

BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY  
OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

May / June 2022

# Budgie Digest

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**BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED**

Meeting Place: Unley Community Centre, 18 Arthur Street Unley

First Tuesday of each Month at 7:30 PM

Club website: [www.bssainc.org.au](http://www.bssainc.org.au)

This Week's  
Auction





## Letter from the President

Hi Members, frantic doesn't do our Budgie world justice at the moment. Let's reflect on the past four or so weeks.

We held a very successful Stan Watson Breeders Show in early May at our new venue on Goodwood Road. Congratulations to Sue Adams

in owning and benching the Grand Champion, and to George England on coordinating his first show as the BSSA Show Manager. You will be able to read George's report within this Digest as well.

Then our Club participated in the Logan Shield which doubles as the preselection Show for the BCSA Team to compete in the National Show. For the first time in quite a while the BSSA was successful in winning the Shield, with our Club members winning a massive 23 of the 28 classes in the Shield. The full listing of the top 3 birds in each class is also contained in this edition.

Last weekend the National Show was held and being on rotation, South Australia gets our turn once in seven years, and after initial cancellations and some hasty replanning the event was held in Victor Harbor. Apparently there is less COVID in Victor Harbor, or so Wayne Weidenhofer was hoping until he caught the bug in the lead up to the event. Many of our members were consumed by the National event, and in truth, it simply would not have happened if not for the leadership and determination of Wayne, and the participation and volunteering of the BSSA members. Whilst the live stream on YouTube was initially only considered for the 2022 event, I can't see how it won't become a standard part of the Show in future years. Apparently the live stream has had over 5000 views from all over the world. Just as with the online auctions, South Australia is driving innovation and looking towards the future of our hobby.

Next Tuesday the 7th is our June monthly meeting, and our guest speaker – John Mulley – has contracted COVID, so we are having John and fellow judge Stephen Mow contribute remotely via Zoom.

Then, we have our Ron Norman Annual Show on June 12th at the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall on Goodwood Road. Given the amount of budgie events on recently, I'm hopeful the Ron Norman Show doesn't suffer from "budgie -fatigue" and that entries are strong and we have a fantastic show.

Finally, a huge congratulations to Troy and the broader Holmes Family, and Jason and Wayne Weidenhofer on winning 1st place at the National Show in the Normal Blue and Dilute classes respectively. I think this makes it 72 National wins for BSSA members in the 46 years of the ANBC Show – not bad for a little Club in South Australia.

Embrace the cold weather – apparently a cold winter means a beautiful spring – so I was told by the Seasol rep at work this week. I think he had his fingers crossed!!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Murphy'.

**Chris Murphy** | BSSA President  
0409 799 627



Stephen is on the far RHS, and John on the far LHS)

## June Meeting

Our June meeting will feature a talk/ presentation from John Mulley & Stephen Mow on the ANBC Show. As you may know, John and Stephen both had first hand experience at the Show, being judges. It will be interesting to hear first hand from one of South Australia's finest about the Show and the birds presented, as well as Stephen from Bendigo, who is a very well respected National Judge.

### BSSA On – Line Auctions

Our next on-line auction will commence on 6 June, after the ANBC and the budgie world returns to normality. It is a great idea to start sorting your birds now so that you are ready with entries for the auctions.

Entries can be submitted to Jay Larkin prior to the auction via [jolenkennels@outlook.com](mailto:jolenkennels@outlook.com)

Top 7 results at the Australian National Budgerigar Council (ANBC) National Titles from BSSA Members:

#### **HOLMES FAMILY**

1st Normal Blue,

2nd Place – Hens &, Opaline Classes

3rd Place – Cinnamon Class.

4th Place – Greywing and Recessive Pied Classes.

6th Place – Grey Green, Opaline AOSV and Dominant Pied Classes.

#### **JASON & WAYNE WEIDENHOFER**

1st Dilute Class

5th Dark Eye Clear Class.

#### **SUE ADAMS**

2nd in the Australian White Cap Class

#### **KAKOSCHKE & RICE**

2nd Grey Class

4th & 6th Place – Clearwing Class

5th Place - Opaline Class

6th Place – Fallow Class

7th Place – Opaline AOSV Class

#### **IAN & GINA WISE**

3rd in the Black Eye Class

#### **BOB SIMPSON**

3rd in the Grey Class

#### **DENNIS LOMMAN**

7th in the Clearbody Class





Budgerigar Society of South Australia

# SHOW US YOUR BEST FEATHERED FRIENDS!

Enter your best  
budgie for a chance  
to be crowned *Grand  
Champion* or *best  
Pet Budgie in town!*

**Be Quick!**  
**Entries close**  
**Thursday 2 June**

For more details visit  
[www.bssainc.org.au](http://www.bssainc.org.au)



**SUNDAY**  
**12 JUNE 2022**

Memorial Hall,  
388 Goodwood Road,  
Westbourne Park.

RON NORMAN  
73RD ANNUAL SHOW  
& BRASEA STATE SHOW



# Dear New Novice Breeder

I would like to share my experiences with you, since being a member of the BSSA.

One thing I know to be true is that everyone is there to help you.

As a novice, it's not how well we do at the show, or how many chicks we have had hatch in a year, it's about learning the basics.

For the first couple of years it's just about getting use to the basics.

