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- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
- The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of Federation or the editor.
- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

# *Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.*

## **MEETING DATES 2021**

**General Meetings** 5th May, 7th July, 1st September & 3rd November

*Meetings commence at 8:00 pm EST via ZOOM and subject to notice at  
Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield*

# IMPORTANT NOTICES!

## **NOTICE TO ALL AFFILIATES**

For legal and insurance requirements, affiliates are requested to notify the Federation Secretary of changes in office bearers, public officer and delegates, also changes of the club's meeting location, email and postal address.

Notification should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearer's Information and Privacy Provision Consent Form* is available from the Secretary.

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## **2021 RING ORDERS**

Supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2021.

Clubs requiring an order form should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer at::

**Email: [CCBFA@aapt.net.au](mailto:CCBFA@aapt.net.au)**

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The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc now have a Facebook page!!  
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>  
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

## FAMOUS WAR PIGEONS

Pigeons named GI Joe and Paddy were two of only 62 animals who received the Dickin Medal for bravery in the War.

GI Joe earned his medal in Italy in 1943, during the Second World War, when British troops were ordered to take the town of Colvi Veccia where the German forces were well dug in and showing strong resistance.

Believing that the British forces couldn't oust the German troops, the U.S. Command decided to flatten the town with an aerial bombardment, but they were wrong. The British troops had already occupied the town. Due to the bad communication, the messenger pigeon, GI Joe, was sent off.

This bird flew 20 miles in 20 twenty minutes to deliver its message.

It got there just in time as aircraft were taxiing on the runway, ready to start the air raid. The raid was called off and a fatal mistake was averted.

GI Joe's flight saved the lives of not only the British troops, but an untold number of civilians that were still in the town.

Paddy the pigeon was different. Bred in Carnlough, Northern Ireland, he proved himself different because in 1944 he was the first pigeon to fly back with news of the Normandy landings of D-day in World War II.

Paddy had the Dickin medal pinned to his breast for that feat of flying and

Paddy had bravely volunteered in response to an appeal by the government and risked getting shot down by the German hawks they had set up to intercept the pigeons or necked if captured.

Paddy even had his own number NPS.43.9451 while he served in the RAF.

Many of the carrier pigeons (including Paddy) further served their country by being served up with sage and onion stuffing as rationing continued after the war in Britain.



Paddy's medal was sold to a pigeon fancier for almost £7,000 at an auction in Dublin in September 1999.





## HOW DO COLOURFUL BIRDS PROTECT THEMSELVES?

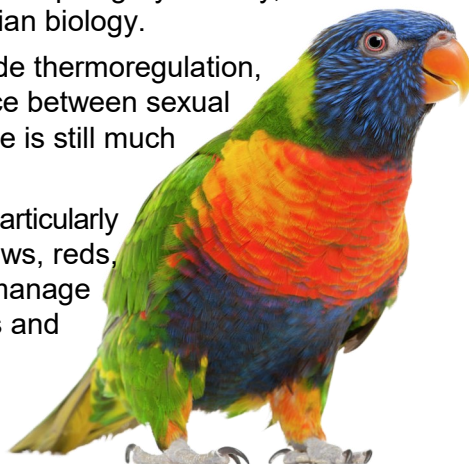
*Researchers unravel the mystery with Australasian lorikeets.*

The dazzling array of colours that birds display – some that humans can't even see – are more than awe-inspiring eye candy; their evolution over time is a burgeoning topic in avian biology.

The functions of feather colour include thermoregulation, climatic adaptation and a fine balance between sexual signalling and camouflage – but there is still much to learn.

Rainbow lorikeets and their kin have particularly stunning hues of vivid oranges, yellows, reds, greens and blues, but how do they manage to stay hidden from predatory lizards and hawks?

That's a conundrum pursued by Jon Merwin and colleagues from the



American Museum of Natural History, who identified a suite of evolutionary processes acting on feather colour in Australasian lorikeets as reported in the journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.

In gaudy peacocks and dazzling birds of paradise, bright colours and extreme feather ornamentation come about by sexual selection; while the males display, dull coloured and cryptic females can hide in the undergrowth and raise the young, safe from predators.

But in the lorikeets of Australasia, sexes are monomorphic, and both sexes equally colourful. Moreover, the pattern is broadly the same, with various riotous colour patches on front and face, and the wings and backs green.

Could mosaic evolution, where different traits evolve independently of one another, be at play here?

The brush-tongued parrots, known as the Loris or Lorikeets (Loriini) are a tribe with more than 100 species, offering researchers an opportunity to conduct a detailed comparative analysis of the drivers of plumage colour evolution.

Merwin and senior author Brian Smith took into account that, like many birds, lorikeets have the ability to see in ultraviolet light. Accordingly, the

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pair collected colour data from museum specimens using visible light and UV light photos of 98 museum specimens from across the lorikeet family.

“The range of colours exhibited by lorikeets adds up to a third of the colours birds can theoretically observe,” Merwin says. “We were able to capture variation in this study that isn’t even visible to the human eye.”

The colour patches on the lorikeets ranged from vibrant ultraviolet blue to deep crimson red and black, varying in size and placement across taxa, and yet were easily defined and compared across species.

Various models used in phylogenetic analysis applied to the patches allowed for detailed comparison of the various traits across evolutionary timescales.

Smith and Merwin discovered that the patches on the wings and back remained largely the same, or evolutionarily conserved across time. These patches are mostly green, a perfect colour for camouflage in the lorikeets’ leafy forest habitat.

Meanwhile, areas of plumage on the birds’ face, head and front varied wildly in colour across phylogenetic timescales. These patches are used in communication and species recognition, and are observed as a burst of rainbow colour across the Lorikeet clade.

The researchers conclude that at a phylogenetic scale, lorikeet plumage has evolved in correlated regions, with subsets of traits subject to different evolutionary pressures, a pattern suggesting that mosaic evolution is at work.

