

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "BUDGIE DIGEST"

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BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Meeting Place: Adelaide South West Community Centre,
171 Sturt St, Adelaide SA

First Tuesday of each Month at 8.00 pm

Club website - www.bssainc.org.au

PRESIDENT:

Chris Murphy—Coromandel East

H 8370 6306

W 8300 5900

VICE PRESIDENT:

Steve Elliott—Gawler

7220 4514

HON. SECRETARY:

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8242 2849

TREASURER:

Marie Murphy—Coromandel East

8270 8284

RING STEWARD:

Wayne Bandt—Sheidow Park

0409 099 582

TRADING OFFICER:

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8270 8284

BOOK OFFICER:

Tim Campbell—Adelaide

SHOW MANAGER:

Wayne Weidenhofer - Victor Harbor

8552 4283

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

Robert Worrall—Morphett Vale

8384 3471

SOCIAL CO ORDINATOR:

Tracey Haskell—Noarlunga Downs

0408 326 607

WEB MASTER:

Trevor Gwatking

COMMITTEE:

Jim Tolson—Somerton Park

8296 7011

Jim Butterworth—Sellicks Beach

8556 3494

Ian McEwan—Edwardstown

8276 4648

AUDITOR:

Neville Guthberiet

8346 6347

DELEGATES TO B.C.S.A.:

Chris Murphy (see above)

Positions Vacant (2)

DIGEST EDITOR:

Kerry Murphy

Email: kerrymurphy@ozemail.com.au

The opinions expressed by the Authors are their own and not necessarily those of this Society

NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW – 28 MARCH 2015

As members would be aware, this Saturday we are staging the Novice Championship Show. The Show will be held the Vermont Hall on Cross Road.

At the time of writing this article, we have over 90 birds entered, which will qualify the show as a status movement show.

Full details and schedules are available from the BSSA website.

PETER SIMIC CLEARANCE AUCTION – 28 MARCH 2015

This Saturday following the Novice Championship Show, we will be holding the complete auction of Peter Simic's stud of birds. Without doubt, this is a unique opportunity to purchase some quality stock that under normal circumstances would not be available for sale.

The auction will be held at the Vermont Hall, Cross Road, South Plympton.

Viewing starts at 11am, with the auction to commence at 1pm.

Auction catalogues can be downloaded from the BSSA website as they will not be available on the day.

DEANE TREVELLION INTERCLUB – WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 2015

In April (Tuesday 7 April), the BSSA and Southern Cage Bird Club will stage the annual Deane Trevellion Interclub, at the BSSA meeting hall – 171 Sturt Street Adelaide.

Deane was a long serving member of both the BSSA and SCBS and was instrumental in supporting team competitions between the clubs. He specialised in Lacewings and Fallows and was a quiet achiever who would always get the job done with a minimum of fuss. He spent many years in committee positions and was a respected judge. The Interclub Challenge is a tribute to the man and his contribution to aviculture. Even his grave is marked with a bird bath!!

If any member is interested in bringing some birds along for the evening, please contact Wayne Weidenhofer so he can coordinate our team.

All members are invited to support the BSSA and Southern Club by attending the Interclub.

MAY MEETING – TUESDAY 5 MAY 2015

Our May meeting will be held at Sturt St Hall on Tuesday 5.

The entertainment will be a guest speaker or two, with ample opportunity for members and visitors to interact and gain important information and ideas.

In place of the usual bird of the night classes, we will have classes available for all ANBC Classes with the best birds being awarded Bird of the Night trophies in the Open, Intermediate, Novice and Junior categories. So please support the night meetings and bring along some exhibits.

BSSA 2015 SHOW DATES

The dates for our remaining Shows in 2015 will be as follows:

Stan Watson Breeders Show – Saturday 16 May.

Logan Shield – Sunday 14 June.

National Show in Western Australia – weekend of 20 & 21 June.

Ron Norman Annual Show & South Australian BRASEA Show – Saturday 4 July.

Interclub Nest Feather Show – Saturday 31 October.

Importation Of Budgerigars.

