



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



ITALIAN GIANT FRILL CANARY

HOW TO CONVERT YOUR BIRD TO PELLETS

HOW PARROTS MADE BRITAIN THEIR HOME

WHY SHOULDN'T I GIVE BIRDS LETTUCE

CRIMSON FINCH RECOVERY

CARNABY'S BLACK COCKATOO SURVIVAL THREATENED

UNDERSTANDING THE RED URUCUM CANARY

DOG WALKERS TO AVOID EMUS IN NESTING SEASON

33<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN AVIAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2024

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING 3 JULY 2024



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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## MEETING DATES 2024

**General Meetings** 4th September, 6th November

**AGM** 5th March 2025

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**NOTE: Meetings at Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL, Liverpool Road, Ashfield**  
**Zoom meetings will be confirmed (or advised) in advance**



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## ITALIAN GIANT FRILL CANARY

The Italian Giant Frill is a giant of the varieties of the canary. The head is rounded and very voluminous, in the shape of a hood that can be full or partial. The head derives its shape from the very important and typical characteristic of the A.G.I. known as the "raised collar".

Along the front, the "raised collar" blends neatly with the feathers of the neck and shaped in the form of a gutter. The feathers of the neck project upwards to form from behind, around the area of the nape, the "raised collar".

The beak is conical and a wide base. It is from 21 centimeters long with a proportionate type, from the tip of the beak to the extremity of the tail, and has a wingspan of 29 to 30 centimeters. Long and even, carried close to the body. Slight Crossing of the tips of the wings is allowed. Sturdy legs and feet, with strong grip on the perch. Corkscrew-like nails.

It is a well-built bird, robust and vigorous, prolific and a good singer like the common canary. It is distinguished by several special characteristics which form its show properties. These are: Type, Feathering and Elegance.



## DID YOU KNOW....

*Cassowaries are known to be dangerous birds with powerful legs and sharp claws that can inflict lethal wounds to internal organs and cause severe bleeding.*

*This was demonstrated in Florida, USA recently when one actually killed a 75 year old man who was breeding them.*

*Apparently it attacked him when he fell.*



## HOW TO CONVERT YOUR BIRD TO PELLETS

### ***Some Simple Strategies***

- Mix a handful of pellets and a handful of seed together in a container. Add enough hot water to make the mix sticky. Mould the mix into a rissole shape and press firmly. Place the freshly made “rissole” in the bird’s normal feeding container. The birds will initially pick through the rissole looking for seed. Repeat the process daily while slowly reducing the amount of seed and increasing the portion of pellets.
- A similar process can be used with soaked seed, which is especially useful when the hen is rearing chicks, as she will tend to take food very easily.
- A blend of dry seed and pellets can be used in the normal dish. This is a slower method and acceptance will vary between individual birds.
- The least preferred method is by “cold turkey” where the seed is removed and replaced by pellets. In this instance the birds should have access to fruit and vegetables at all times so they have some form of nutrition while learning what pellets are.
- Birds that are hand tame can be offered pellets smeared with fruit or peanut butter from your hand until they get used to the taste. Although the conversion process may be a little tedious, once it is done the advantages of pellet feeding are obvious. Chicks that have been reared by adults on pellets will automatically go to the pellets when they are weaned. Birds that have been reared on the pellets will convert back to seed easily, especially if they have had access to some soaked seeds in fruit and vegetables.



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### ***Pellet Eating Habits***

Interestingly, parrots do not swallow the pellets in pieces! They tend to chew them first into a fine powder before they eat them. It is important that you do not throw out the powder in the bowls (provided it is not spoiled) because the birds will do this in time. If the feed bowls are kept clean and dry you will find the birds will not waste any pellets.

### ***Other things you should feed your birds***

Birds like variety just as people do. It is always worthwhile feeding your birds fruits, vegetables, cooked meats, nuts and bread etc. Birds can actually eat anything that we as humans eat. You will not need to feed these extras excessively but you will find that birds appreciate the changing diet. Remember to be careful to remove these foods before they spoil and always feed the “extras” in a separate dish to the one used for pellets.

Obviously fresh water should be available to all birds. When feeding your birds pellets, they will consume more water than when eating seed. Be sure your water dishes and supply are adequate.



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

*Female sparrows invest more energy into laying eggs according to the male's ability to fill the nest with feathers which serves to insulate the chicks from the cold..*

*Scientists from the University of Granada and the South Africa University of the Witwatersrand made the discovery.*

*“We observed the behaviour of 50 pairs sparrows” Lola Garcia Lopez de Hierro, the study's main researcher said. “Carrying feathers could be a result of sexual selection by the females as they put more energy into reproduction if they have more feathers in the nest”.*

*“The feathers provide excellent insulation and the females know that fewer chicks will die if the male brings more feathers”*



## HOW PARAKEETS ESCAPED AND MADE BRITAIN THEIR HOME

The bright green birds arrived in the 1970s, and they have since become part of the urban landscape and another opinion poll was published recently focusing on British people's attitudes towards new arrivals on our shores.

They didn't get here on small boats, and they won't feature in the TV election debates. They're not human beings, but birds: ring-necked parakeets. Nevertheless, they are highly divisive, with the poll revealing that the colourful creatures prompt reactions from downright hostility, through grudging acceptance, to a warm welcome.

Almost 4,000 UK residents were interviewed for the online survey, published in the open-access journal *NeoBiota*. Researchers from Imperial College London, the Universities of Exeter, Brighton and the British Trust for Ornithology discovered that 90% were aware of the gaudy birds, and just over half knew the name of the species, which is also known as the rose-ringed parakeet, after its pink and grey neck ring.



