



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



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- ◆ *H5N1 Bird Flu Status*

*...and more*



VOLUME 57 NUMBER 5

OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2025



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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

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World*

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- 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.

## MEETING DATES 2026

**General Meetings** 4th March

**AGM** 4th March 2026

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**NOTE: Zoom meetings will be confirmed (or advised) in advance**

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

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

# NOTICE

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the 3rd September General Meeting was cancelled.

As a result ALL correspondence and business since the meeting on 2nd July are included in the Minutes of 11th November

The AGM and March GM scheduled for the 4th March 2026, will be Zoom only



## **SHOWS, SALES, AUCTIONS & CONVENTIONS DATES REQUEST for NOTIFICATION of ALL 2026 DATES**

When paying the invoice and advising the 2026 dates for your club events this year, the insurance underwriter has requested that we advise them an estimate of the largest number of attendees that each club could expect at any single event. ( If you exceed the thresholds, an Event Risk Management plan will be required, see template attached). Only on receipt of your notification of the estimate numbers of attendees will the insurance certificate be issued.

As previously informed, an EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT is required for events with more than 500 people attending, or if the event is more than one day. If using the same venue in subsequent years, you will only be required to advise the date and estimate number of people attending. After the club has submitted the "Event Risk Assessment" for the venue an amended certificate for the event will again be issued and only then will the event be insured

As in previous years for all events, sales, etc. we again request you also advise the venue location and contact name and phone number for the event. If you are still waiting on the council / venue to confirm the date, please state TBC, and then advise the location details when confirmed, at which time an amended insurance certificate will be issued.

The insurance policy cover is not changing only the underwriter's requirement for the information.

Please email the details requested to:-

The Secretary - **Email:** [ccbfa@aapt.net.au](mailto:ccbfa@aapt.net.au)

## **UPDATE OF CLUB OFFICE BEARER'S DETAILS**

This invoice has been addressed to the name last advised contact for the club.

CCBFA is legally required to maintain an updated record of all clubs' office bearers and importantly the club's official postal and email address. Also please check the details we have for your club on our web site [ccbfa.org.au](http://ccbfa.org.au) look under CLUBS and sort by State and Club Type, if these details have changed, please also advise the Secretary at:-

**Email:-** [ccbfa@aapt.net.au](mailto:ccbfa@aapt.net.au) or, **Mail:-** PO Box 230 Frenchs Forest NSW 1640.

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**OFFICE BEARERS INFORMATION FORM [please PRINT details]:**

**Name of club** (If incorporated, registered name) If an Incorporated Association, please note the Inc. no:

---

**NAME OF PUBLIC OFFICER**

**President name**, phone & email address:

---

**Secretary name:**

---

**Postal address of club:**

---

**Secretary phone & email address**

---

**Treasurer's name**, phone & email address):

---

Delegates' names (2): and email address

---

Club's Web address (authorized to link to the Federation's Web address)

---

No. of financial members:

---

Club's ring insignia letters if applicable:

---

Name of club's contact & meeting details for CCBFA directory & web site.

---

Re Insurance CoC, if notation of an **Interested Party** is required, please advise the name.

---

**EVENT name & date:**

---

**EVENT venue name & address:**

---

**Largest number of attendees that the club could expect to attend, at any single event.**

# THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

## MINUTES OF THE ZOOM GENERAL MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The President opened the meeting at 8:10 pm, thanking the delegates for their attendance.

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 10 delegates in attendance, including R. Barnes, R Robertson, C. Isbister, C. Gruntar, B. Wright, J Forrest, B. Whiting, J. Tadgell, R. Law, M. Gallagher,

**APOLOGIES were received from:** J. Norriss, M. MacPherson, B. Read, M. Cameron, A. Christodoulou, N. Love, K. Manton, J. Sykes.

– moved C. Isbister and seconded J. Tadgell apologies be accepted - Carried.

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> July General Meeting also published in Feathered World and uploaded on the web site and displayed at the meeting. It was moved J. Forrest and seconded R. Law that the July minutes be adopted as a true record of the July 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, following clubs submitted an Event Risk Assessment; A.N.B.C. National Exhibition, North Qld Budgerigar Zone Show, South Australian Canary & Pigeon Society, A.N.P.A. National Show, Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc.-Bird Expo, Mornington Peninsula Avicultural Society “Great Southern Bird Sale & Expo”, B.C.S.A. Budgie Fest,
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of ring orders for 2025.
- Affiliated clubs, payments for ring orders from various affiliates.
- Queensland Finch Society Inc. Application for affiliation and insurance, together with payment.
- Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society of NSW Inc. notification of the amalgamation & incorporation, combining The Parrot Breeders & Exhibitors Society of NSW Inc and The Parrot Society of Australia (NSW) Inc.

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- Western Downs Feather Club Inc. Application for affiliation and insurance, together with payment.
- Southern Riverina Poultry Club Inc. Application for affiliation and insurance for 2026.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of supplementary ring orders 2025 and orders for 2026.
- COM account for renewal of membership for 2025 Euro 250.00
- Westpac. Notification to comply with regulatory requirements, they need to verify and update our banking profile. The process known as “Know Your Customer” (KTC) is a regulatory requirement and helps strengthen the security and integrity of our account. Requiring the completion of the form “ Customer verification form – Association”
- SKS Insurance forwarding the Public Liability and Marine insurance Declaration to be completed for the 2026 renewals.

