

THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.
Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 2nd November 2022.

The President opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

There were 18 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, B. Barnes, J. Forrest, J. Tadgell, B. Whiting, M. Cameron, M. Godwell, M. Surace, B. Lloyd, N. Love, D. Reynolds, M. MacPherson, I. Cindric, B. Kerr, T. Maher, K. Sorensen, and D. Pace.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from W. Wilson, I Ward, C. Gruntar, B. Golby, G. Fitt, – moved, B. Barnes and seconded, M. Surace apologies be accepted - Carried.

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

The minutes for the 7th September General Meeting of Federation had been distributed and read by the delegates. It was moved B. Lloyd and seconded J. Forrest that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the September General meeting – Carried.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Affiliated clubs, notification of office bearers and delegate
2. Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding the insurance.
3. Affiliated clubs, new orders for 2023.
4. Affiliated clubs, notification of 2023 updates of show, sale and auction dates.
5. Clubs requesting details of affiliation and insurance.
6. Coditech confirmation of ring orders and arrangement of means of shipment.
7. Coditech receipt of consolidated 1st shipments
8. Affiliated clubs' payments for ring orders.
9. 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:

1. Macarthur Aviary Bird Club. Newsletter 2022 Volume 5
2. Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Sept' & Oct'22
3. PET Industry News. Newsletters September October'22
4. Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Sept. & Oct'22
5. Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales Sept' & Oct22
6. Far North Queensland Bird Breeders July / Aug'22
7. Gloster Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. Nov'22
8. Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier Oct' & Nov22
9. Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter Oct, Nov, Dec22
10. Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 285 Oct'22
11. The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Sept / Oct'22
12. FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW Sept-Oct'22

Out-going correspondence as follows:

1. Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
2. Details of affiliation and insurance provided to clubs requesting information.
3. Coditech, placement of new orders for 2023.
4. Clubs invoiced and dispatch of rings on receipt of payment.
5. Marsh Advantage submitting complete schedule of affiliate clubs requiring insurance for 2023.

6. Various affiliates email and phone calls following up their club requirement for public liability insurance in 2023, clarifying matters regarding the insurance.
7. 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 N. Love and seconded by M. Surace that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried

TREASURERS REPORT:

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

REPORTS:

President Sam Davis presented the following detailed reports.

Release of a more detailed Plan for Victoria's new animal care and protection laws

Animal welfare in Victoria is currently regulated via the current Victorian *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and the sale of birds under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The URL for this review project here -

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

A number of representatives from the VAC, ASA, BCV and MPAS and CCBFA met on 11/10/22 via zoom to work through our submissions and ensure we were all on the same page. Thanks to all who attended and contributed.

Our CCBFA submission is on our website www.ccbfa.org.au and all submissions are now accessible via the URL for this review project <https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-animal-welfare-act-victoria>

A total of 478 submissions are currently on the website with 323 of these being personal submissions. There are at least 5 submissions of direct relevance to birds, CCBFA, VAC, BCV, MPAS and ACA. There are numerous submissions from animal rights organisations and a cursory examination indicates most of the personal submissions are also from animal rights advocates.

No doubt it will take quite some months for policy officers to work through such a large number of submissions.

Update on NSW licensing reforms V2 progress.

The two sample RBTs for the Pictorella finch and Crimson rosella passed through the RBT process easily and simply which means the SLAC recommends both move off licence and onto the code regulated list. I was subsequently asked to prepare RBTs for four other finch species.

Recall that in December 2014 the NSW Biodiversity Law Review Chapter 6 Managing Wildlife Interactions recommended a risk-based system including common birds moving to the existing exempt list. Government supported the implementation of all the review recommendations.

The code regulated idea was designed as largely administrative as this list would be maintained at the policy rather than the regulation level and hence enabled movement of species to and from the code list without need for political intervention.

The SLAC then met on 17/10/22. Just prior to this meeting we were supplied a draft wording for the code of practice for code regulated birds that would be released for public comment. The content of this draft code is shocking – the 3 main problematic conditions are as follows...

