



# FEATHERED WORLD

CANARY AND CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.



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- ◆ Birdlife Campaign Against Rat Poison
- ◆ World's Easiest Egg Food

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VOLUME 58 NUMBER 1  
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# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

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

*Feathered  
World*

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Published bimonthly.

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Ron Robertson  
Bob Barnes  
Jamie Norriss

- The editor welcomes contributions, but retains the right to amend articles and reports accordingly.
- The opinions expressed by the authors are their own and not necessarily those of Federation or the editor.
- Articles may be copied from *Feathered World* Magazine, providing the author and magazine are acknowledged appropriately.

# Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.

## MEETING DATES 2026

**General Meetings** 3rd June

**AGM** 4th March 2026

**Meeting commences at 8:00 pm**

**NOTE: All meetings will be by Zoom only unless otherwise advised**

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

# NOTICE

It has been agreed that as there is no longer a hard copy of Feathered World, we should discontinue printing the directory in the Feb – March issue.

It will now be replaced in all issues with the online links below in the Table of Contents, for both the Clubs Directory and Clubs Events

**CLUBS DIRECTORY** : <https://ccbfa.org.au/clubs>

**CLUBS EVENTS** : <https://ccbfa.org.au/events>



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

MINUTES of the A.G.M. Zoom Meeting held on Wednesday

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

The President Bob Barnes opened the meeting at 8:10 p.m. welcoming the delegates and thanking them for their attendance,

### **ATTENDANCE:**

There were 16 delegates in attendance, namely B. Barnes, R. Robertson, C. Gruntar, B. Wright, M. Cameron, M. Gallagher, M. MacPherson, B. Read, J. Tadgell, B. Kerr, J. Forrest, B. Whiting, M. Lewis, R. Law, J. Norriss, P. Haramis.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from, C. Isbister, J. Walsh, N. Love, – moved B. Whiting Seconded J. Tadgell apologies be accepted - Carried.

### **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the CCBFA AGM held Wednesday 5th March 2025, previously published in Feathered World, were displayed for viewing. As there were no matters arising from these minutes, they were adopted on a motion moved by J. Tadgell and seconded by C. Gruntar as a true record of the 2025 AGM – Carried

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

NSW Fair Trading. Lodging Annual Return for 2024.

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

### **SECRETARY REPORT:**

The secretary Ron Robertson gave his report for the year 2025. He expressed his appreciation to all clubs for their communication throughout the year and all fellow committee members and Delegates for their ongoing support and attendance. Expressing

thanks, and appreciation to the Editor of *Feathered World*, Jamie Norriss and to equipment coordinator John Walsh for the handling of show stationery orders and auditor Greg Davie. Also extending special thanks to President Bob Barnes for his communication in assisting his role. And thanking Vice Presidents C. Isbister and Andrew Christodoulou.

Moved R. Law seconded C. Gruntar that the Secretary's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

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### **TREASURER REPORT:**

The financial statements were screened with the treasurer giving an analysis of the income and expenditure. The financial position was sound. Moved B. Barnes seconded, B. Kerr

that the Treasurer's report be received and endorsed - Carried.

### **AUDITOR REPORT:**

The secretary referred to the auditor statement on the financial statement, stating he had verified the Financial Statements and in his opinion the Financial Statements represented a true and accurate record as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. It was moved by.

B. Barnes and seconded B. Kerr that the Audit Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

### **FEATHERED WORLD REPORT:**

The Secretary expressed thanks and appreciation to the editor Jamie Norris for his dedication and presentation of the publication.

### **PRESIDENT REPORT:**

The President endorsed the comments of the Secretary and thanked all Office Bearers and Committee Delegates for their contributions throughout the year and the delegates for their attendance. He reiterated his concerns and sought others to come forward and accept positions and to assist the Secretary Treasurer.

Moved by J. Norriss and seconded by C. Gruntar that the President's Report be accepted and endorsed - Carried.

### **HONORARIUMS:**

The President moved that the honorariums for 2026 remain the same as for 2025.

– Moved B. Kerr and seconded J. Tadjell - Carried.