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

- ANBC Budgerigar Gazette Monthly Edition July to November’25
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Aug, Sept, Oct & Nov’25
- PET Industry News. Nov/Dec’24 March, April, May, June’25
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter July, Aug, Sept, Oct’25
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales July’ Aug & Sept’25
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Finch Fancier July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov’25
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chatterings July’, Sept & Oct’25
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet Sept & Nov’25
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc May/June, July/Aug & Sept/Oct’25
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW Jan-Feb & March–June & July-Aug’25
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News July / Aug & Sept. / Oct & Nov / Dec’25

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

- Office Bearers forms and emails sent to various clubs.
- Affiliated clubs' assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates to those requesting.
- Affiliated Clubs, issuing amended CoC's following receipt of an Event Risk Assessment; A.N.B.C. National Exhibition, North Qld Budgerigar Zone Show, South Australian Canary & Pigeon Society, A.N.P.A. National Show, Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc.-Bird Expo, Mornington Peninsula Avicultural Society "Great Southern Bird Sale & Expo", B.C.S.A. Budgie Fest,
- Various affiliates invoicing and dispatching ring orders on receipt of payment.
- Coditech, placement of supplementary ring orders for 2025.
- Coditech, a number of emails attending to the rings for the VB, MB & MC Clubs.
- Ashfield RSL advising cancellation of ANZAC Room meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September'25
- Queensland Finch Society Inc. Advising details of affiliation and insurance, invoice and covering letter, followed by the insurance certificate and covering letter
- Parrot Keepers & Exhibitors Society of NSW Inc. forwarding the amended insurance certificate for the amalgamation of the two clubs.
- Western Downs Feather Club Inc. Advising details of affiliation and insurance, invoice and covering letter, followed by the insurance certificate and covering letter
- Affiliated clubs, for first ring consolidation for 2026, requiring the 2026 rings for distribution by the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 are requested to submit orders by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- Various affiliates emails, texts and phone calls following up their club requirement for public liability insurance in 2026.
- Placement of orders for 27,450 rings for 2026, first consolidation delivery in November.
- SKS Insurance, forwarding completed declaration and renewal schedule for 255 affiliates requiring cover for 2026, noting special events, hosting events, location of venues and dates, interested parties, and estimates of attendee's numbers for those advised.

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

Moved C. Isbister and seconded R. Law that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for Queensland Finch Society Inc., Western Downs Feather Club Inc. and Southern Riverina Poultry Club Inc

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

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement. It was moved by J. Tadjell and seconded by R. Law that the payments and the Treasurers' actions be endorsed - Carried.

It was also moved by J. Forrest and seconded by C. Isbister that the Secretary / Treasurer is duly appointed and authorised to complete the necessary forms " Customer verification – Association" and update the banking profile (KTC) to sign on behalf of CCBFA, -Carried

Following the Secretaries notification from Vice President A. Christodoulou that he would not be standing as a VP at the AGM in 2026, it was moved R. Robertson and seconded R. Law that

J. Forrest be appointed as a bank account signatory. – Carried.

### **REPORTS:**

#### **VIC: Domestic Animals Regulations 2025 Review (As advised by ACA)**

The VIC Government is seeking feedback on the Domestic Animals Regulations 2025

Domestic animal industry stakeholders, other interested parties and members of the public are invited to make submissions responding to the proposed Regulations and/or the RIS.

The proposed Regulations and RIS can be accessed via Engage Victoria's website at <https://engage.vic.gov.au/domestic-animals-regulations?>

While the department claims there is only a need for minor amendments, Animal Care Australia strongly suggests you make that determination as to how the amendments affect your ability to keep and maintain your pets. The majority of the amendments are for cats and dogs, however **there is mention of Bird Sale Permits and the fees related to those**, and of course your members would own more than just birds so any input either directly to Animal Welfare Victoria or to us will be beneficial.

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Animal Care Australia will be submitting to this Review so if you would prefer to send us your feed-back please email it to [aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:aca@animalcareaustralia.org.au) by no later than 23rd August 2025 to ensure we have time to include it.

**Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS)** DAFF website: [www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/animal/welfare/aaws) Following on from a range of engagement activities this year, the 2025 AAWS Consultation Summary **is now available**. **The summary presents** outcomes from consultations held in 2025 to date

## **NSW NPWS**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ANIMAL KEEPER LICENCES AND IMPORT/EXPORT LICENCES**

Native Animal Keeper Licensee,

All online applications will **no longer be processed immediately from 30 JUNE 2025**.

Notification of these changes were sent to licensees on 23 JUNE 2025. We have identified that some licensees may not have received this correspondence due to a technical issue. Because of this, we will endeavour to prioritise Import/Export licence applications for the next 7 days.

These changes are in response to legal advice and evidence NPWS has received that licences to keep and import/export native animals in NSW are being used to facilitate the interstate movement of native animals for exploitation in organised **illegal wildlife trafficking**.

