

BUDGERIGAR

AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL BIRD

July - September 2026 Issue

RECENT SHOW RESULTS & PHOTOS

Results and photos of some of the winning birds.

NORMALS

ANBC Standard - Normals.

NORMALS & COLOUR

An article about normals. A discussion about, improving your stud, colours and possible faults.

CLEAR PHENOTYPES IN PIED BUDGERIGARS

An article by Bob Pitt about DEC's & RPC's.

AVIAN BIRD FLU

Keep your birds safe.

COLOUR STANDARDS

A short historical reflection of colour and standards by Ron Hunt.



*2026 National Champion
Black Eyed Self
Bred by Gary Gazzard*

The official publication of the Budgerigar Society of NSW Inc.

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www.budgerigar.com.au

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*4th place 2026 nationals
Jupp & Scheerer Class 28*



*3rd place 2026 nationals
C. & E. Rogers Class 07*

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*3rd place 2026 nationals
Andrew Cusack Class 13*

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to download past issues of the Budgerigar

The BSNSW held its AGM in September, and we had a good roll up of Office Bearers and Affiliated Club delegates attending online. There were no major changes to Office-bearer roles, with the same crew of hardworking volunteers committing to another year ahead.

There were however a couple of new additions, with Ian Manton officially taking on the Minutes Secretary role, and Craig Buckingham accepting the Show Manager's role for the upcoming year. Craig is an excellent candidate and already has ideas for a new format for a BSNSW show concept in 2027 as well as a large input into plans for the 51st Trill™ ANBC National Show in Canberra in May.

Secretary Jess Sykes added the Publicity role to her already busy workload. Thank you to everyone that put their hands up for your support, and for the tireless work all our officials do to make the BSNSW run smoothly. A full list of Office-bearers are elsewhere in this magazine.

After a few quiet months from the show scene perspective, it's great to see Young Bird Shows back on the calendar.

New England Budgerigar Club ran a successful annual YBS for Young & Juvenile birds on Sunday 20th September. A great Aussie country-style hospitality event, that included a dinner the night before, a fantastic display of quality budgies, birds and aviary items for sale, as well as an auction.

Other upcoming events include:

- St George & Illawarra Combined Young Bird Show – Sunday 18th October – Bexley School of Arts
- Canberra Budgerigar Club Annual Show – 25th October – Wesley Centre, Forrest, ACT
- Midstate Budgerigar Club Annual Show – 31st October – Orange Showground, Orange

The ANBC have had a number of Motions circulated widely to the State & Zones which were forwarded to BSNSW Clubs for their input. NSW voted in favour of the Motion to implement an ANBC Event Management Group to take on the task of organising the Nationals each year, effective from 2028. The host state will find the venue and liaise ANBC's EMG to assist in running the show. The voting by States and Zones was unanimous in their support for the EMG.

Eleven of our Affiliated Clubs have responded to our request for input into the other ANBC Motions. From the responses received, NSW will NOT support the motion to change the Ring Issue date, NSW WILL support the change of National Show date, NSW will NOT support the inclusion of National Judges in the Hall of Fame Service Division, and NSW WILL support the inclusion of a Normal Class for Olives & Mauves into the National Competition.

51st ANBC Annual Trill™ Expert National Championships - hosted by BSNSW

Plans are progressing with the show organisers holding meetings online. A contingency from NSW and Gary Hibbard from Sth Qld met up in Canberra on Friday 25th September to discuss requirements with the potential AV supplier and Rex Hotel staff. They did a walk through and measure up of what will go where. Thank you to Rob Pepper for initiating and advancing plans, and for chairing the online meetings.

For anyone attending the 2027 Nationals on 21st to 23rd May at Canberra Rex Hotel, now is a good time to make accommodation bookings to secure rooms at the venue. The Hotel has supplied a booking code for the event:
www.canberrarexhotel.com.au

Rate Access Code: EVENTS

Discount Code: BUDCHAMP27

Or call: 02 6248 5311, or email: reservations@canberrarexhotel.com.au

Discounted rates open for 2 days prior and 2 days post event for those who wish to stay longer.