No doubt you will be given birds from our generous open breeders. You may look at them and think, wow they are small, or they have a short tail, or whatever, but what I can tell you is that you have been given a gene pool they have been working on for years.

Who wouldn't want the worst chick from the best nest? I will take them any day.

If you don't know what that means, then basically, you have potentially been given a bird that carries fantastic genes, and all you need to do is breed them with another 'worst chick from a great nest' and see what you get. Its like a jigsaw. One day those pieces will fit together perfectly and you will have the start of what will be your very own line.

We need to start somewhere and we need to stick to the basics. Don't get ahead of yourself.

What I have found to be my most important basic is:

## Cleanliness

To have happy healthy birds, you must keep their environment clean. A dirty aviary equals unhealthy birds, which in turn end up in breeding boxes breeding unhealthy chicks. To avoid this, the environment must be dry, free of rodents, good quality food and water changed daily.

I believe this to be the absolute basic and most important step to becoming a breeder.

Once you decide to start breeding, ask lots of questions. No question is a stupid question. It might seem quite obvious to some, but if you don't know, you need to ask. It doesn't matter which one of our intermediate or open breeders you ask, you will be basically told the same thing.

You can choose what version you follow, but none of them are wrong. I have listened to all of them, and take something from the one who gives info I think I can work with.

There are certain things I now do, or not do.

1. Always have clean dry nesting material in the breeding boxes and replace it when the hen kicks it out. I don't like seeing eggs and chick sitting on the bare wood. I don't clean the boxes when there are just eggs are in there, and I only clean the boxes when the chicks make them dirty.
2. I do not handle the eggs unless I absolutely need to. From my own experience, touching the eggs too much, has, in the early days caused the chicks to die in the shell (DIS), along with having them in an airconditioned environment in summer. This dried out the eggs. If you really need to see if they are fertile, give them a week or so and hold a small torch near them. Don't lift them out. To be honest, as they become fertile, you





can see the change in colour of the shell. They have a more solid, slightly grey colour, opposed to the unfertile eggs, which have a slightly yellow glow.

3. I check on the hens, morning and night. I don't bother them unnecessarily, particularly hens nesting for the first time.
4. I never breed just one pair. Often there is need to move a chick that hasn't been fed, for a variety of reasons. Having a foster hen available is the best option, unless you enjoy waking up every two hours to feed a new born chick. Often they die anyway, because the hens always do a better job.
5. Always have fresh water and food available. Soft food must be removed daily, if it is soaked seed or grated veg etc.
6. And something I do from an ethical perspective. I DO NOT breed quantity over quality. I'm not out to breed as many chicks as I can to get \$14/bird at the local fodder store. I would prefer to breed 20 good birds, than 100 not so good birds. Keeping in mind, that you can't, well I can't, see a great bird in a young chick. You need to have room to keep all these birds!! If you don't have room, don't breed too many.



Now keep in mind, that I have only been doing this for two years. I have asked many questions, until I'm sure have driven some mad, however, no question to me was a stupid question and everything you read above are the answers I received.

I knew very little of this before!!

Wishing you all the best for future breeding and showing

**Jane**

# Show Manager's Report

## BSSA STAN WATSON BREEDERS SHOW - 2022

The Stan Watson Breeders Show was held last Sunday with the venue returning to the Westbourne Park Memorial Hall and also a change of days from Saturday to Sunday.

The day presented several challenges as there were three judges that had to withdraw due to health issues or quarantine requirements and a tight timeframe for the use of the venue.

I would like to especially thank Kelwyn Kakoschke, who didn't know until he got to the show, that he was going to be the Major Award Judge for the day and also, Kerry Murphy, who dropped what he was doing, to stand in and be a Floor Judge for the day.

It was great to see that all members were willing and able to pitch in to cover the absentees and make the day the success that it was. We started judging 30 minutes late due to technical issues but managed to be packed up, cleaned up, and



out of the hall well inside our deadline. So thanks to all for helping out.

There were 13 exhibitors with 232 birds entered, Sue Adams took out the Grand Champion with a very nice Spangle AOSV hen. Ian & Gina Wise won the Reserve Champion Cock with J&W Weidenhofer snaring the Reserve Champion Hen.

Paul Soul won Champion Intermediate and Ian & Gina Wise won Champion Novice. It is pleasing to note that Ian and Gina now have enough status movement points to advance to Intermediate ranks which I am sure will be greatly appreciated by Paul Soul who often finds himself as the only exhibitor at Intermediate level.

In summing up the judging, Kelwyn made some observations on the birds being in good condition in spite of moulting at this time of the year. He also spoke about some of the birds with strong facial features that were unfortunately having issues with long-flights.

I would also like to thank Chris Murphy, Wayne Bandt, and Wayne Weidenhofer for their help leading up to this show and their efforts on the day.

## Show Dates for 2022

Sunday  
**12 June**

**Ron Norman  
Annual Show**  
@

Westbourne Park  
Memorial Hall,  
388 Goodwood Road.

Sunday  
**30 October**

**Interclub Challenge  
with North East  
Budgerigar Society**  
@

Westbourne Park  
Memorial Hall,  
388 Goodwood Road.





