

## Alan Baxter - AB1

Alan first became involved with budgies in his teenage years, with aviary breeding some pet birds. Then like most of us, other interests took over.

It wasn't until about 1980 when Alan and his wife Barb were living in Bundoora that Alan decided to build another aviary and get some more birds. He purchased some from John Bainbridge, a Glenroy club member, who suggested he should join a club.

So he joined "Diamond Valley Budgerigar club" and stayed there until 1988 when he moved & built their new house, with aviary, in Diamond Creek where they still live.

About this time Alan changed clubs and moved to "United" as he felt that he would get more help.

This obviously proved to be the correct decision. Alan has won in excess of 30 Shield classes and has had birds in the State Team regularly since the early 90's.



Although Alan is a Champion breeder, he points out that it is not easy to win at the top level.

Alan has won two Diploma's and the 2015 National Greywing in Mandurah W.A.

He emphasises that patience is one of the requirements of the hobby.

Alan has 36 breeding cages in his birdroom and rings about 150 chicks a year, with a total flock of about 200 birds. He breeds Normals, Cinnamons, Spangles and Greywings. He used to breed BEY, but has recently taken up Australian Goldenface.

Alan says that the time spent in the birdroom, pairing up and trying to breed "that champion" gives him a great amount of enjoyment and satisfaction.



Alan has been an active club member on the United committee since day one and is the current President of his club. He was awarded Life Membership in 2015.

He also became a BCV committee member in 1994, became Vice President in 1996 and spent 9 years in that role before becoming President in 2005, a position he has held for the last 11 years until his recent retirement.

He has been a team carer for the State's National team 6 times, on the Victorian National organising committee 3 times, and Victorian Delegate to the ANBC 15 times. He was awarded Life Member status by the BCV in 2015.

Now retired from his work as a builder, Alan enjoys sharing his hobby with a great circle of friends he has made in the hobby. Although Barb is not interested in the birds, she also enjoys the friendships they have made, especially the trips to the Nationals every year. Their two daughters are also not bird orientated; however Alan is working on the grandchildren.

Alan became a judge in the mid 1990's and is a nationally accredited judge. He judged at the 2004 Nationals in Coffs Harbour.

Although no longer President, Alan is remaining on the BCV committee as Vice President.

Alan is passionate about the hobby and its future; he would like to see more young people coming in to the hobby, both male and female.