The vast majority of people -roughly five out of six – consider parakeets aesthetically pleasing, yet at the same time almost half have negative opinions about them. In rural areas, this rises to almost two-thirds, with some suggesting that these noisy, screeching birds disturb the bucolic peace – hence the title of the research paper, *Not in the countryside please!*

Age also makes a difference: older respondents are far more hostile to the birds than younger ones, who mostly accept their presence, especially in London, their main stronghold. Comments varied from “very colourful and interesting to see”, to “a pain in the backside – so intrusively noisy”, which can't really be argued with. Newspaper columnist Hugo Rifkind once likened them to young men on a stag do.

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Others welcome them as a splash of colour in what they see as nature-depleted urban environments.

I've been aware of these exotic birds for almost half a century. In the late 1970s, only a decade after they first began to colonise Britain, I caught sight of one near my childhood home, on the outskirts of west London. To say it stood out among the drab suburban birdlife would be an understatement.

Ring-necked parakeets remained fairly scarce for decades, but from the late 1990s onwards numbers began to rise exponentially. Twenty years ago, when my youngest offspring were born, we lived in a small house in the London suburbs, with a tiny garden. The parakeets soon discovered our bird feeders, and would happily stay put even as the children played only feet away from them.

Today I see – or more often hear – them almost anywhere I go in London. They are also found in cities elsewhere in the UK, but their preference for gathering each evening in large communal roosts has limited their spread – I've yet to see one in my adopted home of Somerset.

Over the years, I've heard many myths about how they got here in the first place. "They were released by a stoned Jimi Hendrix, who let them out in London's Carnaby Street..."; "They escaped from the film set of *The African Queen*..."; "They made a bid for freedom when their cage broke during the Great Storm of 1987..."



But as Nick Hunt and Tim Mitchell point out in their entertaining and informative book *The Parakeeting of London: An Adventure in Gonzo Ornithology*, all these apparently convincing stories are urban myths. Hunt and Mitchell were actually the first to investigate people's response to these exotic new arrivals, speaking to those who were surprised to

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The truth about the parakeets' presence here is rather a letdown: as popular cagebirds, it was inevitable some would escape. And because they live in the foothills of the Himalayas, they are easily able to cope with the worst of the British winter, and not just survive, but thrive.

There are genuine concerns about the birds' ecological impact, including the devastation that a flock can wreak on fruit crops. They could also harm native species, by competing for nest-holes with jackdaws, stock doves and starlings. Conversely, London's growing population of peregrines are delighted by the arrival of the parakeets, whose slow, direct flight makes them far easier to catch than the faster and more manoeuvrable pigeons.

Numbers are rising, too. The latest population estimate, from the British Trust for Ornithology, suggests a UK breeding population of 12,000 pairs, a 10-fold increase in the past 30 years. If this exponential rise continued, then by the end of this century parakeets would rival the wren as our commonest bird. Fortunately, perhaps, the signs are that their numbers have finally begun to level out. Nevertheless, conservationists are keeping a close eye on the expansion of the species.

Although I appreciate the ecological arguments against these birds, and have some sympathy with the suggestion that they should be culled to avoid problems in the future, I also have a real soft spot for them. And on a winter's evening, when a hundred-strong flock streaks across the darkening sky like a green meteor, I can't help admiring their sheer chutzpah, and be thankful for the way they brighten up our dull city lives.

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



## WHY SHOULDN'T I GIVE MY FINCHES LETTUCE?

This question comes up a lot. So let's talk about lettuce. First, we have different kinds – iceberg, butter, leaf lettuce, and so on. For this article I'm going to put iceberg by itself, and all the other in the other category.

Iceberg lettuce is mainly composed of water. There's very little nutrition in it. So the reason I put it on the 'no' list, back in the day, was this. I figured people who were new to finches would be using that list, and it might be better to advise them not to feed it than have them upset that their birds got diarrhea after consuming it.

It's not actually diarrhea, it's polyuria, but you get the point.

So I simply said don't feed lettuce, meaning iceberg lettuce. I knew what I meant! (Sorry) This has caused confusion because some people like to feed other lettuces, and some people think it's okay to give their birds a food that causes polyuria.



Now let's talk about all those other lettuces. Romaine lettuce is packed with nutrition: vitamin C, K, folate, and Vitamin A for starters. Green leaf lettuce has vitamin C, potassium, and magnesium. Butter lettuce contains lots of Vitamin A, and a little iron and calcium. These are healthy foods that should be included in your finch, canary, or parrots' diet.

But lettuce isn't the only food that's green and makes up a good finch diet. Besides lettuce, there are lots of other greens we can feed our birds. Lettuce isn't bad, or toxic. It's just not the best food. And given how little they eat, and how poor most of our finch's diets are – I'd pack it full of the best nutrition I could offer.

Source: [www.gouldiangardens.com/why-shouldnt-i-give-my-finches-lettuce](http://www.gouldiangardens.com/why-shouldnt-i-give-my-finches-lettuce)



Mustard  
Greens



Dandelion  
Greens



Bok Choy



Kale



Spinach



Broccoli



Swiss Chard

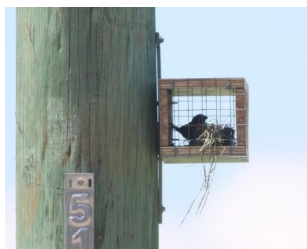
## CRIMSON FINCH RECOVERY.