Applications may still be made online but will be subject to an assessment process prior to a decision.

#### **This means:**

1. You will be required to apply for Import/Export licences ahead of any planned transporting of animals to or from NSW.
2. Licences for Animal Keepers and Companion Animals will not be issued immediately after an application is submitted. This will affect licensees attempting to sell or trade to a person who previously would have been able to apply online and receive a licence immediately.
3. Renewal applications for Native Animal Keeper Licences will also not be issued immediately online.

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**Processing times for applications may take up to 28 days so please plan accordingly.**

We will endeavour to minimise impacts of this change to legitimate and lawfully abiding native animal keepers.

For further information and contact details please visit:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/licences-and-permits/wildlife-licences>

Moved J. Tadgell and seconded by B. Whiting that the reports be accepted and thanked – Carried.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **2026 Ring Orders.** Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2026, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary. The orders for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consolidation for **2026 rings** [if required for distribution at the specialist annual shows at the end of May] should be finalised by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026, ETA late April.
- **INSURANCE.** Requirement for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership, by maintaining and membership register and individual membership forms. It is also important to note that we have a requirement that all affiliates give advanced notice of cancellation of insurance. Hence affiliates are requested to advise Federation by the 30th of September should they not require cover for the ensuing year. Failure to do so will necessitate being charged.
- **INSURANCE. Notification of estimate number of attendees at events.** In 2026 before a insurance certificate will be issued, clubs are required to advise the number of attendees at events, when effecting payment for the renewal of the affiliation and insurance account for 2026, and if they exceed the threshold, an event risk management plan would be required in due course for the event to be covered and a amended / endorsed certificate will be issued..
- **INSURANCE – EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT.** CGU underwriter has advised that they have implemented a new requirement, (an EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT) for when events have more than 500 people attending, or the event goes over more than one day.
  - *CGU have provided a template to assist if the club does not have a risk assessment template. This template lists a number of risks, which may or may not apply to the insured's events. Using the CGU template, you can delete or write N/A in the corresponding fields.*

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- ◇ *The intention of the risk assessment is to show that the affiliates are considering the risks and mitigating/preventing them. Assessing the risks will mean you will know how to respond, if/when an incident occurs.*
- ◇ *Regarding the number of people attending events, this information is to understand the size and exposure of each which will better help understand the risk as a whole.*
- ◇ The insurance policy cover is not changing only the underwriter's requirement for the information.
- ◇ We presently require notification of the event (name, dates, venue/ address, where known) to be received by the end of October for the following year events.
- ◇ On receipt of club's payment for the renewal of affiliation and insurance, a "General" insurance certificate will be issued (as we currently do) to enable the affiliates to initiate bookings.
- ◇ *For all shows, sales, auctions, conventions and other events with more than the 500 attendees or are more than a one-day event an "Event Risk Assessment" must be submitted to the CCBFA secretary, for the event / venue (as soon as the venue name / address, dates are known). If using the same venue in subsequent years, you will only be required to advise the date and estimate number of people attending.*
- ◇ **After the affiliate has submitted an "Event Risk Assessment" for the event / venue, an amended insurance certificate will be issued, endorsing the details of the event. Only then will the event be insured.**

The President thanked Bob Wright for facilitating the Zoom meeting for tonight and thanked the delegates for attending, as there was no further business the meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

### **Notice of the AGM & General Zoom Meeting**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm



## “BLUE FACTOR” CANARIES

Just as Red Siskins have been used to get a red factor Canary, so has the Indigo Bunting been used by some breeders in an attempt to get blue Canaries. occasional reports appear of such hybrids being produced with one report stating that the hybrids were able to reproduce among themselves and even with Canaries.

But this is unlikely to work out as buntings are a more distantly related species and there are no proven claims of ‘blue factor’ canaries being produced with Indigo Buntings.

The current Blue Factor canary has been developed using existing genetics. In addition to pigment type, dilution, and distribution/pattern, canary breeders also exploit a number of other genetic factors to achieve even more color effects.

One of these is the “Optic Factor.”

This a rare recessive gene mutation responsible for creating canary feathers capable of producing a structural blue color.

Unlike biological pigment color, structural color is purely a trick of optics. Similar to how the sky and ocean can also look blue to us, these feathers refract light in just the right way to appear blue to our eyes. Canaries with a white base color and a strong **Blue Factor** mutation will appear bright blue to blue-ish gray. Weaker forms appearing more shimmery gray have the **Silver Factor**. Additionally, canaries with a yellow base color and Blue Factor mutation will appear bright green.

**Fun fact:** blue feather pigments simply don’t exist in the bird world. In fact, *every* “blue” bird you see uses this same trick of structural color to fool your eyes! Likewise, only a handful of bird species are known to produce green pigment. This means that most of the time, bright green birds are also using the blue structural color plus yellow pigment color mixing trick described above.



## **OFFICER MAKES 'RARE' DISCOVERY HIDING IN AUSSIE GRASSLANDS:**

*A search for one endangered species led to the discovery of another rare sight.*

While monitoring habitat for a critically endangered bird in NSW's south, an officer from Murray Local Land Services stumbled across some unexpected treasures from another ground-dwelling bird.