This concluded with the business of the AGM. The President remained in the chair calling to conduct the election of office bearers for 2026.

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The election of office bearers being as follows:

**President:** Bob Barnes.

**Vice Presidents:** C. Isbister.

**Secretary / Treasurer / Ring Officer, Public Officer, Minutes Secretary,**

**Insurance Officer:** R. Robertson

**Equipment Officer:** John Walsh.

**Government Liaison Representatives:** Bob Barnes & B. Read.

**COM Delegates:** Dalibor Maslan and Secretary

**Auditor:** Greg Davie

**Management Committee:** President, Secretary, Vice Presidents, J. Walsh.  
R. Law, M. Lewis & B. Kerr.

**Web master:** The web host Shane Gowland

**Web updates administrator Clubs:** R. Robertson E. [cbfa@aapt.net.au](mailto:cbfa@aapt.net.au)

**Web updates administrator Events:** M. McKenzie E. [clubs@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:clubs@ccbfa.org.au)

**Face Book Administrator:** P. Haramis.

**GoH Selection Committee:** President, Secretary, J. Walsh, C. Isbister.

**Guest of Honour Dinner coordinators:** C. Gruntar and J. Walker

**Feathered World Editor:** Jamie Norriss

**Feathered World Committee Member:** J. Norriss, R. Robertson, B. Barnes.

The Feathered World is to be prepared bi-monthly in February / March,  
April / May, June / July, August / September and October / November.

This concluded the election of office bearers; the President thanked the  
office bearers for accepting their positions, commenced the March General  
Meeting..

The following motions were put forward to the meeting by the Secretary / Treasurer  
R. Robertson and seconded by J. Walsh.

**Authority to move funds between Westpac Federation accounts:**

Authority is given to the President and Secretary / Treasurer to move  
funds to or from the cheque trading account and the Term Deposit.

The motion being put to the meeting by R. Robertson and seconded by  
B. Read was carried.

**THE NEXT FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**will be held at 8:00 pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2027**

**President Robert Barnes**

**Secretary / Treasurer Ronald Robertson**

## **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.

# THE CANARY & CAGE BIRD FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING  
held Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The President opened the meeting at 9:15 pm, following the conclusion of the AGM.

**ATTENDANCE and APOLOGIES:** As per the AGM.

The minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 General Meeting of Federation previously published in Feathered World, were displayed for viewing, It was moved J. Forrest seconded M. Gallagher that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the November 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 completed Event Risk Assessments, Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. The Avicultural Society of the Central Coast Inc. Mornington Peninsula Avicultural Society Inc. Rockhampton Finch and Parrot Social Club Inc.
- Affiliated clubs, receipt of ring orders for 2026.
- Insurance Broker, CGU underwriter as previously recorded in the GM of March 2025, a new requirement advising an estimate of the largest number of attendees that each club could expect at any single event. **Only on receipt of your notification of the estimate numbers of attendees will the insurance certificate be issued.** If you exceed the thresholds of 500 people or the event is run over more than 1 day, an Event Risk Management plan will be required. **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**
- The Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. Nominating Greg Gingell for consideration for the Guest of Honour Roll.

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- CONFEDERATION ORNITHOLOGIQUE MONDIALE, abbreviated as C.O.M. advising detail of the world show to be held in Belgium from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 18 January 2026 “BELGIAN BIRD MONDIAL: also update to C.O.M. Constitution and the issue and acceptable material for rings.
- North QLD Game Club. Application for affiliation and insurance, together with payment.
- Marsh Insurance, advising, it should be noted that CGU has agreed to accept the risk assessments submitted for past events. However, they have requested that the clubs evaluate any new risks identified or observed for events scheduled in the 2026 period and provide an updated copy should there be any variations to previous versions.
- Panorama House Terms and Condition (GoH luncheon) contract to be completed agreeing to the terms and returning with a deposit of \$1000.00, to confirm the booking. Other terms noted.
- The Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. On behalf of all the Specialist Canary Clubs of NSW requesting \$1,000.00 assistance to support “The All-Breeds Canary Championship Show which will be held in Wollongong on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026. The show is not only for NSW clubs, but invitations being also sent to other States.