In February 2000 I was approached by Ergon Energy scheduler Steve Warren to have a look at three power poles in the Alooomba District south of Cairns that had been marked for replacement. They had signs of fresh nests that had been made in rot holes in the poles and they turned out to be active Crimson Finch nests. Local Environment officer, John Peters, was called and after much discussion it was decided that the nesting season for these finches was nearly over and it would be better to replace the poles later in the year. I was given permission to make three nest boxes to hang on the new poles after they were stood, but I was to keep it low key.

### The First Year

I made six nest boxes, twice as many as I was supposed to and hung them on recently replaced poles around an area at Alooomba. They were a simple square cylinder of timber open on each end but with a large wire mesh. I monitored these about every second weekend. In the third week of November it rained, and nesting activity started the next week. By the end of December all six nest boxes were being used, but not all by Crimson Finches. Two had been taken over by Indian Mynah birds which could get through the wire and four were being used by Crimson Finches. One of these nest boxes on Volands road had Crimson Finches nesting in one end and a pair of white-breasted Woodswallows nesting in the other. I will talk about the importance of these Woodswallows later.

These first six boxes were mounted at the same height as the rot holes in the previous poles. With several people monitoring these nest sites a flood of information was coming back regarding what was happening. Poles inspectors, linesmen and farmers all provided valuable feedback. Pole inspector Laurie Davies noticed a Nankeen kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) regularly perched on a ladder rack over one of the nest boxes. From then on when I visited the area, I saw these falcons perched on crossarms near nest sites, watching the finches come and go. This was also when I noticed the importance of Woodswallows and other birds, like Willie Wagtails and Tree Martins that act as an alarm for the finches when predators are nearby.



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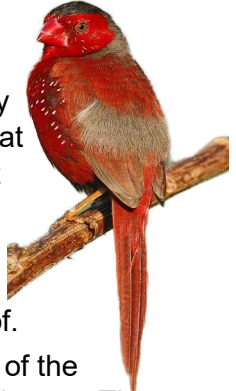


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A visitor from NSW suggested lowering the nest boxes to around the height of the sugar cane, so the Crimson Finches didn't have far to go for protection. I approached Ergon Energy re making boxes to exclude the Indian Mynah's and my plan to lower their height. At the start of October 2001, new boxes were made from a design by Aldo Moretto, a retired headmaster from Ingham State High School. Essentially, a small square welded mesh was added on each end. that gave easy access for the Crimson Finches but not the Indian Mynahs and they were a great success.

### **Program Grows**

Six boxes became twelve and were hung; ready for the next breeding season when all twelve boxes were in use by the finches. By now people in the district were aware of what was happening, although some thought they were owl nest boxes. One farmer told me that in September 2002 he would have 30 or more Crimson Finches on his lawn when his wife put the sprinkler on to water the grass; a sight he had never seen before and a sight he was proud of.



Eventually the nest boxes needed replacing. So, members of the FNQ Bird Breeders Club set about making 26 new nest boxes. These were painted with wood preserver by a group of school children from Bentley Park College. Another class of students from Caravonica State School used the program to produce a brochure as part of a school project highlighting what can be done to help conserve nature.

### **Gaining Political and Public Support**

In April 2005 a meeting and information morning was held at Colin Irvin's farm in Aloomba. Queensland Environment Minister, Desley Boyle, and Federal member for Leichardt Warren Entsch were invited, along with staff from Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Ergon Energy, farmers, school children and bird club members. The meeting was attended by over 40 interested people and really expanded awareness and support for the Crimson Finch.

2010 was the tenth year of nest boxes in this area, and really signalled the start of much wider expansion of the program with additional nest boxes at Behana Gorge road and in the Sandy creek area of Gordonvale. At this time private homeowners also became involved and requested nestboxes or built their own to hang in their own yards.

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One resident of Edmonton got me to put some nests at the back of his house. He told me he can tell when the finches are nesting, because he sees white feathers flying across his yard. These the Crimson Finches collect from around the pond where he keeps his ducks. Requests to hang boxes also came in from north of Cairns in the Barron River area and in the northern beach suburbs of Cairns.

### **So Why Did Crimson Finches need help?**

A retired sugar cane farmer, Mr. Robin Johnston from Alooomba attended our meeting in 2005, along with Mr. Steve Raumer, a retired local builder that had worked on farmhouses in the area since the 1950's. They told how the Crimson Finches disappeared in the 1960's, probably due to the use of farm chemicals and burning of cane prior to harvest. By the mid 1970's these birds were rarely seen in this district. It was not until the late 70's to early 80's when green harvesting of cane was introduced and the limited use of safer chemicals in farming that we saw a slow return of the Crimson Finches.

Sugarcane is important to Crimson Finches as they use the trash from harvested sugar cane to construct their nests. They are then lined with seeding grass heads and feathers. More importantly the cane provides great cover for newly fledged Crimsons. One of the main predators of young finches is the Black Butcher Bird. Young fledglings in shrubs or trees become easy prey for these skilled hunters. But Crimson Finches routinely take their fledged young into the sugar cane fields, as this provides protection because of its dense nature and serrated leaves.



The use of knot holes in power poles highlighted a shortage of nest sites in the area. The swamps had been drained and cleared of trees like the Pandanus palms that have serrated leaves that not only provide protection from predators, but also gave the finches a solid base to build their nest.

A farmer from the Sandy Creek district in Gordonvale, Mrs. Bronwyn Thomas told how Crimson Finches nested in the pine trees around her house. The nests were blown out of the trees during windy weather. This is one reason our nest boxes have proved successful. The Crimson Finches didn't need food or habitat, just a secure nest site.