In two separate nests, clusters of large, dark green emu eggs were found, with the agency describing the discovery as "rare" and "special".

Photos of the nests were shared on social media, with the service explaining the officer was originally in the area to observe the plains-wanderer, a quail-sized bird that typically weighs between 40 and 95g.

Instead, they spotted 19 emu eggs between the two nests – with each egg weighing up to 700g.



"While out monitoring plains-wanderer habitat, our NRM Land Services Officer stumbled across not one, but two emu nests!" the post read.

"These giant ground nests are a rare and special find – just another reminder of the amazing wildlife hiding in our native landscapes.

The nests – shallow depressions in the ground lined with grass, leaves or twigs – are built by the flightless bird's males, who take on the role of incubating the eggs and guarding them from predators.

Female emus leave the nest after laying the eggs, and males take over all parental responsibilities.

While the eggs are a marvellous sight, the unguarded nests left some viewers wondering where the dad could be.



## THE PREDATOR THAT'S SET TO CLIP THE WINGS OF BRITAIN'S GROWING GREEN PARAKEET POPULATION

Britain's burgeoning parakeet population could soon have a new nemesis.

There are tens of thousands of the green birds in the UK, according to estimates, but experts claim that they will soon come under threat from goshawks.

The predators feed on pigeons, grey squirrels rats, and conservationists say they will soon be targeting parakeets.

Hazel Jackson, of the UK Centre for Hydrology and Ecology, said goshawks could possibly prey on parakeets, just as peregrine falcons do now.

She said: 'We do know that peregrines in London are predated on parakeets, and so in theory, and given the growing quantity of parakeets, there is a chance goshawks might take advantage of them as another source of food.'

Sightings of goshawks – which have a 5 ft wingspan and long talons – have increased on the edges of London in recent months, and experts say they will soon make their way to other British cities.



Goshawks are now living in cities across Europe including Berlin, Amsterdam, Riga and Moscow. In the UK, there have been sightings in Sussex, Kent and Surrey, as well as on marshes on the edges of the River Thames in London.

Conor Mark Jameson, author of *Looking for the Goshawk*, told *The Mail on Sunday* he expected them to appear in parks around cities including London, Bath, Southampton, Glasgow and Edinburgh within the next few years.

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'In my lifetime this bird has come back from extinction in the UK and now goshawks could become a feature of British cities in a matter of a few years,' he added.

'It's recovering in some of the Home Counties – Sussex in particular, Surrey and Kent – and reports in and over London appear to be increasing.

'Slowly but surely they will work their way into suburbia. There is superabundant food in the form of pigeons of all kinds, ring-necked parakeets, corvids, grey squirrels and even rats and stout trees in which to nest in large gardens, hospital grounds, cemeteries and recreation areas.'

Andy Evans, of the RSPB, said that 'with continued protections' goshawks may be as common a sight in London as they are in other cities across Europe.

*Source: Daily Mail UK*



## HOW BIRDS VOCALIZE

Parrots can scream for long periods of time. Sometimes it seems that they do not even stop to breathe. That is because they do not need to stop to breathe while screaming. Birds vocalize by controlling their trachea and an organ called the syrinx that connects their trachea to their lungs.



The larynx does not play a part in avian vocalization.

The larynx prevents the bird from choking on food and water. The syrinx looks like a box with two fleshy lips like structures, each of which leads to a lung. This allows birds to vocalize through one lung and breathe through the other lung.

Birds are actually capable of producing two sounds simultaneously, which is common in some song birds; but parrots are not particularly skilled at producing two sounds at once.

## ORANGE-BELLIED PARROTS BACK FROM IMMINENT EXTINCTION – BUT FACE NEW THREAT

One of Australia's most critically endangered bird species has started arriving at Melaleuca, in Tasmania's south-western world heritage area. Initially, six orange-bellied parrots turned up at the remote outpost to breed, having made the weeks-long flight from the mainland, across Bass Strait and down the state's wild west coast. However experts warn a windfarm in the habitat of one of Australia's most critically endangered birds could be 'rolling the dice' on their survival

Relatively little is known about where the birds go during the winter, other than that it is a hazardous journey for a bird that weighs about 40 grams. In recent years, only about half the parrots that leave Melaleuca, the species' sole wild breeding site, have returned in spring.



But there has been cause for qualified optimism. After crashing to just 17 in 2016 – a catastrophic level that included just three females and suggested imminent extinction in the wild – the population has gradually increased.

By an annual census – held at Melaleuca in December each year – it had risen to 92. It swelled to 172 at the time of the spring northern migration after breeding and the addition of captive-bred birds.

For scientists and volunteers dedicated to saving the species, the next few weeks will be a nerve-racking wait to learn how many survived – and to consider what that might mean for a future that includes the development of a contentious new windfarm on its migratory path.

The parrots' Melaleuca influx started slightly later this year, and in smaller numbers than usual. Possibly related: Tasmania has been experiencing an atypically windy and wet spring. Recently, the south-west suffered through gusts of nearly 140km/h. Annie Phillips, the manager of the Tasmanian government's orange-bellied parrot program and a trained vet, says it is unclear what effect this is having.

