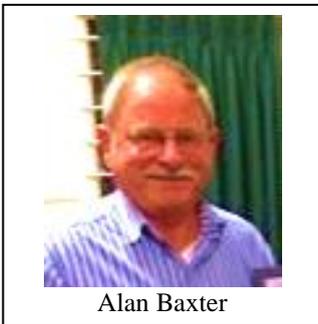




UNITED FLYER
NOVEMBER 2020



COMING CLUB EVENTS:



Alan Baxter

Due to coronavirus restrictions not allowing club shows or meetings, certain aspects of our club have been carried out thanks to our fill in Secretary Brian Reynolds, David Spink, Derryn Ray and Vic Murray sending out regular newsletters.

On line bird sales of club members birds have been coordinated by Steve Bradley. The commission on sales has given our club a significant boost to club funds. Thanks to Steve for his initial suggestion and fine contribution.

With the easing of restrictions, we have planned to have a social club night at our club rooms from 7.30pm on Friday 11th December.

My suggestion is for members to come along and bring some birds with them. These birds are not to be judged- 'only for discussion'. They may be your favourite variety or a new variety a member is starting to breed. I believe it is important to have birds at this social event to discuss various points of our feathered friends. Let's call this a show and tell night- 'Back to our early school days'.

Please try to support this end of year get together. Pizzas, tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided by the club.

In the New Year our 1st club event will be the AGM on the 9th February. I would like to see a good amount of club members in attendance. As we are looking for interested members to get involved in the running of the club, without frightening members, we need a Secretary and Treasurer. Anyone interested in being involved in the running of our club, can contact myself or any other committee member to discuss.

With the better part of this year behind us, we would all like to forget, we look forward hopefully to a better and more normal 2021.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and families!

Alan Baxter
President

Facebook changes:

For a number of years our club has used a Facebook site set up originally by **Gemma Barrett** & Danny Rogers, but more recently administered by **Steve Bradley & Gemma**, called Budgies Advice & Sales Victoria.

The site was not restricted to club members, unlike our UNITED page, which is intended to be a communication tool for club members. It was used for providing advice and sales of birds, regardless of show quality, whether show breeders or “back yard” hobbyists & pet owners, to encourage more people into the hobby, and hopefully attract them to showing.

Over the years this site built up to over 2500 members, but unfortunately Facebook changed the rules on selling livestock on their site. Unfortunately, due to the large amount of “Traffic” on the site we came to their attention, and they closed it down.

Not top be beaten, because it was a terrific medium for our club to promote the hobby, **Steve & Gemma** have started up a new site which is gradually building up a following. Although not an official Club site, it is run for our club by club members, and we ask for your support.

The new site can be found on Facebook at “**Budgerigars, Information & Advice.**”

ON-LINE Sales

The online sales for club members has been running well, **thanks to Steve Bradley’s good work.** Contact Steve if you would like to put any of your birds on the site.

2021 Membership & Ring Orders:

For those members that have not ordered Coded Rings and paid their 2021 Membership, this is a reminder that the Club & BCV Memberships are for the Calendar year, the same as the ring issue.

So, if you have not ordered your 2021 rings yet and want them in early 2021, now is the time to get your order in with your membership.

The ring registrar is going to be very busy getting all of the coded ring orders packed & mailed, plus postal deliveries are slow, so to save disappointment, think about doing it now.

Forms available on website.

Cuttlefish for sale

There will be cuttlefish (Kindly donated by **Ray Howard**) for sale at all upcoming events. \$10.00 a bag.

BCV Triennial Annual General Meeting:

At our General Meeting held on the 21st of October, 2020 the following Councilors were elected to the following positions:

President: Colin Flanagan
Vice President: Peter Thurn
Secretary: James Smith
Minutes Secretary: Ray Slade
Treasurer: Martin Paoli
Ring Registrar: Darren Macfarlane
Editor: Matt Emond

New Member Co-Ordinator: Amanda Fonti

State Show Manager: James Bader

State Show Secretary: Rod Turnbull

Points Co-Ordinator: Richard Hiscock

National Show Committee: Col Flanagan, Peter Thurn, James Smith, Martin Paoli, Matt Emond, Leigh Downey, Bruce Wilson, Ray Slade & Malcolm Randall.

The new members that have gone on to the committee this year are **Ray Slade, Malcolm Randall and Richard Hiscock.**

We congratulate the people who work hard for you, the members. When you do catch up with any of the them, please thank them for their upcoming sacrifices and contributions during the pursuit of the improvement of the hobby we all love - the keeping, breeding and showing of the Budgerigar.

United Annual General Meeting:

New tentative date Tuesday 9th February 2021

Members would be aware that we have had to re-program the AGM a couple of times because of the Covid restrictions.

The rules of the club state that our AGM is to be held in the first 6 months of the year, as our year is for Calender year the same as membership & ring issue, and is usually held in early April.