It was a fantastic day weather wise for the show, which enhanced the sausage sizzle organized by Marie Murphy and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to all exhibitors on their efforts preparing the birds for the show. With many of these birds now going on to compete at the Logan Shield, I wish everyone the best of success and look forwards to our next show – the Ron Norman in several weeks time.

**George England** | Show Manager



## Put quality in the nest

There seems to be a fair amount of confusion within the fancy, regarding the breeding of quality Budgerigars. I think this has come about because there is much contradictory information passed onto the fancy.

Most of the techniques tried by fanciers do not give the results they were expecting. This is because the providers of the information are generally very experienced breeders, who are giving information about their own birds and experiences. This is fine, only they are in possession of better quality birds than most of us. I have no doubt their information is correct, but it is only relevant to their own birds and as such can't be considered a generalization. Therefore, what is successful for them would have a very different result if they were working with lesser quality or even a different line of birds. So what works for them will not necessarily work in our aviaries. Thus we need to formulate our own strategy with which we can work, to breed better quality from whatever birds are in our present possession.

Another important thing we must do when seriously trying to improve our birds, is to be very skeptical regarding the information passed onto the fancy in the way of miracle pairings. I'm sure your aware of the ones I mean, like flecked headed birds carry the feather you want, or use large dirty opalines to improve spot, put Spangle

into everything they will only do good and increase fertility at the same time. Some fanciers in Australia have become so paranoid regarding the shape of the wings on a bird. they have become oblivious to the rest of the bird. Some of our most experienced judges are indicating a bird is not a bird unless it has head blow. Forget the rest of the bird, head blow is everything. There are literally hundreds of these fallacies. These are the myths to disregard, always look at the complete bird, and don't get sucked into current fads.

To be fair some of the ideas may have worked but I would suggest in very isolated cases, and remember they are only opinions to explain some inherited phenomena. Some people who utter these ideas do so without ever proving whether they work or not for themselves. If a bird isn't quality itself or isn't from a quality family, then it will not help you, regardless of which magical feature it has or variety it belongs to. If you analyse all the famous fanciers, the ones who have changed the way we think about and look at Budgerigars. The Alf Ormerod's (dec.), the Jo Mannes', the Harry Bryan's (dec.), probably the South African, Dr. Robertson and indeed a few others, but a very select few. These are the breeders of, not the buyers of birds. The quality of the birds in their aviaries has not been reliant on the quality of bird they can purchase year in and year out, it's a result of their own ability.

### Underlying principle.

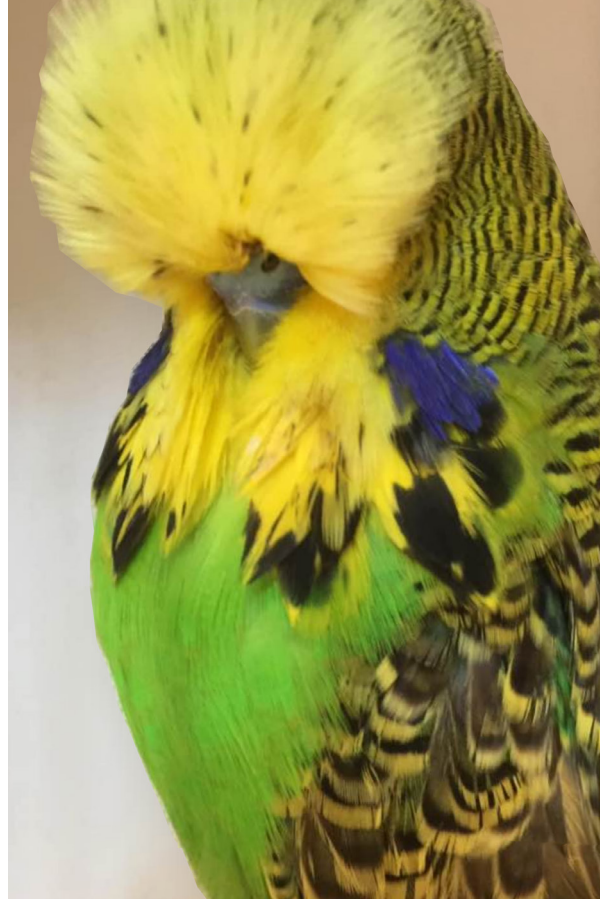
These `breeders' all give the same underlying principle to the fancy when probed on how they breed such superior quality stock. Almost always they will say, "you must know your birds". This is fundamental to breeding any form of livestock to excellence, not only Budgies. The only way to get to know your birds is to work with them. Or in technical terms progeny test or test mate them. This gives an indication of the capabilities of any particular bird, with regards to passing on features to the next generation. The late Jim Moffat claimed,



the first five pairings each year are the easiest to decide on. Because he re-paired the most successful pairings from the previous season. This is true in my aviary. My birds give their best in the second and third year of breeding. I believe this is because they have shown individually, what they are capable of, and I pair them accordingly. By 'World standards', I have not produced any what you would consider to be 'Super birds', although my overall quality is not bad, and I have produced a couple of birds with 'power'.