Merwin says the study also demonstrates the usefulness of a good museum collection. “The idea that you can take colour data from museum specimens, infer patterns, and gain a larger understanding of how these birds evolved is really amazing.”

*Source: Article by Tanya Loos at [www.cosmosmagazine.com](http://www.cosmosmagazine.com)*



## GARLIC FOR BIRDS

**Garlic** was used by the ancient Egyptians for medicinal purposes and is still popular today as a health supplement. In European countries where they consume large amounts of garlic in their diets, they have a lower risk of cancer and are less likely to suffer from heart disease, but what about garlic for birds and poultry in particular?

Chicken keepers have been giving raw garlic to their hens for decades, possibly longer, to help them treat infection and respiratory problems but also to improve their appetite and the size and quality of the eggs they lay.

After a few weeks of using garlic, sulphur from chicken's droppings is also reduced which can make the chicken coop smell better.



When freshly crushed, garlic releases allicin and allacetins that have antibacterial properties. Louis Pasteur discovered this as far back as 1858. It is known to kill only the bad bacteria or 'pathogens' and not the 'good' bacteria but allicin is also thought to be a deterrent to the *ectoparasite red mite* due to the taste of the allicens in the blood. In fact, garlic is used in some red mite treatments such as 'Breck-a-Sol', which is an acaricide that has been approved for use in the U.K.

### ***What can garlic be used for?***

Anything added to your birds' diet should be carefully researched first, as should any external preparation. Also anything chosen for use should be introduced gradually and tested in a small quantity at first.

### ***Here is a list of what garlic might be useful for:***

- Garlic can be used on a birds skin as an antiseptic for minor wounds and abrasions.
- Added to the diet, it *may* help to make the environment in the gut less attractive to internal parasites (worms) although I must stress that this should not be used for confirmed cases of worms or as an alternative to a proven wormer. I could find little research in this area, although many poultry keepers believe it does help. Some old books suggest a strong solution of crushed garlic, but then again old books suggest many remedies that we now know don't work and there are many '**Old Wives Tales**' when it comes to poultry keeping!

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- It can be rubbed into the legs to help prevent parasites such as scaly leg mite and there have been studies that have shown it reduces the incidence of Northern Fowl mite\*.
- A few cloves crushed into water can make a tonic that can help boost the immune system.
- Garlic improves the appetite and helps hens produce larger and better quality eggs.
- The respiratory system can benefit from breathing steam which has (fresh) garlic infused into it. This can be done by placing the bird into a show cage / puppy crate anywhere that can be covered in plastic easily (still allowing enough air to breathe) and placing a steaming bowl under the plastic but outside of the cage (so your bird doesn't get burnt). This can help their breathing as an expectorant and gets the active anti-inflammatory ingredients directly into the lungs.
- The sulphur content of chicken manure is reduced when feeding garlic which can make your chicken house smell a little better!

*\*Birrenkott et al. (2000)*

*Is fresh, raw garlic better?*

This seems to be an age-old argument in the health food domain.

There have been some studies that suggest it might be better to use raw garlic but it's far from clear. There are numerous poultry stores online selling dried garlic granules that can easily be added to water from a bag and these are a popular choice amongst poultry keepers. Personally, I keep a bag of granules in the cupboard next to the sink for the days when we have run out of fresh garlic, or when I'm in a hurry. Most of the time, I crush fresh cloves into my chicken's drinking water.

Source: Article by Tim Daniels at <https://poultrykeeper.com/>



### ***DID YOU KNOW:***

*The kidneys of Zebra Finches are so efficient they can drink water that is six times saltier than seawater. This helps the finches to persist at desert waterholes which become saline as they dry up.*

## IODINE DEFICIENCY/GOITRE IN BIRDS

Many seeds are deficient in iodine, which is a building block of thyroxine (thyroid hormone) and is essential for normal thyroid gland function. For that reason, birds fed seed diets must receive supplemental iodine as a part of a balanced vitamin/mineral source added to the food or water. (Iodine appears to be provided in adequate amounts in formulated diets.) Iodine is especially important in budgies, which appear to be particularly susceptible to thyroid problems. The same condition has occasionally been reported in other species of birds.

Iodine deficiency can lead to thyroid dysplasia (a malformation of the thyroid gland), which is commonly termed goitre.

Because the thyroid glands are located at the branching of the trachea into each lung, just above the heart, the enlarged, dysplastic glands put pressure on the trachea and syrinx (voicebox), with resultant displacement and breathing difficulties.

A click, wheeze, or the incessant “squeaking” in a budgerigar, heard on both inspiration and expiration, will point to this condition.

Any budgerigar presented for respiratory wheezing should be evaluated for thyroid hyperplasia. Other clinical signs can include vomiting and engorgement of the jugular vein, due to the partial occlusion of the thoracic inlet.

The development of thyroid dysplasia is gradual, and the condition worsens over time, with the respiratory noises becoming more noticeable as the thyroids enlarge. Quite often, the bird will be in extreme distress, sometimes forced to hold its head upright to facilitate breathing. Further, the condition can be complicated by secondary invasion of bacteria and fungus.

The iodine deficiency may also produce some degree of hypothyroidism, which is manifested by weight gain, the development of fat deposits, lethargy, and poor feather quality.



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Although thyroid dysplasia is mainly seen in budgies and occurs in rare occasions in cockatiels and canaries, the potential exists for all birds to suffer from iodine deficiency. The severity of the condition will dictate treatment: A mild case can be corrected by the addition of supplemental iodine in the diet; a severe case may require hospitalisation and daily injections of sodium iodide until the condition resolves. The best manner of treatment, however, is prevention through the proper provision of trace elements in a formulated diet or the use of a supplement for birds on a seed diet.

Budgerigars with thyroid tumors may have clinical signs identical to goitre. However, while goitre will resolve quickly with iodine supplementation, thyroid tumors will not.