A degree of misinformation has or is being circulated re “when will importation recommence”. In this Digest is an email dated 02/02/2015 from the Department of Agriculture in Canberra which clearly outlines the current status.

Dear Rae,

Thank you for your email.

The construction of the new quarantine station will not have any impact on the current import conditions. The only change will be the location that the quarantine will take place in Australia.

The existing department-operated quarantine facilities for avian commodities at Spotswood and Torrens Island will cease operation at the end of 2018. The new quarantine facility in Mickleham, Victoria will consolidate all of the department's current quarantine operations into a single site. The avian facility is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

Information about the design, construction and transition of operations to the new PEQ facility is available on the [PEQ GovSpace website](#).

In regards to the import of budgerigars into Australia, there is no "ban" as such. However, we do have import conditions and policies that regulate the import of avian commodities (pet birds, pigeons and fertile eggs) into Australia.

Currently, only Pet birds of selected species, can only be imported into Australia from New Zealand. Australian import conditions can be found on the Department of Agriculture Import Conditions database ICON at: http://apps.daff.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp

Type live birds in to the commodity box, whilst leaving the other boxes blank, and then select the hyperlink specific to household pet birds from New Zealand. This will give you the full details of what needs to be done to bring the pet birds with you.

The birds will need to be in suitable housing for the first 45 days in Australia, as well as prior to export in New Zealand. The Australian property will need to be inspected to ensure it is suitable.

A Department of Agriculture officer in the region closest to your nominated premise will contact you and arrange an inspection of your property. As such, please provide an address of an Australian premise on your application.

New South Wales: (02) 8334 7432

Victoria/Tasmania: (03) 8308 5072

Western Australia: (08) 9334 1555
South Australia: (08) 8201 6000
Northern Territory: (08) 8920 7000
Queensland: (07) 3246 8731
Far North Queensland: (07) 4030 7800

The import permit application form can be found at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/import/application/elodgement>

Additionally you will need to contact the Department of Environment to see if you need a permit from them as well as one from Department of Agriculture. Their list of permitted species can be found on their website: <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/biodiversity/wildlife-trade/live-plants-and-animals/live-import-list>

Unfortunately, budgerigars from countries other than New Zealand cannot be imported into Australia. Animal Biosecurity has not developed import conditions for budgerigars from countries other than New Zealand and as such they are not permitted. The Department of Agriculture animal and biological import assessments branch manages the import of animals and reproductive material into Australia. This is done by applying import conditions that are determined by Animal Biosecurity and only the animal species and commodities for which import conditions have been developed by the policy branch are allowed into Australia.

Animal Biosecurity can be contacted on Ph: 61 (02) 6272 4465, Fax: 61 (02) 6272 3399 or by email animal@agriculture.gov.au.

You can also register as a stakeholder to receive advice on the development of import conditions of interest to you.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Lisa McEwan

Technical Officer | Avian imports | Animal and Biological Import Assessments Branch

Phone +61 2 6272 4454 | Fax +61 2 6272 3110

Department of Agriculture

18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

BCSA Team Transport Cages

The ANBC decided at the Adelaide National Show to retain all 27 existing classes and to increase from two to three birds benched in every class at future shows. That 50% increase in birds benched presents a logistical challenge for the host state in several areas, but for us this won't be an issue until 2021 when we next host this show. Meanwhile, we need to transport 50% more birds in the SA Team interstate each year to wherever the National Show is held. The Team will in future consist of 81 budgerigars, an increase of 27, when the 54 previously sent were easily accommodated in the existing carry cages constructed for the BCSA through the efforts of Ray Slade, at token cost.

The priority for the BCSA when sending a Team to the National Show is to transport the birds both ways such that they arrive at their destinations in optimal condition. The SA Birds usually travel to the show on the Thursday since most host states now set up their bird rooms one day earlier than was previously the case. That gives the birds an extra day of rest prior to benching on the Saturday or Sunday. Mindful of the fact that our best birds are always going to be the most difficult to manage in the breeding room, irrespective of whether or not they travel to the Nationals, the Bird Carers do everything within reason to get the birds back to Adelaide in the same condition as when they left.