From my breeding results over many years, I would suggest the only reasonably successful way towards consistently breeding better birds is through progeny testing. This is the strategy to use. Find out the capabilities of your birds by the babies they produce. Our objective must be to identify the birds within our aviaries, which breed superior youngsters, and perpetuate them. After a few seasons if you are on the right track, you should find your better-quality birds are producing your best young. Always try to work with the absolute cream of your birds. Rather than pairing up everything in the aviary and hoping you will fluke a good one. Although, this seems to be a current trend with many breeders adding more and more breeding cages. Some have had success with this technique, and they justify it with the old adages, 'you only need to breed one good one'; along with "breed a lot to get a few".

You cannot consider a person who adopts this technique to be a breeder with any competence. Pure chance breeding or the numbers game. I liken it to playing Roulette at a Casino. Always, work with the very best birds you have and give them every opportunity to prove to you what they are capable of. Take your time, the babies each year will be the signposts indicating the way forward. If you are not producing anything worthwhile, and you decide new blood is the only option, please consider this. Neither pedigree, nor a bird's visual quality is a guarantee it will pass on its good qualities (visual or latent), to its progeny.



For this reason, buying birds should always be regarded as a bit of a lottery. Having said that, both visual quality and pedigree are an advantage, when deciding on which birds to purchase. Personally, I lean towards bloodline procurements, they tend to be a little more reliable and generally of far less cost. Therefore, I can afford more bloodline relatives from the selected superior family, increasing my chances of success. Only buy out of a good family of birds, regardless of the visual quality offered. The better the bloodline you purchase, the more likely you are to see quality in the youngsters. If you wish to purchase top visual quality, and hopefully save many years work, expect to pay handsomely for the privilege. Quality can only be maintained and improved with attention to detail, keen observation and sensible well thought through actions. To conclude you must select for a bird's ability to put quality in the nest.

**Robert Manvell**

**For more information, and other interesting articles on pairing and feather, Google "Rob Manvell's Budgies"**





# The Logan Shield

Photographs from Rod Turnbull  
and James Bader on behalf of the ANBC.



# Results

CLASS	EXHIBITOR	LOGAN SHIELD RESULT	ANBC PLACING
Normal Green	Michael Sloper	1	7th
Normal Green	Michael Sloper	2	17th
Normal Green	Dennis Lomman	3	16th
Normal Grey Green	Holmes Family	1	6th
Normal Grey Green	Holmes Family	2	11th
Normal Grey Green	Michael Sloper	3	14th
Normal Blue	Holmes Family	1	1st
Normal Blue	Holmes Family	2	11th
Normal Blue	Sue Adams	3	9th
Normal Violet	Dennis Lomman	1	13th
Normal Violet	Dennis Lomman	2	16th
Normal Violet	J & W Weidenhofer	3	19th
Normal Grey	R D Simpson	1	3rd
Normal Grey	Holmes Family	2	8th
Normal Grey	Kakoschke & Rice	3	2nd
Yellow Faced Blue	Jane Kelb	1	12th
Yellow Faced Blue	Grarme Alchin	2	13th
Yellow Faced Blue	Grarme Alchin	3	14th
Aust. Golden Faced Blue	J & W Weidenhofer	1	8th
Aust. Golden Faced Blue	J & W Weidenhofer	2	12th
Aust. Golden Faced Blue	Graeme Alchin	3	13th
Black Eyed Self	Ian & Gina Wise	1	3rd
Black Eyed Self	Ian & Gina Wise	2	8th
Black Eyed Self	No third entry		
Dilute	J & W Weidenhofer	1	1st
Dilute	Ian & Gina Wise	2	10th
Dilute	George England	3	12th
Lutino	Graham McCallum	1	12th
Lutino	Bodhi Sloper	2	NA
Lutino	Ian & Gina Wise	3	14th
Albino	Michael Sloper	1	8th
Albino	Marshall Family	2	7th
Albino	Marshall Family	3	15th
Dark Eyed Clear	J & W Weidenhofer	1	5th
Dark Eyed Clear	J & W Weidenhofer	2	12th
Dark Eyed Clear	No third entry	3	
Clearwing	Kakoschke & Rice	1	4th
Clearwing	Kakoschke & Rice	2	6th
Clearwing	Kakoschke & Rice	3	10th
Greywing	Holmes Family	1	4th
Greywing	Holmes Family	2	NA

CLASS	EXHIBITOR	LOGAN SHIELD RESULT	ANBC PLACING
Greywing	Kakoschke & Rice	3	14th
Cinnamonwing	Holmes Family	1	3rd
Cinnamonwing	Dennis Lomman	2	15th
Cinnamonwing	Kakoschke & Rice	3	8th
Spangle Double Factor	Holmes Family	1	9th
Spangle Double Factor	Graham McCallum	2	17th
Spangle Double Factor	Graham McCallum	3	18th
Opaline	Holmes Family	1	2nd
Opaline	Kakoschke & Rice	2	5th
Opaline	Dennis Lomman	3	11th
Opaline AOSV	Holmes Family	1	6th
Opaline AOSV	Holmes Family	2	NA
Opaline AOSV	Kakoschke & Rice	3	7th
Clearbody	J & W Weidenhofer	1	8th
Clearbody	J & W Weidenhofer	2	10th
Clearbody	Dennis Lomman	3	7th
Lacewing	Holmes Family	1	NA
Lacewing	Holmes Family	2	12th
Lacewing	Marshall Family	3	13th
Fallow	Kakoschke & Rice	1	6th
Fallow	Kakoschke & Rice	2	15th
Fallow	Kakoschke & Rice	3	NA
Spangle	Holmes Family	1	8th
Spangle	Holmes Family	2	14th
Spangle	Michael Sloper	3	17th
Spangle AOSV	Sue Adams	1	13th
Spangle AOSV	Holmes Family	2	9th
Spangle AOSV	Michael Sloper	3	18th
Dominant Pied	Holmes Family	1	6th
Dominant Pied	Ken & Janett Harris	2	NA
Dominant Pied	R D Simpson	3	16th
Recessive Pied	Kakoschke & Rice	1	16th
Recessive Pied	Holmes Family	2	4th
Recessive Pied	Marshall Family	3	11th
Crest	Kakoschke & Rice	1	7th
Crest	Kakoschke & Rice	2	14th
Crest	No third entry		
Hen	Holmes Family	1	2nd
Hen	Holmes Family	2	10th
Hen	Kakoschke & Rice	3	13th
Aust White Cap	Sue Adams	1	2nd
Aust White Cap	Sue Adams	2	14th
Aust White Cap	Sue Adams	3	NA



