



New Zealand Federation of Bird Clubs (Inc)

NEWSLETTER –JUNE 2013

The Show season is well underway and it has been interesting to receive most Club Schedules and a few Catalogues to date. More on these once the shows have all finished. So, for those who exhibit, how have you done? What have you noticed about the shows this year? What has the standard of the birds been like (would be great to get judges' comments in response to this question!) More, or less birds on display? More or less birds for sale? More or less members of the public in attendance? More or less new members signing up? More or less sponsors? More or less members volunteering to help? Clubs and the NZ Federation must consider these questions and I would hope that with liaison between the NZ Committee members and their buddy clubs, we can get some answers that can help us plan for the future and to move forward.

It won't be long before the National in Napier and of course, the AGM. Pleasing to see more nominations in than in previous years, although remits seem to be less. Does that mean most are happy with the way things are running? I hope the discussion over North Island Showdates doesn't degenerate into a 'bunfight' and that reasoned and sensible decisions for the overall good of the hobby throughout the north dominate rather than petty and somewhat selfish individual club or regional opinions. Naturally, every Club would like a weekend to themselves (and probably each has a good case for saying so!) but it is simply not possible with the number of Clubs and weekends available. Reviewing the list sent out by Stephen Silk when he asked Clubs to say who they felt should not have to share is an interesting exercise. Presumably, most based their decision on

geographical location, hence Clubs running down the centre of the North Island certainly gained using this criteria (eg Huntly, Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Rotorua, Palmerston North) Some may have used the criteria based on historical numbers of birds entered, which I suggest is again more related to 'location' than anything else. One could argue for the opposite! Clubs that struggle to attract entries, due to location, should have a weekend to themselves in order to attract greater numbers. Or are Clubs on the coast such as Poverty Bay, Whakatane, North Taranaki etc being penalized further because of their relative isolation? Or are Clubs like Auckland Metro and Capital & Valley Cities being penalized because they are at either end of the island? If the criteria is based on prize money or equability, then some Clubs must seriously review their Schedules! I have seen at least 3 different suggested options for Shows for 2014 and beyond – and that is before it has even been discussed at the AGM! In the past, there have been calls to consider holding regional shows and with dwindling numbers in many Clubs (thus increasing the burden 'on the few!') perhaps this is worth considering seriously. How many Clubs now have the membership, ability or confidence to host a National? Perhaps, like this year's 'combined' National in Napier, clubs may have to combine or do we move to regionally held Nationals. That way, the load, properly administered, can be shared and the future of our National in particular, assured! Lots of questions and ideas, but I hope that this editorial stimulates 'reasoned' 'debate so that the North Island showdates are settled for the right reasons rather than for the wrong ones. Apologies to South Islanders for their patience on this one!

Obituary

Sad to hear of the passing of Reg Grant and Joseph Chadwick, two longstanding members of the Kapiti Bird Club. Our condolences to their respective families and to the Kapiti Bird Club.

Letter to the Editor

Hello Dave, After reading the last Federation Newsletter about the mice, I would like to point out that Guinea-pigs keep mice AND rats away and are ideal in a grassed aviary as they also keep the grass down. I have a little shelter for mine made out of 200mm diameter PVC pipe cut in half, lengthwise, with a grated floor to let the droppings fall through which ensures that the Guinea pigs stay warm and dry. Rod Forlong, Dunedin Bird Club.

Ideal books for the individual or Club Library

It can be frustrating looking for information on birds available in NZ & conditions in this country. Through the Federation and Specialist Clubs, this could change. However, I have come across 2 excellent books that deal with a wide range of birds & include info on their diet, habits, breeding, sexing etc complete with high quality photos. 1) The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Caged & Aviary Birds by David Alderton, Anness Publishers, London, 2007. 256 A4 glossy pages. \$20 on special! 2) The Complete Encyclopedia of Cage & Aviary Birds by Esther Verhoef, Rebo Publishers, Netherlands, 2009. H/B 312 pages, \$20 on special!

Buddy Club Reports- Graham Evans

Compiled by Don Birch, *Hawkes Bay*: An erratic breeding season with some breeding over 100 chicks and others just a few. Chicks & hens dying in particular. Foreign finches bred well. Busy planning for the National with 3 lady members raising over \$4000 at flea markets selling goods donated by other members. National Schedule online.

Compiled by Nicole, *Nelson*: Overall, a poor breeding season. Spring was busy with a moderate turnout at our Young Bird Show & 2 fundraising BBQs. A flood damaged some members' properties.

