



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



MINUTES, GENERAL MEETING 3RD MAY

CANARIES IMMUNE RESPONSE AFFECTED BY SICK BIRDS

THE CINNAMON CANARY

WIPING BEAK HAS AFFECT ON BEAK SHAPE AND LENGTH

THE HELICOPTER BUDGIE

KEEPING YOUR BIRDS HEALTHY IN WINTER

THE BENEFITS OF APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

THE COCKY BENNET STORY

CAN BIRDS EAT BROCCOLI

ARTIFICIAL TREES TO ATTRACT BIRDS IN CANBERRA

IBIS TECHNIQUE TO EAT CANE TOADS



VOLUME 55 NUMBER 3

JUNE - JULY 2023

# Nectar Pellets

*Lorikeet Diet*



## COMPLETE LOW-SUGAR DIET FOR LORIS AND LORIKEETS



### UNIQUELY EXTRUDED

To unlock natural flavours, improve digestibility and ensure food safety.



### REAL INGREDIENTS

Made with fresh Australian ingredients and low sugar. No artificial colours.



### NATURE AND SCIENCE

Nutrition inspired by nature, formulated by avian vets and nutritionists.

NEW  
PACKAGING!



[www.vetafarm.com.au](http://www.vetafarm.com.au)

# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## PRESIDENT

Sam Davis  
PO Box 26  
Douglas Park, NSW 2569  
Mobile: 0411 253 512  
Email: samdavis64@icloud.com

## SECRETARY / TREASURER

Ron Robertson  
PO Box 230  
Frenchs Forest, NSW 1640  
Phone: 0402 888 291  
Email: ccbfa@aapt.net.au

NOTE: The above positions are ex-officio on all committees

*Feathered  
World*

The Official Magazine of The Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.  
Published bimonthly.

## EDITOR

Jamie Norriss  
60 Cordyline Drive  
Reedy Creek, QLD 4227  
Phone: 0416 023 343  
Email: Jamie@dmsworld.net

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ron Robertson  
Warren Wilson  
Sam Davis  
Jamie Norriss

- 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.

## ZOOM MEETING DATES 2023

**General Meetings** 5th July, 6th September & 2nd November

**AGM** 6th March 2024

**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

Minutes, General Meeting 3rd May.....	Page 4
Canaries immune response affected by sick birds .....	Page 10
The Cinnamon Canary.....	Page 11
Wiping Beak has significant affect on beak shape and length.....	Page 12
The Helicopter Budgie.....	Page 15
Keeping your birds healthy in Winter.....	Page 16
The benefits of Apple Cider Vinegar.....	Page 18
The Cocky Bennet story.....	Page 20
Can Birds eat Broccoli.....	Page 23
Artificial trees to attract birds in Canberra.....	Page 24
Ibis technique to eat cane toads.....	Page 26

### FEDERATION STATIONERY SALE (Prices for Affiliated & Insured Clubs)

<b>Show Cage Stickers</b>	<b>\$10 for 600</b>
<b>Judge's Slips</b> [1-6 Placings]	<b>\$3 per100</b>
<b>Special Slips</b> [Used in conjunction with 1-6]	<b>\$2 per 50</b>
<b>Judge's Slips</b> [1-3 Placings , incl Specials ]	<b>\$3 per100</b>
<b>Judge's Slips</b> [1-6 Placings , incl Specials ]	<b>\$3 per100</b>
<b>Entry Forms</b>	<b>\$6 per 50</b>
<b>Show Schedule/Show Rules</b>	<b>\$2 each</b>
<b>Ring Register Cards</b>	<b>\$2 per 100</b>
<b>Membership ID Card</b>	<b>\$2 per 100</b>
<b>Show Schedule and Rules</b>	<b>\$2 each</b>
<b>Bird Room Registers</b>	<b>\$2 each</b>

#### *Plus Postage and Packaging*

*From: John Walsh—Phone: 0421 011 107 / (02) 9451 0911 email; ktwsh@optusnet.com.au*

**NOTE: Ensure Club Name, delivery address & phone number of order person is included**

**Copyright Information:** Permission must be obtained from the Federation Secretary to publish any part of these lists of sales, shows and directory entries. Information should be appropriately acknowledged stating the full and correct name of Federation and cite this **Feathered World** edition.



# 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.

Notifications should be on club's letterhead or if required a hard copy or electronic copy of the *Office Bearers' 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 0402 888 291: Email: [federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au](mailto:federationbirdclubs@aapt.net.au)

## 2023 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2023. Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.

Clubs requiring an order form which must be completed, should contact:-

**Secretary, Ron Robertson,**

*Send in reports on your club's activities and news.*

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

*Have you updated your club details?*

*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 now have a Facebook page!!  
The link is: <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA>  
Like our page to stay updated with current avicultural events.

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

Minutes of the ZOOM GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 3rd May 2023.

The President opened the meeting at 8:05 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance, and asked for a minute silence in memory of a past delegate Ruby Williams who was a delegate for 20 or more years, Ruby is survived by her husband Jim who was a past Secretary and Vice President.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

There were 18 delegates in attendance including, S. Davis, R. Robertson, B. Barnes, J. Forrest, J. Tadgell, N. Love, B. Whiting, M. Cameron, M. Godwell, G. Fitt, T. DeGraff, B. Goleby, B. Kerr, B. Lloyd, D. Renolds, M. Reynolds, K. Sorensen, T. Hartung.

## **APOLOGIES:**

Apologies were received from W. Wilson, I Ward, – moved J. Forrest and seconded, B. Whiting 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 1<sup>st</sup> March AGM were published and received on a motion from B. Lloyd and seconded by D. Reynolds - carried. The minutes for the 1st March General Meeting of Federation had been published and received on a motion from B. Lloyd and seconded D. Reynolds 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.*

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

1. Affiliated clubs, notification of office bearers and delegate
2. Affiliated clubs, requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
3. Affiliated clubs, receipt of 2023 ring orders.
4. Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
5. Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc. request for affiliation and insurance, with payment.
6. Shepparton & Goulburn Valley Poultry Society Inc. request for affiliation and insurance, with payment.
7. President / Govt Liaison Officer. Sam Davis- ongoing communication, received in response to communication with Federal Government and States Govt. Departments.