## Club Points By Class 2022

		B S S A	N E B S	Pt PIRIE
1	Normal Green	34	40	4
2	Normal Grey Green	60	16	
3	Normal Blue	61	14	3
4	Normal Violet	28	32	
5	Normal Grey	52	13	12
6	Yellow Faced Blue (English)	12	30	
7	Golden Face Blue	23	10	
8	Black Eyed Self	23		
9	Dilute	33	24	
10	Lutino	21	33	18
11	Albino	18	42	15
12	Dark Eyed Clear.	23		
13	Clearwing	42	19	
14	Greywing	77		1
15	Cinnamonwing	38	24	13
16	Spangle Double Factor	21		29
17	Opaline	64	13	
18	Opaline AOSV	63		
19	Clearbody	23	19	
20	Lacewing	29	31	17
21	Fallow	50	18	
22	Spangle	50	28	8
23	Spangle AOSV	45	10	
24	Dominant Pied	53	1	22
25	Recessive Pied	36	10	17
26	Crested ASC / ASV	23		
27	Hens Class	60		15
28	Australian White Cap	33		
<b>Final Scores</b>		<b>1062</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Total (1663)</b>				

## B.C.S.A. Logan Shield Show 2022

Members Entered		Points	Placed
9	NEBS	427	2
9	BSSA	1062	1
5	Pt Pirie	174	3

<b>Birds Entered</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>Birds Benched</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>Participating Members</b>	<b>23</b>		



## 46th Annual ANBC National Show Results from Victor Harbor

Victoria: 629

South Queensland: 504

New South Wales: 502

South Australia: 397

Western Australia: 306

North & Central Queensland: 281

Tasmania: 191



South Australia finished 4th overall with two class wins, both from the BSSA. Troy Holmes (Holmes Family) in the Normal Blue Class, and Jason & Wayne Weidenhofer in the Dilute Class. Congratulations to both on presenting the BSSA.

(Photos courtesy of Rod Turnbull and James Bader on behalf of the ANBC)

Photographs from Rod Turnbull and James Bader on behalf of the ANBC.



# Crested Budgerigars – The Ultimate Challenge

What are they?

Crested budgerigars are budgerigars of any colour and any variety with a disturbance in the feather pattern, ideally restricted to the head, that affects the outline of the bird. The presence, position and type of crest is determined by complex inheritance. This simply means that the underlying genetics is polygenic, with more than one gene involved.

Crested budgerigars are classified into three distinct exhibition types. However, in practice there can be a degree of continuity between these forms since there is continuity in the position of the crest locus:

- Full circle crested: This is the preferred phenotype with a raised ring of feathers radiating from a central locus around the top of the head.
- Half Circle Crested: This expression is a raised half circle of feathers around the front of the head, radiating from a central locus. The fringe can be oriented up or down.
- Tufted Crested: This form varies from a cockatiel like tuft to a cluster of disturbed feathers just above the cere. It arises when the locus of the crest is close to the margin of the cere.

Apart from these three ideal exhibition forms of the crest as described in The Standard there are other expressions:

- Asymmetric feather swirl over one eye: This occurs when the locus of the crest is close to the margin of an eye, rather than close to the margin of the cere, as in the Tufted.



- Double crest: Commonly seen as two full circles, one on top of the head and one on the backskull or back of the neck. But positions vary. For example, a rare expression can be two small full circles either side of the cere positioned roughly in the region between where loci for tufted or half circle crests would form.
- Triple crest: As for the double crest but with an additional full circle crest on the back. Again, there are variations, commonly with two of the three full circle crests positioned closely and centrally on the top of the head. Multiple crests have been popularised in Asia and the Middle East since the 1980's.

Not all feather disturbances associated with the crested gene are expressed as crests as defined above. Feather disturbances indicating the bird carries the crested gene are:

- A single feather on the top of the head out of place.
- One or a few feathers on the head out of place seen in the nest when feather quills start to appear. Phenotypically such feather disturbances disappear during development due to the weight of surrounding normal feathers.

Breeders who specialise in breeding crests in large numbers would be able to describe additional complex crested patterns. To summarise, the type of crest is dependent upon the position of

the crest locus. The position of the crest locus is continuous rather than discrete so the neat Full Circle, half Circle and Tufted classifications can sometimes be ambiguous but the ideal expressions of these three manifestations are the exhibition forms that are recognised and described by The Standard.