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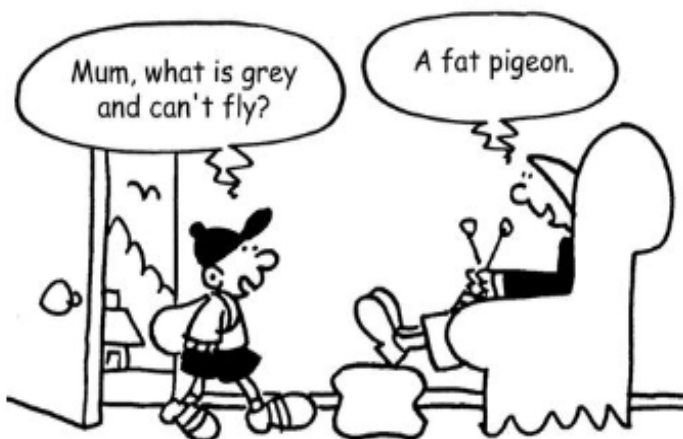
### **How many young birds have been reared from our boxes?**

Many observations of nest boxes around Gordonvale show that the boxes produce between four and six young per nest and up to three nests per year have been recorded. From these statistics if four young are produced from a nest three times a year in one year, then 20 nest boxes produce 240 young per year. This would mean our nest boxes have produce something close to 2400 young Crimson Finches or more over the past 10 years. Of course, not all these young will survive to maturity. Many fledglings are lost to predators, but we know that these days Crimson Finches are a common sight in the area and the nest boxes have certainly played a part.

### **Where to for the future?**

Since the beginning the program has continued with a dedicated group continuing to build and replace boxes as needed and has expanded further south to Babinda. Revegetation projects are now restoring Pandanus Palms to the moist flatlands where they once dominated, and Landcare groups continue to protect riparian areas frequented by Crimsons. Overall the environment is now more supportive of Crimson Finches and the nest box program just adds an extra dimension. In 2020 there are about 70 boxes in place and most are actively in use.

*Source: Crimson Finch Recovery around Cairns -by John Davies-Griffith*



## CARNABY'S BACK COCKATOO SURVIVAL THREATENED

The Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (scientific name: *Zanda latirostris*) faces several threats and challengers to its survival as summarized below, particularly in its native habitat of southwestern Western Australia.

**Habitat Loss:** The biggest threat to Carnaby's black cockatoo is habitat loss. Large-scale clearing for agriculture in the Western Australian Wheatbelt has removed or fragmented much of the bird's breeding habitat. Additionally, ongoing clearing for urban development on the Swan Coastal Plain significantly reduces the extent of its feeding and nesting areas<sup>1</sup>.

### *Lack of Suitable Nesting*

**Trees:** Carnaby's cockatoos require large, old trees with hollows for nesting. Unfortunately, there are too few such trees available, and in many places, the remaining feeding habitat is too far from good nesting habitat, hindering successful breeding<sup>2</sup>.

### *Fragmented Habitat:*

Historical clearing for agriculture has led to fragmented habitat, where feeding and nesting areas are disconnected. This fragmentation poses challenges for the birds' breeding success<sup>2</sup>.

### *Collisions with Vehicles:*

Carnaby's black cockatoos increasingly frequent more populous areas due to shrinking habitat. This has led to a rise in collisions with motor vehicles, resulting in injury or death.

### *Inappropriate Fire Regimes:*

Fire regimes that are not suitable for the cockatoos' habitat can negatively impact their survival

Efforts are underway however to protect and restore their habitats, including planting feeding areas, creating supplementary nesting hollows, and developing management agreements with landholders. These iconic birds play a crucial role in Southwest Australia's biodiversity, and conservation actions are essential to ensure their continued existence





## A BIT ABOUT GRIT

Grit aids the digestion of whole seeds. Our birds' digestive enzymes work well in digesting the inner portion of seeds, but have difficulty with their fibrous coating. The fibrous hulls of whole seeds prevent enzymes from reaching the nutritious seed within.

'Grit comprises insoluble and soluble forms. Insoluble grit, primarily stones like silicates, aids in digesting unhulled seeds, while soluble grit, such as crushed shells or cuttlebone, offers a source of calcium.

While grit is most important for birds who only consume intact seeds, such as doves, other birds, like some parrots, have ridges inside their upper beak which are believed to aid in the shelling of seeds. The seed is held in place by the ridges, while the lower beak is used to crack and remove the hull.



## DID YOU KNOW...

*A bird's eye takes up about 50 percent of its head and often times outweighs the brain. Our eyes take up about 5 percent of our head. To be comparable to a bird's eyes, our eyes would have to be the size of baseballs.*

*Ostriches have the largest eyes of any bird or land animal. At 5 centimetres across, they are about the size of a billiard ball.*

*The Kiwi has the smallest relative eye size, and also has the poorest eyesight of all bird species.*



## UNDERSTANDING THE RED URUCUM MUTATION CANARY

With many mutations coming about, some mutations aren't only about color change dealing with plumage but also the beaks, legs and nails as well.

What is the Red Urucum Mutation?

Its main characteristics are the acquisition of carotenes in the beak, legs, skin and nails; appreciable as they break the shell; intensifies and extends the lipochrome throughout the specimen; deposition of lipochrome in the snow changing the white hue by a red hue not as intense as the non-snowy area of the feather; and above all produces an alteration in the pin structure, making them unmistakable with respect to the lipochrome not affected by the mutation.

In Melanics, special interest is found in the diluted series, where its corneal parts have a clear tonality and the effects of this mutation can be seen more clearly. Of all the tests, which have not been many, regarding melanic urucum / yellow beak, it has not been able to observe any modification of melanins as a result of the mutation.