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

7. 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. Animal Care Australia ACE March'23
2. Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter March & April'23
3. PET Industry News. Feb-April'23 & Newsletters March, April, May'23
4. Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter March & April'23
5. Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales March'23
6. Fleurieu Peninsula Cage Bird Society Inc. March'23 Newsletter.
7. Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Hunter Finch Fancier April'23
8. Bundaberg Canary & Caged Bird Society Inc. Newsletter April / June'23
9. Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings # 289 & #290 April'23
10. Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet March & April'23
11. FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW March-April'23
12. Australian Fife Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. March'23 Gazette

**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. Various affiliates invoicing and dispatching of ring orders on receipt of payment.
4. Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc. advising details for affiliation and insurance.
5. Shepparton & Goulburn Valley Poultry Society Inc. advising details for affiliation and insurance.
6. 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.*

Moved J. Forrest and seconded N. Love that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Canberra Budgerigar Club Inc. and Shepparton & Goulburn Valley Poultry Society Inc.:- carried.

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

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

## **TREASURERS REPORT:**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement.

It was moved by J. Forrest and seconded by B. Lloyd that the payments and the Treasurers actions be endorsed – Carried.

## **REPORTS:**

President Sam Davis presented reported on:

### **Update on NSW Election**

NSW now has a Labor government under Premier Chris Minns. The relevant Ministers are Penny Sharpe MLC as the Environment Minister (and leader in the upper house) and Tara Moriarty MLA as Agriculture Minister.

I have met with Penny on a number of occasions so have some confidence she will understand our concerns. Michael Donnelly (ACA President) has made contact with Tara Moriarty's office, and we anticipate meetings. Tara intended dropping by the aviary display at the Sydney Royal whilst I was in attendance – unfortunately this did not work out. I will attend meetings with both Penny and Tara in due course.

The Animal Justice Party (AJP) was unsuccessful in gaining a second member in the upper house. Much like when Emma Hurst was elected in 2019, it came down to the final seat. Last time the AJP triumphed, and Emma was elected, this time the final seat went to a Liberal candidate and the AJP missed out. The final difference was a few thousand preference votes.

During the recent Sydney Royal, I asked our volunteers to let me or Ivan know of any animal rights type encounters. To my knowledge there was a total of 5 people over the 2-week period who expressed an issue with our birds, including the show birds, hand-raised parrots, or the aviaries. Approximately 1 million people attended the show, conservatively one third or some 300 thousand passed by our display, of which 5 had an issue.  $5/300000 = 0.0017\%$ . Such a minority does not deserve a seat in parliament.

### **Victorian Animal Welfare progress**

Gail Tiereny is the current Minister for Agriculture in Victoria. We via ACA have a direct line to her senior policy officer who reports directly to the minister. ACA, including myself, will be meeting with Gail's office on firstly puppy farm and dog breeding matters and then more generally on the proposed Animal Care and Protection Bill.

A draft Bill will appear later this year with ACA being consulted directly. An initial draft will go for public consultation with the final draft run by ACA before entering parliament.

*Continued next page.....*



*Continued from previous page....*

## **South Australia animal welfare progress**

The recent animal welfare consultation, which was really a survey, is under consideration by department policy officers. A proposed amendment Bill will be produced and SHOULD be publicly consulted. ACA is in touch with the shadow minister who has promised to consult with ACA directly.

## **Western Australia avicultural consultative committee**

Approximately 5 years ago CCBFA and our WA affiliates were successful in obtaining an assurance from the Minister that an avicultural consultative committee would be formed. Applications were forwarded to the department, however the committee was never progressed despite ongoing correspondence including prompts directly from the Minister. I have asked ACA to progress the matter on CCBFA behalf as it also involves formation of a similar herpetological consultative committee.

## **Facebook boost in the week pre-election in NSW**

It was most concerning when both the Greens and Labor how to vote flyers recommended preferencing the AJP after their own candidates. In response the CCBFA committee agreed to boost a single Facebook post to the public within a 17km radius of Sydney. The aim was to highlight the real animal rights agenda of the AJP and encourage voters to consider whether preferencing AJP was desirable.

The boost attracted significant attention in some areas with many thousands of views and many hundreds of comments. Comments denouncing our post were largely from AJP candidates or known AJP party membership. The volume of comments caused some concern to some of the CCBFA committee such that requests for further boosts were not progressed.

Social media thrives on comments, likes and views – in that order. The more of these you can attract, the further and wider your post is presented to more and more people. In my view, the comments opposing pets and birds in particular were exactly what was needed to reinforce the absurdity of the AJP position. I accept such comments are confronting.

We ask that all CCBFA clubs consider this matter, so we are prepared for future elections. Our boost (along with those by other parties) certainly reduced the preference flow to AJP significantly. Is it the reason the AJP was unsuccessful? We will never know.

The meeting resolved that Sam email all affiliated clubs asking them to consider the above matter and respond with thoughts including whether their The meeting resolved that Sam email all affiliated clubs asking them to consider that point out that animal rights based political parties, such as the Animal Justice Party (AJP), oppose the keeping of animals including caged birds.

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

### **licensing reforms V2 progress.**

A review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 is underway this year. Our submission to this process is reproduced in this edition of Feathered World and can be found online at the following link...

<https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CCBFA-NSW-BCAct-Review-200423.pdf>

We are currently progressing the matter politically with a number of MPs looking to initiate an upper house Parliamentary inquiry into the NPWS on this and other related openness, accountability and transparency issues.

### **Parrot Imports.**

The import risk assessment for parrots is still being finalised.

I wrote to Peter Finnin this week for an update on progress. Peter is forming the biosecurity committee to assess risk should disease make its way through the quarantine protocols and into either the wild or captive environment.

