

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BUDGERIGAR COUNCIL INC.

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## *Council Chatter-December 2003*

First let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope you've bred something to keep your optimism alive.

### **1. Standard**

**1.1** The Standard has been printed and will be distributed from the second week of December. If you haven't paid could you contact me to sort out any problem you may have.

**1.2** Complementary copies are being provided to ANBC office bearers, WBO, Roy Aplin and the statutory bodies who require copies.

**1.3** Council resolved that the Standard comes into force from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004.

**2. 2004 Show.** Bob Gorman has advised me that the brochures for Coff's Harbour will be distributed shortly.

### **3. Judges**

**3.1** Alan Ryder has resigned from the position of Judges Cordinator and Stephen Mow is not able to take his place. Jim Fletcher will hold the fort temporarily, but is not able to commit himself fully, so I would appreciate it if your Nationally accredited judges could be canvassed to see if we can find a volunteer.

**3.2 Examination.** Nominations for the Judges' Examination should be forwarded to me as soon as possible so that the Judges' Coordinator can make the necessary arrangements for the test. In fairness to any candidates, the earlier they are nominated the earlier they can start to prepare. Nominations close at the end of February, but earlier advice would be appreciated.

**4.** I have been in touch with Biosecurity Australia to advise that I will liaise direct with them concerning quarantine matters. I was particularly concerned that there were rumours circulating that imports were going to start again and I wished to ensure that they were aware of the Reovirus outbreak in the UK. I quoted from the advice that Dr Baker had given the BS:

*This year there has been an outbreak of an extremely virulent virus in the UK leading to the cancellation by the Budgerigar Society of all shows and aviary visits. Their expert advisor, Dr J Baker has provided them with extensive information. He has told them that the virus has been*

*identified as a Reovirus that can transfer between bird species, is extremely stable and will last for a long time in the environment, will resist commonly used disinfectants and survive heating to 60C. Fanciers have been advised not to buy sell or exhibit birds until there have been no new cases for three months and that there should be no traffic between one bird room and another since infection can be carried on clothing, footwear and about the person.*

In their reply they advised that importation of psittacine birds including budgerigars is under consideration, but that it would be premature for planning to be under way for quarantine arrangements and so on. They are fully aware of the current problems in the UK.

*In response I stated I believe there is a great deal to be gained from developing effective lines of communication concerning the possibility of importation. As I indicated, the prime concern of the ANBC would be the protection of the birds within Australia from the risk of importation of diseases such as the virus that has caused such problems in the UK this year. Nevertheless, I am sure there will be fanciers who would wish to have the opportunity to import once again. The input that the ANBC can give to your considerations will be in relation to the efficient and equitable management of the importation process if a decision is taken to permit further imports. There are many lessons to be learnt from the experience of the early nineties.*

I will keep you fully informed concerning any advice I receive and I will continue to pursue the two strands I have outlined: the protection of the fancy in Australia and the need for a fair and efficient system of management of imports if importation is permitted.

## **5. Annual Meeting of Council**

**5.1 Council Agenda.** Agenda items should be to me as early as possible next year. Closing date for items is March 31, but I would like to be able to circulate matters that have been raised earlier to give members maximum chance to give them consideration.

**5.2** The position of ANBC Secretary must be voted on annually. I therefore call for nominations for the position of Secretary and advise that I would be willing to accept nomination if member bodies see fit.

Alistair Home