Source: <https://nilesanimalhospital.com/files/2012/05/Iodine-Deficiency-Goitre-in-Birds.pdf>



## **THE THING WITH FEATHERS - SOMETHING TO PONDER**

Sheer numbers and enormous diversity among animals indicate that members of the Aves Class must be earth's most successful animal. There are around 10,000 different kinds of birds inhabiting our planet. That is more than twice the number of mammal species. What is most unique about birds, and which undoubtedly has contributed to their success, is that they all have feathers.

Nowhere in nature will you find anything better than feathers. You will not find in the entire animal kingdom a more . versatile and stunningly gorgeous body covering than feathers. They have so many necessary functions that help birds survive and flourish. Feathers can keep birds cool in hot climates and warm in colder climates. They can repel water and can protect from ultraviolet light, can act as camouflage and can attract mates during breeding seasons, and let's not forget that feathers give most birds the ultimate freedom of flight.



## HOODED PLOVERS END YEARS OF BREEDING HEARTBREAK ON ROBE'S LONG BEACH

For the first time in five years, volunteers have seen hooded plover chicks nesting on Robe's iconic Long Beach survive to fledging.

Friends of Shorebirds South East volunteer Cath Bell said the years of disappointment were "not for lack of trying", as the beach's resident pair of adult "hoodies" laid at least 26 eggs since their last successful nesting in 2015.

Ms Bell said the pair's eggs had all hatched over that time, "but we just were having some challenges getting the little chicks to survive to the point that they can fly".

The beach saw tragedy again earlier this summer.

"The pair did have an earlier nesting attempt when the eggs were washed away on a high tide," Ms Bell said.. "So then they re-laid these three, which are the ones that hatched just before Christmas."

A fence was erected to protect nesting hooded plovers on the iconic beach.

Ms Bell said the odds were against the chicks' survival on the popular beach during the coastal town's busy summer holiday season.

"It's just really quite unexpected because we have had, well, it's usually a peak visitation time to Robe, and Robe's beaches anyway, but it's been particularly busy with the whole COVID situation and a lot more domestic tourists".

"So to have them hatch just a few days before the masses arrive, and to actually survive that whole experience and fledge all three chicks, is just incredible."

Hooded plovers are vulnerable species in South Australia and conservation efforts at Robe include requiring dogs to be walked on leads along sections of Long Beach where the birds nest.. Robe beachgoers are asked to help the vulnerable bird by keeping their distance.



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Ms Bell said to see three chicks fledge at once was "a nice reward for effort" for the parent plovers.

"Because they try and try and try," she said. "We've worked out along the way that putting a fence around the nest is really helpful."

Ms Bell said volunteers had seen more people walking their dogs on leads on the beach this summer.

"I think that's helped significantly, along with that not-so-favourable beach weather during that peak time, people were still beaching but ... maybe there were a few less people on the beach than there would have been otherwise."

Robe District Council chief executive James Holyman said the council had worked with the Department of Environment and Water to protect the birds.

"We've supported the fencing off of the plover's nesting area," he said. "We've encouraged the community to adhere to the rules in that area to have their dogs on leads and made sure there's appropriate signage up so the community knows why the fencing is there and to comply with the rules."

Mr Holyman said the council had worked hard over the past 18 months to protect the local environment.

"I know with the changing climate and the number of people we have through Robe, it makes it hard for some of the wildlife," he said. "But it's very, very positive that we've seen this outcome this year."

Ms Bell said the volunteers did not know where the chicks would end up.

"But once they get to the point where they fledge, which is when they're flying, their survival increases because they're able to fly away from predators. That's our hope, that they can establish a breeding territory."

The birds have been banded to help track their movements.

"There is also a hope that they'll be sighted elsewhere on other beaches in the region, or wherever they end up, and that sort of information is reported back to us," Ms Bell said. "Then we're able to understand a bit more about what happens to the chicks once they do fledge, because we don't really know much about that."

*Source: ABC South East SA*

# Cannon & Ball

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## WHY SOME BIRDS MOULT FASTER THAN OTHERS

*Every year birds replace wing feathers crucial for flight, but how long this process takes can vary.*

Feathers are miraculous structures. Especially the long, strong feathers of a bird's wings and tail that make flight itself possible. But after about a year, constant use and exposure to the elements mean they have to be replaced. So how do you replace the roughly 20 feathers in each wing that are essential to flight, without becoming earthbound?

Many birds moult a few flight feathers at a time, wait until new ones grow in, moult another few, and so on. Usually the same feathers on each wing at the same time, symetrically. So in summer, a raven that's moulting might look a little ragged in the same part of each wing. For ravens, a moult can take up to six months. For smaller birds, closer to two. But, crucially, they can still fly.

Waterbirds like ducks and loons, though, are too heavy to fly with even a few feathers missing. So they moult all their flight feathers at once, becoming earthbound and especially vulnerable to predators for a month or more. During this time they stay in or very close to the water and out of harm's way. until their full suite of feathers has been completely restored.



### **DID YOU KNOW...**

*One of their most baffling movements of Pelicans is that from the coast to inland breeding sites. However, nobody knows just how the pelicans know to leave the coast and head inland to breed at just the right time.*

*Pelicans are associated with wetlands, and in the interior of Australia, the wetlands are ephemeral, filling only after infrequent drenching rains, but when they do, some usually*



## UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF BIRD MOULT

One of the most defining features of a bird is its plumage. But as complex and capable as feathers are, they don't last forever: They begin to break down after some time, forcing its owner to replace them. As a result, a bird's appearance may radically change through the moulting period—or just look odd and patchy. That, in turn, adds another layer of difficulty to species IDs.

My advice to birders who are agonizing over these transitions: Embrace the moult. It's a fascinating behavior, just like migration and breeding, and it's one of the vital parts of a bird's life; plus, it can add some interesting context to your next birding outing.

Let's look at some of the fundamentals of identifying moults.

### ***Are moults obvious?***

Yes, though more so in larger species and in longer feathers on the wings and the tail. When birds are moulting, you can usually spot the missing primary flight feathers by looking for a gap in the outline of the wing. The moult typically starts with the inner-most primary feather and works out; similarly, the central tail feathers tend to be shed first. At the same time, the plumage on the body is also being swapped. In black or darkly colored birds, the new feathers are noticable as they contrast with the faded old ones.