It is unclear how long this process will take – many months, for sure.

### **Queensland Council issues**

There are currently three different cases CCBFA are working on. One each in Gold Coast City Council. Redlands and Morton Bay Council areas. Progress has been made on all matters, but as is often the case with such council issues, it is preferable to play the slow and steady game. Often once neighbours are no longer concerned the matters can be resolved amicably.

### **Snowy Valleys Council and councils generally**

I'll finalise a brief submission responding to the Snowy Valley Council Draft Companion and Non-Companion Animal Policy – in summary the draft is extreme detailed nonsense.

<https://www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/meeting-minutes-and-agendas/council-meetings/20230420/10.5.-attachments-draft-companion-and-non-companion-animal-policy-public-exhibition.pdf>

I presume, like most such policies in NSW this is all about orders under row 18 of the LG Act 1993 s.124.

[http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol\\_act/lga1993182/s124.html](http://www5.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/lga1993182/s124.html)

If any club become aware of councils reviewing their animal policies please send me an email. ACA is working on model policies to suit legislation in most states.

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

## **ASA Shepparton Conference 28/4/23 to 1/5/23 and event promotion generally**

What a fantastic weekend. Many thanks to everyone involved in organising, presenting, opening their aviaries, etc. And to all the delegates who entertained with numerous bird stories, some of which might even be true.

I encourage all clubs to submit reports and a few photos of their events to us for inclusion in Feathered World or on our Facebook page. We need to promote our successes.

Moved K. Sorensen and seconded by N. Love that the Reports be accepted, and Reporters thanked – Carried.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. **2023 Ring Orders** supplementary orders can be arranged for all species during 2023. Clubs requiring an order form, should contact the Secretary / Ring Officer.
2. **Sydney Royal Show update.** In the absence of I Cindric the President gave a brief report advising there were a total of 437 entries. The “feature bird” in 2023 was the Finches, with 151 Fiches being benched. The aviaries of Australian and Foreign Finches were a major feature during the duration of the show..
3. **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. Email [clubs@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:clubs@ccbfa.org.au)
4. Neal Love informed the meeting that after the A.N.B.C. AGM in June and his appointment as Secretary Treasurer he will be the A.N.B.C. Delegate.
5. It was brought to the meetings attention that Mark Cameron had been put forward as a VP at the March AGM and was to consider the appointment and confirm at this meeting. Accepting the nomination, it was put to the meeting that Mark be appointed VP, which was carried unanimously.

The President thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 9:47 p.m.

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

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

at 8:00 pm

## FOR CANARIES, THE SIGHT OF OTHER SICK BIRDS IS ENOUGH TO SET OFF AN IMMUNE RESPONSE

A team of researchers from Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Arkansas has found that the mere sight of sick birds of their own kind is enough to set off an immune response in healthy canaries. In their paper published in the journal *Biology Letters*, the group describes experiments they conducted with caged birds in their lab.

Prior research has shown that many animals, humans included, tend to avoid others of their kind when they show signs of illness. But for some species, doing so might be more problematic than risking getting sick. Birds that rely on safety in numbers, for example, may need another strategy for dealing with ailments. In this new effort, the researchers found that for at least one species of bird, simply seeing others of its kind become sick was enough to kick off an immune response.



The experiments by the researchers involved setting groups of cages with canaries in them across from one another and then infecting one of the groups with a mild bacterial infection. Symptoms of the infection become obvious as infected birds become lethargic after developing conjunctivitis. The researchers note that such infections make the birds look very sick. In their experiment, the researchers were careful to place the uninfected birds far enough away from sick birds to keep them from getting infected. They also set up an identical scenario in a distant part of the lab as a control—neither group was infected with the bacteria.

The researchers then monitored what happened over the course of a month, collecting blood samples and making notes regarding how sick birds looked and how easily a well bird could see a sick bird. They found that as the infected birds started to look sick, the immune systems of the healthy birds began to stir.  $CH_{50}$  measurements showed a rise in all of the healthy birds and rose even more in those birds who had the best view of the sickest birds. The researchers also found white blood cell counts rose. Notably, cytokine levels did not change.

## THE CINNAMON CANARY

**Cinnamon Canaries** were developed and established as a separate variety in England until the early 1900s, and were then cross-bred with the 'type' canaries to bring out and intensify their cinnamon color, specifically the Norwich, Yorkshire and later the Border canaries

However, before the very selective cross-breeding, these canaries did not have the same intensity of color of the true cinnamon – now known as the **English Cinnamon Canary**, which the British Canary Council has since recognized as a separate breed.



The Cinnamon Canary is a 'color' variety that comes in base color of yellow or in buff with a cinnamon red tone. The ideal is a rich, dark, glowing red brown plumage in the yellow form and a subtle blend of pinky and softer browns in the buff form.

English Cinnamon Canaries look very similar to Norwich Canaries but are slightly larger and more active. Like the Norwich Canaries, English Cinnamons are also said to have good parenting skills and can be trusted to raise their young with ease.

Nowadays, these rare canaries are valued for the fine quality of their plumage. Many fanciers believe that cinnamon canaries have the smoothest and finest feathers of all breeds.



## WIPING HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON BILL LENGTH AND SHAPE.

If you've spent much time observing birds—you clicked on this nerdy story, so that feels like a safe bet—you probably have noticed them wiping their bills on a tree branch or fencepost, or whatever else they're perched on. And you might have wondered: What's going on there?

A few things, it turns out. Bill-wiping is not the hottest topic in ornithology, but curiosity has drawn the occasional researcher to the behavior over the years. Although they haven't arrived at a definite, universal explanation, we can summarize their reports on the role of bill-wiping this way: It definitely acts like a napkin, probably as a file, and maybe even as a cologne spritzer.