"The wild weather might be impacting them, but they also might use the wind to a degree to assist them, particularly if they're flying across Bass Strait," she says. "We just wait, fingers crossed."

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The species used to summer across a larger area, but the remaining birds now head to Melaleuca, gravitating to feeding tables and nesting boxes installed as supplements to the natural eucalyptus hollows they used for breeding. They are primarily ground feeders, hunting among the button grass, and live relatively close to the coast, preferring scrub and heathlands and salt marshes.

The population has been in decline since at least the 1980s. The survival rate of young parrots during migration has slumped from about one-in-two to one-in-five as numbers have dwindled. By 2020, scientists said the species could be gone within five years. But it has hung on, in part due to captive breeding programs. The most notable is at the Tasmanian government's \$2.5m Five Mile Beach captive management facility outside Hobart, which was developed five years ago.

Mark Holdsworth, an ornithologist and orange-bellied parrot expert, says captive breeding programs have been a clear success. "If we stopped releasing birds, the population is likely to decline quite rapidly," he says.

There are several major challenges in rebuilding the population to the "several hundred" that Phillips says could be a sustainable level. The remaining parrots are drawn from a reduced gene pool, increasing the risk of a disease outbreak having a species-wide impact. Researchers have a relatively limited understanding of the threats that they face after they leave Melaleuca. But they largely agree the risk could increase with the construction of the Robbins Island windfarm, which the federal environment minister, Murray Watt, approved in August. The renewable energy company Acen Australia plans to build about 100 turbines, with a maximum blade height of 212 metres, on the nearly 10,000 hectare island

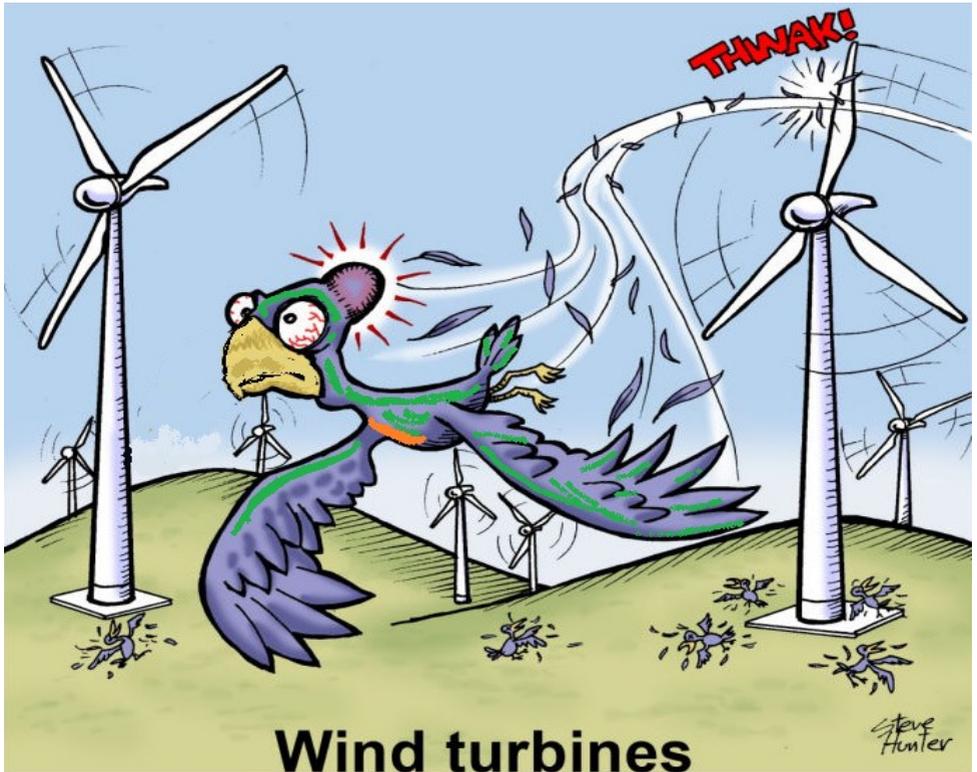
It is a remarkable place: one of Australia's best potential wind energy sites at a time when the country needs as much renewable energy as it can get, but also an internationally important site for a long list of bird species.



In 2022, the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority found operating a windfarm on the island while orange-bellied parrots were migrating would be at odds with the species' national recovery plan that was signed off by the federal and state governments, and ruled the development could go ahead only if it shut for five months each year. That decision was later overturned by the state's planning appeals tribunal.

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## Wind turbines

clearing our skies of toxic birds since 1980

In his federal approval, Watt rejected the EPA position, but required Acen to carry out three years of parrot monitoring before construction and develop a bird and bat management plan – a standard requirement for windfarm operators – that could lead to the “curtailment or shutdown of all or some turbines” at certain times. His decision has been opposed by Birdlife Australia, which said the island should be a no-go zone, and sharply criticised by some environment groups and Tasmanian Greens MPs.

