



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



Import And Export : Setting the Record Straight

Mystery Migration of Tasmanian Silvereye

The Canaries Relatives

Whats In A Name

The Anthracite Budgie Mutation

Cassowaries Domesticated Before Chickens!

CCBFA General Meeting Minutes, 6 July 2022



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 4  
AUGUST—SEPTEMBER 2022





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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## **ZOOM MEETING DATES 2022**

**General Meetings** 7th September & 2nd November

**AGM** 1st March 2023

*Meeting commences at 8:00 pm*

**NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield  
Will be confirmed in advance at previous Zoom meeting**

# Table of Contents

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Import and Export: Setting the Record Straight..... | Page 6  |
| Mystery Migration of Tasmanian Silvereye.....       | Page 12 |
| The Canaries Relatives.....                         | Page 16 |
| What"s in a Name.....                               | Page 19 |
| The Anthracite Budgie Mutation.....                 | Page 20 |
| Cassowaries Domesticated before Chickens !.....     | Page 22 |
| CCBFA General Meeting Minutes, 6 July 2022 .        | Page 24 |

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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.

Ron Robertson, Secretary, The Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. PO Box 230, Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640 ; Phone: 02 9452 2396 ;Email: [federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au)

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*Have you updated your club details?*

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*Feathered World is your magazine, so contributions are welcome.*

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

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## IMPORT AND EXPORT – SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

By Sam Davis

CCBFA affiliated clubs currently and unanimously support the following motion which has been put to our federal government via the previous federal Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley, and to a range of bureaucrats directly and via various submissions. The motion is recorded in CCBFA minutes and within the letter to the Minister dated 23/2/2021. All is publicly accessible on our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au).

*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 continues to be frustrated at the coverage efforts to build a sustainable international trade in captive-bred birds has attracted over recent years. Such diversions can only advantage illegal smuggling and poaching. We envisage an accessible system that is economically viable for hobbyists, protects biosecurity of captive and wild birds and complies with *Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES) by ensuring all birds traded are captive bred.

Once birds to be imported or exported are proven to be captive bred then why should their import and export be any different to dogs, cats, horses, and other animals?

My intention of writing this piece is to present the facts, facts that will go some way to setting the record straight. I possess documentation to support all details much of which is posted publicly on the CCBFA website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au). I welcome queries to verify any doubt readers may have.

Currently there is no legal mechanism for aviculturists to import parrots or any other birds into Australia with just two exceptions. The first permits one or two companion parrots to be brought into Australia from New Zealand when the owner is moving residence from New Zealand to Australia. The second allows permits to be given under “exceptional circumstances” by the Minister as detailed under Section 303GB of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

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The only known exceptional circumstance parrot import was the recent import of a single Red-fronted Macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) hen from New Zealand by PRIAM Psittaculture Centre.

Under the old [National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme \(NEBRS\)](#) a total of seven Red-fronted Macaws were recorded. How many were actually present is unknown, as has been shown for other species there may have been far more or even fewer. NEBRS has been shown to have had poor uptake and poor compliance leading to the scheme being discontinued in January 2002. Current advice indicates there is a sustainable population of Red-fronted Macaws present in Australian aviaries, in fact PRIAM itself advertises birds for commercial sale, so it is somewhat confounding as to why such an old bird was considered an “exceptional circumstance” leading to the Minister (Sussan Ley at the time) issuing a permit.

This single bird import sets a precedent for the potential import of other parrot species from New Zealand, in term of biosecurity (disease/quarantine) and our obligations as a signatory to the *Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species* (CITES). Note that Red-fronted Macaws are listed in Appendix I of CITES – more on this later. CCBFA has recommended to a range of different government inquiries and via various submissions, that opening trade in parrots between New Zealand and Australia would be a logical and controllable first step to more open trade internationally.

For many years there has been an active push to open the borders to allow import of psittacines (parrots). There are three significant road-blocks to be overcome. The first is the development and ratification of a “biosecurity import risk assessment” (BIRA) which is well advanced. Second is adding new species to the live import list (if they are not already present) and third is obtaining import permits – both the live import list and import permits are legislated under the commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Part one of the live import list currently exempts eight avian species from permit requirements, namely domestic pigeons, Red Junglefowl, which includes domestic chickens. and other species of game birds such as the Ringneck Pheasant. Part two lists forty-two species which require a permit. This list includes common species such as Budgerigars, Peach faced Lovebirds, Cockatiels, Indian Ringnecks together with a variety of other parrots, many of which were added to the list and imported back in the 1990s. The includes both native and exotic species and is freely accessible online as the List of Specimens taken to be Suitable for Live Import under Section 303EB of the EPBC Act.

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The process for adding species to the live import list is bureaucratic and likely to take some time to accomplish. CCBFA has argued this process should be progressed whilst the BIRA development and approval is underway, all to no avail currently.

The approval of a revised “biosecurity import risk assessment” (BIRA) for parrots continues to be a prime example of bureaucratic red tape, with numerous delays and limited communication with stakeholders. The process has been ongoing for a decade. The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) released a draft BIRA back in July 2020, and recent advice to CCBFA indicates finalisation is still some time off. DAWE is currently looking at environmental issues and is “actively reaching out to experts in wildlife epidemiology and ecology, environmental biosecurity, and risk management methodologies to provide further expert input.” CCBFA has requested details of these experts so we may assess their credentials.

Based on the draft BIRA it is likely the following will be required for all parrot import shipments.