### ***When does moulting occur?***

Moulting is energetically expensive—as is migration and breeding. So, birds make sure these three activities don't overlap. For many of the North American songbirds, that sweet spot in the calendar is July into early August. Townsend's Warblers, for instance, go through a complete moult during this time, after they're done mating, nesting, and tending to their chicks, but before they embark on their southbound migrations. Other birds such as Gray Flycatchers fly down to their tropical grounds first to wrap up the process there. Tree Swallows, meanwhile, may begin the swap up north, pause for migration, and then complete it after arriving at their wintering destinations. Many species also have a partial moult in late winter or spring, replacing their head and body feathers but not their flight feathers. That's how a male Scarlet Tanager can switch to olive-green for the winter and back to luminous red for spring and summer.

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### ***Do all birds moult once a year?***

In general, smaller species replace all their feathers once, and will often replace some twice. But the bigger the feather, the more taxing it is to replace it. That's why huge birds such as eagles and pelicans don't grow a new set of flight feathers each year; they restore individual primaries and secondaries on the wings in a staggered manner, taking multiple years to refresh.

### ***What is "juvenile" plumage?***

The juvenile stage refers to the period right after a fledgling leaves the nest. For some species it lasts just a few days; for others it can take up to a year. This is also the only time in a bird's life when all of its feathers grow in at the same time, giving it a particularly uniform appearance.

After a bird goes through its first juvenile moult, it only changes feathers sequentially, which means it always has something old and something new on its body. That's why late-winter gulls that are immature (the awkward stage between juvenile and adult) look so "patchy."

### ***Are moults the only reason why a bird's plumage changes?***

Wear is another way. In autumn, the gorgeous Snow Bunting moults into a buff and white plumage. But during the winter, those buffy tips rub away to reveal the underlying black and white breeding suit of the male.

### ***Are wear and fading the same thing?***

There's a small, but important difference between the two terms. Wear is mechanical deterioration from flapping and environmental elements that causes the feather tips to fray. Generally, paler plumes wear more quickly because they lack melanin, a pigment that strengthens cells and protects them from damage. Fading, on the other hand, is a photochemical reaction, where UV radiation from the sun breaks down a feather's structure. Lice and bacteria also contribute to feather loss.

### ***How do I become a moult expert?***

After learning the basics, the next step is to get familiar with the habits, schedules, and variations of particular birds. There a number of great all-encompassing resource and field guide but you can also practice at home by noting the different plumages in the birds that come to your garden or in your aviary.. Look for darker and fresher feathers and contrast them with the paler ones.

*Source: [www.audubon.com](http://www.audubon.com)*

## WILY LYREBIRDS

*The males mimic noisy flocks to boost mating success.*

Males are prone to try anything to get lucky, and lyrebirds seem to have it clinched, according to study published in the journal *Current Biology*.

Scientists have made a surprise discovery that the wily songbirds use their extraordinary skills to mimic a nearby threat and trick females into hanging around for sex.

They've also raised the bar on mimicry, it seems, as their calls not only imitate individual alarm calls but an entire scene of warning calls from a mobbing flock with multiple bird species – even including fluttering wing sounds. Mobbing is a common ploy birds use when predators are around, calling others to create a noisy flock and harass the unwelcome intruder.

It appears the lyrebirds imitate the threat when females try to leave their display mound without mating, and even during the act. It seems to work – they copulate for around 45 seconds compared to other songbirds who are typically done and dusted in less than two.

The researchers discovered this phenomenon during a field-based study of the superb lyrebird (*Menura novaehollandiae*).

"I was expecting to focus solely on the fabulous, lyrical mimetic song that male lyrebirds are most well-known for," says lead author Anastasia Dalziel from Cornell University, US, a visiting fellow at Australian National University.

"But as I followed lyrebirds around, recording their dawn song and morning activities, it soon became clear that males occasionally would produce a completely different kind of mimicry that sounded like a mixed-species mobbing flock."

The team ran a couple of experiments to confirm that the males mimic the cacophony generated by a mobbing flock and to investigate why they would do such a thing.

First they compared the acoustic properties of the suspected mimicry and the sounds of real flocks. The latter they generated using models of predators (a rubber red-bellied black snake and a taxidermied boobook owl), and they followed adult male lyrebirds around Sherbrooke Forest, Victoria, with hand-held recorders to capture them imitating the sounds.

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Playing the recordings to other bird species showed they reacted similarly to speakers broadcasting a male lyrebird mimicking the flocks as to the real flock sounds.

Further observations revealed the lyrebirds never did the mimicry when a real predator was around, according to Dalziell. But they always produced the noise when a visiting female tried to leave without copulating (perhaps saying “it’s dangerous outside, stay”) and while mating (possibly to make sure the sperm is transferred), confirming their trickery.

“Our results conflict with the widely accepted theory that birdsong is an honest signal of quality,” says Dalziell.

“Instead, our study suggests that the elaboration of ‘song’ can be driven by sexual conflict and deception, which represents an important departure from conventional explanations for song evolution that rely on females’ preferences for male extravagance.”

It’s the most “complex copulation vocalisation yet described,” she adds, showing the birds can continue to inspire awe. “Even well-known Australian animals still have major surprises in store!”

*Source: Article by Natalie Parletta at [www.cosmosmagazine.com](http://www.cosmosmagazine.com)*



## **THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION of AUSTRALIA INC.**

MINUTES FOR THE A.G.M. MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2021.

The President Sam Davis opened the meeting at 8:04p.m. welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their attendance,

### **ATTENDANCE:**

There were 22 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, W. Wilson, B. Barnes, J. Flood, G. Roberts, C. Gruntar, J. Palmano, C. Isbister, B. Lloyd and

On ZOOM J. Forrest, C. Jeffery, J. Norriss, B. Goleby, N. Love, T. Hartung, B. Whiting, M. Gallagher, M. Reynolds, B. Kerr, N. Lawler, M. MacPherson (visitor)

### **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from D. Renshaw – moved W. Wilson and seconded C. Gruntar apologies be accepted - Carried.