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

- ANBC Budgerigar Gazettes
- Downs Bird Breeders Association Inc. Newsletter Feb’26
- PET Industry News. Nov/Dec’25 March’26
- Central Coast Avicultural Society. Newsletter Nov’25 & Jan’ & Feb’26
- Shoalhaven Avicultural Society Inc. Bird Tales Dec’25, Jan & Feb’26
- Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. Finch Fancier Dec’25 & Feb & March’26
- Coral Coast Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Chitterings Dec’25-Jan & Feb’26
- Thuringowa Bird Club Inc. Newsletter Winglet March’26
- The Avicultural Society of NSW Inc Nov’25 & Jan/Feb’26
- FSA The Finch Breeders REVIEW Nov – Dec’25 & Jan-Feb’26
- Gold Coast Aviary Birds News Jan/Feb’26
- District Poultry Society Inc., Queensland Council of Bird Societies Inc.

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

- Invoicing all affiliates for affiliation and insurance for 2026, attaching covering letter detailing the policy requirement, together with a separate note requesting notification of their 2026 show, sales, auctions and convention dates. On receipt of payment and requested details forwarding the electronic copy of their CoC and covering letter.
- Affiliated clubs' assistance with insurance matters requesting information, forwarding amended certificates to those requesting.
- Event Risk Assessment Template emailed to the following affiliates: Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. The Avicultural Society of The Central Coast Inc.; Rockhampton Finch & Parrot Social Club Inc. South Queensland Budgerigar Breeders Association Inc. LMZ is hosting the Zebra Finch National Show, Towers Birdkeepers Inc. hosting the 35<sup>th</sup> Avian Conference in 2026.
- Affiliated Clubs, issuing amended CoC's following receipt of an Event Risk Assessment; Hunter Valley Finch Club Inc. The Avicultural Society of the Central Coast Inc. Mornington Peninsula Avicultural Society Inc. Rockhampton Finch and Parrot Social Club Inc.
- Ashfield RSL advising cancellation of ANZAC Room meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- Various affiliates, numerous emails, texts and phone calls following up payment for their affiliation and insurance for 2026.
- Various affiliates numerous emails, texts and phone calls following up the requirement stated in the correspondence sent with the renewal invoices, requested by the insurance underwriters for affiliates to advise "the largest number of attendees that the club could expect at any single event"
- Feathered World Advertisers, invoices sent for the calendar year, since paid.
- Notification to the insurance brokers of the cancellation of insurance cover for the following five affiliates: - Australian National Pekins Club, Budgerigar Improvement Society of NSW Inc. Coastal Racing Pigeon Club Inc., Oakleigh

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

Moved R. Law and seconded B. Barnes that application for affiliation and insurance be accepted for North QLD Game Club.

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

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The accounts were submitted for endorsement.

It was moved by J. Forrest and seconded by B. Barnes that the payments and the Treasurers' actions be endorsed excluding the GoH luncheon deposit, until the details are finalized - Carried.

**REPORTS:** No reports were tabled.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- The Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. On behalf of all the Specialist Canary Clubs of NSW requesting \$1,000.00 assistance to support "The All-Breeds Canary Championship Show" A discussion was initiated on concluding the acceptance motion of correspondence. The Secretary was asked what the Federation funds were held for. In reply the Secretary stated that they were held as a "fighting fund" should there ever be the requirement of a legal matter and added the funds were forth coming from all affiliation fees from all affiliates, past and present. The Secretary furthered advised the meeting that in 2013 when the "Sydney National Committee" requested funds, the then President asked for a detailed proposal with figures and stated that he was concerned that other avian species affiliated with Federation, could be justified in applying for funding, which would be a financial burden on Federation funds, if nationals were all on an annual basis by several specialist groups. The then president again stated that much more thought and detail would need to be documented to consider all affiliates and all species. The secretary mentioned that in 2025 we were approached to contribute to State junior poultry show which was rejected. After comments from a number of delegates, B. Read past a motion that Federation would not sponsor any organisation event grants which was seconded by M. MacPherson. :-carried

