

# Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.

The Secretary –
CBS Inc.
PO Box 5451
CQMC
Rockhampton
Queensland 4701

Webpage: <u>www.capbuds.org</u>

December 2019

Dear Member,

The committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Also a successful upcoming year both on the Show scene and in the breeding room.

For those unable to attend, you missed a most enjoyable afternoon for our Christmas Party. This event signalled the end to a most successful year for our Club. The big ticket items were the acquisition of a new Trailer and Staging funded by a grant and another very successful Annual Auction. Here's hoping the upcoming year is even more successful. The Club has again applied for a Community Gambling Benefit Fund Grant and if we are successful we will be purchasing a Audio System so everyone can hear the Judges critiques and for use at the Auctions. We will also purchase a Computer and Printer for club use at the shows and Auctions as well as general club use, and a Camera and Screen for use at the Auctions. All this equipment will also be used for presentations regarding the all things relevant to our hobby.

Included in this newsletter is an article on "Pairing Up" by Troy Holmes. This is a summary of a lecture he gave at the Budgerigar Society of South Australia. For those that don't know of Troy he is one of South Australia's and indeed one of Australia's premier breeders, having his most recent National win with a Normal Grey Green at Penrith. I hope you enjoy it and it gives everyone something to think about. After you have read this article you will understand why Troy is such a successful breeder.

The 2020 Calendar of events can also be found in the newsletter. Remember if there is anything in particular you would like included in future editions please contact me and let me know. Don't forget that membership renewals are due by the **First of January 2020** also the 2020 rings will be available from mid-December onwards and must be paid for before delivery.

Cheers,
Russell Ogden
(Newsletter Editor, CBS Inc.) ogdenrc@bigpond.com

#### **MEMBERS INFORMATION PAGE**

Committee Members: Confirmed at AGM

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President:	Tom Bartlem	0457 255 639
Vice-President:	Darryl Fisher	07 4926 2489
Treasurer:	Scott Eriksen	0419 776 837
Secretary:	Scott Eriksen	0419 776 837

- EMAIL Addresses: To allow for more efficient distribution of newsletters and other Club information, please forward a test email or your email address to <u>ogdenrc@bigpond.com</u> Thanks to all those who have forwarded these details previously.
- SHOW & WIN.!!!!!!! Starting at our 2019 Breeders Show, you will become eligible to win a \$200 Credit at our Annual Auction by showing at the 3 Major Shows (Breeders 2019, Annual 2020, Young Bird Show 2020). You will receive one ticket for showing 1 to 10 birds, 2 tickets for 11 to 20 entries, etc. After the Young Bird Selection Show in 2020, the winner will be drawn. The more you show, the better chance you have to win. It is only open to CBS Inc members. You must show at all 3 shows unless you are judging the show or are genuinely ill or have a family emergency. The aim of this incentive is to encourage members to show consistently at all 3 shows. If you have missed out for this year, you can still be in it next year.
  - Services Section: The new Club Shirt is now being worn by many members. If you want to purchase one, contact Qing Wu 0455 237 367 Qing will also have a supply of 2020 rings, (60 cents each and sold in lots of 25, postage is extra \$5.00) and show cages and cage fronts if anyone needs some.
  - Future CBS Variety of the Year are as follows: 2020 :- Australian White Caps 2021:- Lutino and 2022 :- Normal Green. These are judged at the Annual Show each year.



Thank you very much to the BSSA for giving me the opportunity to come here and talk about something that I am very passionate about – pairing.

Pairing birds and seeing the results of any given pairing is the part of the hobby that keeps me engaged. My confidence in pairing comes through observing features and visiting a lot of bird rooms around the world, taking a keen interest in at least the two generations behind a super budgerigar, not just the bird itself. However, it was probably a stroke of luck in a visit to Mike Ball in the UK on a day that he was pairing that really gave me the confidence to have faith in the strategy that I will outline this evening.

### Flecking – how to not breed a flecked bird I commonly hear the following in budgerigar

- "Avoid using flecked birds all together (avoid the problem)"
- "Don't pair two flecked birds together"
- "Don't pair a flecked bird into a bird from a family with flecking"
- "To breed flecking out of a bird, pair it to a bird from a clean line. The first generation might be flecked, but then pair those into non-flecked birds again, and the majority should be not be flecked.