Registration will officially open early next year but if you wish to secure a room at the venue, please take advantage of this discounted offer now as the rooms are all likely to be booked out.

Kathy Manton
President.



What's On

October

18th



Illawarra & St. George

Combined Young Bird Show

18th of October, Bexley School of Arts

ILLAWARRA
BUDGERIGAR CLUB



of NSW Inc

25th

Canberra Budgerigar Club

Annual Bird Show

25th of October, The Wesley Centre



31st

Mid-State Budgerigar Club

Mid-State Annual Show 2025

31st of October, Orange Showground



Breeders Directory

Jim Baker

Moorebank, NSW

**Senior Panel Judge & Breeder of
Top Quality Birds (English and
Australian Lines)**

Varieties

- **Normal**
- **Violet**
- **Lacewing**
- **Opaline**
- **Spangle**
- **Cinnamonwing**
- **Dominant Pied**
- **Clearbody**
- **Australian White Cap**
- **Recessive Pied**
- **Most other Varieties Available**

**All Enquiries
0413 980 334**

Advertisements

Ad Type	Annual Fee - 4 issues	Single Issue Fee
Two Page Spread	\$480	\$120
Full Page	\$280	\$70
Half Page	\$180	\$45
Quarter Page	\$120	\$30
Business Card Size	\$60	\$15
Breeders Directory	\$60	\$15

One free half page advert for associated clubs



BSNSW Judges Panel

As of 30th March 2026

SURNAME	NAME	ANBC JUDGE	TOWN	POSTCODE	PHONE No.	EMAIL
SENIOR PANEL						
Bevan	Terry		Orange	2800	(02) 6365 1131	heatherbdunn@bigpond.com
Buckingham	Craig	Yes	Carlingford	2118	0408 602 381	ultexp@bigpond.net.au
Bucior	Richard		Central Coast	2259	0407 928 082	rhbucior@bigpond.com
Butt	Tony		Junee	2663	0418 577 400	tony@tline.com.au
Capasso	Mario		Coombs ACT	2611	0411 012 415	mario.capasso@iag.com.au
Doull	Wayne		Lethbridge Park	2770	0412 312 840	waynedoull@gmail.com
Gazzard	Gary	Yes	Louth Park	2320	0411 834 690	garry.gazzard@bigpond.com
Manton	Kathy		O'Connell	2795	0411 835 757	iankathymanton@bigpond.com
Matthews	James		Collector	2581	0411 050 849	jamesmatthews@mppl.net.au
Ozoux	Andre		Gladesville	2111	0418 272 870	idandre@iprimus.com.au
Peffer	Rob		Molong	2866	0447 669 234	rjpeffer@hotmail.com
PANEL						
Druery	Chris		Singleton	2330	0438 644 856	christopher.druery@agl.com.au
Scheerer	Daniel		Rutherford	2320	0402 062 706	scheererdan84@gmail.com
Wilton	Mark		Kings Langley	2147	0438 567 820	mark@wilton-partners.com
Wilson	Steven		Oran Park	2570	0414 907 415	stevenwbrs@hotmail.com
PROBATIONARY						
Hill	Trent		Heddon Greta	2321	0407 298 822	trenthill1979@gmail.com
Whitton	Eric		Temora	2666	0401 364 825	ecca1985@hotmail.com
TRAINEES						
Ryan	Peter		Largs	2320	0418 681 502	peter.ryan61@bigpond.com
Schafer	Tony		Pelaw Main	2337	0400 373 000	tony.schafer@outlook.com
RETIRED SENIOR PANEL JUDGES						
Baker	Jim		Moorebank	2170	0413 980 334	jimandbrendabaker@gmail.com
Carter	John		Reversby	2212	0415 050 841	johncarterbnb@gmail.com
Hunt	Ron	Yes	Glenfield	2167	(02) 9605 5473	
McCauley	Allen		Windang	2528	0425 358 654	almau1911@gmail.com
Nicholls	Keith		Nabiac	2312	(02) 6554 1688	knico@bigpond.com
Painter	Jean	Yes	Colo Vale	2575	(02) 4889 4926	jean.painter@bigpond.com
Reid	Allan	Yes	Pennant Hills	2120	(02) 9449 4563	allanfreid@bigpond.com
Warren	Wilson		Croyden	2132	(02) 9747 6642	warren@brasea.com
APPOINTMENT SECRETARY						
Wilson	Steven		Oran Park	2570	0414 907 415	stevenwbrs@hotmail.com