Rather than have this years meeting in Oct-Nov (Maybe, depending on restrictions being lifted) the committee are working on the basis the restrictions should definitely be lifted by February to hold our AGM.

This would also save having to have another AGM in 2021.

This would mean the report would be for a 2 year period, and as there has been very little activity this year, it makes sense.

A further notice will come out calling for nominations, as we get closer.

This is also a reminder that the club needs members to assist by being part of the committee and to think about coming forward at the AGM.

WEBSITE

The club website has all the info you need:

Forms: Ring order -Show entry – Nest cards – Breeding records. Genetic-breeding expectations. Show Matrix.

Training session notes. And much more. There have been a number of new video's added to help beginners. Beginners especially should find these video's helpful.

We have pages for the new show variety "RAINBOW" with the judging standard, how to breed them, and lots more.

We also now have a couple of terrific video interviews with Gary Gazzard, Peter Thurn, Alan Rowe & Henry George.

Members please note, **all correspondence** to the club, ring orders, membership renewals, copies of bank deposits, nomination forms etc. should be sent to:

info@unitedbudgies.org.au

The club no longer has a P.O. Box.
This will ensure that the committee will receive and respond to any correspondence.

The Problem with Tailless Wonders:

Dr Hamish Baron BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS (Avian Medicine and Surgery bird vet)



At this time of year, there seems to be a discussion surrounding polyomavirus, beak and feather disease and the use of "Tailless Wonders" or budgies that have cracking heads and remarkable feather, but are missing a tail or flight feathers from the wings.

Each year I hear the same stories from breeders and in this article I'd like to dispel some of the myths.

Myth One

The feathers are missing because of a mite:

It is true that one of the causes of feather loss in birds can be a mite called quill mite belonging to the Syringophilopsis family, but these mostly occur in Passeriformes (those birds with three toes pointing forward and one backwards) and most of these mites live on the host and show no signs at all for their entire lifecycle.

Myth Two

If you pair one bird without flights and one bird with flights, the chicks will not have disease:

The two viruses that cause feather loss in budgerigars (polyomavirus and circovirus (beak and feather disease virus)) are transmitted in droppings, oral secretions, feather and skin dander, via dirt or dust in the nest box, burrowing mites and possibly via the egg – although this is not confirmed. So, if one parent has clinical disease (is missing flight feathers or a tail) and is shedding the virus, it is possible (and likely) that the chicks will become infected and will drop their flights and tail feathers at some stage during the breeding cycle.

Myth Three

The loss of flight feathers is not a big deal because often they grow back:

This is partially true; if these chicks are infected with polyomavirus they will often grow their flight feathers back when they moult.

However, polyomavirus causes much more than just loss of flight feathers. In a budgie aviary experiencing a disease outbreak, we expect to see a rise in the number of dead in shell (DIS) chicks that grow to full term and fail to hatch, an increase in the number of addled eggs (chicks that die mid-incubation), increased infant mortality at 6-10 days of age where apparently healthy chicks die for no reason.



Missing Flights

Myth Four

Dipping affected birds in Virkon S or F10 SC will fix polyomavirus:

As discussed, the virus is transmitted in a number of different ways, and whilst dipping birds in a viricidal disinfectant will decrease the amount of virus on the birds' feathers, it will not do anything to treat the virus, nor will it decrease shedding of the virus once the chick dries out. At present, the only effective "treatment" of polyomavirus is to stop breeding and allow all chicks to grow for six months, when they are no longer so susceptible. This effectively breaks the lifecycle of the virus and prevents young birds becoming a source of infection.

In order to prevent adult birds from shedding the virus it is important to provide low stress environments with low stocking densities, clean aviaries with high standards of hygiene. Bringing in new birds that have previously not been exposed to your aviary birds may facilitate infection (either transmission from the new birds or from your birds to the new bird) and so if you introduce a new bird to your flights, not breeding with them for six months will help to prevent outbreaks.

Breaking the polyomavirus cycle is frustrating and difficult. Frustrating because it means stopping breeding when you want to be producing chicks, and difficult because it requires a massive effort to clean and disinfect the aviary to prevent re-infection. In order to do this, you must remove all the organic material (dust, feathers, faeces) from the aviary, nesting boxes and breeding cages – this can then be followed by a viricidal disinfectant sprayed on and washed off with a cloth, before being sprayed on and allowed to dry on all surfaces. Allow all the chicks to mature to greater than 6 months old; any chicks that do not grow their flights back should be taken to a veterinarian for euthanasia to prevent ongoing disease transmission.



Missing Tail & Flights

Lastly, it is time that we as a hobby stop selling, gifting or otherwise using these birds with no primary feathers in the breeding room. If we eliminated this practice, those birds that are infected will not pass on the infection and we will work to reduce the infection rate and hopefully in the future we will not need to have the annual discussion about the cracking bird at home with no tail!

Acknowledgement

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