## History of Cresteds

Historically crested were first described in Sydney, Australia, in the 1920's. They appeared in the UK and Europe just prior to World War II and in Canada just after WWII. Spread of the Cresteds via unrecognised Crestbreds or by independent mutations might be difficult to disentangle. The Crested Budgerigar Club of Australia was founded in 1992 to promote the variety in Australia and published a Crested Handbook in 2002, edited by Frank Jefferies, with the encouragement and input from Ghalib Al-Nasser and the Crested Budgerigar Club UK. During 1993-1998 Shiralee Reardon was the Coordinator of the Crested Club of Australia with "Coordinator" in essence covering the de facto roles President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and Editor of their magazine. The inaugural management structure was formalised in 1998 with Frank Jefferies as President, Rob Hugo as the Secretary/Treasurer and Shiralee Reardon as the Editor of their magazine the Full Circle. This was the driving force behind the acceptance of Cresteds as a national class by the ANBC from 2003 onwards. A second edition of the Crested Handbook edited by Ken Yorke, Rob Hugo and George Clarke was published by the Crested Budgerigar Club of Australia in 2015 and can be found on the BRASEA website. It covers additional complexities not covered here.

## Breeding and Exhibiting Cresteds

Cresteds were an exhibition class at the Australian nationals 2000-2002 before acceptance as a class for points. The winning birds in those years were bred by Rob Hugo. The first inaugural winner for points at the 2003 Cairns national show was a South Australian crested bred by Kelwyn Kakoschke. That bird and the runner up also bred by Kelwyn had substantial full circle crests on bodies far in advance of the competition at that time, as far as I can recall as one of the SA Bird Carers at that show. The playing field has been somewhat evened out since then as the popularity of crested spread and overall quality continued to improve. Kelwyn won again in 2005 and Doug and Ruth Lange won the class for SA in 2014 when the nationals were last held in Adelaide. Although few breeders take on the Cresteds, South Australia has sent a full team of three Cresteds to the nationals each year since 2003, as far as I can recall.

## Crested Genetics

The genetic basis for crest formation needs to be conceptualised to enable the crest breeder to formulate a breeding strategy. The presence, position and type of crest is under polygenic control. Under this model, there are multiple genes where individually each of the genes follow Mendelian inheritance, but the effect of each gene is not strong enough for the inheritance of aphenotype associated with each of the genes to be independently tracked. This genetic model can involve at least one dominant gene with incomplete penetrance. Ken Yorke in 2002 proposed this concept of partial dominance in the context of Cresteds. Incomplete penetrance means that the gene is required for expression of a crest but having the gene does not necessarily lead to expression of a crest. The crest gene can only produce a crest with the help of other genes,



known as modifier genes, to enable expression of a crest. The extent to which these modifier genes affect the position and type of crest is referred to as variable expressivity. This serves as a working hypothesis in the absence of evidence to the contrary. There may be random additional non-genetic developmental effects that also effect expressivity, such as positioning the crest locus off centre, to further complicate the picture.

The concept of penetrance and expressivity in the context of crested budgerigars was tested in recent times by George Clarke in a series of articles dating from 2004. He carried out a statistical analysis of breeding records from more than 3,000 progeny supplied by members of the Crested Club of Australia. The data fitted what he referred to as the PE Theory where P referred to penetrance and E referred to expressivity. This model provided a better fit to the data than the earlier Inhibitor and Initiator models. The combination of incomplete penetrance of a dominant gene with variable expressivity is not new. It is an established model that explains the inheritance of some human genetic disorders. Various rare familial human epilepsies are classic examples.

## Breeding Expectations

These are average values with broad ranges taken from a George Clarke article that I may have copied from an issue of the Full Circle magazine. Broad ranges arise because we don't know if the Crested parent, we use is single factor or double factor for the dominant Crested gene with incomplete penetrance and we don't know the distribution of potential modifier genes in either parent. Crest bred refers to any non-Crested bird that has a Crested parent, and any Crestbred may or may not carry a partially dominant Crested gene. Rough breeding expectations are:

- Full Circle Crest X non-crested outcross: Expect 14% Crests but my experience is not anywhere

as high as this, for which I have no clear explanation other than suggesting the possibility that some of the non-crested outcrosses could have been crest bred.

- Crest bred X Crests: Expect 31% Crests
- Crest X Crest: Expect 53% Crests

## Breeding Strategies

Cresteds are the most difficult of all budgerigars to breed to an exhibition standard. Crestbreds with minor feather disturbances such as a single feather out of place in the cap, or a few abnormally directed feathers at the stage of quill formation, for the purposes of breeding are considered to have the Crested gene. When breeding all non-Crested colours and varieties we endeavour to maintain and improve Type, Colour and Markings. The same principles apply for maintaining Type, Colour and Markings in Cresteds, but in addition the challenge is to breed the preferred Full Circle Cresteds. Because of the small proportion of Full Circle Cresteds that we breed we may need to keep them all, or most of them, so we lose size in the absence of the necessary selection pressure to maintain or increase size. The only answer is to devote more of the breeding room to Crested pairings to breed more Cresteds to have enough to only select the largest Full Circle Crested to keep.