The expropriation with Ivory mutation, produces a dilution of the whole Canary from a red dye to a "pink" dye if we refer to urucum; exact effect when changing the color red to yellow, for yellow beak specimens; because of this combination of mutations we can say that the Ivory mutation also affects the beak, legs, skin and nails.

With respect to mosaics, from my point of view, the ideal mosaic Urucum would be the one that presents the zones of choice red (as intense as possible and with absolutely no frost) and the rest of the plumage of a "white-pink" tonality due to the effect of the mutation. The specimen will be better the greater the contrast it retains (it is necessary to look outside the zones of choice for a tonality as small as possible, trying to obtain the white one) This is not to forget the feathers and corsairs and that the maintenance of the food proper of the mosaics of the lipochromes should be White. In this way we would have a mosaic of Urucum, with 3 tones:

- The red of the areas of choice typical of the category mosaic, beak, legs and nails.
- The "White-Pink" that will occupy the edge of the rest of the feathers by the correct action of the mutation.



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- The white color of the feathers and vaporizers that would indicate that we are really looking at a mosaic. For the yellow beak it would be exactly the same, changing the Red lipochrome to the yellow

The White Wings of Urucum have red beak, legs and nails; and the tonality of feathers is enhanced becoming white White.

With such a descriptive detail of this mutation given to me by the breeder himself I also wanted to learn from him as the person who began breeding them. He started with outside aviaries where along with his father they began with about 20 pairs. Those pairs contained Glosters, Pastels, Red Mosaics, Opals, Red Factors, Northern Frills and even Diamond Mandarins as he gained knowledge from his breeding experiments



I wondered why did he decide to combine the red urucum mutation with the red factor mutation. He told me that “all the mutations, independent of the category or structure of feathers of a canary, manifest themselves generating a phenotype influencing these characteristics.” He also mentioned the importance of genetics saying it is essential to have some basic notions for these wonderful birds and above all to understand the mechanisms of transmission of the characters you're raising. Basic understanding comes from Darwin and Mendel's laws but due to constant evolution it is hard to keep up to date. He believes this is the beginning of the Red Urucum Mosaic line and believes everything needs to be improved until perfected. Currently he has Red Urucum, Red Ivory Urucum, Rubino (Red Factor Ino) Urucum, Rubino Ivory Urucum, Red Urucum White Wings, Red Ivory Urucum White Wings, Red Urucum Mosaics. He also has many up and coming projects soon to be released which I will follow up with interest.

*Source: Translated article by Amitt Ramgattee @ [www.canaryculture.com/](http://www.canaryculture.com/)*

## **DOG WALKERS URGED TO AVOID EMUS AS NESTING SEASON IN FULL SWING AFTER YEARS OF DROUGHT IN NSW**

Within a minute of arriving at what appeared to be a peaceful bush track with her dogs, Ruby Buchanan realised she had made a mistake.

On the outskirts of Broken Hill, the walking trail had been recommended to her by friends. But they had left out a key detail.

It was home to emus and it was nesting season: a time of year when the territorial birds are at their most aggressive.

"We got out of the car and were just wandering around," recalled Ruby, who was also accompanied by ABC Broken Hill's rural reporter Lily McCure. "I let the dogs out of the cage. Next minute, [I] turn around. There's an emu."

More emus appeared and quickly made their feelings known about Ruby's two kelpies, Holla and Smiley. The birds "fully charged" at the group.

With the dogs in tow, the women sprinted back to the ute but were unable to get inside as Ruby struggled to find her keys.

The four or five emus pursued them around the ute and another vehicle parked next to it until McCure scrambled onto the latter's roof.



While down on the ground, Ruby evaded the emus by "kind of playing hide and seek around the bull bar".

"My car was locked, and I was trying to get in my car and escape it, but it was locked," she said.

From the relative safety of the roof, McCure took out her phone and started filming as the dogs managed to distract the small mob. With the emus pushed a small distance away by the kelpies, Ruby finally found her keys.

McCure captured the frenzied moment, descended from the other car's roof and clambered into the ute, followed by Holla and Smiley.

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### **Why do emus attack?**

Such aggressive behaviour towards dog walkers is quite common during nesting season, according to National Parks Western Area manager Jaymie Norris.

"We do believe that dogs being attacked happens quite regularly, particularly of uncontrolled dogs, but we don't hear those reports back to us."

While attacks on humans are unlikely, they can still happen, usually when people are walking in the bush with their dogs.

"No reports of emus attacking humans have been reported in the past couple of years," Mr Norris said.

But if you do find yourself out in the bush and come face-to-face with an emu with chicks, the general advice is to slowly walk away.

"They'll puff their chests out and puff up their feathers and they'll charge — but generally if you're walking away from them, they won't see you as a threat," Mr Norris said.

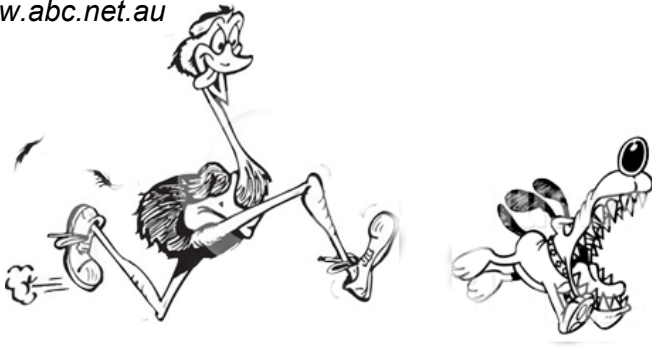
With everyone back in the safety of the ute's cabin, the emus started to distance themselves.

