

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

Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING held at Ashfield RSL Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The President opened the meeting at 8:04 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

### ATTENDANCE:

There were 24 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, G Roberts, J. Flood, C. Gruntar, J. Palmano, B. Lloyd, C. Isbister, B. Barnes, I. Cindric, J. Forrest, B. Goleby, T. Hartung, T. Keogh, G. Brandon, M. Gallagher, J. Tadgell, M. MacPherson, N. Love, N. Lawler, W. Robinson, J. Norriss, B. Whiting, G. Fitt.

### APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from L. Hendry – moved G. Roberts and seconded C. Gruntar apologies be accepted - Carried.

**MINUTES:** All minutes published in *Feathered World* and on our web, [ccbfa.org.au/journals](http://ccbfa.org.au/journals)

The minutes for the March AGM were distributed and received on a motion from J. Flood and seconded by J. Forrest - carried. The minutes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> March General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved C. Gruntar and seconded G. Roberts that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the March General meeting – Carried

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

### CORRESPONDENCE:

#### In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers and delegate
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
- Affiliated clubs receipt of 2021 ring orders and payments from various affiliates.
- Clubs requesting details of affiliation and insurance.
- Coditech, receipt of ring orders.
- 2021 updates of show, sale and auction dates.
- Aust Gov. Dept Agriculture W & E, Minister for the Environment, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, re the KPMG Review, the Dept welcomes your willingness to engage on traceability and the CCBFA will be given an opportunity in the future when the recommendation is addressed.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Expressing concerns clubs were not consulted re letter tabled in February re KPMG Review, stating the letter has a one-sided view and can only breakdown relationships with other groups working with this Dept.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments.

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

- Animal Care Australia March'21 edition online :<https://online.fliphtml5.com/zfmwx/yiwn/>
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter March & April'21
- PET Industry News. Vol 2 No 2 April / May 2021 & Autumn News Vol 31 #1
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter March'21
- Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc. April'21
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales March & April'21
- Far North Queensland Bird Breeders March April 2021
- Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. April'21 Newsletter.
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier April'21
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News March April'21

- Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter April / June'21
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 270 & 271 March, April'21
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc. May / June 2021 NCSA News.
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Vol.43-2 March April'21
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW March – April'21

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

- Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
- Details of affiliation and insurance provided to clubs requesting information.
- Coditech, communication for shipping arrangements and payment
- Various affiliates dispatch of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Advising their letter will be tabled at the next Delegates meeting and suggesting their delegate would like to air the club's concerns, advising that the aim of the letter was to reinforce the CCBFA motion... Asking which other groups are working with the Dept? as we have not received any notification of any such relationship.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

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

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

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

Cheque account balance 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 \$30,805.59, Ring accts payable \$3,332.00

The following accounts were submitted for endorsement:

Kwik Kopy April May Feathered World \$74.70, Post general and Feathered World April / July \$100.00 Postage rings \$177.15, Coditech rings \$9,690.00.

It was moved by B. Lloyd and seconded by G. Roberts that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

### **REPORTS:**

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

The RSPCA NSW inspectorate was tasked by Minister for Agriculture, Adam Marshall to crackdown on puppy factories. Overreach by RSPCA NSW Inspectorate resulted in potentially illegal compliance audits of anyone who had bred a puppy, including entry to private property without consent or evidence of cruelty.

ACA has been working to resolve the matter.

Shooters Fishers Farmers Party (SFFP) MP Mark Banasiak moved an amendment in the upper house during the session commencing March 16 2021 to resolve the matter by redefining "animal trade" within POCTAA. Sadly, this amendment was defeated.

ACA President Michael Donnelly and I (as VP of ACA) met with Minister Adam Marshall in Parliament House on March 16 2021. It is clear the Minister opposes the current audits with particular concerns regarding right of entry to private property. Unfortunately, a clear distinction between hobbyists and businesses (which determines an animal trade) is difficult to define. The Minister committed to find resolution as part of the current POCTAA review.

We understand compliance audits have for the time being ceased.

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

Overzealous council officers were wishing to interpret the term commercial too broadly such that any animal breeder (including birds) must obtain development approval. I spoke on behalf of all animal keepers at the public forum on March 9 2021 along with Hugh Gent, President of ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) at Wollondilly Council Chambers.

Discussion expanded to encompass the RSPCA compliance audits situation.

Council unanimously moved to support animal keeping and breeding in the shire. Council also support and will advocate for a clearer distinction between hobby and business breeders to resolve the POCTAA animal trade issue.