Buddy Club Reports – Dave Nicholson

Huntly: Firewood chopping fundraiser meant fitter members & a good prize schedule. A good recent benching with awesome food. *Hamilton*: Good sponsorship for the upcoming Show to be again held at the ideal venue, the Gardens in Hamilton. *Tauranga*: Consolidating membership and goals; no show this year. *Auckland Metro*: 5 new members signed up at the sale night meeting, 3 hampers collected by Eric Green for the show and a good number of members exhibiting & supporting other club shows. *Te Awamutu*: A well attended show with some excellent raffles in an ideally located venue. *Piako*: Gearing up well for their Show at a venue which will need promoting. *South Auckland*: Recent auction was reasonably well attended but suffered with the number of birds present largely due to the poor breeding season. Show imminent in their traditional well located venue.

Club Profile – TIMARU

Patron, Life Member & President: Joy Agnew, 03 688 2385. Sec: Jan Brown, 03 684 5234
jobrown@actrix.co.nz Treas: John Oliver, 03 684 8186 john.oliver@kinect.co.nz Meet third Monday of the month in our own clubrooms in Craigie Ave, behind the boxing gym. 40 members, 32 single, 8 partnerships. Founded 13 Oct. 1937, affiliated to the Federation Nov 1938 & known as the Timaru Canary & Caged Bird Club. Entry fee at our first show was 1 shilling for 3 & sixpence thereafter. Chch Club donated 2 guineas and as local members were asked not to accept their prizes, a profit of just over 2 Pounds was made. Prizes for a 'lawn show' in 1951 were packets of cigarettes! In 1961, we printed 106 schedules for the show with raffle prizes including a bottle of whisky, a knitted pullover and a pair of dressed fowls while 1963 saw 200 schedules and 943 birds entered. Yearbooks were 5 shillings. We ran our first National in 1968, staged in Temuka because of no suitable venues in Timaru. Entry fee was 20 cents with 500 schedules printed and 1560 entries. A member, Mrs Cattermole baked 30 Xmas cakes to raise funds. 1979 saw the club change its fundraising methods

from garage sales & cake stalls to bagging & selling manure, with over 1000 bags sold, earning \$4000 for the club. In 1980, we purchased a trailer to transport members' birds to other shows and we advised the Timaru Council on the right sort of birds for the new dome aviary at the bay. Another National was hosted in 1981 with 600 schedules printed & 2043 birds entered. Due to airline problems, some were even benched at midnight! The name of the club was shortened to the Timaru Bird Club in 1985, our 50th Anniversary Show was held in 1987 and we hosted Nationals in 1988, 2001 and 2008. We purchased our own clubrooms in 1998 and were instrumental in re-stocking the well publicised Temuka Aviary break-in with lots of donations coming in from all over NZ. We convinced the council to re-think its plan to get rid of the aviary at Caroline Bay and it was a great day when the Prime Minister opened the newly sited aviary in 2009. *Contributed by Jan Brown.*

Key Show Roles

A number of people commented on the value of the item on the Role of the Show Steward in April's newsletter. No show can be run properly without the hard work, always voluntary, of a lot of people, but two key roles are that of the Show Manager and the Show Secretary. The latter job starts well in advance of the show and carries on for the whole weekend of the show, whilst the former tends to be the day before and for the duration of the show. Hopefully the following on the respective duties are valuable, but if you would like to add or delete anything, then please let me know so that we can streamline things for the future.

Show Secretary's Job: 1) Committee & Show Sec choose judges 2) Show Sec sends out invites to the chosen judges including expenses required, specific requests, report time etc. Back-up judges should be pencilled in at the time of choosing in case of rejections. Good idea to follow-up by phone. 3) First copy of Schedule checked with all sponsors/club members donations acknowledged & Specialist Bodies' patronage entered. Include club details, show regulations, president's message,

