found in a shipment of bananas during an inspection by Ministry for Primary Industries staff. The tiny bird was found dead among a consignment of bananas from Ecuador during a routine inspection at a Mt Wellington quarantine facility around two weeks ago. A spokesman for the Ministry says the find was rare. The bird's remains were destroyed and the bananas were fumigated. **It is not known what caused the bird's death, nor how it ended up in the shipping container.**

MPI intercepted this humming bird in a consignment of Ecuadorian bananas. Article Vince Huston.

## Nutritional Requirements

Research in the area of nutritional requirements for captive-bred species is still lacking. Most of the nutritional studies that exist have been done on poultry. Unfortunately so many differences exist between poultry and other species of birds, that using poultry data as a basis for developing a finch diet may be dangerous, especially in light of the fact that poultry only consume up to 6% of their body weight daily, and finches consume up to 30%. For instance, research in canaries and rice finches has shown that maltase, saccharase, amylase, and lipase are all present at much higher activity levels than in poultry. Extrapolating a diet from the requirements for poultry to the assumed requirements for finches may therefore result in health problems. In addition to not having enough comprehensive species-specific information regarding diet, other complicating factors must be accounted for when designing a diet appropriate for any pet bird, including its age, reproductive status, disease conditions (if any are present), and how much exercise the bird gets. The best approach currently available for providing adequate nutrition to finches is to use a formulated diet made specifically for finches (to minimize the risk of them overdosing due to eating a diet which is too highly concentrated in certain nutrients) or to supplement a seed-based diet with food items that are considered to be successful for a particular species. If dietary health related problems still occur, adjustments should be made to correct them. Below is some basic information on each of the nutrients required by birds.

### **Protein and Amino Acids**

Amino acids and the proteins constructed from them are needed for feather, bone, hormone, muscle, and enzyme production. Protein can also be used as a source of energy. Different species have different protein requirements; for instance, insectivorous birds generally have higher protein requirements than granivorous birds. Additionally, increased protein is required in the diets of growing and breeding birds. Regardless of the species of bird, 10 amino acids must routinely be provided to the birds, as they cannot manufacture these essential amino acids in their bodies: lysine, arginine, histidine, methionine, tryptophan, threonine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, and phenylalanine. Protein can be added to the diet through monkey biscuit, boiled egg, and/or [live food](#). Egg is one of the few protein sources available that can be optimally utilized because its amino acid profile is similar to that of the bird's body.

### **Minerals**

Minerals used by the avian body include: calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, iron, copper, zinc, selenium, manganese, iodine and sodium and chlorine. Because they are toxic at levels slightly above their requirement, great care must be taken when supplementing minerals. Calcium is essential for muscle function, blood coagulation, eggshell and bone formation. Parathyroid hormone and vitamin D<sub>3</sub> regulate calcium's absorption from the intestinal tract. High-fat diets, phytate (present in grain), phosphates, and oxalates (present in spinach and some other leafy green vegetables) all decrease the avian body's ability to absorb calcium. Phosphorus and calcium need to occur in a specific ratio range in the avian body in order to work together correctly. Too much phosphorus in the diet will interfere with calcium absorption from the intestinal tract. The calcium to phosphorus ratio should be around 2:1 in adult, non-breeding birds. Growing and egg-laying birds may need a slightly higher calcium to phosphorus ratio. Phosphorus deficiency is not likely to occur because phosphorus is present in many plant foods, although most of it may not be utilizable by the avian body because it is often bound as phytate (generally, phosphorus from plant sources is 30-40% available). The demand for magnesium in the body increases with increased levels of calcium or phosphorus; magnesium is needed in the body to aid phosphate transfer. Cellular respiration is partially dependant on hemoglobin, for which iron is needed. Copper is also needed for hemoglobin synthesis, as well as in the formation of enzymes such as those which synthesize melanin. Insulin and many enzymes in the body require zinc to be present. In addition to being linked to the production of thyroid hormones, selenium is part of an enzyme which acts as an antioxidant. Manganese is necessary for normal bone and eggshell formation, as well as normal growth and reproduction; excess dietary calcium and phosphorus may interfere with its uptake. Iodine is required for the formation of compounds in the thyroid gland that are related to thyroxine. Lastly, sodium and chlorine function to maintain homeostasis in the body (proper osmotic pressures and acid/base balance).

### **Fats and Essential Fatty Acids**

Essential fatty acids are required by the avian body in the production of membranes and cell organelles and as precursors for prostaglandins; other fats are used as an energy source. Linoleic acid is the primary essential fatty acid for birds. Although many birds seem to tolerate a wide range of fats in their diet, diets which are too high in fat may lead to obesity and other complications including interfering with the absorption of other nutrients such as calcium, and diets which are too low in fat may lead to decreased weight and disease resistance among other problems. Rancid fats reduce amino acid availability and may contain only destroyed essential fatty acids; never feed your birds any fat source which has a fetid odor.

### **FREE !!**

Aviary for free 3.5m long (with safety porch) 1.85 high, .82m wide; wooden frame, clearview roof, round small wire, ideal for canaries, finches, budgies etc. Also an indoor/terrace meatl large cage, ideal for parrots, budgies and 6 budgies, price on these negotiable. Ph: Lois 268 2801 (Wattle Downs)

If you haven't seen it already, it's definitely worth looking at and/or buying - the 3rd edition (printed 2014) of the NZ Finch Breeders Association Inc handbook. \$15 for members of the Finch Assoc and \$20 for non members. Contains a wealth of information on Finches available in NZ, their upkeep, housing, compatability, feeding, breeding, health etc. Dave will have a copy at our meeting on Tuesday for those that want to see it. Planning for something similar for cage/aviary birds in NZ is currently being discussed by the Federation.