"It was so terrifying because I was looking at the dogs hoping that they weren't going to get attacked, but it was also very funny," Ruby said.

Having worked on stations in remote parts of the country as a contract musterer, Ruby knew an emu attack could have fatal consequences for her dogs.

"If you do see emus in the distance, just try to get away from them as best you can."

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



### **33<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN AVIAN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 8-9th JUNE 2024**

The Northern Avian Society Conference has been held annually for the past 33 years, always being hosted by one of the six remaining clubs down from the ten clubs originally involved. The main object of these conferences is to share one's knowledge with like-minded people and to have guest speakers pass on their knowledge in the care, housing and attention to the birds that they / we keep.

12months ago the Coral Coast Bird Club took up the challenge to host the 33rd Northern Avian Society Conference. However a significant consideration was to find a suitable venue as delegates were now that much older and delegates to the previous conference at the RSL six years ago had found the stairs caused some discomfort. The matter was resolved by the RSL being unavailable owing to renovations.

The conference which commenced on Saturday 8th June 2024, involved many months of intense planning and effort but the real work began on the Friday before the conference with the setting up and preparing of the venue.

A total of 64 delegates attended the conference with delegates from bird clubs at Charters Towers to the west; Thuringowa from the north and Sarina in the South. Also welcomed were members from the Beenleigh Bird Breeders whilst apologies were received from Far North Queensland and the Rocky clubs.

Five speakers gave presentations and local bird keepers made their aviaries available for the visitors to inspect the different types of construction in the Whitsunday region, the species kept in them and methods used to keep and breed them successfully

Saturday's programme began with registration and formalities over a cuppa and light morning tea; after which a presentation was given by Dr Tiffany Teale BVSc, titled, "Embryonic Death in the Unhatched Egg."



This was followed by the first aviary visit to David and Katrina Kennedy whose aviaries housed an impressive collection of native and foreign parrots, macaws and colour mutations and return to the venue for lunch.

After lunch, which was provided by our hard-working members in the kitchen, attendees were treated to a trivia session delivered by John Cameron and a presentation by Martin Thorn on the many species of Rosellas found in Australia.

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These were followed by an aviary visit to Kim Hilan who also has a collection of macaws and both local and foreign parrots. It was then back to the hall for afternoon tea.

Before the day ended and everybody settled down to pre-dinner drinks prior to enjoying a catered dinner two further presentations were made. John Griffith delivered his presentation "Gouldian Finch – Breed and Release Program FNQ." followed by Ray Wust of Australian Wildlife Supplies, who spoke on "Seed Mixes, Seed Quality & Effects on Fertility."

Sunday morning was a very early start for members with a BBQ breakfast organised for all delegates followed by a second presentation by Dr Tiffany Teale BVSc titled "The Sick Bird, Indication and Common Causes," and a Q & A session..

John Griffith then delivered his second presentation titled, "Back to Basics – An Avicultural Review." after which everyone enjoyed morning tea with a selection of homemade goodies.



Following morning tea visits were made to the aviaries of Betty Richardson, Veronica Black and John and Rita Nicol after which everyone returned to the hall for lunch.

Betty, who with Ian has a large and varied, variety of native and foreign finches and. Ian's collection of canaries whilst Veronica Black has a collection of native and foreign parrots and John & Rita Nicol keep a variety of native parrots.

Following lunch, the delegates were entertained by three more presentations. The first one was a presentation delivered by Kel Bidle titled, "The Most Important Ratio in Aviculture." The next presentation was delivered by Martin Thorn titled, "Ant Bed Parrots of Australia." followed by John Griffith with some trivia as well as a remedy for getting rid of ants.

With all of the formalities out of the way, afternoon tea was had and the weekend proceedings wrapped up with the drawing of the major raffle, a standalone raffle for a Yellow Crowned Conure & Cage and the exchange of pleasantries.



*Source: Edited extracts from Coral Coast Bird Club Newsletter, June/July 2024*

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

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING held Wednesday 3rd July 2024.

Held Zoom and in person in the ANZC Room at Ashfield RSL 370 Liverpool Road Ashfield.

The President Bob Barnes opened the meeting at 8:08 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 9 delegates in attendance including, B. Barnes, R Robertson, C. Gruntar, C. Isbister, G. Gingell, B. Wright, J Walsh, J Forrest, A. Christodoulou,

A further 9 delegates were via Zoom, namely M. Cameron, B. Whiting, J. Tadgell, R. Law, N. Love, D. Reynolds, M. Reynolds, B. Read, D. Maslan. The president extended a welcome to the new delegate Dalibor Maslan representing the Colour Canary Breeders Association of Victoria Inc.

**VISITORS:** T. Hartung.

**APOLOGIES were received from:** W. Wilson, J. Palmano, J. Flood. – moved J. Forrest and seconded G. Gingell apologies be accepted - Carried.

### MINUTES:

The minutes for the 1<sup>st</sup> May General Meeting of Federation had been published and a paper copy distributed to delegates in attendance. It was moved G. Gingell and seconded C. Isbister 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.*

### In-coming correspondence as follows:

- Affiliated clubs. Notification of office bearers and delegate.
- Affiliated clubs requesting assistance with matters regarding insurance.
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
- FCA of Qld, request for affiliation and insurance, for two additional clubs namely, Modern Game Club of Queensland Inc & Maryborough Hervey Bay Poultry Club, together with payment.
- ATO Notification of ABN, effective 21<sup>st</sup> May'24. If we find at a later date we require an ABN, reapply online, if entitled to an ABN, in most cases we will get the same ABN.
- VAC, forwarding a copy of their submission / response to Draft- Animal Care and Protection Bill and the Regulations Survey. Advising that the VAC held a number of zoom meetings to come up with our final responses.