- At least 35 days quarantine and testing pre-export in the source country under the control of a vet employed or approved by the government of the source country.
- Transport to Australia which involves a range of biosecurity checks and balances. All shipments must arrive into Australia at Melbourne airport.
- Finally, 15 days in the Biosecurity Containment Level 3 (BC3) facility at the new Mickelham facility on the outskirts of Melbourne.

In general terms CCBFA supports the proposed risk management measures within the draft BIRA. We made the following recommendations to DAWE back on 18/9/2020.

**Recommendation 1** CCBFA continues to recommend a regulated import regime that is economically viable, whilst protecting the biosecurity and biodiversity of Australia’s captive and wild birds. Such a system will deter smuggling (including poaching).

**Recommendation 2** To prevent irresponsible reporting, CCBFA recommends the BIRA includes an unambiguous statement making it clear that imports will be restricted to captive bred birds from approved countries.

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- Recommendation 3** CCBFA recommends the requirement for BC3 level quarantine at Mickleham be reassessed.
- Recommendation 4** CCBFA recommends imports from New Zealand (NZ) be considered as a special case. This includes consultation with NZ regarding potential reciprocal arrangements for both imports and exports.
- Recommendation 5** CCBFA recommends welfare of birds during the quarantine period is addressed. CCBFA welcomes the opportunity to draft a set of welfare standards/guidelines to assist.
- Recommendation 6** CCBFA recommends review of the Draft Report and approval of the psittacine BIRA occurs in a timely manner and that officers reviewing the live import list and CITES regulation are able to begin their work forthwith.

Both import and export require permits under the EPBC Act. at the Australian end, and similar permits for any CITES listed species from the overseas country. All parrot species are listed on CITES Appendix I or Appendix II apart from four species, namely Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*), Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) and Indian Ringnecks (*Psittacula krameria*).

Currently Australia allows anybody to export parrots, both native and exotic species, so long as they are not listed on CITES Appendix I and for Appendix II export is only for non-commercial purposes limited to research and exhibition (and zoos). The definition of zoo is up to the receiving country.

A range of export shipments of non-CITES listed species have been exported regularly from Australia for decades. This includes thousands of Indian Ringnecks, Canaries, and various exotic finches including large numbers of European Goldfinches.

More recently small shipments of CITES Appendix II parrots have been exported. PRIAM Psittaculture Centre has exported to Parfos Zoo in Cyprus, to the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP) which is a registered zoo and not for profit organisation under German law, and to Loro Parque which is a zoo and private breeding facility located in the Canary Islands. Profits obtained from the sale of parrots bred in captivity at Loro Parque are fully invested in conservation projects worldwide. Further consignments to ACTP were sent from individual Australian breeders.

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There remain real anomalies in how Australia implements its obligations as a signatory to CITES. In particular CITES (conflicting with Australia's EPBC Act) states that when Appendix II birds are proven by the source country to be captive bred then no CITES documentation is required, rather a captive bred assurance from the Management Authority of the State of export is sufficient. In addition, Appendix I species shown to be captive bred should be treated as Appendix II species.

CCBFA continues to actively lobby to have these issues corrected as part of the current review of the EPBC Act. **CITES is a convention on "trade" in endangered species not the prevention of trade.** The aim is to encourage trade in captive bred animals, not prevent trade as is currently the situation enshrined within Australia's EPBC Act. CCBFA has offered its expertise to draft suitable amendments to the EPBC Act to correct these anomalies.

Therefore, the crux of the issue is proving birds intended for export are captive bred.

The old *National Exotic Bird Registration Scheme* (NEBRS) was a failed attempt to prove parentage of birds. A new national registration scheme, NEBRS 2.0 if you like, was touted by some as a possible way forward. CCBFA and all our affiliated clubs totally and rigorously opposed such a solution as it would involve registration of all parrots apart from Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*), Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) and Indian Ringnecks (*Psittacula kramera*). A number of finch species listed on CITES would also require registration under such a crazy scheme. A huge impost on aviculturists nationally that would be costly and more importantly will not solve the problem.

The only stakeholders unwilling to oppose a national registration scheme were the Associated Birdkeepers of Australia (ABA) and PRIAM Psittaculture Centre.

CCBFA has recommended DNA parentage testing to two government-initiated inquiries into the matter. First KPMG and more recently ThinkPlace. The KPMG report recommended DNA tests be investigated and we await release of the ThinkPlace report which has examined the issue in some detail. CCBFA made a number of representations both written and in person to ThinkPlace and the Office of Wildlife Trade in Canberra. Our "Proposal for a DNA Parentage-based Export Protocol" can be found on our website [www.ccbfa.org.au](http://www.ccbfa.org.au).