1. Requires registering name, address, etc. with NPWS.
2. Requires notifying NPWS within 7 days each and every time a bird is traded.
3. A maximum of 30 birds can be traded annually using the code. If trade more than 30 birds per annum then reverts to current licence.

Essentially birds reclassified under the code are subject to more stringent regulation than those under the current licensing scheme.

At no time during the past nearly 8 years has anybody at any time in any meeting that I'm aware of (and I've been to numerous meetings) proposed that any registration or notification to NPWS would be required for code regulated birds

All who spoke at the meeting were confused. Who proposed the above conditions and for what purpose? The only stakeholders present who did not comment were from WIRES and RSPCA. All other stakeholders are in the dark and can't understand.

I directly and specifically asked NPWS staff at the conclusion of the meeting if the draft could or would be changed. The answer was a clear no.

Michael Donnelly (ACA) and I met with Penny Sharpe (Shadow Environment Minister - Labor) on 27/10/22. Penny noted her suspicion it is all a consequence of the AJP influence. We cannot be confident of Labor's support should government change.

I subsequently met on 28/10/22 with Trish Harrup, Executive Director, Conservation and Aboriginal Partnerships, NPWS and Janelle Brooks, Director, Conservation Programs, NPWS to express our concerns, outline the timeline of events including the lack of promised openness, accountability, and transparency.

The following statement was provided to Trish and Janelle for consideration. We await a response.

CCBFA insists on the removal of all conditions that require notification to NPWS within the Draft Code. If this does not occur prior to public release, we will focus our attention once more on simply moving common class 1 species to the existing exempt list. To avoid all confusion, we will oppose the Draft Code and return to supporting the addition of species to the exempt list in Reg 2.22(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017¹ that are detailed in our synopsis of the Atticus Fleming meeting on 8/5/2020² and recommended to go to code in Rob Oliver's \$2.5 million report.

¹ <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2017-0432#sec.2.22>

² <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ccbfa-atticus-synopsis-080520-meeting-final.pdf>

The meeting discussed a range of options as follows...

1. Accept the draft and encourage clubs to write submissions opposing the problem conditions.
2. Continue attending SLAC meetings ensuring the minutes record our opposition at all opportunities.
3. Contact politicians including Environment Minister James Griffin, our SFFP friends and others. James is the MLA for Manly – does anyone know him?
4. Progress the matter as a complaint via internal government accountability processes under the Government Sector Employment Act 2013.
5. Enrol the Audit Office of New South Wales to audit the process. They review whether public money is spent efficiently, effectively, economically. Some \$3.5 million has been spent on this matter. The first \$2.5 million report was filed and now we have a different strategy in play to essentially change nothing. Reiterate the 8 years of work, time, and effort by numerous volunteers.
6. Remove ourselves completely from the process and focus on implementing the Rob Oliver report or simply moving the common class 1 birds to the exempt list.
7. Examine legal avenues such as royalties paid for original birds so not owned by the crown, constitutional right of trade between states, excluded protected animals matter under BC Act s 2.18, develop our own code of practice under regulation 2.9 (2) for direct adoption by the Minister, etc.

Extensive discussion took place culminating in the following motion and recommendation to the Minister.

Motion

The proposed code in its draft form is an irresponsible use of public money. It overregulates and is not in the spirit of the reforms as recommended in December 2014 within the NSW Biodiversity Law Review which government committed to implement. The proposed code adds a further and unnecessary level of bureaucracy and ongoing costs to the current regulatory regime without justification.

CCBFA is appalled by the lack of openness, accountability, and transparency of the process. \$2.5 million and now a further \$750,000 has been spent when the obvious and recommended solution is to simply implement Rob Oliver's \$2.5 million report or add species to the existing exempt list as recommended below.

CCBFA will recommend to the SLAC that no birds move onto the code whilst the code requires any notification to government. In addition, CCBFA will recommend to all clubs that their membership do not participate in such a code regulated system.

Recommendation

CCBFA recommends the Minister takes the following action. Our preferred option is option 1 however we would support option 2.