With that in mind, at the last BCSA AGM the motion was put "That the BCSA construct as a priority another carry cage for shipping birds to and from the National events". Moved Peter Glassenbury; Seconded Dennis Lomman. Doug Lange and I have actioned this, but with a variation. Three cages plus personal baggage is impractical to manage when only one or two Carers travel with the birds. As sanctioned by the BCSA, rather than constructing a third cage to go with the existing two cages, two additional larger cages have been constructed for interstate transport. Photographs are attached, pending addition of LIVE BIRDS signage, carry handles and marine carpet on the floor surfaces to give the birds traction and to facilitate cleaning and disinfecting. The most notable design improvement has been fold out central partitions, rather than partitions screwed in place, again to facilitate cleaning. Jeff Rawlings, a carpenter residing in Maitland, volunteered to construct the two new cages for a nominal honorarium, and Doug Lange oversaw construction.

The Ray Slade cages previously used will now transport that part of the Team from the Logan Shield to the SA holding area, for those exhibitors who wish to leave their birds in our care until interstate travel a few days later. Given the 50% increase in the number of birds selected it is no longer possible to transport all of their cages in the one vehicle from the Logan Shield and to store the associated cages at the holding area. Thus, it was agreed at the last BCSA meeting that for those wishing to let their birds go direct to the holding facility they transfer their birds to these carry cages immediately prior to the presentation on the day of the Logan Shield. Alternatively, those wishing to deliver their birds to the holding area the day prior to travel may continue to do so as they have done in the past.

Some background detail that led to the decision to upgrade to larger cages for the transport of the SA Team is as follows. Approximate volume in cubic



metres of the carry cages (two cages combined as all States/Zones transport their birds in two cages) for the interstate Teams are 0.40, 0.38, 0.32, 0.29, 0.19 and 0.16. The combined volume of the existing SA cages is 0.20 cubic metres, which can be seen to be at the bottom end of the range. These figures

are based on external dimensions supplied to me in 2014 when I coordinated the transport of interstate Teams between Adelaide Airport and the National Show Venue in Hindley St. The volume of the new SA cages is 0.28 cubic metres putting them in the mid-size range when compared with interstate cages, representing a 39% increase in volume compared with the previous SA cages. Floor space has been increased by 37% and a partition has been inserted on each level in order to double the number of compartments.

The downside will be higher freight costs for the BCSA with increased weight and increased volume. The upside will be minimisation of potential travel related stress during transit. To value the cargo (the cream of SA budgerigars) simply multiply by 81 the average price such birds would bring at auction, with an additional multiplier if auctioned on the East coast rather than in SA. That is why we needed to upgrade to more spacious cages in order to optimise conditions during transit.

John Mulley, March 2015

Budgerigars for Sale

Janet, Yanni KALEAS and Stan WRIGHT are selling 60 quality, mainly normal green series and blue series budgerigars. No cinnamonwings or splits.

10 show cages, 1 set of 3 holding cages and 1 bird aviary.

Home address: 17 Atkin St, HENLEY BEACH

Telephone: 0422 732 428

Stan WRIGHT, Janet's father is also selling his bird aviary and selling a mixture of 60 budgerigars., including Lutinos

Home address: 4a Ridge Road, WOODSIDE

Telephone 83897506.

**THE BUDGERIGAR COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
BCSA AUCTION EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

To be held on Saturday July 18 2015

Enfield Community Centre, 540 Regency Rd, Enfield

Cocks: limited to 2012 bred and younger

Hens: limited to 2013 bred and younger

50/50 split is preferred, more hens gladly accepted, a lesser split relating to cocks may see bird selection numbers reduced and/or not included in the catalogue

Commission to BCSA 10% with minimum of \$5 per lot, a handling fee for unsold lots \$5

Any birds with major permanent deformities and disabilities or evidence of illness will not be accepted on the day however commission will still apply. Un-sold birds will be returned at owner's expense.