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- **2026 Ring Orders.** Supplementary orders will be ongoing during 2026, however delivery time frame and cost for transshipment will vary.
- **RAS Update RAS** – Greg Davie has advised entries closed 11<sup>th</sup> February, the show dates for the Cage Bird show at the 2026 Royal Easter Show will be Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Benching will be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> from 6pm, and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> from 6am to 8am. Judging 9<sup>th</sup> April. Total entries are 455 across 39 exhibitor, Love birds – 89, Budgie – 53, Canary – 88, Finch – 132, Parrot – 93.
- **Show and Sale dates for 2026** – The web has been updated with all the show, sales and auction dates advised to the Secretary when returning the requested clubs completed office bearers information, including event details and estimate number of attendees. Clubs are requested to email **Matt McKenzie any updates** to that recorded Email [clubs@ccbfa.org.au](mailto:clubs@ccbfa.org.au)
- **Update of Club Office Bearer's**, as stated in the correspondence which accompanied the invoice for the renewal of affiliation and insurance. CCBFA is legally required to maintain an updated record of all clubs' office bearers and the club's official postal and email address. Any club who has not completed and returned the form to the secretary should do so to endorse the clubs legal obligation. **The Underwriters have stated for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership**, by maintaining a membership register and individual membership forms.
- **INSURANCE.** Requirement for CCBFA and clubs to maintain proof of membership, by maintaining a 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 off 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, a event risk management plan would be required in due course for the event to be covered and a amended / endorsed certificate will be issued..

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- **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.*
  - ◇ *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.**

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- **GUEST OF HONOUR DINNER:** Panorama House, Bulli Tops, John Walker has made a tentative booking with the same menu as last year for 25<sup>th</sup> July. ( Two course buffet, including beer, wine, soft drink, tea and coffee, cost \$75.00) After comments from a number of delegates it was agreed that we should consider another venue. The president was asked to follow up with John Walker, and the secretary was requested to withhold payment to Panorama House, until after the president had communicated with John. The Secretary also suggested and moved a motion that in an endeavor to take work load off the Sec / Treasurer that the clubs who have nominated the guests be responsible for and take complete responsibility for receiving the attendees' monies into their clubs bank account and maintaining the registration of attendance, and that the clubs who have nominated the guests be responsible, should there be a short fall in in obtaining the minimum number required by the venue. B. Whiting stated that as it was a Federation's Guest of Honour not the Border Clubs Guest of Honour event, any shortfall in costs be carried by Federation. After brief discussion by delegates, R. Law moved an amendment to original motion that clubs be given notice that from 2027 onwards that the Guest of Honour dinner only go ahead if there are two nominees, to enable sufficient attendees to meet the minimum number required by a venue, the motion was seconded by R. Robertson: - carried.

The nominations received for Guest of Honour to be addressed by the GoH selection committee for the 2026 luncheon.

The President B. Barnes 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 9:45 p.m.

### **Notice of the next General Meeting, Zoom only**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Meeting commences at 8:00 pm



# *Canary & Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc.*

## Secretary's Report 2025- AGM 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Fellow delegates,

I express my thanks to all affiliate clubs, secretaries, treasurers and ring secretaries for their co-operation throughout the year. It is encouraging to have the majority of clubs making payments by EFT and DD. The timely replies and attention to payments together with additional information has been appreciated.

To those who I have had the opportunity to speak with, it is always enjoyable to catch up.

As I have previously mentioned to some, the Public Liability insurance renewal processes is always challenging, relying on the broker to be proactive in dealing with the underwriter. The underwriter this year required additional detail before the insurance certificates were to be issued, which initiated additional reporting and accountability. This year we have 247 affiliated of which 245 clubs are insured after gaining 11 and the closure or cancellation of 16 clubs.

We continue to have an ongoing good personal relationship with our ring suppliers. Placing ring orders in 2025 for 47,000 rings and having to date placed orders of 53,000 for 2026, with supplementary orders to follow.