To understand where I have a fundamental difference in the approach to pairing, and how it is different to most approaches, we need to talk about it in the context we all have experience in.

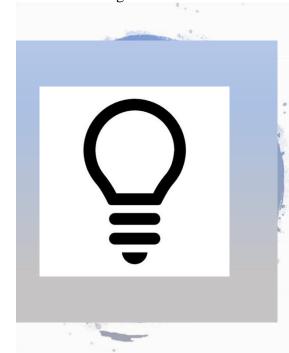
#### Let's talk about flecking.

Everyone knows how to breed a flecked bird. Its easy. Getting the flecking out of birds is hard work, but it can be done. I've listed four statements here that I've heard budgerigar fanciers use to help people navigate the issue of flecking.

(Read statements)

In each of the above, I've highlighted the word flecking, or flecked.

Are we all in agreement about these statements?



## How to not breed a good-faced bird

- "Avoid using good-faced birds all together (avoid the problem)"
- "Don't pair two good-faced birds together"
- "Don't pair a good-faced bird into a bird from a family with good-face"
- "To breed good-faced out of a bird, pair it to a bird from a clean line. The first generation might be good-faced, but then pair those into non-good-faced birds again, and the majority should not be good-faced"

Let's do this simple trick, and change only the word flecking or flecked, and let's make it "good faced". Good face is a very broad term. When we talk about good face, we could be referring to the; • width of cap,

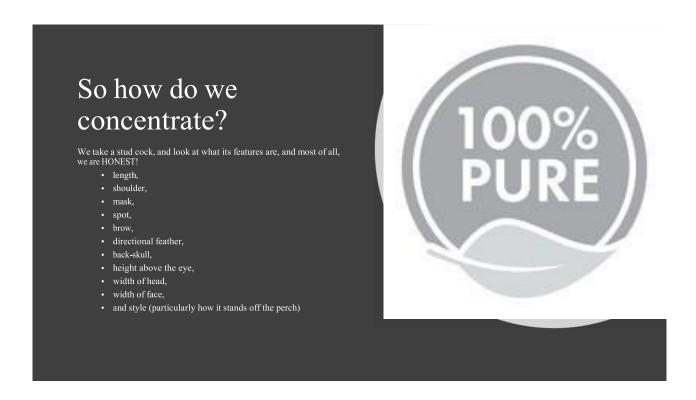
- the blow,
- the directional feather over the eye that creates the brow,
- we can talk about the lateral feather out from the cere,
- we can talk about the feather down the side of the beak that creates the width of face,
- we can talk about the disassociation of the feathers around the cheek patch that create the owling effect,
- We can talk about the depth of mask and the balance between it and the height of the cap,

Or to keep it simple for explanation purposes, we can just bundle them all in together, and call them "good face".

So, how we NOT breed good face? (read comments from slide) What are we seeing here?



I subscribe to the notion that we are all guilty of "balancing" pairings by compensating, and this is where we go wrong. We dilute down features, so they don't reproduce with any intensity, and slowly fade away, so that within three generations, the outcross that we brought in for a feature has transitioned back to our old norm because of our subconscious habits. You need to concentrate the features. Everyone will warn you about flecking, and how not to breed flecking, but nobody seems to understand the same principles apply to locking in a good feature – don't pair two flecked birds together, or you will lock in the flecking, and they'll only breed flecked birds, YET nobody seems to be able to apply the same principal to good features, like head feather. They'll compliment the pairing first, before they consider consolidation and concentration. I've seen so many breeders who take a big cock, and a small hen, because its easy to get her to breed, and they average down. Some of those chicks may be big, but will those babies be pre-disposed to CONSISTENTLY breeding big birds like the father when they mature? Unlikely. Just the same way as we consider flecking. We're trying to breed out a feature, so we compliment it with one that doesn't have it. We are immediately looking for compensating pairings, which balance and dilute down the ability of that feature to strongly impose itself on the next generation. I've seen many breeders who are afraid to breed a big bird to another big bird. The key is getting the birds "right to breed" by identifying when they're ready and having in place an associated feeding program to support this – I can't convey enough how important this is to success.



So, how do we concentrate?