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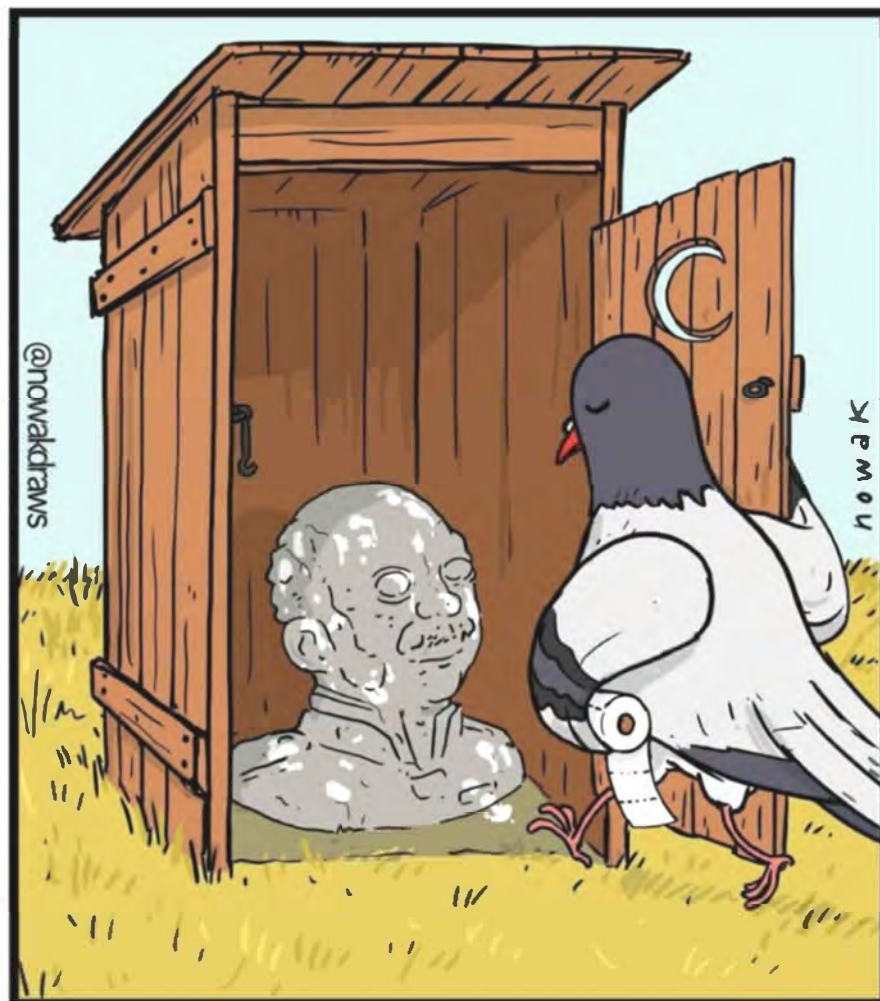


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In summary, to prevent smuggling and poaching requires an accessible system for import and export of proven captive bred birds. CCBFA has recommended a way to achieve this outcome, perhaps commencing initially with trade between New Zealand and Australia. We need a system whereby aviculturists internationally can swap a few pairs of captive bred birds with their counterparts in Australia. Maybe a group of Budgerigar breeders exchanging bloodlines, or neophema breeders exchanging new colour mutations with an overseas friend, perhaps birds imported or exported to improve genetic diversity in captive stock and maybe import of the odd new species. If such a system is shown to work, and is not abused, then maybe over time we can look at import and export of finches and even some softbills.

Am I dreaming? Maybe - time will tell.

Sadly, any import/export system that is not accessible to general aviculture will not solve the smuggling issue and will be used to profit a few unscrupulous operators.



## MYSTERY MIGRATION OF THE TINY TASMANIAN SILVEREYE

The Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*) is a small bird that weighs about 10 grams. Its name came about because of the thin white rings of colouring around its eyes that give the impression it is wearing silver-rimmed glasses.

They make their homes in a range of vegetation including eucalypt forests and woodlands, mallee, heath and mangroves.

While Silvereyes are native to Australia, they are also native to a number of other countries including Africa, Asia and the South Pacific region as far east as Fiji.



The Silvereye is an adaptable bird capable of spreading to new habitats with ease. In the 1830s they turned up in New Zealand, apparently after being blown off course when crossing Bass Strait from Tasmania, and they are now common in that country.

There are several races of Silvereyes, but it's only the Tasmanian race that performs the incredible migration across Bass Strait and up the east coast of Australia. Other races do migrate and cover considerable distances, but they don't compete when it comes to this annual long-distance migration.

It's usually April before the Silvereyes start to migrate north and, by May, many of these amazing birds are turning up along the coast of southern and central New South Wales and some as far north as Queensland.

But this migration is a complex and mysterious business. Some Tasmanian Silvereyes don't migrate at all, preferring instead to rug up and spend winter on the Apple Isle. Others strike out across the water and head west when they hit the mainland, ending up as far as Adelaide.

Crossing Bass Strait is the biggest hurdle for the tiny Silvereye, and researchers are still working out how they do it. They believe it's most likely it achieves this feat by island-hopping, breaking the distance between Tasmanian and the mainland into several shorter stages.

This theory is based on the fact that large flocks of Silvereyes have been sighted on various islands in Bass Strait during both autumn and spring.

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If they traverse Bass Strait via the arc of islands stretching from north-east Tasmania to Mornington Peninsular in Victoria, the longest non-stop flight over water is reduced to around 50km, which is still a long way when you're the size of a sparrow!

Once they hit the mainland, they often hook up with their mainland cousins and form large mixed flocks for their summer holiday sojourn. Some flocks linger around the same small mainland region while others tend to migrate northward following defined routes along the coastal plains.

Most migration takes place at night, or during dawn and dusk, but the flocks tend to drift in their migratory direction as they feed during the day.

How can you know which type of Silvereye you are looking at given that the Tasmanian Silvereye mixes so readily with its mainland cousins?

Most of the time you'll find it Silvereyes are small and evasive, as well as fast moving, which combine to make it difficult to tell the two apart! The Tasmanian Silvereyes are a little larger and heavier than the mainland variety, but not so much so that you'd notice at a fleeting glance.