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the CCBFA AGM held Wednesday 4th March 2020 were distributed to the delegates and with nothing arising from these minutes, they were adopted on a motion moved by B. Barnes seconded by J. Palmano as a true record of the 2020 AGM - Carried

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

NSW Fair Trading. Advising that the change to the new constitution has been registered and takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

It was moved by J. Flood and seconded by J. Palmano that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The secretary Ron Robertson gave his report for the 2020 year. He expressed his appreciation to all clubs for their communication throughout the year and all fellow committee members and Delegates for their ongoing support and attendance. A special mention to President Sam Davis stating Sam's exceptional skill in documenting and representation on issues with various State Government bodies. In closing advised if elected would continue for another year, in doing so giving 12 months notice of his intent to wind back his involvement, if required possibly carrying on in a lesser capacity. Moved B. Lloyd seconded G. Roberts that the Secretary's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer distributed the financial statements giving an analysis of the income and expenditure. The financial position was sound. Moved J. Palmano seconded C. Isbister that the Treasurer's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT:**

In the absence of an auditor, the President read the statement on behalf of the auditors, stating they had verified the Financial Statements and in their opinion the Financial Statements represented a true and accurate record as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. It was moved by W. Wilson and seconded J. Palmano that the Auditor's Reports be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

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## **FEATHERED WORLD REPORT:**

The President expressed our thanks and appreciation to the editor Jamie Norriss for his dedication and presentation of the publication. It was moved by W. Wilson and seconded B. Lloyd that the Feathered World Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

2020 was dominated by COVID-19. This caused pretty much all affiliate club's meeting, shows, sales, conferences, etc. to cease. Many eastern state clubs are only now beginning to run meetings and smaller public events. Larger sales are yet to recommence – those scheduled for later in 2021 still going ahead at this time. It has been a difficult year, however most pleasing to note that most clubs remain strong and viable which sadly has not been the case for numerous people and industries.

Reviews of all animal welfare legislation have begun in earnest in many states during 2020, in particular Victoria and NSW. It is great that we now have in place direct lines and relationships to senior bureaucrats, politicians and also the CEOs of RSPCA Vic and NSW. These connections are direct via CCBFA and also through our strong connection to Animal Care Australia (ACA).

Native animal licensing is another area of focus during 2020. Queensland's new system which in general terms mirrors the proposed NSW system is now in place. In NSW we continue to plug away – the current Executive Director of NSW NPWS, Atticus Fleming is still yet to respond to our proposal made in June 2020, despite his Director, Richard Kingswood and the Minister's Chief of Staff's ongoing assurances. We are confident the ACT will follow the lead of Qld, and NSW, once NSW is sorted. Victoria is just gloving up for a review of their native bird licensing system with only preliminary work undertaken to date. There is still work to be done in WA – they are still yet to implement their promised consultation committee.

There have also been a range of local government matters. Gladly many of these have been resolved fairly swiftly and were in general the result of a single overzealous compliance or policy officer.

In 2020 we reviewed the NSW bird sale code and redrafted as a professional document that conforms to modern standards and guidelines. The final drafting and approval to take place during 2021. This document, I'm confident, will go a long way to ensuring the long term self-regulated future for bird sales in NSW – particularly once negotiations during the review of NSW animal welfare legislation get to the codes of practice stage.

Our CCBFA constitution was updated late in 2020 to reflect our current practices. This is one of those tasks nobody likes to do, so special thanks to those who provided input and particular thanks to Ron.

And finally, my heartfelt thanks to Ron Robertson on behalf of all our 230 plus clubs and their members nationally. Ron's work negotiating insurance, organising rings, preparing meeting documents, compiling show and sales dates, managing correspondence, etc, etc. is greatly appreciated. On a personal note, I appreciate Ron's support and wise counsel as I've formulated submissions and responses to government nationally.

Moved by R. Robertson and seconded B. Goleby that the President's Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried

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### **HONORARIUMS:**

It was moved that the honorariums remain the same as for 2020, and be paid.

Moved J. Palmano and seconded B. Barnes - Carried.

This concluded the business of the AGM. Vice President W. Wilson took the chair as Returning Officer to conduct the election of office bearers for 2021.

It was moved W. Wilson and seconded J. Palmano all positions being willing to accept their re-appointment, the appointments be accepted in block, with the addition of B. Barnes as a Vice President and C. Isbister be appointed to the Management Committee-carried.

The election of office bearers being as follows:

**President:** Sam Davis.

**Vice Presidents:** Warren Wilson, J. Palmano, B. Barnes.

**Secretary / Treasurer / Ring Officer, Public Officer, Minutes Secretary,**

**Insurance Officers:** R. Robertson

**Equipment Officer:** John Walsh.

**Government Liaison Representatives:** Sam Davis.

**Auditors:** Greg Davie

**Management Committee:** C. Isbister, J. Flood, J. Forrest, C. Gruntar, B. Lloyd.

**GoH Selection Committee:** President, Secretary, G. Roberts, W. Wilson.

**Guest of Honour Dinner Co-ordinators:** J. Palmano and C. Gruntar.

**Feathered World Editor:** Jamie Norriss

**Feathered World Distributor for printed copies:** Ron Robertson, the electronic version to be prepared by J. Norris to be upload to the web site.

**Feathered World Committee Member:** J. Norriss, R. Robertson, S. Davis,

W. Wilson. The Feathered World to be issued bi-monthly in February / March, April / May, June / July, August / September and October / November.

This concluded the Annual General Meeting which was closed at 8:40 pm. The Returning Officer declared the AGM closed and passed the meeting over to the President Sam Davis to conduct the March 2021 General Meeting.

**THE NEXT FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 8:00 pm on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

*Please send in any club detail changes, including changes of position to the secretary asap. Thank you.*

## **THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.**

MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

The President opened the meeting at 8:40 pm, following the conclusion of the AGM.

**ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES: as per attendance register.**

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved B. Barnes and seconded J. Palmano that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the February General meeting – Carried

**Matters arising out of the minutes:** *None other than matters that can be held over for Reports and General Business.*

### **In-coming correspondence as follows:**

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers duly elected at their AGM's, clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance, clubs 2021 ring orders from various affiliates notification of show, sale and auction dates for 2021, confirmation of receipt of ring orders.
- Priam Australia P/L. Addressed to Sam Davis, current President of CCBFA, to immediately cease and desist making a comment proposed as fact with regard to Priam Australia trading as Priam Psittaculture Centre and myself, Daniel Gowland.
- Hunter Valley Avicultural Society Inc. request for public Liability insurance cover.
- NSW Fair Trading. Advising that the change to the objects/constitution has been registered and takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.
- Victorian Avicultural Council. Advising David Renshaw as their delegate.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Advising Craig Jeffrey as their new delegate.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Government States departments.

**Newsletters / Journals** – Received from various clubs, with notification of club events for insurance:

### **Out-going correspondence as follows:**

- Fair Trading NSW, lodgment of new constitution, Form A6 together with extract of minutes of the special resolution.
- Ring orders place for 30,800 rings for various clubs.
- Marsh Insurance, notification of the four clubs who had closed / folded, CoC's not issued.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Government States departments
- President response to Minister for the Environment, Re: KPMG Independent Review "Regulation of the export of native and exotic birds"(the review)

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### **MATTERS ARISING OUT OF CORRESPONDENCE:**

It was moved by B Lloyd and seconded by B. Whiting that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for payment and endorsement.

It was moved by G. Roberts and seconded by J. Flood that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed – Carried

It was moved by W. Wilson and seconded by J. Palmano that B. Barnes be appointed as a cheque signatory. The cheque signatories to be Ron Robertson, S. Davis, W. Wilson and Bob Barnes, -carried.

### **PRESIDENT REPORT:**

President Sam Davis presented the following detailed report.

#### **RSPCA NSW compliance audits**

The RSPCA NSW inspectorate was tasked by Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshall to crackdown on puppy factories. Significant additional funding was provided to RSPCA NSW for this task late in 2020. RSPCA NSW employed 6 additional inspectors.

The Minister's task force was renamed by RSPCA NSW from "Puppy Farm Taskforce" to "Breeder Compliance Unit". This renaming succinctly summarises the issue.

RSPCA NSW inspectorate holds the view that anyone who has bred a puppy in the last 3 years is subject to a compulsory compliance audit. These audits are being performed based on a code of practice designed for commercial breeders of dogs and cats.

ACA identified the definition of animal trade in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act 1979 (POCTAA) as the issue. ACA obtained legal advice indicating many of the audits were potentially unlawful.

ACA is working with government to redefine animal trade to better distinguish between hobbyist and business. This redefinition is important for all who keep and breed animals, including aviculturists.

ACA has submitted 3 versions of an amendment to the Minister. Shooters Fishers Farmers Party (SFFP) MP Mark Banasiak (with support of Labor and others) will move a final version of the amendment in the upper house during the session commencing March 16 2021.

#### **Wollondilly council DA for hobbyist animal breeders matter**

Overzealous council officers are wishing to interpret the term commercial too broadly such that any animal breeder (including birds) must obtain development approval. Cr Judith Hannan will move that no such overregulation occurs. I am advising and will attend the public forum on March 9 2021 at Wollondilly Council Chambers at Picton from 6.30pm to ensure the matter is swiftly resolved.

#### **NSW Native Animal Licensing**

Further to our February meeting – current licensing conditions do NOT currently permit the use of the current NPWS online record system as detailed in clause 5 and 6.

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<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences/native-animals-as-pets/maintain-a-licence>

*5. The licensee shall keep at the nominated premises, a true and accurate record in the native animal keeper record book supplied, for each of the holder's acquisitions (including native animals bred – see below) and disposals (including death and escape) of native animals. The record shall be completed in accordance with the instructions contained in the native animal keeper record book.*

*6. The record referred to in condition 5, shall be made in the native animal keeper record book immediately following each acquisition or disposal. In the case of native animals bred by the licensee, the record is to be completed within 7 days of birth or hatching for reptiles and mammals. For birds, the record shall be made within 7 days from fledgling. For amphibians, the record shall be made within 7 days of resorption of the tadpole's tail.*

CCBFA could give consideration to recommending members do NOT use the NSW NPWS online system until the reforms to licensing CCBFA has recommended are implemented. The reforms include updates to licence conditions that enable use of a suitable NPWS online record keeping system.

### **Bird Sale CoP draft comments**

Bruce Goleby has draft edits to include all wire show cages for larger parrots.

The meeting discussed the no open air venue proposed standard S2.2. Those affected will work on possible solutions to present to the May meeting.

It is critical that all clubs are in agreement with the code prior to implementation. This is the way to ensure we can continue to self-regulate this aspect of aviculture thus avoiding forced regulation from government.

We aim to have the final code agreed to later this year, and widely known and distributed prior to implementation for 2022.

### **Parrot Exports – KPMG review**

KPMG's Independent Review into the regulation of the export of native and exotic birds (KPMG Review), commissioned by the federal Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment was completed in December 2020.

The KPMG Review is here...

<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/f0e28291-cffd-4dbf-87f6-12cd76fea3a6/files/kpmg-native-and-exotic-bird-export.pdf>

The KPMG Review, to which I provided evidence, was released to the media mid-February and was followed by outrageous reports in the Guardian and other media that have little resemblance to the recommendations within the review. Federal environment Minister Sussan Ley appears to have been influenced by these media reports on this matter.

CCBFA continues to promote a sensible import/export system to minimise illegal smuggling and poaching.

We are pleased with Recommendation 8 of the KPMG review which aims to introduce our suggested blood spot parentage DNA tests to prove birds for export are captive bred.