TO THE VENDORS

The emphasis is on quality rather than quantity

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Approximate numbers (refer below) to the Auction Coordinator

NO LATER THAN FRIDAY MAY 15 2015

AUCTION

Limited to approximately 200 lots

Initially, 10 auction lots only, per Vendor

Dependent upon numbers submitted this may be increased for selected vendors if warranted by the average sale price for their lots in the previous year

Please indicate in the expression to the Coordinator the number of additional auction birds if space is available *if you have further auction birds*

AUCTION CONTACT and COORDINATOR (BIRDS)

Dennis Lomman (08) 83448363; dennisem@chariot.net.au

AUCTION CONTACT and COORDINATOR (ORGANISATION)

John Mulley (08) 83310097; jmulley@bigpond.net.au

The Chicken System of Bird Health (Part 2 in a series)

Having rambled on in my previous article 'A New Approach To Disease Control in Budgies' about birds' immune systems and how disease prevention is vastly more important with birds than it is with humans, it's reasonable to expect that some people are dubious. Many breeders do not use the high sunlight system that helps birds to stay healthy through greater Vitamin D3 production. Yet their birds seem to be fine, so perhaps we should look at what they do.

Chickens

The basic idea of healthy poultry through better management systems was developed by scientists working with chickens. Fundamentally, it is called the deep litter system. It is now widely used with poultry all over the world, both in commercial farms and also in some backyard coops.

At modern chicken farms, you encounter the sort of bio-security that you could expect at the US high security Ebola Clinics. Inside everyone wears special uniforms - white overalls, gloves, gumboots (or shoe coverings), face masks and hairnets. To enter you walk through antiseptic footbaths. All of this serves to prevent disease entry.

The chicken barns are sealed against the potential entry of pigeons, sparrows, rats and mice. Air conditioners control temperature, humidity and dust particles.

Above and beyond everything else, the meat chickens wander around on Deep Litter. This super-dry bedding is composed of a 30cm (1 ft.) layer of pine sawdust and shavings. This dries out droppings very rapidly, preventing the spread of disease. As each batch of chickens leaves the barn at around 12 weeks of age, the barn is stripped out, cleaned out to "hospital cleanliness", then new sawdust is put in and the process recommences.

Layer chickens live in wire cages in quarantine with around 2 other chickens. All poultry are fed medicated sterilized food and treated water from special metal nipples.

These barns do not allow the entry of direct sunlight, only light through clear glass or fibreglass. Hence the need for disease protection. If diseases ever got in, all hell would break loose.

Budgie Breeders

Some of the most successful budgie breeders do much the same. Inspired also by the European budgie breeders, they build totally enclosed aviaries and birdrooms - virtu-

ally a home away from home. Some use deep litter composed of pine shavings or similar. The aviaries are kept totally dry to prevent disease spread. Floors, walls and ceilings are kept cleaner than those in any house. Dust is ruthlessly removed. It mostly comes from the budgies' feathers in the form of powder down. This dust acts to protect budgies' feathers, but is also suspected of distributing diseases such as French Mould. One might worry that mite or louse eggs could move this way too.

Wire budgie breeding cabinets, concrete or tiled floors and metal everywhere tend to stop disease spread. Wood is a known transmitter of diseases so it is avoided wherever possible. Water and seed dishes are relentlessly cleaned. The maintenance of these birdrooms and aviaries is very, very high indeed. But the system does work to a certain degree: breeders produce large numbers of healthy babies.

Drugs

Doctors and vets both recommend against over-use of drugs, especially antibiotics. The logic is that overuse of antibiotics leads to diseases developing immunity to the drug. This is truer than vets or doctors know, because modern research has revealed that antibiotics are natural regulatory chemicals used by microorganisms for day to day functions. Since they use antibiotics (e.g. penicillin) regularly as needed, they also have other chemicals to turn these chemicals off. That is, immunity to most antibiotics existed long before the use of these drugs on people or animals. So drug resistance is both rapid and inevitable.

Hence the sound advice to people to avoid overuse of antibiotics. This advice is nowhere near as sound when applied to budgies. Budgies don't have the ability to recover from diseases to the extent that people do: Live Fast, Die Young is their evolutionary strategy. So we need to conserve antibiotics in case of an emergency.

The budgie guys that use the "Chicken System" also use a lot of drugs:

- lots of regular use of antibiotics
- use of products (e.g. Emtryl) to control canker
- coccidiostats to control coccidiosis
- sulfa drugs

Plus probiotics, Vitamin D and calcium supplements etc.