There are, however, also some telltale differences in the plumage. The Tasmanian Silvereye is generally a darker bird and has dark reddish-brown coloured flanks. Its throat is whitish or greyish in colour while the non-migrants have a yellow throat and much lighter orange-brown flanks.

The movements of migrating birds like Silvereyes are detected and recorded through bird banding programs in which birds are caught, tagged with an individual number on a metallic band around their leg, and released. This way individual birds can be tracked and their movements monitored.

One pair of Tasmanian Silvereyes was caught in the same Sydney garden three times over a four-year period. This indicates that the birds follow very exact migration paths year after year. Other banded birds have been recaptured hundreds of kilometres from where they were first caught.



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One Silvereye, first banded near Murwillumbah on the far north coast of New South Wales, was later recaptured near the small Tasmanian town of Don near Devonport, around 1,600 kilometres away.

Bird banding has also revealed that the average age of a Silvereye is about two years, although the oldest so far recorded has seen at least 11 birthdays.

Very little is known about how Silvereyes manage to complete their epic migration every year. It's unclear how they know where to go, what makes them want to go and how they fuel the trip.

These questions have formed the basis of a research project by Dr Ursula Munro at the University of Technology in Sydney. Dr Munro has already made some inroads into understanding how the Silvereye knows where to go.



By placing them in artificial magnetic fields, Dr Munro has discovered that these tiny birds can read the magnetic field of the earth. But their migratory feat is more complicated than that.

Other experiments have shown they also use polarised light and can take their bearings from the setting and rising sun.

There is also a portion of their navigation system that is learned and involves the recording of key landmarks along their route.

The reason why they make this long and treacherous journey in the first place is another question entirely. Why risk travelling back across Bass Strait in spring when there's plenty of food available on the mainland?

If Dr Munro is right, it's all in their genes. She thinks that the travel bug is hard-wired into their tiny brains and explained that it's a bit like having a little computer program that tells them when to leave, where to go, how long they need to travel, when to stop, and when to return.

Food resources also control the urge - if food is low, then it's time to leave Tasmania and head north.



About 10,000 years ago there was no water covering Bass Strait and Tasmania was connected to the rest of Australia by land. The annual migration up and down the coast would have been much less hazardous for the little Silvereye with dry land stretching all the way from Hobart to Brisbane and beyond. Under these conditions, migrating made a lot of sense and allowed them to make full use of seasonal gluts of food in the different regions.

When the last Ice Age finished, sea levels rose and Bass Strait was formed, but the Silvereye's urge to migrate was so strong it forced them to maintain their yearly pilgrimage across a perilous 200km of water.

Another question that remains to be answered is where a small 10 gram bird like the Silvereye finds the energy for such a long flight. Dr Munro believes they probably build up a deposit of fat during the summer that is used to fuel their long autumn flights.

To confirm this theory, Dr Munro is currently comparing the feeding habits of the Tasmanian Silvereye with the mainland Silvereye to discover any differences that might explain how the migrating Tasmanian Silvereye gets its fuel. Although it is still early days, she is already discovering differences in their feeding patterns that may answer this question.

It's easy to anthropomorphise when it comes to animals, and the cute little Silvereye is no exception and it's inspiring to think of these tiny little battlers fighting against incredible odds and succeeding year after year.

It's breathtaking to consider the tenacity and application that allows them to travel such a great distance every year - further than most of us would travel for annual holidays.

It's mind numbing to think of the in-built capabilities these beautiful creatures have developed to complete their annual migration so successfully.

But in the end, seen from the point-of view of these tiny birds, it's just what you have to do if you're a Silvereye from Tasmania



Source: [Paul Willis](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2)

[/www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2)

## THE CANARY'S RELATIVES – LESSER KNOWN CANARIES FROM EURASIA AND AFRICA

The Wild or “Typical” Canary (*Serinus canaria*) is the world’s most commonly-kept finch. However, several of its relatives are also well-established in captivity, and some have been hybridized with the Wild Canary in order to improve its color and singing abilities. These include the following finches related to the what is known as the ‘normal’ canary”

**Note:** “Wild Canary” as used here refers to the common pet trade Canary.

### **Green Singing Finch** (*Serinus mozambicus*)

This cheery and hardy little bird is a pretty songster that is a great favorite with Aviculturists and as close relative to the ever-popular canary, *S. canaria*, will hybridize with it in captivity.

Endemic to most of sub-Saharan Africa, especially in semi-arid areas it favors open forest and scrub, as well as farms and ranches



The males greenish-grey upper parts merge with the lemon-yellow breast and chin, and a yellow streak tops the eye. Females are somewhat duller than males, and have a faint ring of black spots about the neck.

### **Gray Singing Finch** (*Serinus leucopygius*)

Also known as the White-Rumped Serin or Layard’s Seedeater, the singing abilities of this bird are considered to be superior to those of the Wild Canary. Aviculturists in search of talented songsters sometimes cross Gray Singing Finches with Wild Canaries.



This bird’s plumage is a non-descript gray in color, but few who have heard the male’s song take exception to this! Its range extends across North-Central Africa from Senegal to the Sudan, where it occupies overgrown scrub, parks and gardens.

### **Black-Throated Canary** (*Serinus atrogularis*)

Also called the Yellow-Rumped Serin, this gray and yellow canary is a fine songster, although not quite on par with the Gray Singing Finch. Like many canary relatives, females construct intricately woven nests...I was presented with one that was so tightly knit that it seemed to have been spun by machine.