The first scientific paper to focus on the behavior, it seems, was a 1970 review by ornithologist George A. Clark, Jr. "Bill-wiping typically involves rapid withdrawal of the side of the beak from base to tip closely adjacent to a foreign surface such as a branch or the ground," he wrote. "I have seen passerines wipe on rope clothesline, fence wire, the edge of a metal birdbath, and the rim of a metal incinerator." While it often involves just a few swipes here and there, Clark cited one report of a finch wiping its beak 90 times in a few minutes. His research turned up more than 90 species known to engage in the activity, and he surmised that all birds do it, with the possible exceptions of hummingbirds and waterfowl.

The napkin principle—that birds wipe their bills primarily to clean them—is generally agreed upon, based on logic and observation. "As widely noted, birds frequently bill-wipe after eating messy foods such as suet, fruits, or juicy insects," Clark wrote. It just makes sense; you know how it is when you're eating juicy insects. To make sure, though, researchers in the U.K. did an experiment and confirmed in a 1992 study that European Starlings wiped their bills more often after eating sticky food than dry food.

A larger goal of that study, however, was to test the file hypothesis—the idea that birds wipe their bills in part to shape them. It was prompted by a student who saw a starling wipe its bill and asked lead researcher Innes Cuthill the reason for the behavior. Cuthill didn't know the answer,

*Continued next page.....*



*Continued from previous page....*

so he searched a library and found that no one had studied the question in a lab. "I reasoned it was probably like cats sharpening their claws, or rodents chewing to keep their teeth down, so that led to the experiment," Cuthill, an ecologist at the University of Bristol, said in an email.

Like fingernails or hair, the outer portion of a bird's beak is made of the protein keratin and grows nonstop. Foraging and feeding wears this outer layer, giving the bill its shape. Starlings and other species, Cuthill and colleagues noted, shift their diets at different times of year, eating mainly bugs and worms during breeding, but switching to lots of fruits and seeds in fall and winter. They wondered if bill-wiping might help birds hone their beaks into shapes that work best for grabbing whatever type of food they're focused on.

The answer, their findings suggest, is yes. Wiping had a significant impact on bill length and shape, they found. Birds that were assigned to smooth perches wiped their beaks more often than those with rough ones, apparently compensating for the lack of abrasion. And birds with rough perches to rub against turned out to be faster at picking up food than those with smooth ones. "This lends support to the idea that wiping frequency may be strategically adjusted to tune bill shape to current diet," the team wrote.



Along with cleaning and honing, scientists have noticed that bill-wiping seems to happen a lot in social interactions between birds. Back in 1970, Clark's paper characterized it in those situations as probably a "displacement activity." That's a term for behavior like fidgeting or head-scratching that arises unconsciously when you're frustrated or conflicted, and it's a concept that's lost currency among scientists. "We don't really accept those kinds of explanations for animal behavior anymore," says Danielle Whittaker, an evolutionary biologist at Michigan State University. "We look to see if there's anything functional."

Which brings us to the cologne hypothesis. Whittaker is fascinated by smells and how they play into animal reproduction. Her research has shown that preen oil, which birds produce through a gland and use to maintain and waterproof their feathers, contains odors and chemical signals that play a role in mate choice. So when she became aware of

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

bill-wiping, Whittaker wondered if birds might be slathering preen oil on nearby surfaces to release those smells and lure a mate.

To find out, she conducted what she calls “a fun little experiment” with Dark-eyed Juncos in Grand Teton National Park. It involved placing a caged junco—sometimes a male, sometimes a female—in the middle of a wild junco’s range, paired accordingly with a recording of a female’s come-hither trill or a male’s courtship or territorial songs. Whittaker and team videotaped the wild bird so they could count its bill-wiping, and, in 2014, reported evidence that the behavior plays a part in junco courtship. “I didn’t see it very often in response to another male,” she says, “but I did see it very reliably in response to a female.”

These findings suggest that, routine and subtle as it seems, bill-wiping may have a meaningful role in the most essential aspects of avian life. Like pretty much everything about birds, its fascination deepens the more you learn.



## **ONLINE GENETIC CALCULATOR**

Following the recent information and discussion with regard to bird genetics members may be interested in an online genetics calculator for a number of parrot type species that can be found at '[www.gencalc.com](http://www.gencalc.com)'.

The 'Genetic Calculator 1.3' purports to calculate all the possible outcomes for any breeding pair of the species covered and show the probabilities for each outcome.

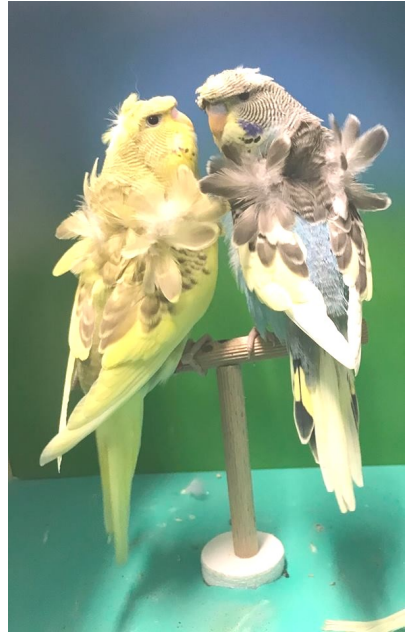
One is also available for Gouldian Finches at

[www.amadinagouldove.cz/gouldian-genetics-forecast-online/english/](http://www.amadinagouldove.cz/gouldian-genetics-forecast-online/english/)

## “HELICOPTER” BUDGIE

The “helicopter” budgie is an evolutionary mutation of a normal budgie first bred in Japan around 1960 where it is known as the Hagaromo budgie. The word Hagaromo is derived from the feathered kimonos of tennin, sacred beings found in Japanese Buddhism and because it is distinguished by the nature of its feathers (or malformation!) hence its nickname of “helicopter” budgie.

Hagaromo or helicopter budgies are a mutation generated with the cross-breeding of crested budgies. Through various cross-breeding in crested budgies bird fanciers were able to shape the crest as flower-like. These budgies have disturbed crested feathers to form a rose flower on their back.