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- The Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry advising extension of closure date to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, to have your say re the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy ([AAWS@aff.gov.au](mailto:AAWS@aff.gov.au)).
- State Library of NSW. Notification of updates completed to NED of Feathered World.
- ACA. A circular email to National and Victorian-based Member Associations, relating to the draft Animal Care & Protection Bill, which will replace the current *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (the POCTA Act) in Victoria. Animal Care Australia has deep concerns over this Bill and is calling on all to raise these concerns, as well as any of **your own species specific** ones, with **your** membership base. Further stating if your organisation has concerns about the Bill, then your members need to express those concerns to the government and their local members. It must be stopped or amended before it is presented to be assented by parliament.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has commenced public consultation on the renewing of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS). The Australian Government committed \$5 million over 4 years to the development of the renewed AAWS, with the objective of providing a framework for a national approach to animal welfare in Australia. The development of the renewed AAWS will be jointly led by the Australian, and state and territory governments, informed by your engagement and feedback during consultation. The AAWS will include nearly all animals. It will be released in chapters, each dedicated to one of 6 animal groups, with the final strategy expected in 2027. More information is available at [www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws). **Have your say** You are invited to share your views and insights on the challenges and opportunities for animal welfare in Australia through a series of survey questions on the department's Have Your Say platform: [www.agriculture.gov.au/haveyoursay/aaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/haveyoursay/aaws). The Have Your Say Survey opened Friday 8 March 2024 and closes 30 June 2024.
- AAWS, thanking for registering for the Companion Animals Focus Group on 14 June to inform the renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry re the AAWS, advising that the first round of consultation on the renewal of the AAWS has closed. Public consultation opened on 8 March 2024 and closed on 30 June 2024. The input will help shape the renewed AAWS. We will publish a summary of views expressed during consultation and received through [www.agriculture.gov.au/haveyoursay/aaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/haveyoursay/aaws). The discussion paper was the

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first step in an extensive stakeholder engagement process that will take place over the next 3 years. Remain subscribed to stay informed about the progress of the AAWS and future engagement opportunities. Information and updates will also be provided through the Renewal of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy webpage: [www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaaws).

- **World Ornithological Confederation (COM)**, thanking CCBFA for the office bearers and information about the organisation, advising the COM bank details for the 2024 fee of 250.00 euros (approx. A\$450.00). Further stating they would be pleased if a delegate from Australia could attend the next COM World Show and “it would be good if your delegation could bring us a flag and also send us the official national anthem of Australia to be played at the congress or the gala dinner. Also requesting a copy of the official logo of CCBFA so we can publish it in our website.” COM is forwarding a file link to the COM Posture canaries standard, and some more technical documents, for our clubs and breeders’ info. Further advising that “next August, the COM will be holding a special technical congress for all sections of birds in Portugal, from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. Member countries have forward proposals to be discussed and we will forward the approved agenda for each section, so that you can start to understand how we work regarding these matters. We are intending to have the meeting also Zoom.”

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

- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter May’24
- PET Industry News. May, June July’24
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter May & June’24
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales April, May & June’24
- Gloster Fancy Canary Club of NSW Inc. April / May’24
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings April / May & June / July’24
- Native Cockatiel Society of Australia Inc July/August’24 NCSA News.
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet May’24
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW March/April’24
- ANPA Newsletter February 2024
- Colour Canary Breeders Association of Victoria. Newsletter May & June’24

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

- Change of Office Bearers and Privacy forms sent to various clubs.
- Affiliated clubs' assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates to those requesting.
- FCA of Qld, forwarding the insurance CoC's and covering letter for Modern Game Club of Queensland Inc & Maryborough Hervey Bay Poultry Club
- All affiliated clubs forwarding the details and email received from the Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry advising public consultation on the renewing of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy ([AAWS@aff.gov.au](mailto:AAWS@aff.gov.au)).
- COM, follow up email advising our mode of operation with the various state's specialist clubs, stating CCBFA does not maintain the details requested for the individual specialist clubs. Hence, we are not able to provide you with the details requested in the schedule titled 2021-SISCOM\_ \_NATIONAL\_ FICHER FILE. Advising the details of the CCBFA office bearers and trust that will be sufficient and acceptable. Further stating we believe it is in the best interest of our hobby and a great benefit to have access to your canary standards for the new coloured varieties being developed.
- ATO notification of cancellation of ABN No. 85 943 971 950
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) submission to "Have your say"
- State Library of NSW, confirming updates completed to NED for Feathered World to the latest issue.
- Invoices emailed to the advertisers in Feathered World.
- NPWS, online submission, NO to all four questions, including statement "I remain in agreement with the CCBFA letter dated 3/11/2022 which is attached." Attaching a pdf copy.
- Email notice to NSW affiliates re the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) announcing the release of a draft code of practice for native birds. Stating the process first began in 2014 and while many options were negotiated and seemingly agreed none have ever been implemented. Any requirement to notify NPWS, including register or lodge returns was hotly opposed by birdkeeper reps for all common in aviculture species. The licensing system is broken. There is massive non-compliance, somewhat encouraged by promises of change to a more realistic risk-based approach removing commonly kept aviary birds from the need for a license completely. The intention was always to remove all native species that are common in aviculture from any need to have a license – this was

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known as a “risk-based” system. This recent process is an attempt by NPWS to say they have implemented a “risk-based” system. It is little more than a licensing scheme in disguise – registration required. annual returns required, etc. nothing changes. NPWS want to appear to have implemented a “risk-based” system when they have not. If this goes through, then removing common species from licensing will be off the agenda for decades. You can and should make a written submission to let NPWS know our concerns by any one of the three options below:

- completing the online submission form at :-  
<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say>
- emailing your submission to [wildlife.reforms@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.reforms@environment.nsw.gov.au)
- posting your written submission to:

Title: Draft Dealing in Protected Birds Code of Practice  
Manager NPWS Wildlife Strategy and Reform Unit  
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.