## **Isaac Regional Council Queensland Issue**

A member of a CCBFA club is experiencing difficulties due to inappropriate local laws and their application to his situation. The matter is a consequence of a complaint from a neighbour. I am acting for the aviculturist and have put two possible legal methods of resolution which will solve the matter amicably - council officers are investigating currently.

The larger issue is the way local laws are created and passed, including the model local laws upon which they are based. This leads to some inexplicable laws restricting keeping to low numbers and then a permit for higher numbers. In some cases, the permit fees are exorbitant. In cases like Isaac Regional Council, there is no permit system, hence no simple way to have more than a few birds, 15 in this case. This applies to all of Queensland and a similar system is in place in Victoria.

CCBFA will look to have the model local laws at the state level include more reasonable conditions for keeping birds and that when a permit is issued it should be a single application fee with the permit lasting in perpetuity.

## **Victoria Review of the Wildlife Act 1975 - Native Animal Licensing**

It is now Victoria's turn to review native bird licensing.

The government has appointed an Independent expert advisory panel which includes a range of academics led by Dr Deborah Peterson. The panel recently released an "Issues paper" and are asking for submissions by 9/6/21.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/independent-review-victorias-wildlife-act-1975>

CCBFA have been asked to contribute as a key stakeholder via a "possession and trade sector forum" meeting. We will also make a formal submission.

CCBFA looks forward to working on this issue in close consultation with our Victorian clubs including the VAC.

This is the start of what will likely be a long process. We intend our initial submission to largely parallel recent changes in Qld, and those soon to occur in NSW and ACT.

Given time constraints, a draft will be circulated via email to Victorian clubs for comment prior to submission.

## **Victorian Animal Welfare legislation review**

An "Engagement report" was recently released which essentially summarises the submissions in response to the "Directions Paper" released last year.

Our CCBFA submission to this process is here...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CCBFA-Vic-Directions-Paper-Submission.pdf>

Both the "Directions Paper" and the "Engagement Report" are here...

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>

CCBFA will continue to engage in this process, as will ACA. There are concerns that stakeholders with extreme animal rights agendas will have unreasonable influence on this process, and perhaps on the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 (native bird licensing review) described above.

### **NSW Native Animal Licensing**

CCBFA (with ACA assistance) submitted the following questions to SFFP MP Mark Banasiak to put to Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean during 2021 budget estimates.

#### ***Questions regarding- The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.***

*The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA) represents some 250 bird keeping clubs nationally, with around 100 throughout NSW. CCBFA is a member of Animal Care Australia (ACA) representing hundreds of thousands of animal keepers including bird and reptile keepers.*

*December 2014 saw the release of the Final Report of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel led by Dr Neil Byron. The coalition government accepted all recommendations, including "Adoption of a tiered and risk-based approach to the regulation of wildlife management in NSW" (Recommendation 27).*

*CCBFA and other stakeholders (animal keeping associations) have been consulting, meeting, advising, assisting and negotiating with OEH and NPWS for six years; working to successfully develop a reform package to implement their part of the above-mentioned report. Hundreds of hours of work for volunteers, department staff and contractors - millions of dollars of taxpayer's money, yet still no implementation.*

13. *The final proposal of the consultation process led by contractor Robert Oliver's team remains under lock and key we believe in Executive Director, Atticus Flemings' office. Minister, why hasn't this proposal been released, and will you release it now?*
  - (a) *Your office facilitated a meeting with Atticus Fleming in June 2020 with Animal Care Australia and CCBFA representatives. A simplified proposal for bird keepers mirroring recently implemented systems in Queensland was put to the Executive Director. He is yet to respond despite numerous promises. Minister, please explain why your Executive Director is not keeping his promise to ACA, CCBFA and for that matter why he has delayed the progress of this proposal and the recommendations made by Mr Oliver's team?*
  - (b) *ACA and CCBFA have asked to meet with you on numerous occasions to explain and resolve the matter. This matter affects tens of thousands of NSW animal keepers. Will you commit to meet with ACA and CCBFA?*

Answers were as follows...