A true Helicopter budgie features a crest on the head, backfrill and ‘flowers’ on its wings from which it gets the name “helicopter” budgie as the flowers look like the spinning blades on a helicopter.

Like the “feather duster” mutation it’s attraction is a matter of debate and according to some forums it’s lifespan is shorter than the ‘normal’ budgie,



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

*In the mid to late 20th century, a number of escaped Ring Necked Parakeets escaped from captivity and started a population in the south of England but mostly in London that exists today.*

*These parrots have adapted to a life in an environment extremely different from their natural habitat. And it's not just in the UK, either; the Ring Necked parakeet can be found in the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Portugal and even Germany, and some have even spread as far as the United States and Lebanon.*



## KEEPING YOUR BIRDS HEALTHY IN WINTER

It's right in the middle of winter here in Australia, so it's the perfect time to share some tips to keep your aviaries warm and dry during the cold weather. If you're on the other side of the planet and hot weather is your concern right now, check out our "[keeping your birds cool](#)" article which is basically the opposite of this.

Cold temperatures, as long as they're above freezing, generally pose very little threat to most of the birds we keep in captivity. Cold winds and draughts, wind and rain exposure, and fungal/bacterial infections are the true killers.

### 1. *Provide Heat*

If cold is the problem, providing heat is the obvious solution. **Heat lamps** and **heated perches** designed specifically for birds can be purchased, and birds quickly learn to sit near or on them when they're feeling cold.

Make sure birds can't come in contact with the source of heat otherwise they might get burned. A popular solution to this problem is to place heated globes inside of terracotta pots—this also limits the amount of light in the aviary at night.

### 2. *Aviary Position*

Make sure the exposed faces of your aviary are positioned away from wind and rain. You should also ensure that your aviary receives direct sunlight in the morning, so that your birds can sunbathe to recover from the early-morning chill.

### 3. *Aviary Protection*

If you're not able to position the aviary away from direct wind and rain, the next best option is to cover the aviary. A tarpaulin over the wire portions of the aviary is usually adequate, however clear plastic sheets or cafe blinds provide far better viewing of the birds.



*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

Clear plastic has the added advantage of causing a glass-house effect, making the aviary considerably warmer. Not only does this make cold temperatures more tolerable in winter, but the extra warmth allows you to extend the breeding season into late autumn and early spring.

#### 4. Maintain Dry Floors

If the floors of your aviary are permitted to become wet for long periods of time, health issues in your flock are inevitable. Bacteria and fungus from bird droppings and discarded food will thrive in the moist conditions and quickly transmit to your birds, especially if they like to forage on the ground for seeds and insects. If water is getting into your aviary, find out where it's coming from and stop it straight away.

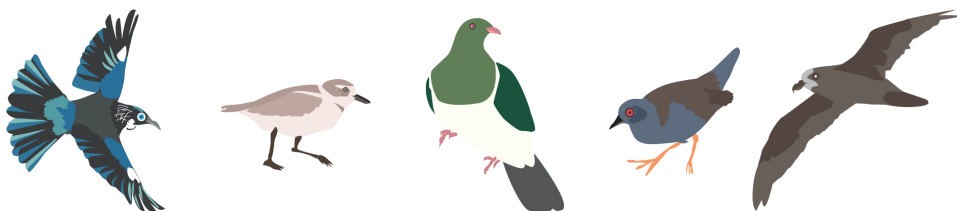
#### 5. Diet Changes

A bird's metabolism produces heat as it breaks down food. To take maximum advantage of this trait, feed your birds extra rich and complex foods when it's cold. Oats, corn and sunflower seeds are all reputed to help birds cope with cold temperatures.

#### Closing Thoughts

Thoughtful aviary design is the best way to ensure that your birds are able to tolerate the harshest of winter. Remember that birds naturally live outside and can tolerate temperature extremes far better than humans, so there's no need to go overboard and provide them with fully climate-controlled aviaries (unless you live somewhere *\*really\** cold), otherwise you risk breeding weak birds that won't survive new owners.

If you live in an area where it regularly dips below freezing, it may be best to consult with a bird club for advice on housing your birds in your



## THE BENEFITS OF APPLE CIDER VINEGAR (ACV)

Article by Alicia McWatters, Ph.D., C.N.C @ [featheredangel.wordpress.com](http://featheredangel.wordpress.com)

Yes! Apple cider vinegar has many outstanding qualities that are beneficial to pets in general and birds are no exception. In my book, *"A Guide to a Naturally Healthy Bird"*, I write about the benefits of using ACV as a supplement in your bird's diet. To teach you more about ACV and its uses I decided to write an article that would provide you with greater detail.

Vinegar has been used in one form or another for over 10,000 years. It is used for many purposes and throughout the ages has served as a preservative, condiment, beauty aid, cleaning agent and medicine.

ACV has many healing abilities as well and is known to ameliorate certain symptoms of illness and disease. It works not by curing any specific illness, but by boosting the health of the individual with its nutritional and healthful qualities. I will highlight just a few of ACV's known potential benefits.

ACV has the ability to prevent the growth of bacteria and mold; therefore, adding it to your bird's fresh foods as a nutritional supplement has an additional purpose. The acid content of ACV will help reduce the chance of bacterial or fungal growth on fresh foods during the period of time they are in your bird's food bowl. However, I don't recommend that you leave fresh foods out any longer than 4-6 hours with or without the use of ACV.

ACV can also be sprayed on seeds during the sprouting period to prevent the growth of pathogens, such as bacteria or fungi. Simply place ACV in a mister bottle and spray your seeds thoroughly with ACV after each rinse with fresh water until the seeds are sprouted. You can rinse the ACV from the sprouts before serving them to your bird; however, if some remains on the sprouts this is fine.

If you use conventionally grown produce, you can remove pesticide residues by spraying the fruits and vegetables with ACV, wait 5 minutes and rinse. To eliminate bacteria from organic and conventional produce, spray with ACV, wait 5 minutes and rinse.