CONFEDERATION ORNITHOLOGIQUE MONDIALE (C.O.M) Important and pleasing that we continue our affiliation with the C.O.M, being acknowledged internationally as the Australian peak avicultural organisation.

To our President Bob Barnes, although it has not been a good year for you, health wise, your communication is appreciated, also thanks to Vice Presidents Colin Isbister and Andrew Christodoulou. It is personally disappointing to see Andrew take a break from our hobby, as I believe he had a lot to contribute.

We express our thanks and appreciation to the Editor of *Feathered World*, Jamie Norriss for his preparation and production of the magazine and to equipment coordinator John Walsh for the handling of show stationery orders.

Also, to our auditor Greg Davie again our thanks and appreciation for the task performed.

It was pleasing to have our Federation dinner luncheon again in 2025 honouring the President Bob Barnes and Vice President Colin Isbister, at the Panorama House at Bulli Tops, held in conjunction with the Border Fancy Canary Club of Australia Inc. celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> Young Bird Show Anniversary. All who attended were impressed with the venue and the menu. A special thank you to John Walker for making all the arrangements.

Thank you once again to all for your continued support.

Ron Robertson 4th March 2026



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## PARROTS SEPARATED FOR SWEARING AT VISITORS AND LAUGHING TOGETHER

When you and your friends get together and suddenly everyone becomes a bad influence



Meet Billy, Eric, Tyson, Jade, and Elsie - the feathered troublemakers who turned a British wildlife sanctuary into the world's most entertaining (and inappropriate) comedy show.

These five African gray parrots were put in quarantine together at Lincolnshire Wildlife Centre and immediately became the worst influence on each other. They discovered that dropping F-bombs at visitors got hilarious reactions, so they just..kept going.

"When a parrot tells you to 'f\*\*\* off' it amuses people very highly," said the zoo's chief executive. "It's brought a big smile to a really hard year."

The problem? They were encouraging each other like a group of teenagers who just learned their first curse word. One would swear, another would laugh, and the cycle continued until staff realized they had created a five-bird comedy roast session.

While visitors found it hilarious (zero complaints!), staff had to separate the gang before they corrupted the other 195 parrots. Imagine explaining to parents why their kid's first words from the "educational" zoo trip were... well, not exactly educational.

Sometimes the most wholesome places create the most chaotic friendships!

## TENNESSEE TRIUMPHS AND AUSSIE ROOTS: JUDGING THE US NATIONAL

By Sami Rayess

It was a massive honour to recently travel to the United States to judge at the National Bird Cage Show in Tennessee. For those who don't know, this is the big one—the largest show in the United States of America—and the atmosphere was absolutely electric.

One of the real highlights of the trip was the social side of things. It was brilliant to finally put faces to names, meeting judges and breeders from all different parts of the world. I also got the chance to catch up with a few mates I've known for years over Facebook but had never actually met in the flesh. There's nothing quite like talking birds over a drink with friends you've only ever typed messages to!



### A Feast for the Eyes: Rare Varieties

As a judge, you think you've seen it all, but this show offered some varieties that we simply don't get back home in Australia. It was a privilege to judge types I'd previously only ever admired in photos on the internet.

I had the opportunity to run my eye over several distinct breeds, including:

- The Colombo's Canary
- The Japanese Hoso
- The Raza Española
- The Portuguese Harlequin Canary

Seeing these birds up close was a fantastic experience and gave me a new appreciation for the diversity in the fancy globally. *Continued next page.....*

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## **The Yorkshire Division: Aussie Bloodlines on Top**

While the rare breeds were fascinating, the biggest type in my division was the Yorkshire, with a solid benching of 75 birds shared between five exhibitors

The competition was interesting. While there were certainly some nice birds on the bench, generally speaking, a fair few were lacking in that crucial position and feather quality we look for. However, the top end of the lineup was a completely different story.

The best seven Yorkies all belonged to the same exhibitor, and they were absolutely outstanding birds—you couldn't fault them.