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The Black-Throated Canary occupies a huge range; the seven or so subspecies may be found from southern Saudi Arabia and Yemen through much of Africa south of the Sahara. Most populations favor open woodlands near water.

### ***European Serin (Serinus serinus)***

This popularly-kept canary (please see photo) sometimes occurs as far north as Great Britain, where it is strictly protected. It is also found in southern Europe, western Asia and northwestern Africa.

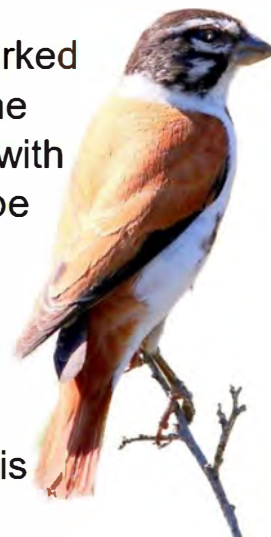
European Serins are attractively clad in bright to greenish-yellow and brown, and have been crossed with Wild Canaries by breeders seeking uniquely-colored birds. They are known for their fluttering, “butterfly-like” mating displays, and are often kept in outdoor aviaries so that this behavior can be shown to its best advantage.



### ***Black-Headed Canary (Serinus alario)***

Also sold under the name “Alario Finch”, this strikingly-marked canary is, at 5.5 inches in length, the largest member of the group. The black head, nape and throat contrast sharply with the cinnamon-red back and wings, as does the black stripe that marks the white breast.

Black-Headed Canaries are a bit more aggressive than related birds, and do best in thickly-planted outdoor aviaries. Mated pairs are not very tolerant of company, especially during the breeding season. Cross breeding this species with Wild Canaries was common in the past.



In the wild, Black-Headed Canaries occupy open woodlands and brushy fields in southern Africa.

Source: <http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/>



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## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Which finch comes out at night?  
Which finch has notions of grandeur?  
Which finch makes the best burglar?  
Which finch has a split personality?  
Which finch is an arsonist?  
Which finch is the tastiest?  
Which finch gives you stomach ache?  
Which finch has the best jewelry?  
Which finch makes the best barber?  
Which finch tells the best stories?  
Which finch is the best hotelier?  
Which finch always looks ill?  
Which finch makes the tastiest dessert?  
Which finch is the most artistic?  
Which finch makes the best cook?  
Which finch makes the best soldier?  
Which is the most religious finch?

( or *Cardinal* or is it the Nuns?)

Which is the richest finch  
Which finches make the best baskets?  
Which finches make the best juvenile choir?  
Which finches make the best senior citizens choir?  
Which finches smell the most pleasant?

Star Finch  
Napoleon Weaver  
Masked Finch  
Parrot Finch  
Fire Finch  
Red Strawberry  
Green Strawberry  
Diamond Finch  
Cut-throats  
Long-tail Finch  
Double Bar Finch  
Green Finch  
Melba Finch  
Painted Finch  
Cordon Bleu  
Grenadier Weaver  
Parsons Finch

The Goldfinch  
The Weavers  
Little Singer Finches  
Grey Singer Finches  
Lavender Finches

***Remember: Old aviculturists never die; they just go to seed.***



## THE ANTHRACITE BUDGERIGAR MUTATION

The Anthracite budgerigar mutation is an extremely rare mutation similar to the *Violet* budgerigar mutation, that causes a difference in the coloring of budgerigars. Anthracites have black or very dark gray feathers, possibly with some white depending on the budgerigar in particular.

The mutation is believed to have started in Germany where it appeared in 1998 in the aviaries of Hans-Jürgen H Lenk, who successfully established the strain and continues to report on its development. Initially found only in Germany, by the end of 2008 descendents of this original mutation had been exported to America, Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland and is now reported to be in Australia

The description and genetic behaviour of the Anthracite and *English Grey* are identical, insofar as this can now be determined. It seems likely that the Anthracite is the re-emergence of the *English Grey*.



### **Genetics**

A bird with two Anthracite factors has an extremely dark grey body, jet black markings and the cheek patches of the same very dark grey as the body. G W von Kamrath describes them as "jet black wing and tail markings and deep black cheek patches".

A single Anthracite factor has a similar effect to the *Dark* mutation, causing a Skyblue to become Cobalt in appearance.

The Anthracite mutation has an incompletely dominant relationship with its wild-type allele. That is, it shows a visible effect when present as a single factor (SF) and a different effect when present as a double factor (DF).

In the green series varieties the SF Anthracite Light Green has one

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Anthracite allele and one wild-type allele at the Anthracite locus. This darkens the body colour to a shade somewhat deeper than a Dark Green. The DF Anthracite Light Green, with two Anthracite alleles, is a deep olive colour.

In the blue series varieties the SF Anthracite Skyblue has one Anthracite allele and one wild-type allele, with a body colour rather like a deep Cobalt. The DF Anthracite Skyblue with two Anthracite alleles, the true Anthracite variety, has a dark grey, almost black, body colour with mauve overtones.

Because the Anthracite factor is always visibly expressed no budgerigar can be split for Anthracite. The Anthracite SF with just one Anthracite allele corresponds to the splits of recessive mutations.

A single Anthracite factor has a similar effect to the *Dark* mutation, causing a Skyblue to become Cobalt in appearance - as was suspected with the *English Grey*. In fact, the similarity of the Anthracite to the *English Grey* is striking. The description is virtually identical, and the cobalt appearance of a Skyblue with a single Anthracite factor is exactly what was suspected for the *English Grey*.