Holdsworth says the farm’s approval is “deeply troubling”, and believes authorities are “rolling the dice” on the parrot’s survival while also funding its attempted recovery. He believes a monitoring program would need to run for between 10 and 20 years to give a clear picture of the species’ flight path, but agrees with [other scientists](#) that there is evidence that orange-bellied parrots cross the island.

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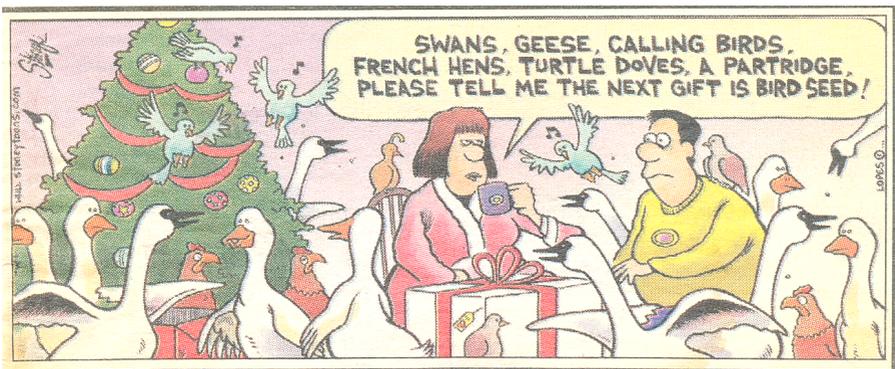
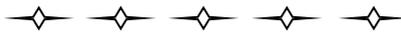
While detection technology exists that can lead to windfarms slowing speed or shutting down to limit the risk to some species, Holdsworth says it is “nonsense” to think it can work for such a small bird. “If a 40-gram bird crashes into a turbine you are never going to find it, so you’re never going to know,” he says. “The commonwealth has seriously failed in its duty of care for threatened species in this case.”

Acen says it is confident the risk to birds can be managed and it has adjusted its plans to address concerns, including reducing the number of turbines by 20%. It argues the farm’s approval after eight years of development shows it can balance “overall impacts and conserving biodiversity with the need for clean energy to address climate change”. The farm is expected to start operating in 2030.

For now, the population of the bird remains so low that even a fleeting glimpse is cherished by those who care for it. Debbie Lustig, a writer and volunteer who runs the group Save the Orange-bellied Parrot, was stunned last month when she was out looking for the species at the Western Treatment Plant, west of Melbourne, and stumbled on 10 birds in one spot.

For a few minutes, she was by herself, watching a collection of parrots feeding on the seeds of a samphire bush. “It was very early morning, and it was very cold, and they were just chattering about like this is a normal thing,” she says.

“It was quite surreal. I just had 10 minutes on my own before someone else came along. It was only later that I realised I’d had this precious moment alone with around 10% of the species’ entire population.”



## LYREBIRD RELATIVE FOSSIL FOUND IN QUEENSLAND

A GROUNDBREAKING fossil has been discovered at one of the most significant sites in the world — an extinct species of 17-18 million-years-old bird with strong ties to Australia’s most iconic species of songbird. Riversleigh in north-west Queensland is one of the world’s premier fossil sites — its exceptional remains of mammals, birds and reptiles, 25-15 million years old, help scientists to understand Australia’s evolution and its natural history.

According to the Australian Fossil Mammal Sites World Heritage Area it ranks among the top ten fossil sites worldwide:

“As one of the four most significant fossil sites in the world Riversleigh has revealed hundreds of extraordinary extinct species that were challenged by previous cycles of climate change.”

So it may come as no surprise that another treasure has surfaced with insights into Australia’s rich past.

The Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation recently announced that the remains of an extinct species of a ground-dwelling bird that walked the Earth millions of years ago show how deep the roots of Australia’s unique songbirds run.

The wrist bone discovered at Boodjamulla National Park belonged to a large, earthbound close relative of lyrebirds that are known for their extraordinary vocal abilities and elaborate tail feathers.

Previous evidence from Riversleigh has placed lyrebirds in Australia for millions of years, making the newly-identified *Menura tyawanoides* even more significant for Australia’s natural history due to their familial relationship.

But beyond its existence as a large terrestrial bird with a limited capacity for flight the *Menura* fits into a rare category of birds like ostriches and penguins that stay grounded rather than taking off into the skies.

Much like lyrebirds, they appeared to have the capacity to fly but only for short distances.



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They would have instead lived in the dense understory of ancient low-land tropical rainforests, bringing Australia's prehistoric environment back to vivid life.

Professor Mike Archer from the University of New South Wales described the stunning environment where the bird fossil was found with its signature emerald-green waters and towering sandstone cliffs and diverse living wildlife.

The discovery highlights a splendid location on Earth and therefore the importance of protecting the world's wonders, brimming with natural history and insights into addressing climate change.

The *Menura tyawanoides* and the entire fossil record at the park hold valuable information about today's ecosystems, how they are likely to change in the future and what they can do to avoid extinctions driven by climate change which is threatening animals in Australia.

"We are dedicated to protecting and preserving this protected area for generations to come," the Queensland Government said.