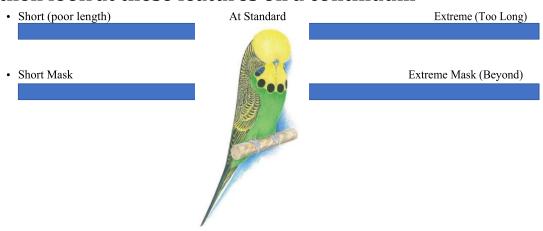
We take a stud cock and look at what its features are.

The metrics I use are length, shoulder, mask, spot, brow, directional feather, back-skull, height above the eye, width of head, width of face, and style (particularly how it stands off the perch). A couple of key ones missing here are variety, and wing carriage, but specifically for the later, my self-awareness doesn't allow me to use birds with poor wings often (they're unsightly and not attractive to me in the aviary). You don't need to use these same characteristics — I am just providing these as a guide for what I am looking

You don't need to use these same characteristics – I am just providing these as a guide for what I am looking for.

We then take the stud bird, and we mate it on paper on the basis of these characteristics.

#### We then look at these features on a continuum



So, I look at the stud cock, and I identify its strengths, and its weaknesses. Ideally, the bird wants to be as close to the ideal as possible. Rather than being vague and aloof, I would use real examples to show how I develop this model.

I take the stud cock, and I critically aware of any weaknesses, as I can concentrate a fault just as easily as I can concentrate a weakness. So, I am looking at these metrics:

- length,
- · shoulder,

- mask,
- spot,
- brow,
- directional feather,
- back-skull,
- height above the eye,
- · width of head,
- · width of face,
- and style (particularly how it stands off the perch)



Now, you may be sitting there saying this is great in theory, but our pool is limited by what we can use. I mean, where do we find extreme, and "past the standard"? Our genetic pool in Australia is limited by the fact that we can't import birds like our overseas colleagues can, but I think the fundamental mistake is what we are not aspiring to breed birds well beyond the standard – what we call extreme.

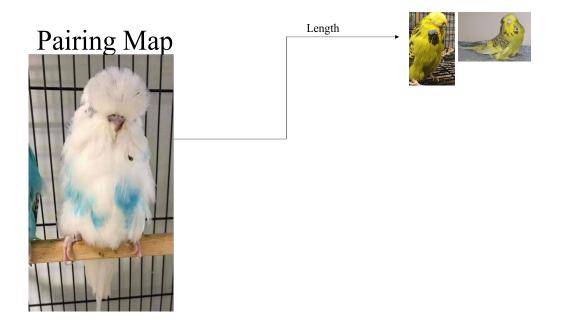
When you see what Mike Ball and people of the like are doing in Europe, and what we call extreme, the two are poles apart. One of the key successes Gary Gazzard reiterated to me that saw the first imports in the early 90's, where he bred some birds well ahead of their time. Gary believed that this was simply because those breeders wouldn't necessarily work together in the UK.

By pooling some of our best birds, we can do so much more with the genetic pool on offer with improved quality. Working together is one of our keys to success. I don't believe that it is a case that we need an enormous number of cabinets in the hope of producing 10 to 15% of birds worth keeping, because we couldn't have intent with that many cabinets, and I struggle to believe that we would have quality at the extent that we need to move forward that will fill all of those cabinets. In fact, we want the reverse. We want to only have 10 to 15% of the birds to dispose of, because the quality is on point.



So, let's look at the consolidation feature identified – length. So, in my aviary, I need to find the longest hen, that is CONSOLIDATED for length. I can't just find a long bird – that won't do. I need a long bird, bred from long birds, that is going to preproduce length. In my situation, I went outside my aviary, to a trusted friend, Wally Capper, for one of my three. We all have nuances as breeders, and Wally's is that he breeds big birds. Others you might consider are Tony Appleton, Kelwyn, Henry George, Jeffrey Leong, John Ennis, Peter Thurn, Craig Barnett or your own Wayne Weidenhofer amongst others. Wally's National Winning hen line is a line of big birds, bred in conjunction with Craig Barnett. They are a good, strong bird, with shoulder. In my mind, I line up the top three hens I can establish for length:

- Cinnamon Grey Green Hen 15/080
- Opaline Cinnamon Hen WAL 16/071
- Cinnamon Grey Green Pied Hen –16/093



Using what I have flagged, I begin to create a "pairing map" which becomes a ring number matrix. I start identifying up to three birds (and if the three birds don't make the grade, the number is less – ruthless is best!). This helps me identify up to three hens I would pair to that cock, to improve that feature on him.