Written submissions must be received by **Sunday 30 June 2024**.

Our recommendation is to complete the survey questions as No to all four questions and include the statement “I remain in agreement with the CCBFA letter dated 3/11/2022 which is attached.”

This was the previously proposed option as negotiated by CCBFA, the link to it is, <https://www.ccbfa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/NSW-NPWS-CCBFA-Minister-Griffin-031122.pdf>

It is critical that all of us let NPWS and the Minister know our views and instead progress a reasonable outcome for a process that has been stalled by NPWS for the last 10 years. We urge you to please assist by encouraging fellow birdkeepers, friends and family to also make a submission.

### **Matters arising out of correspondence:**

The president spoke briefly about the COM and the world show and invited Dalibor Maslan president of the Colour Canary Breeders Association of Victoria Inc. to speak on the benefits of affiliation. Dalibor outlined the access it would allow all clubs for all species to the COM standards and judging procedures. He further stated that the CCBFAV only intended to use the standards for new colours being developed in Australia for which we do not already have standards. It was moved R. Robertson and seconded A. Christodoulou we affiliate with the World Ornithological Confederation COM and pay the affiliation fee.:-carried

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Moved J. Walsh and seconded G. Gingell that application for re-affiliation and insurance be accepted for Modern Game Club of Queensland Inc & Maryborough Hervey Bay Poultry Club:- carried

It was moved by C. Gruntar and seconded by A. Christodoulou that the correspondence be received and the secretary's action endorsed - Carried.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement:

It was moved by A. Christodoulou and seconded by J. Forrest that the payments and the Treasurer's actions be endorsed - Carried.

## **REPORTS:**

- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)

DAFFwebsite:[www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws)

Ministerial media release: [Ag ministers commit to a National Statement on Animal Welfare | Ministers \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws) The president advised he had attended an introductory team meeting and had further communicated with the president of ACA Michael Donnelly who had an in person consultation with the convenor. It is understood that the review will be ongoing for the next three years.

- NSW NPWS Species List Advisory Committee. The president advised and as recorded in correspondence, CCBFA (both the president and secretary) had submitted an online submission, NO to all four questions, including statement "I remain in agreement with the CCBFA letter dated 3/11/2022" and attaching a pdf copy of the letter. The president advised that he had spoken to the president of the ACA Michael Donnelly who was endeavouring to arrange a meeting with the Minister. Brian Read also advised that a number of clubs and individuals had made submissions. Brian also mentioned the concern he had with the short notice given to submit the submission of the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Hopefully, sufficient submissions have been received to stall or block proceedings.

Moved J. Tadgell and seconded by J. Forrest that the President's Report be accepted and thanked – Carried.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Ring Orders 2024.** Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2024, however, delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary. Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.

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- **INSURANCE.** Requirement for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership by maintaining a membership register. **Insurance cover for special events.** The Secretary advised that the insurance Underwriters have advised that clubs will require an additional CoC to be issued for special events (other than shows, sales and other normal club activities), noting the event name, period / date of the event, address and venue name. The club should also detail to the secretary the club's involvement at the event.
- **Federation Guest of Honour Lunch — Steve Wackwitz, President of the BSNSW:** Combining with the Wollongong District & Avicultural Society celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> year, venue Panorama House, Bulli Tops on 20 July 2024. Time 12pm-midday. RSVP 14 July 2024. A two-course buffet, including beer, wine, soft drink, tea and coffee. Cost \$70.00. Payment on booking.

The President thanked the delegates for attending. As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9:08 p.m.

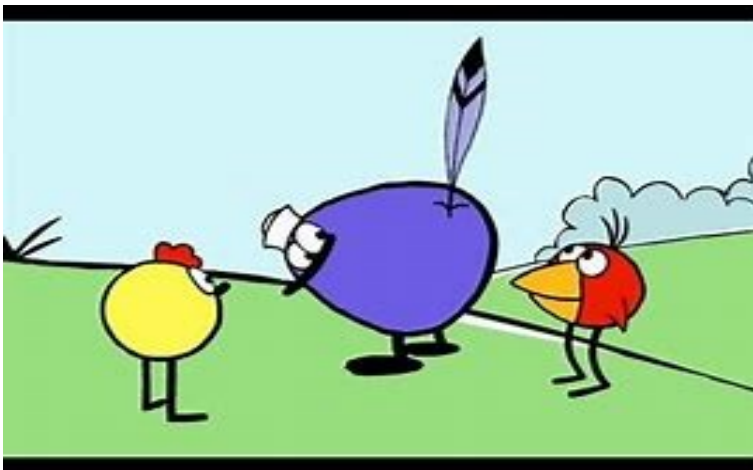
### **Notice of the Next General Meeting**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm

The next General Meeting will be the 6<sup>th</sup> November'24

*Have you updated your club details?*



# 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)


## 2024 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2024, however delivery time frame and cost for trans-shipment will vary.

Clubs requiring an order form to be completed, should contact the Secretary.

## 2024 SHOW & SALE DATES

Clubs are requested to email Matt McKenzie the dates for their 2024 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 to:-. Email [clubs@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:clubs@ccbfa.org.au)



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.



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