"The Riversleigh section of the World Heritage Area is a wonderfully fossil-rich window into Australia's past, offering an unparalleled glimpse into ecosystems that existed millions of years ago."



## **NORWAY AND SWEDEN FIGHTING OVER GOOSE**

Swedish conservationists have expressed outrage after the Norwegian authorities put a contract on the head of an endangered lesser white-fronted goose that had strayed north over their border.

Sweden is trying to revive an endangered Arctic population of the birds. But Norwegian authorities say these geese encourages their own birds to migrate in a different direction for winter and could cause huge losses among the Norwegian birds.



So far the infiltrator has escaped death.



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## RARE BIRD RETURNS AFTER CENTURIES-LONG ABSENCE:

For the first time in England in over 200 years, white-tailed eagles have raised new young — three fledglings across two nests, according to the BBC, one from a nest in Dorset, and another in Sussex.

After being hunted to the point of extinction in the country more than two centuries ago, it's possible that these birds of prey are back on the rise. The United Kingdom's 2019 reintroduction project may be partly responsible, with six white-tailed eagle chicks — originally brought in from Scotland — having fledged since the program's inception.



All fledglings have been satellite-tagged in order for wildlife experts to monitor the health, activity, and population status of the species. The tagging system also enables Forestry England officers to pair up the birds for breeding when they come of age — many of which breed more than once.

As of August, Forestry England has accounted for the monitored release of 45 white-tailed eagles. So far, 2025 has proven a "record year" for this species, per the BBC, with three newly fledged chicks and eight young birds released in total.

Although the restoration process is a gradual one for these iconic birds, their return is a sign of the recovery of their ecosystem. Nurturing biodiversity in any region is essential in protecting the native plants and animals local to the area and drawing in the pollinator species that safeguard and enrich our food supply.

In spite of the human activities that once brought about the extinction of white-tailed eagles in England — from excessive poaching to agricultural pesticide application — the species is ready to make a comeback along with its environment.

"It will take some years before the population is fully restored," Roy Dennis, a conservationist told the BBC, "but the progress made over the last year has been incredibly encouraging."

"We have been patiently monitoring these [white-tailed eagle] nests for many months and hoping they would be successful," noted one Forestry England officer. "It is always such an exciting time."

## FIRST CATCH YOUR COCKATOO.

An Australian Christmas theme. We have heard of Ludwig Leichhardt before on his overland expedition across the continent. Ludwig was very mindful of maintaining morale amongst his men, and always attempted to mark special days, no matter how difficult the circumstances.

In 1844 he wrote:

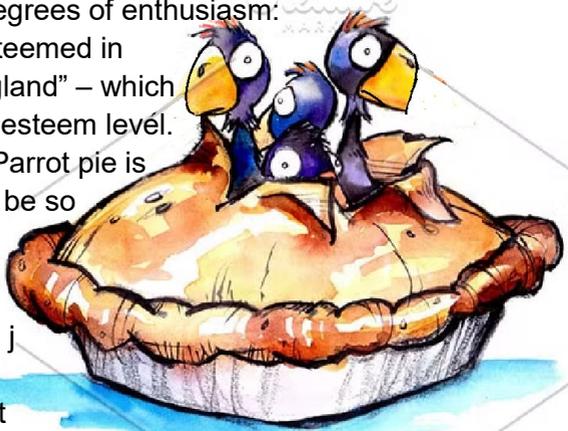
*Our meat was all consumed; but we wished to reserve our bullocks for Christmas, which was, in every one of us, so intimately associated with recollections of happy days and merriment, that I was determined to make the coming season as merry as our circumstances permitted.*

A few days later, he decided to take advantage of the good weather and killed the beast early. While the flesh was drying, he and several of his party went off on a reconnoitring expedition.

When they returned on Christmas Day his companions were just sitting down to their Christmas dinner of “suet pudding and stewed cockatoos”.

Parrots and cockatoos were a common bush food for early explorers and settlers, with varying degrees of enthusiasm:

“Parrot-pie is as much esteemed in Australia as rook-pie in England” – which gives you some idea of the esteem level. More likely it was felt that “Parrot pie is pretty good; at least, it may be so when other animal food is scarce”.



Parrot stew became a bush joke, with many variations of the recipe - “take a parrot and an axe-head, boil them until the axe-head is tender, throw the parrot away and eat the axe-head.”

Very oddly, later editions of Mrs. Beeton (after her death in 1869) had chapters on “General Observations on Australian Cookery”, no doubt on the assumption that copies would be taken to the colonies, which they were.

The following is the recipe for Parrot Pie.