What made this win particularly special for me was the history behind the birds. It turns out this exhibitor imported his original stock from Australia about 15 years ago, sourced directly from Ian Mesley. It was a proud moment to see that Australian genetics and bloodlines are not only surviving but dominating on the US show bench a decade and a half later.

## **A Whirlwind Trip**

It was a quick turnaround, to say the least. The whole trip lasted just seven days, and when you factor in that I spent two of those days sitting in a plane crossing the Pacific, it was a bit of a whirlwind!

Despite the jet lag and the tight schedule, it was a fantastic experience to see how the Americans do it and to see Ian Mesley's legacy alive and well in the United States of America.



## WE MAY FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY BIRDS BURST INTO SONG AT DAWN

Dawn is beckoned by choruses of birds all around the world, but we still don't understand why our avian neighbours insist on such a morning ruckus.

A new study, yet to be peer reviewed, explores this behavior in captive zebra finches ([\*Taeniopygia guttata\*](#)), finding that the intensity of their singing could be driven by the hours of build-up in anticipation of sunrise.

In a well-lit lab, male zebra finches spontaneously sing hundreds of songs, but in complete darkness, they utter not a single peep. This had researchers wondering how the interplay between night and day affects the dawn chorus.

When sunrise was artificially delayed by three hours by keeping the lights off for longer in experiments, the rate of the finches' singing intensified and commenced sooner compared with non-delayed sunrises, as if they were impatient for the day to begin.



Holding off on dawn's light for a few hours didn't give the birds a sleep-in: They were up at their regular time, moving around actively in the dark while suppressing their song.

Their impatience was further confirmed by offering them access to a switch that triggered 10 seconds of early light. Given this opportunity, the birds in the delayed 'dawn' setup frequently turned on the light, which is not something the birds did when dawn arrived earlier than usual.

"Birds wake up in the dark long before dawn, likely through the hormonal mechanisms associated with melatonin, and their intrinsic motivation to sing increases while spontaneous singing is being suppressed by the darkness," [writes](#) the team led by biologist Ednei Barros dos Santos of the Korea Brain Research Institute.

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This kind of intense morning song may help birds warm up their vocals after an overnight rest, to quickly hone their performance and improve chances of reproductive success during the day.

"Since a vocal exercise function has been proposed for the dawn chorus in wild songbirds as well, we propose that these mechanisms and function may be applicable, at least in part, to the dawn chorus generally observed in wild birds," the team [writes](#).

Source: This pre-print was posted on [bioRxiv](#).



[amazon.com/author/rexajones](https://amazon.com/author/rexajones)  
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"No, Dad isn't wearing a pink shirt to raise awareness about breast cancer. He helped with the laundry again."

## RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO: A SIGN OF HOPE IN THE WIMMERA

*Conservation partnerships, traditional owner guidance and years of planting are bringing wildlife back to a protected reserve in Victoria's Wimmera region*



The silhouette of a flock of south-eastern red-tailed black cockatoos cutting across the Wimmera sky was probably once a more common sight. But for decades, these [endangered](#) birds have struggled to find the stringybark and slow-growing buloke trees that sustain them.

It was read as a sign of hope, then, when they were spotted feeding on the stringybark revegetation in Bank Australia's [conservation reserve](#) on Wotjobaluk Country in western Victoria. Spread across four properties outside Horsham, the 2,117-hectare reserve is the home of a long-term effort to restore native plants and provide habitat for native animals.

### ***Caring for country, culture and community***

The customer-owned Bank Australia acquired the first of the four properties in 2008, as a practical step towards acting on customers' concerns about climate change and the protection of nature. The reserve has been managed in partnership with not-for-profit conservation organisations including Greening Australia. Its management is now led by Trust for Nature, in collaboration with traditional owners from the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, and Jupagulk peoples, represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC).

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With the help of the [BGLC](#) and the Country Fire Authority, the traditional land-care strategy of cultural burning has been reintroduced. These cool, low-intensity fires eliminate invasive weeds, encourage the growth of native grasses and reshape habitats to support native animal life.

