

## What Constitutes a Winning Bird?

By Alistair Home

### Physical constitution

The bird should feel a real handful when held. There should be thickness across the body as well as length in the body itself. Smooth line is maintained if the bird is well muscled, not carrying too much fat. We should not think that a densely feathered bird is large - the ideal is a bird that is physically substantial.

The common idea in the UK is, "you can't breed rats from mice". Many of our imported birds are rather small in body - perhaps that is why they have been sold. The lesson is that at least one partner in every mating should have body substance and length if we hope to breed substantial birds. Two small birds won't breed large offspring even if there are large birds in their ancestry.

The quality of the feeding from their parents in the nest can determine youngsters' final appearance. I believe very strongly that in addition to seed, grit and green food we must provide vitamin and mineral supplementation as a part of our feeding routine. Personally I use Murphy's Pro-System (which is available in Victoria from Sonia Berger) and I have found it to be very satisfactory. I do not, however, rely on it alone. I also feed my birds on hardboiled egg during the breeding season, especially when they have chicks in the nest. I notice that the world famous German breeder Jo Mannes also uses it as a supplement. Sometimes I feed it alone, sometimes in a mixture with bread and carrot.

More to come



# Mackay City Budgerigar Society Inc



Established 1993

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## President's Report

# General Discussion

Thank you to Bob Robinson for 2 year service to our club as secretary who retired at our A.G.M.

We would like to extend our best wishes to new secretary Peter Wooderson.

### Now

Doug Wales - president

Michael Pace - vice president

Peter Wooderson - Secretary

Patsy McGregor - Treasurer

Bob Bown - Chief Stewart

Shannon Baillie - Newsletter

after the nationals the club will be getting 40 show cages they will be \$38.00ea

just a reminder the website is up and running have a look

<http://www.mkycbs.com.au>

**mackay super pet store is looking for budgies**

Hi Everyone,

As outgoing president I would like to present my 'president's report'. First I would like to thank all members for their full support over the last twelve months. A special thanks to Patsy Macgregor, our treasurer, for her great effort controlling our funds and being our major fund raiser over the last twelve months. To date our bank balance is \$3,983.71 plus our investments. Thanks also Bob Robinson, our Secretary, who has carried out this big position so well. Thanks to all our members who carried out positions - our club would not function without you. I would like to thank our sponsors' who have supported us through the year-our patron Peter Woodcock from Mackay pet store, Bagley's produce and Aust bore for the donation of \$300 for our show .

Remember the work we have achieved as a club - benching, stewarding, cleaning -up after shows, attending sausage sizzles and organizing raffles. All of this contributor to our being able to have great judges for our shows and buy chairs, tables etc. For our club. Our budgerigars have improved so much and we should be proud to see them at the Nationals.

All positions will need to be filled for the coming year so please put your hand up. Best of luck for the next twelve months Big D.

Q1. AT WHICH POINT IN TIME DID YOU FIRST DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN BUDGERIGARS?

This was in 1959 shortly after my father left the hobby. Sadly I let him sell all his Australian finches and his cages before I got the bird keeping bug. After spending 12 months breeding Australian finches and then realising that they could not survive our cold winters without heat and light I decided to keep budgerigars. In those days we had no mod cons such as heating or lighting in our birdrooms and I always remember having to add glycerine to the water fountains to prevent them freezing.

Q2. WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST AVIARY/BREEDING ROOM LIKE?

It was rubbish and only measured 6 x 4 feet and was made out of asbestos sheets but it was mine paid for out of my first wage packets.

Two years later I was viewing a sale of farm implements and my bid of £20 was accepted for a superb chicken shed measuring 12 feet wide by 14 feet long. This was converted by my father into a super breeding room complete with outside flights, a block of twelve breeding cages and a work station.

Q3. WHERE DID YOUR FIRST BIRDS COME FROM AND OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME DID YOU CONTINUE WITH THESE LINES?

From 1959 until 1970 my birds came from everywhere (a big mistake yet some beginners continue to practice it).

Once 1971 arrived I decided I needed quality stock and after selling all my birds my first exhibition quality budgerigars were purchased from Alf Ormerod and his brother Tom. I still believe in the early 70s that Alf had one of the top three studs in the UK.

In the 80s I introduced some quality light greens from the stud of Jim Moffat and these knitted in with the Ormerod blood line and produced some outstanding birds.

More to come

Up Coming Shows

Our Annual Selection show for the north and central zone show will be held at the showground's Sunday 16/05/2010 with Judge Neville Spencer from Brisbane

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Zone show at rocky 27th may Thursday 2010

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Nationals rocky 29th - 30th of May 2010

For Sale and wanted

**WANTED:** Mackay Super pet store are looking for more budgies to buy prefer baby's....

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**WANTED:** Shannon and Krystle are looking for budgies to buy for \$10.00 and under...