NORMAL SERIES: (GREEN, BLUE and YELLOW FACED BLUE)



All images are AI generated and interpretations from the ANBC standard and online images

NORMAL SERIES - GREEN & BLUE

Feature	Standard Specification
MASK AND SPOTS	The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches ornamented by six evenly spaced, large, round black throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches.
GENERAL BODY COLOUR	Back, rump, breast, flanks and underparts to be a solid and even shade throughout.
MARKINGS	On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings - black, clearly defined and symmetrical on the appropriate ground colour and free from any intrusion of body colour or 'bloom'.
EYES	Black with a white iris ring.
BODY COLOUR	Full intensity.
FEET & LEGS	Blue/Grey.



Light Green, Dark Green, Olive Green and Grey Green



Sky Blue, Cobalt Blue, Mauve Blue and Yellow faced Blue

	Colour	 Cheek Patch	 Tail Quill	 Tail Feather
 Green Series	 Light Green	 Violet	 Black	 Mid Blue with Turquoise suffusion
	 Dark Green	 Violet	 Black	 Dark Blue
	 Olive	 Violet	 Black	 Dull Blue-Black
	 Grey Green	 Grey	 Black	 Black
 Blue Series	 Sky Blue	 Violet	 Black	 Mid Blue with Turquoise suffusion
	 Cobalt	 Violet	 Black	 Dark Blue
	 Mauve	 Violet	 Black	 Very Dark Blue with Black Sheen
	 Violet	 Violet	 Black	 Deep Royal Blue
	 Grey	 Grey	 Black	 Black
 Yellow Faced		 Violet	 Black	 Pale cream/lemon overlay on the white areas of the secondary tail feathers
 Australian Golden Faced		 Violet	 Black	 Buttercup yellow overlay on the otherwise white areas of the secondary tail feathers



Violet, Grey and Golden Faced Blue

NORMAL SERIES - YELLOW FACED

Feature	Standard Specification
GENERAL BODY COLOUR	As for the corresponding non-yellow faced series colour with minimal intrusion of yellow affecting the purity of the Primary Colour
MASK	Cream/lemon colouration extending over the frontal and crown with minimal intrusion into the undulations at the back of the head.
MARKINGS	On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings a light flush of cream/lemon colour may be visible in the otherwise white areas at the edge of the markings
TAIL FEATHERS	Pale cream/lemon overlay on the white areas of the secondary tail feathers

NORMAL SERIES - GOLDEN FACED

Feature	Standard Specification
GENERAL BODY COLOUR	As for the corresponding non-golden faced series colour with minimal intrusion of yellow affecting the purity of the Primary Colour
MASK	Deep buttercup yellow extending over the frontal and crown with minimal intrusion into the undulations at the back of the head.
MARKINGS	On cheeks, back of head, neck and wings a minimal flush of yellow visible in the otherwise white areas at the edge of the markings
TAIL FEATHERS	Buttercup yellow overlay on the otherwise white areas of the secondary tail feathers

Yellow Faced

Golden Faced

NOTE 1

These birds can be bred in both Single factor and Double factor forms with the latter form being white faced and indistinguishable from the normal form of blue/grey.

NOTE 1

Australian Golden faced can be bred in single factor forms but only the double factor forms display the prescribed blue or grey colour. Dark factor combined with the single factor forms can proportionately mask the intrusion of yellow leading to shades of blue not penalised as heavily for colour as the sky blue form. Birds with no dark factor usually display yellow suffusion in the single factor form to the extent that a sea green or grey green body colour results and thus this form attracts a disqualification as blue or grey is not evident visually.