I have to stress that it is to IMPROVE, not to maintain, or worse still, to dilute it down, or weaken it. Where is my longest hen in the aviary, bred from long birds, that is from a line of long birds?

## Attribute #2 - Shoulder

- Look for the consolidation partner for each of the features;
  - Shoulder what do I have that has the best shoulder in my aviary? Where can I find better shoulder?
  - Must be consolidated for shoulder.

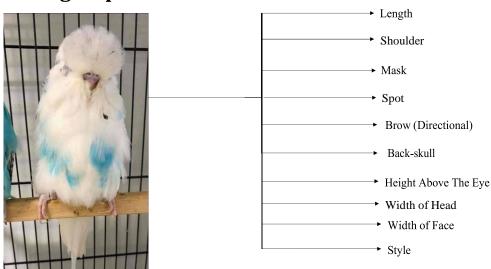


I then look at the second feature – shoulder, and I work my way through my birds trying to locate the best shouldered birds.

In this instance, I have to be honest, and it may be that I only have one hen on the premises that is going to improve his shoulder. Again, I have to stress that it is to IMPROVE, not to maintain, or worse still, to dilute it down, or weaken it, relative to this specific cock.

Where this helps me (as a side note) is making me critically aware of what I might need to find if I visit someone else's stud, or an auction.

#### **Pairing Map**



As I work my way through all of the attributes, I create a table of features to go to this particular bird, and where it becomes very interesting is where the same hen appears in multiple categories. This hen then becomes a MUST to pair to this cock.

	Hen 1	Hen 2	Hen 3

P	Length	15/080	WAL	16/093
1			15/071	
a	Shoulder	15/2129	16/023	17/121
	Mask	WAL	16/043	17/099
i		15/071		
	Spot	17/043	15/8149	17/046
r	Brow	16/NO RING	16/002	17/048
i	Directional Feather	16/NO RING	17/020	18/019
1	Backskull	15/238	WAL	18/022
n			15/071	
	Height above the eye	16/049	15/238	15/20266
g	Width of Skull	17/001	N/A	N/A
	Width of Face	16/007	18/080	N/A
	Style/Stance	17/023	18/033	16/222
M	Feather Texture	18/031	17/093	17/028
A-A	Cleanliness	16/155	15/2129	17/007
a				

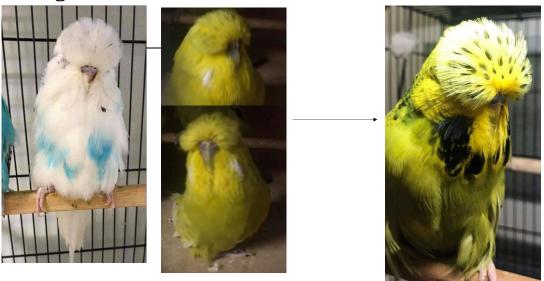
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This table becomes a very interesting tool. I've identified only the single feature of a hen to go with this cock that will improve his feature. I've been very honest, and said that I only have one hen in the aviary capable of improving his width. So when I am out and about, and I am looking at the budgerigar auctions, or aviary visits, my focus is on finding birds with the best possible natural width of skull, that I can bring in to improve this guy.

Now, what my table also does is show where a bird appears multiple times. This becomes a priority pairing. Right now, WAL 15/071 appears three times, as a hen that will consolidate length, mask and backskull. 16/NO RING is also on there twice as a hen with brow and directional feathering, as is 15/238 ad 15/2129. As we identify each of these traits, you can see at times, there is a double up, where the same bird is repeated as a bird that may have the best brow over the eye (forming that chiselled look), as well as being the best directional feather in the stud. In my mind, these are really important birds that we seriously want to considering the pairing thereof. Eventually, in a perfect world, we want to consolidate all of the features in one pairing. In reality, the cock can't run over an infinite number of hens in a season, so with these pairs in mind, let's look at the outcomes.