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Please refer to my letter to Federal Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley MP dated 23/02/21, emailed to all clubs and found on our website at the following URL...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ccbfa-minister-letter-230221.pdf>

The above letter to the Minister is in response to the KPMG Review and also to the Minister's words quoted by the media. The letter was read out in full by me (Sam Davis) during our March CCBFA meeting.

In response to this letter Daniel Gowland of PRIAM published an email to numerous recipients, including journalists. Lloyd Marshall then republished much of the Daniel Gowland email together with further comment in his March edition of Talking Birds.

CCBFA has been made aware by a number of our affiliate clubs that Lloyd Marshall subsequently sent an email concerning the matter to an unknown number of CCBFA affiliated clubs.

I consider both the Daniel Gowland email and the Lloyd Marshall published text to be defamatory to me personally in a range of areas. The matter is now in the hands of my solicitor who has sent a "Concern Notice" under the Defamation Act 2005 to both the Gowlands/PRIAM and Lloyd Marshall t/a Talking Birds magazine. Currently we await suitable offers to make amends.

Claims of club's being involved in protracted legal action are nothing more than sensationalism. CCBFA or I personally have received no letters indicating litigation.

I stand by all my comments and assertions made in my letter to Minister Sussan Ley MP dated 23/2/21. I hold substantive documentary evidence to support all claims made in this letter.

Might I reiterate, the purpose of my original letter was to strongly state my (and CCBFA's) ongoing frustration that media outlets continue to denigrate the legal export of captive bred birds which then influences public and political opinion to the detriment of the work I and CCBFA are engaged in to stamp out illegal poaching and smuggling.

Further to the ACTP matter (and in the hope it will be put to rest) I humbly request all carefully consider the following statement reproduced from the out-comes summary of the 5/9/2019 Workshop on Live Native Bird Exports for Exhibition.

*The last session of the day included a short presentation and discussion from Monica Collins – Chief Compliance officer from the Department of Environment and Energy. Ms Collins provided an overview of the compliance activities and outcomes undertaken by the Department before specifically addressing allegations regarding native bird exports for the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP)<sup>1</sup>.*

*Ms Collins stated that the Department has considered each of the eight allegations as they have been received, and to date has found no evidence to support the allegations. As part of this process, in February 2019 the Office of Compliance requested information from German authorities, facilitated by Australian and German INTERPOL National Central Bureaus, regarding the possible sale of Australian native birds by ACTP. On 12 May 2019, the Brandenburg Land Criminal Police Office and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation confirmed that all birds in question are still under the control of ACTP.*

<sup>1</sup> ACTP is a registered zoo and not for profit organisation under German law.

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“...no evidence to support the allegations” and the KPMG review (apart from the 2 trivialities addressed in my letter) also found no evidence.

CCBFA acknowledges there are deficiencies in the current system of proving native birds intended for export are captive bred. To be clear, CCBFA supports the introduction of economical DNA tests using blood spots from the captive parents and from the birds to be exported. DNA testing proves parentage which proves that the birds are captive bred. We are pleased the KPMG review recommends such a system.

Moved B. Lloyd and seconded by B Barnes that the reports be accepted and reporters thanked – Carried

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **2021 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2021. Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.

- **Guest of Honour Dinner.** The dinner coordinator J. Palmano, advised that J. Walker the President of the Wollongong club will be arranging a booking for the Bulli Lookout restaurant in July / August when COVID setting restrictions are hopefully improved.

- **Sydney Royal Show update.** In the absence of I Cindric the President gave a brief report advising there were a total of 500 entries. As previously mentioned, the cage birds show will be the Tue. 6<sup>th</sup> / Wed 7<sup>th</sup> The aviary display will be there from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April, together with the Brincat family and their had raised parrots. The aviaries being provided by Col Western Aviaries / Steel Chief. Daily attendance will be capped at 75k.

The President asked for the suggestions for future meeting arrangements. It was moved N. Love and seconded B. Goleby to hold the next May meeting at Ashfield RSL and ZOOM and then every second meeting by ZOOM, Carried.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 10:15 pm.

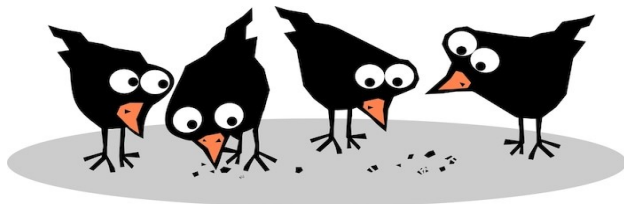
### **Notice of the General Meeting**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

at 8:00 pm

Ashfield R.S.L. Liverpool Rd. Ashfield

And ZOOM



*Send in reports on your club's activities and news.  
Feathered World is your magazine, so contributions are welcome.*

23/2/2021

Hon Sussan Ley MP  
Minister for the Environment  
<https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/contact/contact-form>

Dear Minister Ley

**RE: KPMG Independent Review “Regulation of the export of native and exotic birds” (the Review)**

Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA) is a national body representing over 230 avicultural clubs across the country. We are disappointed by statements purported to come from your office, which we believe are a consequence of incomplete accounts within the Review and selective reporting by media outlets.

We agree with the Review that the department's processes require tightening, however, experience shows this to be true of most government processes when placed under scrutiny such as the KPMG review. From CCBFA's perspective all officers in the Wildlife Trade section have been and continue to be most helpful and open to our requests for data.

Please be clear that all birds exported that are the subject of this matter were captive bred. Media reports routinely (and most annoyingly) neglect to mention this critical fact.

CCBFA supports and encourages trade in captive bred animals, primarily to prevent illegal take from the wild. This is one of the core principles of CITES. Sadly, Australia is not currently implementing this notion. As a consequence illegal trade is encouraged to the detriment of our native birds, in particular threatened species. Attachment A details CCBFA's case regarding CITES which has been provided to Wildlife Trade officers, KPMG soon after I was interviewed, and also to Graeme Samuel's review of the EPBC Act.