Conservationists, ecologists, community groups and schools have also participated in the project since its inception.

### ***Signs of hope***

The restoration efforts are showing signs of success, demonstrated by the results of a biodiversity survey conducted in 2022-23. Red-tailed black cockatoos were among [283](#) native animal species identified in the survey, up from 229 recorded in a survey five years earlier. Among those most recently counted were nine threatened animal species, including the Australasian bittern.

The diversity and abundance of bird populations is another sign that ecosystems are recovering, signalling the abundance of available food and shelter; [113](#) bird species were detected in the 2023 survey, including 22 recorded for the first time on the reserve.

### ***Commitment for the long term***

As well as continuing restoration efforts, it's equally important to protect the reserve's older, original vegetation, the survey says. The remnant woodlands have greater structural complexity, and lots of tree hollows, providing vital shelter and protection for small animals.

With tree canopies reaching maturity, efforts can now be focused on promoting greater diversity on the forest floor, improving habitat availability for invertebrates, reptiles and other ground-dwelling species.



## **BUMBLEFOOT IN BIRDS – CAUSES & TREATMENT GUIDE**

Bumblefoot (avian pododermatitis) is an inflammatory and sometimes infectious condition affecting the footpads of birds. Severity ranges from mild redness to deep abscesses, bone infection, and life

All bird species can be affected—parrots, chickens, raptors, waterfowl, pigeons, and more.

### **Causes**

#### *Environmental*

- Hard or abrasive perches (dowel rods, sandpaper).
- Dirty enclosures and damp bedding that promote bacterial growth.
- Rough surfaces that cause micro-injuries.

#### *Dietary*

- Deficiencies in vitamin A, biotin, calcium.
- High-fat diets leading to obesity and excess foot pressure.

#### *Genetic / Species Factors*

- Heavy birds (Amazons, macaws) are more prone.
- Raptors risk trauma from prey.
- Chickens often affected by poor coop conditions.

#### *Trauma*

- Cuts, splinters, falls, or chronic pressure from unsuitable perches.

### **Symptoms & Stages**

Early detection is crucial—many owners miss the first signs.

- Stage 1: Redness, mild swelling.
- Stage 2: Scabs or open sores.
- Stage 3: Blackened tissue.
- Stage 4: Abscesses, pus, swelling up the leg.
- Stage 5: Severe lameness, bone involvement, inability to perch



### **Prevention**

- Use natural wood perches of varied diameters.
- Avoid sandpaper perches and hard flooring.
- Keep cage floors clean and dry.
- Provide balanced nutrition rich in vitamin A and calcium.
- Perform weekly foot checks.

## **Treatment**

Veterinary care is strongly recommended for anything beyond mild redness

### **- Mild Cases**

- Epsom salt soaks.
- Antiseptic cleaning.
- Regular bandage changes.
- Environmental improvements.

### **- Moderate to Severe Cases**

- Oral antibiotics.
- Surgical debridement.
- Pain management (e.g., meloxicam).
- Post operative bandaging and long term monitoring.



## **Species & Notes**

- **Parrots:** Need wide, varied perches; obesity increases risk.
- **Chickens:** Hard floors and dirty bedding are major contributors.
- **Raptors:** Trauma from prey and rough perches.
- **Waterfowl:** Too much moisture causes footpad erosion.
- **Budgies:** Vitamin A deficiency is common.

## **Useful Supplies**

- Antiseptics (chlorhexidine, iodine).
- Nonstick gauze, Vetrap.
- Perch padding (moleskin, flannel).
- Moisturizing ointments.
- Camera/magnifier for monitoring healing.

## **Recovery**

- Mild cases: 6–8 weeks.
- Severe cases: 4–6 months, sometimes with permanent damage.
- Ongoing habitat adjustments are essential to prevent recurrence.



## BIRDLIFE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LETHAL SGAR RAT POISIN

It was World Wildlife day on 3rd March; a day to celebrate the incredible wildlife that has called Earth home for millions of years but today Birdlife is not celebrating.

Birdlife is calling for change because peer-reviewed research is finding long-lasting rat poisons in our wildlife at alarming rates.