Pairing - Consolidation of Directional & Brow



So we start to pair the birds. Our brow to brow concentration, as well as our direction feather to directional feather concentration pair is the stud cock 16671 to HOL 16/NO RING, and we breed a bird that not only has super brow and directional feather, but it is also big. Now, here is where being honest is so important. Is that bird big – the answer is YES, but is that bird consolidated for BIG? The answer is NO. This bird hasn't been bred from a size to size pairing. The mother wasn't small by any stretch, but she wasn't the hen

identified for size, so the size of this baby is a pure bonus, and can't be relied upon for size. The baby in this instance is HOL 18/017. He is flecked. When we consider the iterative process of him moving forward, all the partners we identify for the features can't double up on the flecking attribute.

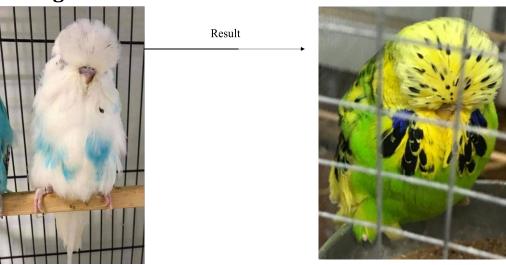
When I am looking at brow, the strength in this typically comes from finding a breeder who repeats pairings of birds with brow to brow – who has inadvertently concentrated this over time, whether openly, or subconsciously. In my mind, Gary Gazzard has some super-strong face in his birds, and particularly those associated with Blue and Orange lines, as well as in later years, birds bred from 75 and 57. In years prior, I had bred a hen I considered to have super brow: HOL 16 Spangle Opaline Cinnamon Grey Green Hen, which goes back to Gary's BLUE line

Pairing - Consolidation of Length, Mask & Skull



In parallel, 16671 is paired to the Cinnamon Grey Green sibling to Wally's National winner. She is a big hen, from a big nest, with excellent shoulder. She breeds 3 chicks, all of good size and length, AND reasonable facial characteristics. These birds are consolidated for size and shoulder, but can't be relied upon for other features.

Pairing - Consolidation of Backskull & Blow



To 15/238, a hen who has bred super backskull and blow on her chicks, this is the outcome.

#### Pairing - Consolidation of Shoulder & Cleanliness



To the hen that was identified for cleanliness and shoulder, these two birds (amongst others) were bred.



The beauty of the matrix is that it gives us a really clear picture of which birds we are likely to you the next year, and helps us ask the question, why am I actually keeping this bird. At the same time, we get the ability to understand what we might need in the way of new additions, or outcrosses, to fill voids – in my case, the natural skeletal width.

This becomes a map, and when we have time to really sit down and consider these pairings, and where the priority for a hen has to go (who ends up with who). It also provides a great reflection tool, for the heat of the moment, when you go to re-pair two different birds in the middle of the breeding season, having a "strategy" document by identifying three hens, and not just one.

The process has to be an iterative one, where each year, we strive to improve. So in 2019, the focus becomes 18/017, and not 16671. That's not to say 16671 isn't used – but the focus for moving forward becomes the next generation bird.

Pairing – Consolidation of Length, Mask & Skull



In 2019, 18/017 is placed into the mix, the son of 16671 and the HOL 16 Spangle Opaline Cinnamon hen. We consider the longest hen he can be bred to, it is still the sister to Wally's National winning hen that was previously paired to 18/017's father from the year prior.. This same pairing applies to the shoulder, as this hen is very strong in this area also. The pairing of 18/017 and the Cinnamon Grey Green hen produces birds that are likely consolidated for size and shoulder. At the same time, they have brilliant backskull, which is a trait of those particular Capper birds, who release their heads from the mantle. At the same time, because their father has been consolidated for brow and direction feather, this has been imprinted onto the babies also, so these will be a step ahead of him.

Pairing – Consolidation of Directional & Brow





It is important, knowing that this bird is consolidated for directional feather and brow, that we double it up again. In this instance, 18/017 was bred to a bird down from Gary Gazzard's 75, who in my opinion has one of the strongest faces this country has seen. One of the chicks is shown here from the pairing of 18/017 to a Grand-daughter of 75. This bird will be a good sized hen, but her importance is linked to the fact that she is consolidated for directional feather and brow. I believe that because she is a double up of a double up, she should reproduce directional feather and brow in almost all of her pairings once she matures. In effect, she will be "prepotent" by choice, not chance.