ACV has been helpful as an aid for digestion, helping to break down minerals, protein and fats. It also inhibits the growth of unfriendly bacteria in the digestive tract. ACV has detoxifying properties, strengthens the immune system and may ameliorate viral, bacterial and fungal infections.

*Continued next page.....*



*Continued from previous page....*

It is used as an antibacterial and anti-inflammatory medicine and has a natural antibiotic effect. Its benefits also include ameliorating respiratory infections and may reduce symptoms, such as watery eyes and nasal discharge. In addition, ACV can be helpful in eliminating both internal and external parasite problems.

ACV has been used successfully for dry, itchy or infected skin and feather problems. If applied topically to wounds and burns it will decrease the pain and promote healing. It also controls minor bleeding from cuts and abrasions. Apple pectin, a water-soluble dietary fiber found in apples and ACV, binds to toxins in the body and assists in their removal while it may also help relieve diarrhea and constipation. And lastly, it may lower cholesterol levels and improve heart health.

NOTE 1: *ACV should not be used internally for those birds that have irritation of the mucosa (lining) of the intestinal tract.*

NOTE: 2: *ACV should be used diluted for application to the skin. Place in a mister bottle and spray to affected areas. (BE SURE YOU DO NOT GET THIS SOLUTION IN YOUR BIRD'S EYES.)*

I began using ACV as a supplement for my parrots in 1994. It is added to my birds' mash diet as a condiment just as you would add salad dressing to a salad. Some avian health practitioners recommend that ACV be placed in a bird's drinking water. I recommend placing it in fresh food because I believe that a bird's drinking water should be free of additives, with the exception of an electrolyte solution or a medicinal product that is used on a short-term basis. The dosage I use is 1/4 tsp. for small parrots and 1/2 tsp. for medium-large parrots. It can also be given orally diluted in water under the guidance of a vet or avian health practitioner.

ACV can be useful to your bird's health in conjunction with feeding it a wide variety of foods, but should never be looked upon as a panacea. Fresh food ingredients, such as fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes and seeds make up the wholeness that will effectively help your bird to achieve optimum health.

However, no supplement or ingredient will do much good, if the diet a bird is eating is substandard. A nutritious diet is the foundation for optimum health and supplements are complementary to such a diet. Briefly stated: ACV can provide your bird with minerals, acids, and enzymes for a long and healthy life.



## THE COCKY BENNETT STORY

*On 26 May 1916, newspaper obituaries across NSW lamented the passing of a venerable, 120-year-old, sulphur-crested cockatoo named Cocky Bennett.*

Cockatoos live long lives, sometimes up to 80 years. But in New South Wales, there was one bird, Cocky Bennett, who lived for well over a century and whose life spanned the eighteenth, nineteenth and part of the twentieth centuries. He was loved by many and was famous for his amusing patter.

Cocky spent his first 78 years travelling the world with Captain Ellis, his owner, who plied his ship in the South Sea Islands' trade. The parrot's confinement, and the Captain's loneliness, could account for the bird's talkativeness and his contact with other members of the crew, less literate than his owner, probably coarsened his vocabulary. He was an apt learner and a natural chatterbox.



### ***An unusual bequeath***

Captain Ellis died in the Solomon Islands aged 87 having travelled around the world with Cocky many times. Following his death, Ellis's nephew took temporary charge of Cocky although he had been bequeathed to Joseph and Sarah Bowden, who were then probably the licensees of Bowden's Clubhouse near the corner of Hunter and Castlereagh streets, Sydney.

By the time the Bowdens took delivery of their bequest they had moved to Melbourne. With Joseph's death in 1889, his wife Sarah married Charles Bennett and the couple moved to Tom Ugly's Point in Blakehurst where Charles became the licensee of the Sea Breeze Hotel.

Before motor traffic and modern bridges changed the scene, the Sea Breeze Hotel enjoyed great popularity as it was a convenient place to wait for the steam punt across the Georges River at Tom Ugly's Point and it had an excellent reputation for its cuisine, especially the seafood. When Charles died in September 1898, Sarah continued as licensee until she retired in 1915.

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

### **Cock of the Bar**

Cocky lived in the hotel and for many years he ruled as 'Cock of the Bar'. He was extremely talkative and popular and known to many thousands of residents and visitors far and wide who became acquainted with his colourful character. Cocky had a cage on the hotel's front verandah where he could watch the passing parade, greeting old friends in his raucous and inimitable style. Attached to the cage was a collection box to raise funds for St George Hospital and so generous was the response that three beds were endowed to the hospital. Each bed bears a plaque acknowledging the feathered collector.

Cockatoos are the loudest of all types of parrots and Cocky was no exception. His repertoire included phrases appropriate to a public house like 'one at a time, gentlemen, please', when he was harassed by other birds. Hotel patrons soon learned that Cocky's talkative nature could be made even more uproarious by administering a 'sip of strong brew'. Then Cocky was at his squawking best and his language more lurid than ever. An oft-repeated saying was quoted by his amused admirers was 'If I had another b...y feather I'd fly!' The older he became, the more pronounced was his loss of feathers, so that this remark always greatly amused those listening nearby.

As the years passed, Cocky started to lose his feathers, looking more like a plucked chicken with wrinkled skin. Moreover, his upper mandible had an extraordinary long tip, so that he could only eat mashed food. Such abnormalities are typical of the psittacine beak and feather disease, caused by a circovirid virus, which also lowers the animal's immunity against the effects of other viruses and bacteria. By the end of his long life the parrot's appearance was utterly freakish. His flesh, almost devoid of feathers, was leathery grey; his claws and beak were gnarled and very long; his body was thin and scrawny – but his bright beady eyes and his rasping voice never failed him. From time to time his beak was pared and Sarah Bennett kept the pieces as proof of his extraordinary age. The beak, like the trunk of a tree, is a good recorder of age but these pieces were either lost or stolen.