13. *Atticus Fleming is the Deputy Secretary of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). I am advised that Robert Oliver was employed as an NPWS staff member, not as a contractor.*

*I acknowledge and thank these groups for the time invested during the consultation for the licensing reforms. The licensing reforms proposal has experienced delays, which is due to several factors. I am advised that NPWS remains committed to delivering these reforms once all outstanding matters have been resolved.*

  - (a) *At the June 2020 meeting, Mr Fleming undertook that NPWS would investigate opportunities to progress less-complex components of the broader wildlife licensing reform package, such as bird licensing. This is currently underway.*
  - (b) *Members of my staff have previously met with the ACA and CCBFA and continue to correspond on a regular basis. Both my office and NPWS are aware of the ACA and CCBFA position on this matter.*

In summary, the Minister is indicating the reforms will go ahead, the question is when?

In response to the above answers (which do not provide clear dates) ACA initiated a GIPA request (the equivalent of a federal freedom of information request). In response we now have the final document produced by Robert Oliver's team designed for Ministerial approval. This document confirms the recommendation to

1. remove most commonly kept bird species from licensing, and
2. recommends the continuation of the Native Animal Keeper's Consultative Committee (amongst other things).

These are the main recommendations made to Deputy Secretary, Atticus Fleming by CCBFA (and ACA) back on 8/5/2020 and described in the following meeting synopsis. CCBFA has not yet received a substantive response to the 8/5/2020 meeting.

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-atticus-synopsis-080520-meeting-final.pdf>

Minister Kean's Chief of Staff has indicated the matter is being worked on – again no dates provided.

### **NSW Bird Sale CoP Second Draft**

A second draft was discussed and is now available on our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au) for comment by clubs.

The main changes from the first draft are as follows.

1. All wire cages are NOT permitted for species smaller than a Rainbow Lorikeet. (S4.7)
2. Existing events in open venues can continue but must relocate to an enclosed venue as soon as possible. (S2.2)

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 ask clubs to consider this second draft now and provide feedback prior to or at our July CCBFA meeting with a view to voting to accept the code at the July meeting. The aim is for implementation in 2022.

A list of species permitted to be sold in wire cages and not permitted to be sold in wire cages will be prepared to avoid any ambiguity. This list will be on the CCBFA website and accessible via QR code. A footnote to S4.7 will direct users to this list. Mark Gallagher and Greg Brandon to assist.

Assuming the code is ratified at the July meeting, CCBFA will then...

1. Print copies of the code and distribute to clubs to distribute to their members and at sales.
2. Create a QR code for easy access to the complete code via smart phones.
3. Design and print A3 signage for club use to promote the new code at events.

### **Parrot Exports – DNA testing to prove parentage**

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 is currently being considered by wildlife trade staff. I have had preliminary discussions regarding the matter with a view to meetings as the matter progresses.

To reiterate - 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.

Moved B. Goleby and seconded by W. Robinson 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.
- **Sydney Royal Show update.** Ivan Cindric the coordinator of the aviary / bird section for the RAS gave a brief report saying it was again a great success, there were a total of 500 entries. The tame bird Parrot display provided by “Andrews Pet Palace” and the Brincat’s and Farmer Dave was a feature attraction. Ivan received a very positive feedback from the RAS and the Public. Advising that next year will be the RAS 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the “feature bird” in 2022 is the Canary.
- **Feathered World** consideration to updating and changing front cover. After a brief discussion and the President showing a number of alternate samples, it was agreed that the delegates should discuss the matter at their clubs, initially asking “do we want a new cover for *Feathered World*”. And bring the matter back to the July meeting.
- **Artemis Nature Fund.** Ian Ward brought to our attention a request to support the work with clubs donating and becoming a “[Friend of Artemis](#)”. Artemis was once a strong-hold for Golden-shouldered Parrots. However, the population has crashed to about 50 birds. All the evidence suggests Artemis’ parrots will disappear completely if we don’t act now. Gary Fitt advised that he was going up there in October and would be seeing John Griffiths who has been involved with the project.
- **Wyong Community Group** seeking support to regain use of the Wyong Showground / Racecourse site. Refer “Albert Warner” project.(affiliates being the Central Coast Poultry Club, Avicultural Society of the Central Coast, BSNSW Central Coast) and numerous other groups. The President advised that he would be reviewing the matter further and if required writing a letter of support to the appropriate party.
- **Federation Guest of Honour Dinner**, for Don Price and Peter Southgate. John Palmano advised that he had discussion with John Walker (President of the Wollongong & District Avicultural Society Inc.) They had tentatively enquired with the Panorama House, Princes Highway, Bulli Tops, Bulli, for a luncheon on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> July. There is a requirement for 40 head booking at \$40.00 per person, individually paying for own drinks. The duration being seated at 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business closed the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

### Notice of the next ZOOM (only) General Meeting

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

at 8:00 pm