We are strong supporters of the DNA parentage tests alluded to as Recommendation 8 in the Review. We made (and continue to promote) this recommendation to the department, to KPMG, to the EPBC Act review process and to numerous other organisations. Such a system economically verifies all birds considered for export are indeed captive bred as required by CITES. The review identifies just two issues, both occurring during the first shipment of 7 Glossy Black cockatoos from PRIAM to ACTP.

- 1/ Claims that ACTP already possessed a Glossy Black cockatoo hen. Martin Guth of ACTP has been clear that ACTP made this bird known to the exporter Daniel Gowland of PRIAM. It is the reason an odd number (7) of Glossy Black cockatoos formed the first shipment – so as to make up four (4) complete pairs. The bird was legally in Denmark with negotiations under way to have it moved to ACTP in Germany should the permits for the birds from Australia be approved.

- 2/ A single advertisement for a Glossy Black cockatoo we presume is what was supplied to the Review and is contained within Appendix E. We cannot confirm as Appendix E of the Review is not included in the copy of the document currently in our possession. I have written to Laura Timmins, Senior Director, Wildlife Trade Office requesting a complete copy of the Review. CCBFA is confident this advertisement was a notice that a Glossy Black cockatoo was available. This is likely the single hen that was subsequently added to the ACTP Germany [2] collection once the permit for the PRIAM shipment of 7 Glossy Black cockatoos was approved.

The evidence in the Review on the above matters implies dishonest intent when in reality it is simply due to the timing of events.

So why all the innuendo regarding ACTP?

A bit of background may assist, and please note there is much evidence to support the following ascertains, unlike the unnamed complainants in the Review who apart from the advertisement noted above, have universally failed to follow up with evidence.

- Warren Entsch MP has acknowledged close ties to the Gowland family who own and operate PRIAM. Warren is a keen aviculturist, and a number of his birds have been held at PRIAM's commercial parrot breeding facility at Bungendore near Canberra.
- PRIAM breeds a range of rare and threatened parrots from across the globe for commercial sale. Their facility is registered with Australia's Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA). There is no doubt PRIAM do a terrific job with high welfare standards and expertise.
- PRIAM has also exported parrots from Australia to Loro Parque in the Canary Islands and also to Parfos Zoo in Cyprus.

No issue so far whatsoever from CCBFA perspective, however in our view the Review is incomplete without mention of these additional PRIAM exports (and other exports).

- The commercial relationship between PRIAM and ACTP deteriorated during finalisation of the first shipment. The issue revolved around claims of excessive PRIAM invoices for a number of services that were not performed and not required, including on-charges for services purported to have been provided by government totalling tens of thousands of dollars. During meetings with the department it became clear to ACTP that these PRIAM oncharges were excessive or were for charges never levied by government. Details of these PRIAM charges were supplied by ACTP to the department.
- The final straw that ended the PRIAM/ACTP commercial arrangement occurred when the shipment arrived in Berlin. A number of the birds were plucked, and PRIAM had not notified ACTP prior to the shipment leaving Australia.
- We believe it was soon after the commercial breakdown between PRIAM and ACTP that Warren Entsch MP became concerned about the legality of shipments to ACTP, which in turn initiated attention by media and other complainant's. We are not aware of any evidence from Mr Entsch to support his claims and neither does the Review supply any such evidence.

The above points indicate what I believe to be the real source of this matter - PRIAM's disappointment that their good name had been brought into question. In other words, a perfectly normal situation for two parties who have parted ways under less than amicable circumstances.

CCBFA unanimously supported the following motion.

*CCBFA supports and encourages a simplified export system for birds known to be aviary bred. Essentially captive bred birds, whether native or exotic, should be treated in the same manner as dogs, cats, and other routinely exported (and imported) species (except for threatened species within captive breeding programs). This is THE way to deter smuggling, as there is not and will not ever be sufficient sustainable funding to enforce border controls. The only proviso is to include safeguards to ensure captive numbers within Australia for each exported species remain sustainable.*

CCBFA is disappointed at the coverage this issue continues to receive as it unfairly and inaccurately skews the debate regarding international trade in captive-bred birds in such a direction as to advantage illegal smuggling and poaching. It is for this reason that CCBFA has written to you.

As an independent observer and stakeholder, CCBFA suggest a meeting to present evidence supporting all of the above points and more importantly to explain how an accessible economical legal system for trading captive bred birds will reduce illegal trade.

Kind regards

Sam Davis

President - Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

E: [president@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:president@ccbfa.org.au)

M: 0411253512

CC: Terry Butler MP (Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water), Laura Timmins (Senior Director, Wildlife Trade Office, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), Lisa Cox (The Guardian), Lloyd Marshall (Talking Birds Magazine), Daniel Gowland (PRIAM), Martin Guth (ACTP).

Public on [ccbfa.org.au](http://ccbfa.org.au)

### **Attachment A - CCBFA recommendation regarding CITES**

Inconsistencies between the current EPBC Act and CITES obligations...

CCBFA supports simplifying regulated international trade in captive bred birds, particularly to deter smuggling. There are anomalies in our EPBC Act 1999 that do not reflect CITES and that are currently incentivising smuggling.

Examining the text of CITES, in particular Article VII...

<https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>

CITES Article VII (4) states captive bred Appendix I species for commercial export are to be treated as Appendix II species, therefore Article IV applies. Article IV regulates trade in Appendix II species, it requires captive proof from the exporter, however there are no import requirements (from CITES).

And perhaps even more convincing is CITES Article VII (5). This clause makes it clear that captive bred animals require no CITES documentation apart from a captive bred assurance from the Management Authority of the State of export.

Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev.) further expands on this notion.

<https://www.cites.org/eng/res/10/10-16C15.php>

Australia has not implemented Article VII (4) or (5) so far as I can tell. We believe as a signatory, we are obliged to do so. We suggest a subsection, say "303FKA Import of captive bred CITES listed species" to correct this omission and if accepted solve the problem.

CCBFA offers its expertise to draft a proposed subsection 303FKA.



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