The interaction of the Anthracite and *Dark* budgerigar mutations has not yet been investigated. It is expected that a combination of the two factors will deepen the body colour even more.

Source: <http://www.budgerigarworld.com/what-is-an-anthracyte-budgie-carl-slavin-canada-photos-didier-mervilde-belgium/>



## **CASSOWARIES MAY HAVE BEEN DOMESTICATED BEFORE CHICKENS BY BRAVE (OR FOOLISH) HUMANS**

Long before chicken domestication, humans appear to have raised a different bird species – one capable of ripping a person apart with a single raking kick. Cassowaries make birds' status as the surviving dinosaurs easy to believe, yet according to a new study, these are the beasts humans somehow chose to raise to adulthood. Strange as that decision may seem, it could explain the cassowary's survival and the fate of New Guinea's rainforests.

Eggshells deposited at Yuku and Kiowa in the New Guinea Highlands disproportionately appear to have been collected just a few days before they hatched. In Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the team who discovered this pattern explains it (almost in time for world Cassowary Day) as the result of people's aim to raise the hatchlings, not cook the eggs.

The heaviest birds to have inhabited the Earth in recent times – New Zealand's Moa and Madagascar's elephant bird – both quickly became extinct shortly after humans arrived on their home islands. Somehow, however, three species of cassowary have survived in New Guinea and Australia, co-inhabiting with humans for tens of thousands of years.

It's just possible cassowaries' survival is a result of humans choosing to raise the young to adulthood as the best way to get their meat, rather than hunting wild birds alone. If so, it proved a very beneficial choice for the health of the rainforests in which cassowaries live, allowing them to continue their vital role as spreaders of seeds.

Cassowary chicks may look harmless at this age, but they don't stay that way. Image



The shape and color of cassowary eggs changes as they get close to hatching and the embryos absorb calcium from the shells. Dr Kristina Douglass of Penn State University and co-authors used this fact to study the developmental stages of shells deposited at the two sites 18,000 years ago.

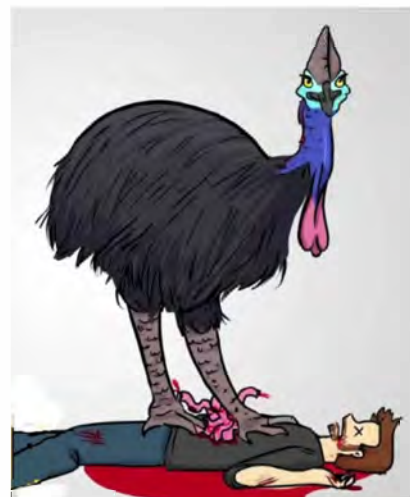
They also noted that while some shells showed signs of having been cooked; "There are enough samples of late stage eggshells that do not show burning that we can say they were hatching and not eating them," Douglass said in a statement.

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Cassowaries live on fruit rather than meat, but their lethal claws still make them major threats to anything they don't like – humans included. Douglass suspects the dwarf cassowary variety *Casuarius bennetti* were the ones being raised, rather than the two larger species. Nevertheless, she noted; "This is not some small fowl, it is a huge, ornery, flightless bird that can eviscerate you."



There are unconfirmed signs of humans forming a symbiosis with rock doves at Gibraltar 67 thousand years ago, but that aside, the work presented here represents the oldest evidence bird farming in human history. "This behavior that we are seeing is coming thousands of years before domestication of the chicken," Douglass said.

Cassowary nests are rare and hard to find. Moreover, the father guards and incubates them until hatching. It would have taken considerable skill to identify the right time to harvest the eggs, and killing the male to get to them would have carried risks. Nevertheless, New Guineans continue to raise cassowaries today, taking advantage of the fact they imprint easily on humans if one is the first to feed them after hatching.



## WORMING CHECKLIST

1. **ALWAYS** repeat the worming program 2 weeks later to destroy any eggs that may be in your birds (they will hatch in this time).
2. **NEVER** worm your birds during periods of very hot weather and when they are breeding if you can help it.
3. **CHECK** just what is in the product you intend to dose your flock with.
4. **CANVAS** other finch breeders as to their worming regime then make your OWN decisions based on your research .
5. **REMOVE** all favoured sources of moisture (cover roof, out with cucumber, oranges and apples....) to force your birds to drink the wormers you are using.

Source: <http://www.cliftonfinchaviaries.com/cfa/worms/worms.htm>

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

Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

The President opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance, and asked for a minute silence in memory of Neil Lawler the Hunter Valley Finch Club Delegate and President, who had suddenly passed away since our last meeting.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

There were 18 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, C. Gruntar, B. Barnes, J. Forrest, M. Gallagher, J. Tadgell, B. Whiting, M. Cameron, M. Godwell, G. Fitt, M. Surace, D. Reynolds, B. Kerr, M. McPherson, T. Maher, B. Whiting, P. Waite.

**VISITORS:** Tim Hartung (The Exhibition Zebra Finch Society of Qld.) Brian Read (FSA)

### **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from W. Wilson, I Ward, J. Norriss, B. Lloyd, N. Love, C Jeffrey – moved B. Barnes and seconded, J. Tadgell 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 4<sup>th</sup> May General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved M. Gallagher and seconded J. Forrest that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the May General meeting– Carried.