These drugs are mostly used as preventative measures. Even though it sort of works in this system, this is, as previously mentioned, considered disastrous by veterinarians, doctors and scientists.

Since budgies have a weak immune system when out of direct sunlight, the use of a

high level of antibiotics etc. is thought to be necessary by many who use the "Chicken System".

With an elite management system such as this, large numbers of birds can be bred each year. One significant weakness is susceptibility to virus disease. Antibiotics is the word used to refer to antibacterials which are drugs that mostly kill bacteria. Some antibiotics control fungi and a few other disease-causing organisms. Antibiotics do not control viral diseases. As with humans, budgies suffer from many virus diseases (e.g. polyoma virus and other feather-loss viruses). Up to now, we don't have much in the way of virus-killing drugs. Antibiotics, as generally used, do not control virus diseases.

Another significant problem with the "Chicken System" occurs when new budgies are purchased by the person using this system. ONE new budgie with a few new diseases (and they all have them) amongst a whole flock with impaired immune systems can cause havoc and many tragedies.

The Big Worry

As I have said, budgies produced by the "Chicken System" tend to have unchallenged immune systems. That is, in theory, if you buy one or two and put them in a dirty set of aviaries with disease around, they could die like flies. No experiments have been carried out to test this, but the basic theory here is rock solid: use this method and you will produce very vulnerable babies. This is precisely why the commercial chicken people run their farms like Ebola Clinics in the USA. To visit these farms, you must suit up like health workers at the Ebola clinic. They can't risk any disease contamination at all as their birds could not cope with it. Is this the world that we budgie breeders wish to live in?

Another very big worry is that by using the Chicken System, genetically weak birds will survive to pass on their bad genes to their babies. Each generation of any animal species produces weaklings that evolution usually weeds out before they can reproduce. This is a very good thing, but it doesn't happen with the "Chicken System". Although wild budgies seldom recover from diseases, in captivity where they have constantly encountered diseases due to close confinement, it stands to reason that budgies must be beginning to develop a better ability to recover from or to resist diseases more. This has been borne out by my tests on my bush (ie wild) budgies - they don't deal with diseases anywhere near as well as my healthy 100 years captive-bred budgies. The birds that die from disease in a well managed budgie system (as opposed to the "Chicken System") are helping captive budgies to adapt better to captivity. The survivors have better genes for disease resistance and recovery.

What do you do?

If you are going to purchase birds from the "Chicken System" guys or clean freaks as you could call them, even quarantining these birds at your place will do more or less nothing. There are plenty of budgie breeders who have experienced serious losses or a lack of fertility from birds purchased from certain particular aviaries.

If you must buy some of these risky birds, the best idea is to purchase birds from these guys in pairs and then introduce the babies only from them into your flock (via baby budgie cages and quarantine etc). That is, you put the purchased birds into breeding cabinets to breed as soon as you get them home. Leave them there as long as possible. For once they arrive in your aviaries, they might get lethal diseases from your birds.

So there you have it:

Last issue's system - sunlight, immune system building via such things as Manuka honey, apple cider vinegar with garlic and healthy birds with functional immune systems helped by Fluorescent full spectrum light including UVB light.

This issue's system - the "Chicken System" - no direct sunlight, total cleanliness, high antibiotic drug use and very high maintenance which produce very healthy birds that are open to catastrophic disease infections.

Perhaps the really smart breeders will come up with a hybrid system which uses parts of both of my systems covered in my two articles.

What do you reckon? Does this fit with your experiences? Please feel free to disagree or to argue the point. After all this is a very important issue.