directions etc. Get it proofed by another member familiar with procedure! 4) Proofed by Show Manager & copies printed and posted and/or emailed to the last 3 years of entrants, Specialist Bodies & NZ Federation secretary. 5) A book for each section is drawn up for the entries to be written in under classes entered. Number entry forms as they come in! 6) The white carbon copy of the entry form, receipt & cage sticker are posted back to the exhibitor. 7) A list of exhibits in each class is made up & a list of juniors in each section. 8) A list of specials is made up for each section & stickers made out for each class. 9) A list of entries for specials is made up for the judges. 10) A copy of all entries is made up for the Show Manager. 11) A pack/folder is made up for the judges comprising: judge's book, specials list, specials & place stickers, patronage forms from the specialist bodies, expenses claim form, pen. 12) Have a trial run with your computer & printer well before the Friday night! With a 'team' familiar with proceedings on the Friday night, mark birds off as they arrive, note any non benchings. Any non benchings are marked in the judge's book & entered into the computer for the catalogue. 13) Set yourself up for processing results in a 'quiet' area. Choose reliable 'runners.' 14) As results come in, enter them on the exhibitor listing that forms the catalogue. 15) As special results come in, enter them in the catalogue on the computer. 16) When all results are in for a section, the diplomas can be written out. 17) Judges/stewards can work together to place specials stickers & rosettes from the judges packs onto the cages. Check that stewards & judges have signed the judging sheets 18) Show Manager may have given permission for some early de-benchings, so have yellow entry forms in alphabetical order or by location to aid the process. 19) Work with the Show Manager for a 'smooth' de-benching, with furthest away birds first; have 'helpers' with a pen ready for this! 20) Specialist Body patronage sheets are filled in & sent out with a 'marked' catalogue to each Society & the NZ Federation secretary asap after your show.

Show Manager's Job: 1) 2-3 months before the show, check your Show Sec has got sufficient cage stickers, judges books, entry forms, special stickers and that all rosettes and ribbons are in and that there are enough diplomas etc. 2) Check the first proof of the Schedule when it is printed and note in particular regulations, all dates/times are correct, steward invites & sale bird rules. 3) Draw up a tentative list of stewards matched to judges once replies or your club members volunteer & make an effort to check they know their expected duties (see NZ Federation April 2013 newsletter!) 4) A good idea to appoint an assistant to help you set-up & keep an eye on things over the weekend. 5) Obtain a list of entries from the Show Sec of the number of birds entered in each class in each section of birds. You need this so you can work out how much room is needed on the bench. Print stickers for each class for stickers on bench or do this (chalk, felt-tip if using white paper) on the day. 6) Draw up a plan of the proposed benching bearing in mind the different cage sizes & that space for the Roller cages should be based on their doors being opened. Birds such as Yorkshires, should be against a solid wall, preferably with black cloth behind them. Bigger cages such as Parrots should be on wider planks. Allow a gap between each section. 7) Supply extra benching for judges. 8) Arrange check-in tables & chairs for benching on Friday night with adequate numbers of helpers & water bottles. Ensure all birds have water! Liaise with the Show Sec on non benchings. 9) Arrange an area for exhibitors to leave their carry bags/boxes, usually safely stored under the benches. 10) When all benching is complete, check that all cages are in the correct order for judging. Use the list provided by the Show sec for this. Note gaps for the non benchings & move cages to cover the gaps. Remove any sick or stressed birds to a warm place & make a note of the cage number/exhibitor. 11) Check with your bird sales manager that there are no dirty, overcrowded cages & that the birds have adequate seed & water. Make sure your helpers know report times the next morning. Turn down the lighting & if you have someone sleeping over, ensure they know what to do in any emergency (swap cellphone

numbers) 12) Early on judging day, do a quick check of all cages & have your helpers check water & do a sweep of the aisles of seed. 13) Make a brief list of topics to mention in your speech to the judges/stewards, having checked first with the Show sec that there is nothing left out. Announce time/s for morning tea & lunch & when the show will be open to the public. Rollers generally take the longest, so get the Roller judge & steward/s to their room first. Hand-out the judges packs to the respective stewards & remind everyone that any problems come to YOU in the first instance!
De-benching: 1) Some 'away' exhibitors may want to de-bench early. Liaise with Show sec over this. 2) Empty water about 30 minutes before de-benching. 3) Furthest 'away' birds de-benched first. Make sure a reliable team with pens helps you here! 4) All entry forms must be signed by exhibitor & helper, thus reducing the risk of the wrong birds being taken by mistake. 5) Local members are de-benched last. 6) Organize your team to take down all benching & store appropriately. The clean-up to the required standard should be supervised by you.

NB. YOU are the Show Manager & therefore IN CHARGE OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE SHOW. However, most of the arrangements will have been discussed earlier and the various jobs delegated. Do rely on this help! Other tasks to consider: liaise with your marketing person to have labels up identifying the birds, especially the more unusual ones for the public. Ensure there is not a big build-up of money (eg kitchen, door sales, raffles, sale birds) & work with the treasurer on this one. Chairs, tables will be needed for Show sec, sales birds, front door/raffles, dining/luncheon etc. Every so often, check the outside carpark, the toilets (for cleanliness etc) and that each person in a responsible position is 'happy.' Remember to delegate where necessary but ultimately, you are in charge & will have to use, patience, diplomacy and a wide range of organizational skills!

Quote of the month: 'Whenever I hear someone call someone else a bird brain, I know they know nothing about birds!' Anonymous.