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Affiliated clubs, notification of office bearers and delegate
- Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of 2022 ring orders.
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
- Affiliated clubs, notification of 2022 updates of show, sale and auction dates.
- Clubs requesting details of affiliation and insurance.
- Cairns & District Budgerigar Club Inc. request for affiliation and insurance, with completion of the application and Privacy forms advising office bearer details, together with payment.
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. advising that Mark Surace has been appointed as the club's 2nd Delegate.
- Hunter Valley Finch Club inc. advising that Secretary Tony Maher, appointed as the club's Delegate after the passing of Neil Lawler.

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- Emails Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc, supporting Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc on the request that the use of wire cages should not be omitted from any Code of Practice, but rather be retained as a guideline within a code of practice.
- Email Kempsey Macleay Bird Club are in favour of wire cages used at bird sales and expos. Birds' smaller musk lorikeets can be shown in the smaller show cage boxes or reasonable size. And all cages to have 4 birds or approved by each bird club.
- 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 ACE June'22
- Macarthur Aviary Bird Club. Newsletter 2022 Volume 3
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter May & June-'22
- PET Industry News. Magazine & Newsletters May, June & July'22
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter May & June'22
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales May & June'22
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier May, June & July'22
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 280 May & 281 June'22
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc April, July-Aug'22 NCSA News.
- The Parrot Society of Australia (NSW) Inc. May - June'22 Newsletter.
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Wings Juuly'22.
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW March - April'22
- ANPA Newsletter May 2022
- Newcastle Budgerigar Club Inc. June'22

**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.
- Various affiliates invoicing and dispatch of ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Details of affiliation and insurance provided to clubs requesting information.
- Invoices to the Feathered World advertisers, for period from 1<sup>st</sup> July'22 to 30<sup>th</sup>.June'23.
- Cairns & District Budgerigar Club Inc. issuing a invoice and the insurance CoC, on receipt of payment.
- President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication with Federal Government States Govt. Departments

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

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

### **TREASURERS REPORT:**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement. It was moved by M. Gallagher and seconded by B. Kerr that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed - Carried

### **REPORTS:**

President Sam Davis presented the following detailed report.

#### **Parrot import progress - Psittacine Birds Import Risk Analysis**

Ongoing communication with Dr Peter Finn (Assistant Secretary, Animal Biosecurity, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) in Canberra regards the finalisation of the parrot import risk analysis. Peter has indicated they are doing further work related to what the potential consequences on the environment, including native birds populations, would be from the import of psittacine birds.

This is most frustrating as it indicates influences from those with no understanding of aviculture and potentially poor understanding of the legislative processes and procedures currently in place. My response to Peter follows and CCBFA awaits a reply.

Hi Peter

Thanks for your reply.

It was our understanding, based on advice from DAWE over many years, decades even, that adding new species to the import list was a separate process altogether. Your reply below indicates otherwise.

Anecdotally, I do not anticipate significant interest in many new species. The majority of imports envisaged are to improve captive genetic diversity, improve competitive stock or bring in new colour morphs (mutations). Therefore a risk assessment process for new species undertaken on a needs basis may be a wiser strategy than delaying all parrot imports.

Without wishing to argue the case here, I am heavily involved in a number of threatened species captive breeding release programs internationally. I just returned from Brazil where eight Spix's Macaws were returned to the wild on 11/6/22 after 20+ years of extinction - my business and charity sponsored one of the eight. The resources and expertise that goes into returning captive bred parrots to the wild is enormous and sadly many environmental risk assessments fail to acknowledge such realities. Again, our expertise in this area is world's best.

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The following Forbes article outlines the Spix's Macaw effort - <https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2022/06/15/spixs-little-blue-macaws-are-returning-to-the-wild-in-brazil/?sh=421dec276e59>

As you are aware, there is ongoing work by your Wildlife Trade Office, and also a review of NSW native animal licensing – both of which CCBFA continues to be a major contributor and stakeholder. CCBFA is currently finalising significant data collection and analysis of the number and value of each avian species (native and non-native) known to be present in Australian aviculture. This work would clearly be critical to informing the environmental work you outline below. I am happy to connect you with Adam Sincock (Principal Director – Wildlife Trade Office) and Elle Kohler (NSW NPWS) regarding this work.

Some initial questions...

1. CCBFA offers its expertise to the process, and questions why we have not been consulted to date. We have numerous experts in all the fields you outline.
  - a. Will CCBFA be included in this process?
  - b. Please list the experts in “wildlife epidemiology and ecology, environmental biosecurity, and risk management methodologies” and their background so CCBFA may assess their credentials.
2. Is the additional “environment” work you detail below focussed on species not currently in Australia?
  - a. If yes, then we must be consulted to identify the parrot species that may be of import interest.
  - b. If no, then what is the purpose of the analysis when these species are already present.

Regards  
Sam

Sam Davis  
President - CCBFA  
M: 0411 253 512  
E: [samdavis64@icloud.com](mailto:samdavis64@icloud.com)

### **International Import/Export – the facts**

The ongoing misinformation from various stakeholders with regard to this issue has led me to write about the matter as my column in the upcoming edition of Australian Birdkeeper Magazine (ABK). The column article is accompanied by significant articles and images by Simon Degenhard and I detailing the amazing return from extinction of the Spix's Macaw led by the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP). I was privileged to be invited to the release in Brazil – an amazing experience.

Both articles and accompanying photographs will be made available to all CCBFA affiliate clubs for use in their magazines once ABK has been published.