- **Option 1.** Implement the \$2.5 million report commissioned by the government, and led by Robert Oliver, a copy of which was obtained via formal Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 request 21-1651 and is included as an attachment.

- **Option 2.** Add the species listed in Appendix A to the exempt list which forms Reg 2.22(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017.

Appendix A

1. *Barnardius zonarius* Mallee ringneck, Cloncurry parrot
2. *Columba leucomela* White-headed pigeon
3. *Geophaps plumifera* Spinifex pigeon
4. *Geophaps scripta* Squatter pigeon
5. *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala* Purple-crowned lorikeet
6. *Glossopsitta pusilla* Little lorikeet
7. *Heteromunia pectoralis* Pictorella mannikin
8. *Lonchura castaneothorax* Chestnut-breasted mannikin
9. *Lonchura flaviprymna* Yellow-rumped mannikin
10. *Neochmia modesta* Plum-headed finch
11. *Neochmia phaeton* Crimson finch
12. *Neochmia temporalis* Red-browed finch
13. *Neophema chrysostoma* Blue-winged parrot
14. *Neophema petrophila* Rock parrot
15. *Neophema pulchella* Turquoise parrot
16. *Northiella haematogaster* Blue bonnet, Naretha blue bonnet
17. *Phaps elegans* Brush bronzewing
18. *Phaps histrionica* Flock bronzewing
19. *Platycercus caledonicus* Green rosella
20. *Platycercus elegans* Crimson rosella
21. *Platycercus venustus* Northern rosella
22. *Poephila acuticauda* Long-tailed finch
23. *Poephila cincta* Black-throated finch
24. *Poephila personata* Masked finch
25. *Polytelis anthopeplus* Regent parrot
26. *Polytelis swainsonii* Superb parrot
27. *Psephotus chrysopterygius* Golden-shouldered parrot
28. *Psephotus varius* Mulga parrot
29. *Psitteuteles versicolor* Varied lorikeet
30. *Stagonopleura guttata* Diamond firetail
31. *Taeniopygia bichenovii* Double-barred finch
32. *Turnix melanogaster* Black-breasted button quail

(To be sent on letterhead to Minister Griffin, Shadow Minister Sharpe, Mark Banasiak MLC (SFFP), other relevant MPs, NPWS Director of Conservation, and other relevant staff from NPWS).

Moved: Mark Surace, seconded: Ben Lloyd, Carried unanimously

Column in Australian Birdkeeper Magazine (ABK).

As many will be aware I write a column in each issue of ABK. If any clubs have ideas for articles or issues they'd like me to address please let me know.

My column in the next issue of ABK is titled "Avicultural Expertise – making ourselves known" with the following subheadings

- Acknowledging the value of our skills and knowledge
- Working together when engaging with government
- What is being done now

How can individual aviculturists assist directly?

Many thanks to Sheryll from ABK for providing CCBFA this regular public voice.

ABA issues

The letter to the ABA was sent via email on 8/9/22 and is copied on our website at the following URL - <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/aba-issues-080922.pdf>

No response to date.

Moved N. Love and seconded by J. Forrest that the Reports be accepted, and the President thanked – Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. **Show and Sale dates for 2023** – Clubs are requested to email Matt McKenzie the dates for their 2023 shows, sales, and auctions, including phone number of the contact person and venue details. It is understood that confirmation of the venue may be in abeyance / pending, however we request the tentative / projected dates be advised. Please email matthew.mckenzie@det.nsw.edu.au
2. **RAS** has confirmed the show dates for the Cage Bird show at the 2023 Royal Easter Show will be Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th April 2023. Benching will be either Sunday 9th from 6pm or prior to 8am on Monday 10th.
3. **Ring Orders 2023.** The ring orders for **2023** [if required for distribution at the specialist Annual shows] should be finalised by the 1st March **Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2023. Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.
4. The Secretary asked the meeting to approve the donation to the Children's Cancer Institute. It was moved B. Barnes and seconded M. MacPherson that we continue to donate \$200.00. – carried.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 10:30 p.m.

Notice of the next General Meeting

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Meeting commence DST at 8:00 pm via ZOOM