© Don Burke 3/1/2015

GRANDMA'S AGE**LITTLE JOHNNY ASKED HIS GRANDMA HOW OLD SHE WAS.****GRANDMA ANSWERED, "39 AND HOLDING."****JOHNNY THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT, AND THEN SAID, "AND HOW OLD WOULD YOU BE IF YOU LET GO?"**

BSSA Hall of Fame - ANBC Class Winners

K & J Kakoschke - 22 Wins	Nigel Tonkin - 2 Wins	D Lomman - 1 Win
Normal Green - 1980,1984	Spangle - 1993	Violet - 2014*
Normal Blue - 1980,1984	Hens - 1988	
Red Eye Self - 1977,1979,1983,1984,1986		
Clearwing - 1980	R Arnold - 1 Win	
Cinnamonwing - 1981,1993	Normal Blue - 1977	
Opaline - 1986		
Fallow - 1982,1986	B Coventry - 1 Win	
Lacewing - 1986	Dominant Pied - 1977	
Dominant Pied - 1980,1982,1986		
Yellow Face - 1984	R & E Deslandes - 1 Win	
Hens - 1977,1982	Greywing - 1980	
Kakoschke & Rice - 7 Wins	Graham Evans - 1 Win	
Normal Green - 2005	Normal Green - 1981	
Clearwing - 2005,2010		
Opaline - 2011	Alan Kett - 1 Win	
Opaline AOSV - 2010	Normal Blue - 1981	
Crested - 2005		
Dark Factor Green/Blue - 2003	Stan Watson - 1 Win	
	Hens - 1981	
Geoff Smith - 5 Wins		
Opaline - 1984	Malcolm Aspen - 1 Win	
Dominant Pied - 1981,1983,1984,1985	Opaline - 1985	
Wayne Weidenhofer - 4 Wins	Marie & Kerry Murphy - 1 Win	
Yellow Face - 1977,1978,1979,1980	Spangle - 1989	
Deane Trevellion - 3 Wins	Lynn Ray - 1 Win	
Clearwing - 1981	Dominant Pied - 1990	
Greywing - 1983		
Fallow - 1985	Ron Norman - 1 Win	
	Hens - 1996	
Peter Glassenbury - 3 Wins		
Blackeye - 1980,1992,2009*	Mike Crossley - 1 Win	
	Yellow Face - 2002 *	
Ethel Dobie - 2 Wins		
Lutino - 1975	Peter Simic - 1 Win	
Dominant Pied - 1975	Recessive Pied - 2010	
Gordon Lowe - 2 Wins	Note: Both Geoff Smith and	*Indicates a past or current BSSA
Opaline - 1979	W Weidenhofer would be ANBC	member who did not enter with
Yellow face - 1983	members, however ANBC by	the BSSA team for Logan Shield
	laws only count wins since	pre selection event.
G & E Duffield - 2 Wins	1983 when all seven states	
Black eye - 1975	became full members and	
Clearwing - 1994	participants	

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PHONE : (08) 8331 8159

B.S.S.A. CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS SCORING SYSTEM

February to November (Monthly Meetings)

(20 cents entry per bird)

1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

Bird of the Night = 3 points

Annual, Breeders, Novice, Deane Trevellion and Unbroken Cap Shows

Each Class

1st = 3 points, 2nd = 2 points, 3rd = 1 point

*** Denotes non member but Show results acknowledged**

OPEN		INTERMEDIATE	
M & K MURPHY	158	R & I FIELD	93
J & W WEIDENHOFER	125	ANDREW & LUCY	66
STEPHEN ELLIOTT	66	TRACY HASKELL	49
SUE ADAMS	30	VICKI SANFORD *	38
GLENN STEARNES	27		
K & A SMITH	25		
MICHAEL CROSSLEY	23	NOVICE	
DENNIS LOMMAN	22	WAYNE BANDT	200
BUTTERWORTH/STONE	19	GEORGE ENGLAND	63
C & T MURPHY	17	IAN JENKE	60
PETER SIMIC	17	KALEAS/WRIGHT	55
GRAHAM EVANS	16	LIBBY THOMAS	11
ROBERT WORRALL	14	T & K CAMPBELL	6
PETER GLASSEN BURY *	10	BEN HALE	6
ALGI LAPINSKAS	10		
IAN MCEWAN	7		
ALAN KETT	5		
BARBARA FISHER	2		

LIFE MEMBERS CONT 2001: Mr. C Murphy; 2004: Mr. K Murphy, Mrs. M Murphy
2008: Mr J Fisher; 2012 Mr K Wing.