Although the exact date of Cocky's birth was not known, it was set down, probably by Sarah to satisfy her customers, as the first of September. Each year on this date piles of birthday cards would be sent by the bird's many admirers.

*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

When Sarah Bennett left the Sea Breeze Hotel in 1915 she presented the bird to her nephew, Murdock Alexander Wagschall, then licensee of the Woolpack Hotel, George Street, Canterbury, where Cocky was installed in the bar. There he made many new friends, continuing to demonstrate his ability to talk and swear. His antics and his quaint remarks never failed to delight his audience. Sometimes when a silence fell, Cocky would imitate the voice of someone he knew and nearly create a fight among the men if the poor innocent fellow happened to be present and was blamed for his offensive words!

### ***A venerable bird***

When Cocky died in 1916, at the grand old age of 119 years, his passing caused much lamentation. The *Sydney Morning Herald* printed his obituary on Saturday 27th May 1916 in which they called him 'a venerable cockatoo'. The paper informed its readers that he:

*'died on Friday in his 120th year...The old bird was absolutely featherless for the last 20 years, but it maintained its "patter" till the day before its death.'*

Mr Wagschall announced his intention to have the famous old bird stuffed and mounted by Tost and Rohu, then well-known taxidermists.

Mrs E Pugh of Stanwell, granddaughter of Mr Wagschall, was the last to own this historical relic and it was she who presented Cocky to the Kogarah Historical Society for perpetual guardianship. Now slightly tinted after restoration, the bird surveys the world in silence – something he never did in life. There have been other claimants to his title but these are not genuine as the Kogarah Historical Society has complete evidence to confirm the authenticity of its exhibition.



## CAN BIRDS EAT BROCCOLI?

Broccoli is a healthy and nutritious vegetable that we all know we should eat more of. So, can birds eat broccoli?

Not only can birds eat broccoli but they love it as well. Birds love vegetables and broccoli is a tasty treat. This treat delivers a number of beneficial vitamins and minerals to your bird.



For birds to stay healthy they need a varied diet. This varied diet needs to consist of a good amount of vitamins, minerals, protein, carbohydrates and fats

Your bird can miss out on a lot of nutrients as they live in captivity. They may not be getting as many nutrients as they would where they in the wild, broccoli helps rectify this.

Giving your bird adequate nutrition will ensure that they live a healthy and happy life. In fact, if they don't get adequate nutrition they will suffer health-wise. If they don't get a good amount of nutrients they will suffer from nutritional deficiencies

Broccoli contains a number of vitamins and minerals. The vegetable contains potassium, vitamin K, vitamin D, vitamin C and manganese to name a few. Birds in captivity benefit from broccoli because it gives them the vitamin D that they would have produced if they were out into the wild.

The pet birds that we own depend on us to give them adequate nutrition. In the wild they were able to do this themselves, eating what mother nature offered them but now the responsibility is on us to feed them the correct foods.



## ARTIFICIAL TREES CAPTURE NEW BIRD SPECIES ON CANDID CAMERA

An experiment from The Australian National University (ANU) using artificial trees has attracted birds and other wildlife never before seen in a damaged Canberra landscape – catching them on camera at the same time.

The experiment is a collaboration with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service and uses a series of power poles and translocated dead trees erected in landscape under regeneration.

The ANU researchers saw a four-fold increase in bird species on five recently erected power-poles. There was also a seven-fold increase in bird species across five re-purposed dead trees.

In a separate project on the same site, the birds were captured on motion-sensitive cameras hidden in the artificial structures, with the footage providing a public database for species activity.



Associate Professor Philip Gibbons from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society wanted to test whether artificial structures could be used to provide a home for birds and other wildlife when mature trees were cut down for residential and other development.

He says the artificial trees work better than he “could have ever hoped for”.

“Even if we plant new trees elsewhere to replace those we knock down they take a century to mature and develop suitable habitats for birds and wildlife,” Associate Professor Gibbons said.

“Globally, mature trees are in decline and we’re going to see an absence of mature trees in some landscapes by the end of this century. So these artificial structures are really key to filling that gap to preserve the ecosystem.

“And from what we can see they work. Not only did they attract birds to the landscape, but they also provided a home for ladybirds, wood spiders and microbats.”

Associate Professor Gibbons said the artificial trees weren’t a “cure-all”.

*Continued next page .....*



*Continued from previous page....*

“The structures can only do so much and we found 37 per cent of bird species that live in mature forests did not venture into the artificial structures,” he said.

“We need to preserve as many mature trees as we can, continue to plant more new seedlings for the future and then raise these artificial structures if we are to mitigate this deficit of mature trees for future generations.

“At the end of the day, you can’t beat real trees. But they can take years to grow. So this is a great option in areas needing regeneration or while you wait for trees to mature.”

The study area, a 50-hectare site at Barrer Hill in the Molonglo Valley, has been set aside for regeneration to offset mature trees and other native vegetation cleared for new suburbs.

The final piece of the restoration project was a “living art sculpture” created from a 400-year old yellow box tree cut down in a nearby suburb and re-erected in the offset site.

Dr Mitchell Whitelaw from the ANU School of Art worked with American architect Joyce Hwang from University of Buffalo and Darren Le Roux of ACT Parks to install motion-sensitive cameras into the tree-sculpture.

They’ve captured images of more than 23 bird and animal species using the structures including a peregrine falcon, nankeen kestrel and tawny frogmouth.

More common species such as crimson and eastern rosellas, starlings, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, galahs, red wattlebirds, willie wagtails, red -rumped parrots, kookaburras, bats and marsupials are also using the structures.



## **IBIS USE 'STRESS AND WASH' TECHNIQUE TO EAT CANE TOADS**

Ibis are often seen feeding on food dumped by humans, but citizen scientists are increasingly reporting the native species is dining out on toxic cane toads.

Gold Coast coordinator of Watergum's Cane Toads program Emily Vincent said the "stress and wash" method had been viewed numerous times by citizen scientists.