Pairing – Consolidation of Shoulder & Cleanliness



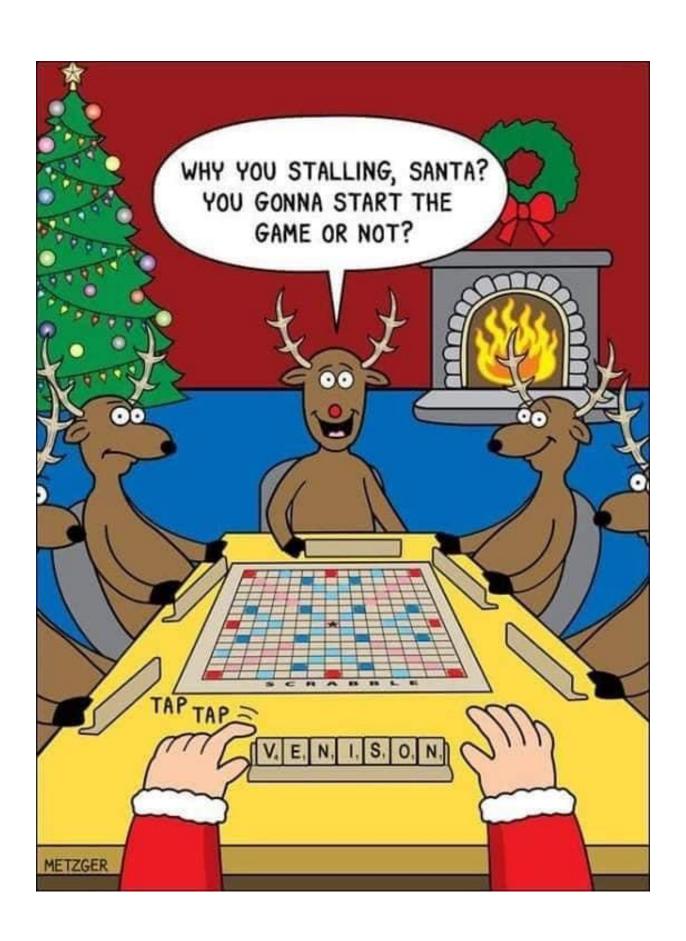
In this instance, again I am showing a real life example of the outcome of pairing him to a bird consolidated for cleanliness and shoulder. The mother was a light green spangle, a half sister to the national winning grey green by the same sire. The pairing was consolidated for shoulder and cleanliness, making her eligible to be paired to him to consolidate this feature.

The hope is that in 2020, the light green will supersede the dominant pied opaline grey green father.



What having these consolidated birds does is allow the breeder to go out and "tap" a bird for a feature, whether it be consolidated mask, width, or something of the like. I am a firm believer that prepotency doesn't happen by accident – being prepotent for a feature is simply a result of concentrating a feature over and over again – doubling up.

The beauty of working this strategy is that is can also provide very clear and concise insight into what a breeder needs to be on the look out for as an outcross, as well as providing a very real tool for culling birds, as you identify what you will use, inadvertently leaving behind those that aren't required.



## CBS Inc.---Calendar of Events---2020

Note that some Friday Night meetings have been changed to follow a Show or Club event.

Sunday Jan 12	ABS Inc Auction	Eagleby, Brisbane			
Saturday Jan 18	Committee Meeting	D Fisher's residence	2.00 pm		
Friday Feb 07	General Meeting  Judges Meeting to follow.	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	Table Show A/A & Y/B & NF  FEATURE: Faults in Birds  Open discussion	
Friday March	General Meeting	To be held after the Secretary	annual show		
Monday March 9	Entries close for Annual show				
Saturday March 14	Annual Show and General Meeting		Benching by 9.15am	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:30am	
Friday April	General Meeting	No meeting in April			
Saturday April 4 CBS Inc. ANNUAL AUCTION ENTRIES DUE TODAY!!!!!!!! And Wynnum Auction					
Easter - 10 <sup>th</sup> April to 13 <sup>th</sup> April					
Saturday April 18	Committee Meeting  Committee meeting to discuss Zone & ANBC Agenda Items.	D. Fisher's residence	2.00pm		