Moving now into the specifics of breeding strategies, and noting that different Crested breeders might have different strategies to the basic ones I attempt to follow:

- Year 1: Full Circle mated to a non-Crested outcross. The purpose of this pairing is to increase size and counteract excessive inbreeding within the Crested family. Rarely does this pairing produce a crest, so the objective is to breed Crestbreds that carry the crested gene to then cross to a Full Circle Crest the following year. For outcrossing I prefer to use Blue and Yellow faced Blue Series, and Dominant Pies

and Spangles in the Green Series. Breeding Cresteds produces a lot of wastage, that is, small Crestbreds with no crests. The colours and varieties that I use as outcrosses facilitates disposal of the wastage through the pet trade. To that end, I never mate grey to green because that produces small grey greens that are not so easy to unload as pets. Intuitively from a purely physical perspective the best outcross might be a hen since a small Crested cock probably finds it easier to mount a large hen than does a large cock find it to mount a small Crested hen desperately clinging to the perch.

- Year 2: Crestbreds from year 1 mated to Full Circle Crests. The purpose of this pairing is to determine which Crestbreds produce Cresteds, so this step is essentially a test mating. Only half of the Crestbreds from the Year 1 mating will inherit the Crested gene, unless the outcross was mated to a Crested that was double factor for the Crested gene. Preference is given to pairing with Full Circular Cresteds to skew the progeny toward the preferred Full Circle expression if there is some heritability for the type of crest produced. The previously mentioned modifier genes may be part of that underlying genetic architecture favouring Full Circle Cresteds. Crestbreds derived from outcrossing that breed Cresteds are valuable assets within the breeding strategy.
- Year 3 and onwards: Full Circle Cresteds mated to Crestbreds derived from the outcross and known from the test cross to breed Cresteds. The purpose is to breed show birds with full circles or crests of any other type for use in the breeding program. Ideally the above pairings will give you the show birds provided you devote enough breeding cages to maintain a critical mass of Cresteds. I breed too many other varieties to specialise in breeding Cresteds, so the following pairings associated with loss in average size are required as insurance to maintain the Crested family.



- Any year: Quality Crestbred with visual features such as a single feather out of place in the cap mated to a Full Circle Crested. The purpose of this mating is to produce Cresteds of reasonable quality in numbers to maintain the family.
- Any year: Crested mated to Crested. Purpose is to maintain numbers of Cresteds if the above pairings fail to produce sufficient Cresteds to guard against extinction. I avoid Full Circle mated to Full Circle in case that mating has increased propensity to breed Double Cresteds and Triple Cresteds, but in reality, any Crest X Crest mating can produce these. To my surprise I bred two Triple Cresteds during 2020, one from a pair where both parents only had a single feather in the cap out of place and the other from a Full Circle Crest mated to a Crestbred. I have never succeeded in breeding from a Triple Crest.

As can be seen above, my breeding strategies are heavily weighted toward having a Full Circle Crest as one member of the pair in case there is any genetic predisposition for the positioning of the crest locus. However, in practice one is often short of enough Full Circles so you may need to breed from pairings that do not involve a Full Circle. The type of crest produced by any pairing cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty.



## Exhibition Features as described in the Standard.

Since 2013 the quality of the crest on the head has been allocated a maximum of 30 points, with the remaining 70 points allocated proportionately for Type, Colour and Markings specific to each variety. Directing significant focus onto the quality of the crest was designed to penalise large budgerigars with insignificant or off-centre crests.

- The crest now needs to be large and complete in feathering such that it is a prominent feature of the exhibit.
- Three ideal forms of crest are recognised on the show bench: Full Circular, Half Circular and Tufted.
- Multiple crests or a crest outside the areas described are penalised.
- The Full Circular Crested is the ideal expression and the preferred version over the Half Circular Crested which in turn is preferred over the Tufted Crested. Prior to 2014 no preference was officially recognised between the three forms, but in practice judges preferred the Full Circular Crest with its more prominent expression.

The Standard in its present form for all varieties has evolved into a larger and far more prescriptive document than it once was. In relation to Cresteds:

- The Full Circular Crest should be a full flat round crest with feathers radiating from the centre of the head, seen as a neat and complete circle around the head.
- The larger the diameter of the full circle swirl the more feathers that are affected and hence the stronger the crest.
- The Half Circular Crest should be a forward facing half circle of feathers radiating from the midline of the head rising or falling ideally 8mm in a fringe above or over the cere.
- The Tufted Crest should have an upright crest of feathers ideally 8mm high rising from just above the centre of the cere.

- Flecking affects the Cresteds and needs to be disqualified or penalised in line with the way it is judged in the other exhibition classes. For the Full Circular Crested the flecking is seen as a full circle of melanised dots near the outer edge of the crest.
- Apart from the maximum of 30 points allocated for the crest, the remaining 70 points are proportionally assigned for Type, Colour and Markings as described in the Standard for each of the Colours and Varieties. Cresteds are assessed and penalised for the same exhibition features and faults as seen in non-Crested budgerigars.

The purpose of this treatise on Crested budgerigars is to raise an awareness of Cresteds and stimulate interest among breeders who are looking for a genuine challenge.