"It's quite amusing to watch and it's quite different from other native species and their methods of eating them," she said. "What this does is it makes the cane toads release toxins from the parotoid gland at the back of their neck, which is their defence mechanism when they're faced with predators. Then they'll take them down to the creek and wash them."

Ms Vincent said it was encouraging to see the ibis capitalising on the food source, which was first introduced into Australia in 1935 to control cane beetles in Queensland's sugarcane crops.

The cane toad has since spread into New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

"We have lots and lots of ibis in Australia," she said. "This is a learned behaviour and it's been observed in multiple different regions."

Macquarie University biology professor Rick Shine said he had heard of ibis eating cane toads, but was unaware of the "stress and wash" technique.

"It certainly would be a quite effective way of getting rid of the toxin from a cane toad's shoulder glands," Professor Shine said. "Birds are smart and there may be all kinds of clever stuff going on there, but the simple reality is the toxins of cane toads are not particularly dangerous for most birds."

Professor Shine said other bird species had also developed techniques of eating toads by avoiding the shoulder glands.

"They quite frequently will eat out the tongue of the toad and sometimes flip it over and eat out some of the belly skin and parts of the innards," he said.



*Continued next page.....*

*Continued from previous page....*

The Sydney-based evolutionary biologist and ecologist said more research needed to be done on the cane toad and their native predators.

"It's certainly true that we don't have a lot of information about it," Professor Shine said.

"It's a terrific opportunity for citizen scientists to get involved.

"I have no way of knowing how many cane toads are being gobbled up by ibis, but it certainly happens."

Professor Shine said the introduction of invasive species often led to a population boom followed by a decline in numbers.

"We have lots of rodents, that's the native rats and house rats, that can eat cane toads.

"It's absolutely true that the system comes back into some kind of a balance and we have native predators getting to exploit this new food source."

The academic said cane toads were a problem species and large native predators, including goannas, could be scarce in areas where cane toads were present.

The Australian White Ibis is a common sight in many Australian towns and cities and is often referred to as a 'bin chicken' because of its varied diet.

Watergum's Emily Vincent said the native bird played an important role in the ecosystem.

"Ibis have just adapted really well to urbanisation and they utilise what we've put there when we destroyed their previous habitat.

"So it's actually really pleasing that we can share this information about them and start to present the ibis in a different light."

*Source: [www.abc.net.au/news](http://www.abc.net.au/news)*



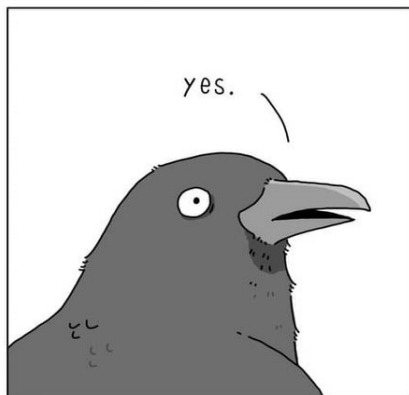
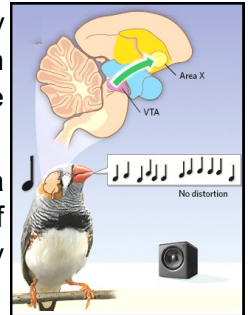
## BIRDS GIVE BRAIN A VOICE

Scientists can predict what a bird is about to sing by reading the signals in its brain, creating hope they can produce words from human thoughts and restore speech to those who cannot talk.

Silicone electrodes implanted into the brains of zebra finches allowed researchers from the University of California, San Diego to track their neural activity while they sang.

A study published in the PLOS Computational Biology journal said that the same signal “has been used to study and decode human speech and other complex motor behaviours”.

*Source: The Times*





info@appliednutrition.com.au • www.tummyrite.com.au

Nutritional Digestion Aids for Good Health and Wellbeing

# TummyRite™



## Avian Wellbeing & Health for Maintenance, Breeding and Show

An excellent mixture of nutritional herbs, enzymes, yeasts, prebiotics, amino acids, carotenoids, vitamins and trace minerals for birds of all kinds including breeding birds. Created for the individual aviculture enthusiast. Ideal for maintaining good health and wellbeing of birds and for avian fanciers preparing birds for showing and breeding.

We are looking for potential Club/Bird Society or Commercial Organisations that would be interested in becoming distributors for our TummyRite™ range of products.

**For Technical Inquiries and sales  
contact Dr. Michael Evans  
Principal Avian Nutritionist,  
Ph 0418 659 423**

**SHOP ONLINE!**  
[www.tummyrite.com.au](http://www.tummyrite.com.au)

MANUFACTURED BY: Applied Nutrition Pty. Ltd.  
1 Seven Oaks St, Alexandra Hills, QLD 4161.  
info@appliednutrition.com.au  
[www.appliednutrition.com.au](http://www.appliednutrition.com.au)  
Ph: (07) 3206 2568 Fx: 07 3206 2657





# AVICULTURE accessories

**Suppliers of Quality Products to**  
**aviculturists, clubs, shops & fauna parks**

- Plain and Mixed Seeds
- Egg & Biscuit Mix • Seed & Water Hoppers
- Nest Boxes & Cabinets • Bird Cages • Bird Accessories
- Pigeon & Poultry Produce • Dog & Cat Food & Accessories
- Horse Feed & General Produce • Fish Food & Accessories
- ABK Bird & Reptile Books • BirdKeeper
- Reptile food, Supplies & Accessories

**WOMBAROO**  
  
**PASSWELL**

Designed by Vets...  
**VETAFARM**  
...Perfect for Pets



  
**ROUDYBUSH™**  
Premium Food for Your Valuable Pet



  
**METAL  
FEEDERS**

  
**AVI  
GRAIN**



**Laucke Mills**  
Quality Feed Millers and Animal Nutrition Specialists

**ABN: 82 615 642 254**

**91 Excelsior Ave, Marsden Park NSW 2765**

**Ph: (02) 9838-1256      Fax: (02) 9012-0285**