NOTE 2

Where Yellow Faced blue is combined with any variety which displays white ground colour minimal spillage of yellow from the mask is acceptable to the extent as described for normal Yellow Faced blue but varieties with reduced melanin are to be penalised for colour in proportion to departure from minimal (as described for the normal) to the extent where points for colour are heavily penalised in the self-coloured varieties.

NOTE 2

Where Australian Golden faced is combined with any variety which displays white ground colour minimal spillage of yellow from the mask is acceptable to the extent as described for the normal Golden faced blue but varieties with reduced melanin are to be penalised for colour in proportion to departure from minimal (as described for the normal) to the extent where points for colour are heavily penalised in the self-coloured varieties. Yellow intrusion is far stronger for the single factor forms and must be penalised accordingly.



New England Young & Juvenile Show



Exhibitors: 17

Exhibits: 156

Champion Young

Cosgrove Family Perpetual Trophy
Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Young Bird Opposite Sex

Ron Langford

Champion Open Young Bird

Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Open Young Bird Opposite Sex

Ron Langford

Champion Intermediate Young Bird

Les Morris

Champion Intermediate Young Bird Opp. Sex

Jamie Edwards

Champion Novice Young Bird

McKenzie and Raftery



Champion Juvenile Bird
Jupp & Scheerer



Champion Young Bird
Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Juvenile

Rob Manvell Perpetual Trophy
Jupp and Scheerer

Champion Juvenile Bird Opposite Sex

Les Morris

Champion Open Juvenile Bird

Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Open Juvenile Bird Opp. Sex

Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Intermediate Juvenile Bird

Les Morris

Champion Intermediate Juvenile Bird Opp. Sex

Alan Nightingale

Champion Novice Juvenile Bird

Elliot Sykes

Champion Novice Juvenile Bird Opp. Sex

Riley Sykes



Champion Open Young Bird
Opp. Sex
Ron Langford

Overall Intermediate and Novice & Best of Variety¹²

<i>Best Intermediate Budgerigar</i>	Les Morris	<i>Best Novice Budgerigar</i>	Elliot Sykes
<i>Normal Green</i>	Jupp & Scheerer	<i>Opaline ASC</i>	Rodger Smith
<i>Normal Grey Green</i>	John Boss	<i>Opaline AOSU</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Normal Blue</i>	Jupp & Scheerer	<i>Clearbody</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Normal Violet</i>	Whitney & Harris	<i>Lacewing</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Normal Grey</i>	Whitney & Harris	<i>Fallow</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Yellow Faced Blue</i>	Justin Urquhart	<i>Spangle ASC</i>	Rodger Smith
<i>Black Eyed Self</i>	Jupp & Scheerer	<i>Spangle AOSU</i>	Whitney & Harris
<i>Dilute</i>	Justin Urquhart	<i>Dominant Pied</i>	Alan Nightingale
<i>Lutino</i>	Whitney & Harris	<i>Recessive Pied</i>	John Boss
<i>Albino</i>	Ron Langford	<i>Saddleback</i>	Sykes Family
<i>Dark Eyed Clear</i>	Whitney & Harris	<i>Darkwing</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Clearwing</i>	Riley Sykes	<i>Aus. White Cap</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Greywing</i>	Whitney & Harris	<i>Crested</i>	Sykes Family
<i>Cinnamonwing</i>	Jupp & Scheerer	<i>Normal Dark Factor</i>	Jupp & Scheerer
<i>Spangle Double Factor</i>	Les Morris	<i>Bush Budgerigar</i>	Jamie Edwards

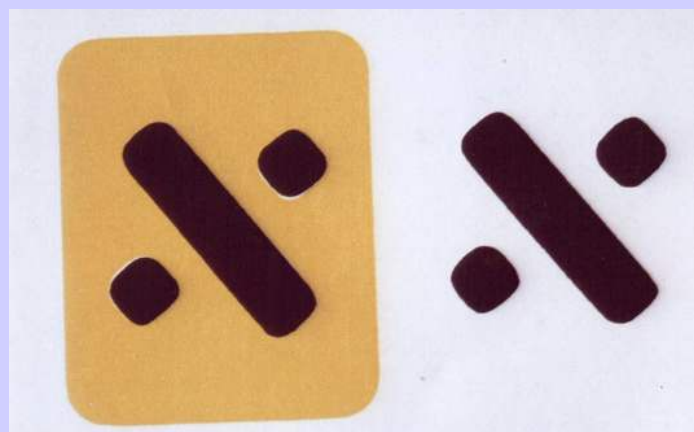
Colour Standards

NSW in 1984 still had a 50-50 standard. This led to show awards such as best olive in show or maybe the best cobalt in show. The competition in these days was vastly different to today.