May General Meeting	May General Meeti	ng to follow Young Bird	d Show			
Monday April 27	Entries for Young Bird Show closes 9pm with Show Secretary					
Saturday May 02	CBS INC YOUNG BIRD SELECTION SHOW.  May General Meeting to follow this SHOW  Draw of CLUB REWARDS for credit of \$200 at CBS Auction	North R'ton High Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Simpson Street.	Benching by 8.45am	Y/B & NF Judging commences 9:00am CBS Members Raffle drawn.		
Saturday May 16	N & C Q Zone: 1. Judges Panel & 2. Delegates Meeting.	Townsville		3:00 pm Judges Meeting TBC 3:30 pm Zone Delegates Meeting TBC		
Sunday May 17	N & C Q ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.	Townsville		Benching by 8am Judging starts after benching		
Friday May 22 Saturday 23 Sunday 24	ANBC C'SHIP SHOW	Bendigo		ee ANBC Website for information and details, e.g., Venue, times, etc.		
Monday May 25	ANBC Delegates Meeting	Bendigo				
	<u> </u>	NO JUNE MEETIN	NG			
Saturday June 06	Pre-Auction Dinner	Red Lion Hotel	6.30 for 7.00pm	Performing Arts Hall opened from 2-4pm for setup & birds to be dropped off.		
Sunday June 07	ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION	Nth R'ton High School Performing Arts Hall.	Bench by 7.45am	View 8.00am Starts at 9:00am		
	13 <sup>th</sup> June Henr	y George Auction – Sti	rathpine Brisba	ne		
Saturday July 04	General Meeting	Mount Larcom Showgrounds	1.00pm	<u>Lawn Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF		
	Committee Meeting to follow GM			FEATURE:  Question and Answer		
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup> July BRA	SEA Auction, STRATH	HPINE, Brisban	e.		
July 31	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	No <u>Table Show</u> or <u>FEATURE</u>		
	General & Judges Meetings to follow					
	Satu	rday Aug 8 Newcastle	Auction			
August 30th	Visit to ??? Aviary To Be Confirmed  Attend Pine Rivers Annual Auction	CLUB ANNUAL EVENT	Depart early Saturday morning			

			T	1
Friday Sept 04	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	Table Show A/A & Y/B & N/F  FEATURE:  Red Eyes
Saturday Sept 19	Committee Meeting	D. Fisher's Residence	2pm	
Monday Sept 21	Entries for Young Bird Show closes 9pm with Show Secretary			
Saturday Sept 26	BREEDERS SHOW  BIRD OF YEAR 2020 (Winners from All Shows from November Breeder's Show 2019 to October 2020 Table Show are eligible and will be judged at this Show)  Judge: TBA  October General Meeting to follow this Show.	North R'ton High Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Simpson Street.	Benching by 8.45am	A/A & Y/B & NF Judging commences 9:00am
Friday Nov 06	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	Table Show A/A & Y/B & N/F  FEATURE:  Clearwings
Sunday Nov 22	CHRISTMAS CLUB BREAKUP, including final meeting of the year. (December General Meeting).	TBA –	1.00pm 2.00pm	Lunch Meeting



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## **Mail Order Welcome**







# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION 2020

## Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.



#### Forward to:

The Secretary - CBS Inc PO Box 5451, RED HILL-ROCKHAMPTON QLD 4701

Surname:			
Christian Name:			all if partnership)
Address:		**This is	s vital to allow
prompt delivery of infe	ormation to all memb	ers.	
Phone Number:		Mobile:	
I agree to keep my bir husbandry practices.	ds in a suitable envir	onment and use	appropriate
My current exhibition etc.)	status is	(Oper	n, Novice, Beginner,
Applicant's Signature			
Proposer's Name	Propose	er's Signature	
Date			
Please make cheques	payable to: " Caprice	ornia Budgerigar	Society Inc."
Membership Rates for	2019:		
Senior : \$40.00	Partnership: \$40.00	Family	v: \$40.00
Memberships due by Janu remainder of current year		ership after June 30	will be \$20 for

CBS Inc WEBPAGE: WWW.capbuds.org