In one study, 92% of birds tested carried these poisons, many at levels considered toxic or even lethal and it's not just birds.. Quolls, Tasmanian Devils, Frogs, Lizards and snakes are also affected.

These poisons move up the food chain for months on end, killing wildlife they were never meant for. but we can make a difference together.

We are calling for these wildlife-killing poisons to be removed from retail shelves. Join our campaign and add your voice today. Tell the regulator to remove SGARs from supermarket shelves and ensure that only licensed pest control operators can access these highly toxic products.

Source: <https://birdlife.org.au/protect-aussie-birds-from-deadly.../>

 Photos by Anne Brian, Gillian Hembrow, Andrew Silcocks, David Milledge, Teresa Madgwick, Ray Sayers



They should be **protected**

Instead, they are being **poisoned**

Rat poison must be removed from retail sale.

**Not just birds.**

A 2025 scientific paper on Tasmanian Devils and threatened quolls found widespread and pervasive poison exposure in 50% of individuals tested.

Lohr et al (2025)

**92%**

of all dead birds tested had harmful, long-lasting rat poisons in their system.

Cooke et al (2023)

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# 68%

of Tawny Frogmouths tested had rat poison at levels associated with toxic or lethal effects.

Cooke et al (2023)



# 74%

of Wedge-tailed Eagles examined over more than two decades had rat poison in their bodies.

Pay et al (2021)



# 83%

Of Powerful Owls tested positive to rodenticide poisoning in the Melbourne region.

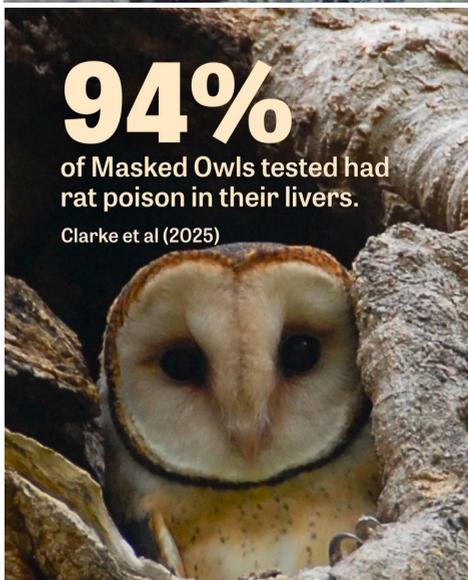
Cooke et al (2022)



# 94%

of Masked Owls tested had rat poison in their livers.

Clarke et al (2025)



## WORLD'S EASIEST EGG FOOD

This recipe is the easiest, and it creates a healthy complete protein you almost can't match. It's very cheap, too – buy store brand bread crumbs and grab an egg.

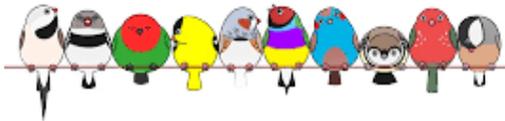
- 1 packet of plain dry bread crumbs
- 1 hard boiled egg



Peel the egg and then mash or grind the egg – not too much or it becomes a tacky mess. Combine egg with bread crumbs, mixing with a fork. It can then be served or mixed other ingredients. With the egg.

The egg shell is a great calcium boost, but sharp edges are not good for tiny nestlings so grind it very fine before mixing in. This isn't for the nestlings directly, of course, but for their parents to bring to them. Egg shell can also be served separately in a small dish.

Try to serve egg food at room temperature more or less (not cold).



## DID YOU KNOW....

*The symbolism of a dead owl is multifaceted, carrying diverse meanings across cultures and beliefs.*

*It can symbolize wisdom and divine knowledge and finding one can carry profound spiritual meanings, from signaling change to uncovering hidden knowledge. It encourages trusting one's instincts and inner voice.*



*A dead owl can also symbolize transition, wisdom's passing, and hidden knowledge. It represents the transformation of the soul and rebirth and encountering a deceased owl often represents personal transformation*

# 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.

*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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