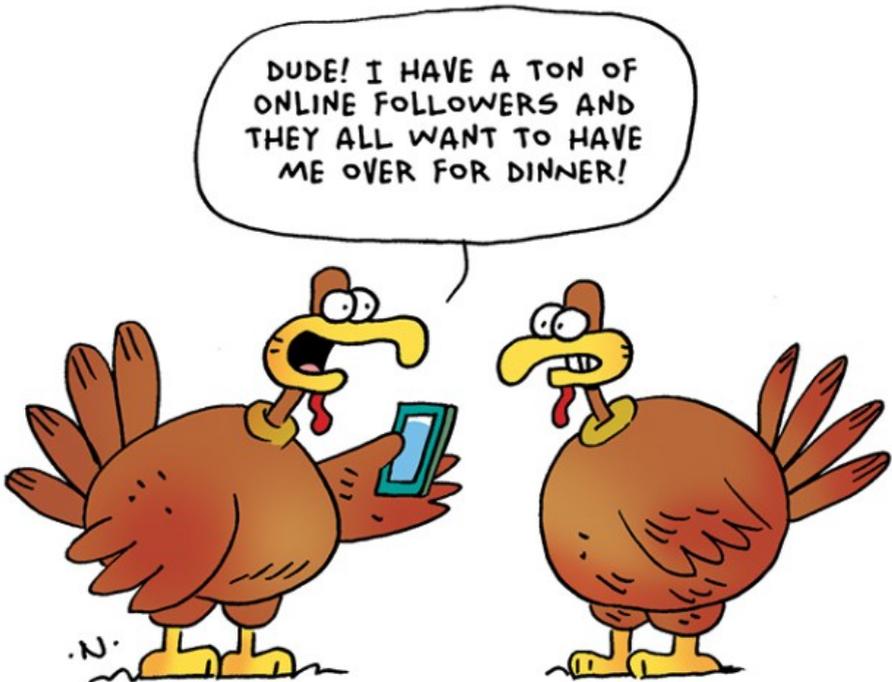
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## **Parrot Pie**

*Ingredients: 1 doz. paraqueets, a few slices of beef (underdone cold beef is best for this purpose), 4 rashers of bacon, 3 hard-boiled eggs, minced parsley and lemon peel, pepper and salt, stock, puff-pastry.*

*Mode: Line a pie-dish with the beef cut into slices, over them place 6 of the paraqueets, dredge with flour, fill up the spaces with the egg cut in slices and scatter over the seasoning. Next put in the bacon, cut in small strips, then 6 paraqueets and fill up with the beef, seasoning all well. Pour in stock or water to nearly fill the dish, cover with puff-pastry and bake for one hour*



## AUSTRALIAN BIRD OF THE YEAR 2025



The Australian Bird of the Year is a biennial poll run by BirdLife Australia and Guardian Australia, where the public votes for their favourite bird.

In 2025, over **310,000 votes** were cast, showcasing the popularity and diversity of Australian birdlife.

Equal parts strange and endearing, the Tawny Frogmouth seems to have struck a cultural chord. With their big eyes, downturned beak and perpetually surprised faces, they've become an online favourite – part of a broader celebration of the weirdly cute (think Labubu).

The Tawny Frogmouth's victory is particularly notable as it had previously placed as a runnerup in the 2019, 2021, and 2023 competitions. This year it finally secured the top spot, reflecting its growing popularity among bird enthusiasts and the general public.

The competition not only celebrates the beauty of Australian birds but also raises awareness about bird conservation and the challenges faced by various species in their natural habitats. The Tawny Frogmouth's win highlights the importance of preserving diverse wildlife in Australia. §

## H5N1 BIRD FLU STATUS

**H5N1** bird flu was discovered in China in 1996 and like **H7**, it spreads from migrating wild birds to poultry. In 2022, **H5N1** mutated and spread quickly across the globe, infecting not just tens of thousands of seals and hundreds of thousands of wild birds, but also dairy herds in the United States, and was reported in sheep in the United Kingdom.



Since **2022**, Australia is the only continent not to have reported an outbreak of **H5N1 bird flu**. The only confirmed human case of **H5N1** in Australia occurred in a returned overseas traveler in 2024. However, the risk of **H5N1** infecting Australian birds and mammals is elevated with the arrival of millions of birds in their spring migration., .

Michelle Wille from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza at the Doherty Institute, which tracks migratory birds, warned that the virus was only one mutation away from pandemic potential.

*"This H5 virus has proven difficult to control. H7 tends to stick to chickens like glue and we can cull all the chickens and stop the outbreak in its tracks," Dr Wille said. "But this H5 virus is circulating in everything, not just chickens, but also wild birds, dairy cattle and also marine mammals. So our traditional approaches of control are failing quite miserably. This **H5N1** arriving to Australia is going to happen. I can't tell you when, and I can't tell you by which route, but I think it's almost certainly going to happen".*

To protect Australia's \$70 billion agricultural industry from avian influenza, the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is investing more than \$100 million to increase preparedness and response capability.

Carol Booth from the Invasive Species Council said the virus could have a catastrophic impact on native species.

*"We only need to look to South America to see what we could face in Australia. "It arrived in South America in late 2022, and within a few months, it wiped out at least 650,000 wild birds, tens of thousands of mammals. "They lost something like 40 per cent of Peru's pelicans, 95 per cent of the elephant seal pups in Argentina. So, the potential for large-scale deaths is high," she said.*

# 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)

## 2026 RING ORDERS

Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2026, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment, will vary.

Orders for the second consolidation of **2026 rings**  
[if required for distribution at the specialist annual shows at the end of May]  
should be finalised by the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026, ETA late April.

*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.*

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