**John Mulley**

# BSSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

<b>K &amp; J Kakoschke - 22 Wins</b>
Normal Green - 1980,1984
Normal Blue - 1980,1984
Red Eye Self - 1977,1979,1983,1984,1986
Clearwing - 1980
Cinnamonwing - 1981,1993
Opaline - 1986
Fallow - 1982,1986
Lacewing - 1986
Dominant Pied - 1980,1982,1986
Yellow Face - 1984
Hens - 1977,1982

<b>Kakoschke &amp; Rice - 12 Wins</b>
Normal Green - 2005
Clearwing - 2005,2010, 2015, 2016
Opaline - 2011, 2019
Opaline AOSV - 2010, 2015
Crested - 2003, 2005
Grey Green - 2016

<b>Wayne Weidenhofer - 7 Wins</b>
Yellow Face - 1977,1978,1979,1980
Clearbody - 2015, 2018
Dilute - 2022

<b>Geoff Smith - 5 Wins</b>
Opaline - 1984
Dominant Pied - 1981,1983,1984,1985

<b>Deane Trevellion - 3 Wins</b>
Clearwing - 1981
Greywing - 1983
Fallow - 1985

<b>Peter Glassenbury - 3 Wins</b>
Blackeye - 1980,1992,2009*

<b>Ethel Dobie - 2 Wins</b>
Lutino - 1975
Dominant Pied - 1975

<b>Gordon Lowe - 2 Wins</b>
Opaline - 1979
Yellow face - 1983

<b>G &amp; E Duffield - 2 Wins</b>
Black eye - 1975
Clearwing - 1994

<b>Nigel Tonkin - 2 Wins</b>
Spangle - 1993
Hens - 1988

<b>R Arnold - 1 Win</b>
Normal Blue - 1977

<b>B Coventry - 1 Wins</b>
Dominant Pied - 1977

<b>R &amp; E Deslandes - 1 Win</b>
Greywing - 1980

<b>Graham Evans - 1 Win</b>
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Normal Green - 1981
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<b>Alan Kett - 1 Win</b>
Normal Blue - 1981

<b>Stan Watson - 1 Win</b>
Hens - 1981

<b>Malcolm Aspen - 1 Win</b>
Opaline - 1985

<b>Marie &amp; Kerry Murphy - 1 Win</b>
Spangle - 1989

<b>Lynn Ray - 1 Wins</b>
Dominant Pied - 1990

<b>Ron Norman - 1 Win</b>
Hens - 1996

<b>Mike Crossley - 1 Win</b>
Yellow Face - 2002 *

<b>Peter Simic - 1 Win</b>
Recessive Pied - 2010

<b>D Lomman - 1 Win</b>
Violet - 2014 *

<b>Troy Holmes (Holmes Family) - 2 Wins</b>
Grey Green - 2018
Normal Blue - 2022

Note: Both Geoff Smith and W Weidenhofer would be ANBC Hall of Fame members, however ANBC by laws only count wins Since 1983 when all seven states became full members and participants. \* Indicates a past or current BSSA member who did not enter with the BSSA team for Logan Shield pre selection event.



# Budgerigar Society of South Australia

Founded May 20th 1948

First Budgerigar Society in South Australia

Foundation Member of the Australian National Budgerigar Council

Winner – Australian National Budgerigar Championship  
in 1977, 1981, 1982, 1984, 1986

## OBJECTS & PURPOSE

- To promote, encourage and stimulate the breeding and exhibition of budgerigars.
- To promote the improvement of existing varieties, and the establishment of new varieties.
- To promote feelings of good fellowship and sportsmanship among our own members, and all other people interested in the budgerigar.
- To serve the interests of members of the society in all matters pertaining to the budgerigar fancy in South Australia
- To co-operate with other clubs or societies to the benefit of the society of the budgerigar fancy.

## AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

- Budgie Digest magazine issued Bi-monthly
- Informative and educational monthly meetings
- Guest speakers, seminars and lectures
- Social activities and bus trips
- Two major annual shows
- Trading service with a huge variety of products
- Closed and coloured split rings
- Books – latest releases always available

## LIFE MEMBERS

The Budgerigar Society of South Australia wishes to acknowledge both past and present members who have been presented with Life Membership.

1960 Mr. L. Whyatt

1964 Mr. R. Hancock

1966 Mr. D. Barlow  
Mr. & Mrs. Logan

1967 Mr. & Mrs. Watson

1968 Mr. G. Hogg

1970 Mr. A. Davy

1974 Mr. J. Laidlaw

1975 Mrs. E. Dobie

1977 Mr. W. Bull  
Mr. A. Gribble  
Mr. L. Poole  
Mrs. E. Simpson

1980 Mr. & Mrs. Duffield

1981 Mr. & Mrs. R. Deslandes

1983 Mrs. R. Hancock  
Mrs. I. Laidlaw  
Mr. G. Smith

1984 Mr. F. Jackson

1986 Mr. R. Norman  
Mr. K. Kakoschke  
Mr. G. Lowe

1998 Mr. T. Weckert

2001 Mr. C. Murphy

2004 Mr. K. Murphy  
Mrs. M. Murphy

2008 Mr. J. Fisher

2012 Mr. K. Wing.

2020 Mr. G. Stearnes

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| [www.bssainc.org.au](http://www.bssainc.org.au)