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## **Draft Animal Welfare Bill (NSW) 2022**

On 21/3/22 I provided evidence to the parliamentary inquiry into the Draft Animal Welfare Bill (NSW) 2022. Main concerns were in regard to restricting right of entry into residential properties by inspectors and ensuring aviculture continues to self-regulate.

A "First Report" has been released by the parliamentary committee and is available here...

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2853#tab-reportsandgovernmentresponses>

It will be of interest to CCBFA clubs nationally to note that Appendix 4 includes a Dissenting statement by The Honourable Emma Hurst MLC, of the Animal Justice Party. The Animal Justice Party (AJP), as most would be aware, is the political arm of the extreme animal rights movement in Australia. The fact many of the AJP's recommendations for the NSW Bill have not been supported by this parliamentary inquiry is progress of a sort.

ACA continues to communicate directly with senior DPI animal welfare staff and politicians regarding the Animal Welfare Bill (NSW) 2022.

Details of the Parliamentary inquiry including evidence provided by Michael Donnelly and I from ACA into this draft Bill are here...

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=2853>

The draft Animal Welfare Bill 2022 is here...

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-reform>

## **NSW Native Animal Licensing**

The first meeting of the NPWS Species List Advisory Committee (SLAC) was held yesterday with a large contingent of stakeholders present including, NSW DPI animal welfare staff, Taronga Zoo, Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA), WIRES, NSW Wildlife Council (NWC), Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), RSPCA NSW, Animal Care Australia (ACA), Zoo Association of Australia, CCBFA, Australian Herpetological Association (AHA), as well as NSW NPWS staff.

A copy of my presentation to the first SLAC meeting is included on our CCBFA website...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/CCBFA-SLAC-Presentation-1.pdf>

Obviously few of the organisations noted above have any expertise in terms of native animal keeping, and some, in particular WIRES and to some extent RSPCA NSW are publicly opposed to the keeping of any and all native animals. This is a huge issue to overcome, and we will continue to present facts refuting erroneous claims made by these organisations.

Approximately \$2.5 million was spent on the previous process and to CCBFA knowledge there is no documented reason the results have not been implemented. This process has a budget of \$750,000 and is essentially duplicating what came before. This point has been made strongly. We have agreed to work with the current process whilst it appears to be moving ahead.

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Native animal licensing is regulated under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and is not about animal welfare. Animal welfare is dealt with by separate animal welfare legislation managed by NSW DPI. Refer to the final slides of my presentation above for a summary.

We are finalising a significant data collection and compilation to provide facts on all species kept in aviculture both in NSW and nationally. Includes price guide data from a range of clubs, assessment of husbandry, diet, risk to wild birds, and other parameters. Some 470 species are included in the analysis. Many thanks to Murray McPherson for his assistance. Initial data has been provided to NPWS with further analyse underway. Result and summary will be provided to all clubs in due course.

Native bird licensing is the first priority, and we continue to be assured it will be completed by October this year. We remain sceptical and have requested any non-contentious species be removed from licence immediately rather than waiting for the process to complete and risking no outcome due to lack of time and/or funds.

Victoria will commence in earnest shortly. Sadly the animal rights lobby is likely to be a significant issue for Victoria as it has been for common-sense in NSW.

### **NSW Bird sales and auctions code of practice.**

The current code is here...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CCBFA-NSW-Bird-Sale-and-Auction-Standards-and-Guidelines.pdf>

Based on communication with a range of different clubs the following pre-proposal is recommended.

#### **Pre-proposal motions**

- ◇ That the vote is restricted to NSW affiliate clubs.
- ◇ That we vote on Proposal 2a. and if carried we do not vote on Proposal 1 or 2b.

*Note that Proposal 2a and 2b are essentially the same – 2a allows wire cages for doves, 2b does not.*

#### **Proposal 1.**

- ◇ Change Standard 4.1 and Standard 4.8 into guidelines. Essentially this removes all restrictions on all wire cages.

OR

#### **Proposal 2a.**

- ◇ Replace Standard 4.1 with the following and delete Standard 4.8.

*4.1 For finch and quail species all wire cages are not permitted. For these species seller cages to be open at the front only. They should be enclosed on both sides, the rear and the top and must be solid and non-transparent.*

OR

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### **Proposal 2b.**

- ◇ Replace Standard 4.1 with the following and delete Standard 4.8.

*4.1 For finch, quail and dove species all wire cages are not permitted. For these species seller cages to be open at the front only. They should be enclosed on both sides, the rear and the top and must be solid and non-transparent.*

For both Proposal 2a and Proposal 2b footnote 2 would remain, which states...

*Approved standard show cages, as specified by the CCBFA endorsed species specific standards, are acceptable for use in all cases. It is noted that show cage standards for large parrots and some canary breeds specify or include all wire cages and these are permitted.*

Many clubs have emailed requesting printed copies of the code and poster. If your club has not done so, please advise. The QR code will remain the same.

It was moved M. Surace and seconded M. McPherson that the vote be restricted to NSW affiliate clubs. It was then moved M. Gallagher and seconded M. Surace that the vote should be for proposal 2a, the vote carried unanimously.

Moved B. Barnes and seconded by B. Whiting that the Reports be accepted, and the President thanked – Carried

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. **2022 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2022. Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.
2. **ANPA 35<sup>th</sup> National Show**, Wagga Wagga Showground 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> July, in the Riverina Region for the first time.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business closed the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

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

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

at 8:00 pm





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