



New Zealand Federation of Bird Clubs (Inc)

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER – 2013

My apologies for the absence of a newsletter in August and even this one is a bit late for September! However, a big belated “WELL DONE” to the combined East Coast North Island Bird Clubs for hosting the National in Napier at the end of July. An excellent number of birds benched, superb bus tour, awesome food at the Awards Dinner, very good public attendance and of course, typical sunny Hawkes Bay weather! The AGM went very smoothly with Stanley Crosby handing over the presidential reigns to Stephen Silk and Sharon Burke (Huntly), Athol Fenton (Te Awamutu) & David Ingoe (Poverty Bay) elected onto the committee. Thanks to Stanley, Murray Hodgson & John Perry for their fine work on the NZ Federation.

It was interesting to note that a well respected South Island member and a North Island club president both pointed out that all clubs needed to support each others shows and that is the best way of attracting new members. I sense once again that many people feel that everything is ‘fine’ but dwindling numbers of members, judges, exhibitors and members willing to help out (especially younger ones!) would suggest otherwise. Just think, if every current member of a bird club introduced and signed up ONE NEW MEMBER over the next year our numbers would double! Sounds simple and basically it is, but it’s just a matter of presenting the hobby, that is our club nights, shows and sales in an attractive and welcoming manner. Think back to when you started in birds! It was probably a well-meaning member of the local club who took you under their wing and helped you out with stock, accessories, advice and encouragement and made you feel a part of the club. So, with many club AGMs looming, let’s all make a

concerted effort to boost numbers to help assure a healthy future for such an interesting hobby! The ‘buddies’ assigned to your club from the NZ Federation can help with ideas in this area, so don’t be afraid to tap into their knowledge and by sharing, it can only be good for everyone. It was very sad to hear of the passing of former NZ Federation president and Christchurch Life Member, Jerome Bremmers. More on Jerome later in the newsletter, but it further reminds me that we must not continue to lose such experts without recording their knowledge of birds in the widest sense. Some time ago, I raised the idea of putting together a ‘one-off’ magazine, with contributions from some of the more experienced breeders from around the country. This is worth considering NOW before it simply too late and rather than perhaps in the form of a magazine, experts could be invited to submit contributions in their chosen field of expertise, with photos, so that this can all be put together in the form of a folder and online so that it is available to club members nationwide. Your thoughts?

Remember, all contributions to the newsletter are most welcome!

Dave Nicholson

Buddy Clubs!

Due to changes on the Federation committee, the allocation of buddies to clubs has changed somewhat. These people should be your first point of contact for any Federation or bird related issues. Individual club members should discuss any issues they may have with their own club first. The club should then approach its assigned buddy, rather than have the individual member directly approach the Federation.

Steve Parry: Dunedin, North Otago, South Otago, Southland, Timaru.

Graham Evans: Ashburton, Christchurch, Nelson, West Coast.

David Ingoe: Hastings, Hawkes Bay, Poverty Bay, Taranaki, Wairarapa.

Athol Fenton: North Taranaki, Rotorua, Stratford, Te Awamutu, Wanganui, Wellington-Porirua.

Sharon Burke: Hamilton, Huntly, Hutt Valley, Levin, Palmerston North, Piako.

Dave Nicholson: Auckland Metro, Kapiti, South Auckland, Tauranga, Upper Hutt, Whakatane.

NZ Federation Website

The website is a must for us all. It contains individual club details, various club newsletters, as well as the Federation newsletter and general information. To access full details, you need to register & log-in. Check out: www.birdclubs.org.nz

OBITUARY: JEROME BREMMERS

Jerome & Rose Bremmers joined the Christchurch Bird Club in 1975 and within 2 years he was on the committee and in just 2 more, was president, remaining in this position for the next 12 years. He was also president of the NZ Federation for 12 years and was renowned for his uncompromising attitude, his fairness and his stoic refusal to ever get a computer! His knowledge and love of birds was never in doubt. He willingly transported other members birds to shows throughout the South Island and was a respected judge of Foreign, Hookbeak, Rollers and Glosters. His backlawn was covered in aviaries and he was always willing to show people around, offer advice and to encourage newcomers into the hobby. He contributed magazine articles on birds here and overseas. In 1991 he was made a Life Member of the Christchurch Club and in 2001, the Patron. He had even agreed to keep this position for another year when he passed away quite suddenly. People with the knowledge that Jerome had and willing to share it with others, will not easily be replaced.

Contributed by Gavin Gardener & Dave Nicholson

Helpful Hints!

- 1) Mite can be a real problem for parents and baby birds in the nest. Sprinkle the nest/pad/box

with D.E (Diatomaceous Earth) which is sold in a 200gms container for around \$24.95 at Animates. It's a 100% natural product but just the same, avoid inhaling the dust and wear eye protection. A good idea is to break it down into smaller quantities and give or sell it to other club members.

- 2) A great cleaner, guaranteed to kill - you guessed it...99.9% of germs (including E.coli & Salmonella) is Dettol's Multi Purpose Eucalyptus-Blossom sold by PaknSave in a 500ml spray bottle. Check the directions carefully & avoid eye & skin contact. I have used it for a final clean of my breeding cages 2 days prior to putting my birds in them. I am also optimistic that the eucalyptus content might keep any invasive mice at bay too. Smells good!
- 3) Many breeders have reported poor fertility in recent years. The remedy could be: Soluvite D which is a powder vitamin supplement with increased Vitamin D3 for use in water or added to softfood & seed. The nova roof/clearlite over our aviaries, does NOT let the full beneficial sun's rays through, thus causing a deficiency in Vitamin D, essential in fertility of eggs and healthy growth of chicks. A Vetafarm product, try your Topflite rep; it's around \$28 for 100gms.
- 4) Bird/Accessories Sales at your meetings. Why just have an annual bird sale? Try having one or two during your usual meeting nights/days; properly promoted in the community, it's also a good way of attracting potential new members to the club. If you do, TALK to the new people & make sure you GIVE them a MEMBERSHIP FORM!