By Ron Hunt BSNSW Life Member and Retired Senior Panel Judge

A typical competition was 15 or more greens (light green), 8 or 9 laurels (dark green) and 5 or 6 olives. The winner between the three first in class competed for best normal green in show. It was like each colour was a football team and if the laurel or olive got best green series many supporters of that colour celebrated with the owner. The same competition existed in the blue series. Many exhibitors specialised in a colour i.e. laurel (dark green) or maybe violet or cobalt and that's one reason we had far more entries than today's shows.

then BSA formed a committee to set about providing a colour chart for a show standard to aim for. These people did not have the knowledge of genetics that some have today. They set about selecting colours they felt were something to aim for. Unfortunately lots of the colours were rejected by the specialist breeders.



Cinnamon Markings

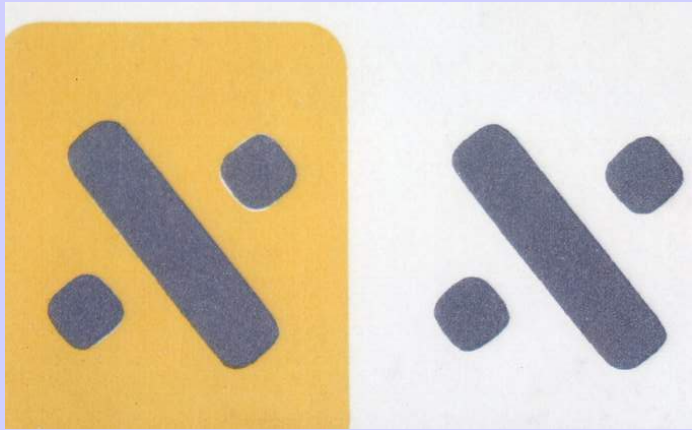


Normal Markings

The point the team overlooked was the colours are a darkening of the light green and sky blue, when colours are chosen outside the original green we have a very different effect.

The dark green is only the light green with obstruction in the light rays passing through the feather, the same with all the colour variations.

The committee did not pass onto the breeders of the inos that a lutino is in actual fact a green bird with a yellow glove masking the green bird or in the case of albinos a white glove covering a blue bird.



Grey Markings

Many breeders when outcrossing were amazed at the green bird they produced. The grey and grey green were also treated as one colour when in actual fact they are light green dark green and olive with the grey factor. Again the grey factor is caused by the amount of obstructions in the feather as the light passes through



Grey Green & Grey colour chart

This means three grey greens or greys can be the correct colour depending on the colour they are altering.

This is not a criticism of the 1984 BSA standard and colours who came up with at least a direction exhibits should take.

Myself i specialised in olives and won best olive in show at the BSA annual show on many occasions and today I am dissappointed that we do not have this award and it reflects in the number of entries at the annual i.e. none or one.



BSA colour chart
Light Green, Dark Green, Olive Green,
Sky Blue, Cobalt Blue, Mauve Blue,
Lutino and Violet



Australian Government

Keep your birds safe

A serious strain of H5 avian influenza (bird flu) has spread quickly overseas due to migrating wild birds. Act now to protect your backyard poultry and kept birds.



Keep wild birds away from your birds
by using housing and netting

Keep bird feed and water in an area that
wild birds can't access



Keep poultry coops, aviaries and
equipment clean

Keep new birds quarantined before
integrating them with your flock



Keep up your hand hygiene -
wash hands with soap before and after
handling birds and eggs.

Keep watch for signs of sick birds. Report groups of sick or dead birds to your local vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.



Be prepared birdflu.gov.au

Normals and Colour

These birds are called normal because of their markings. The wild budgerigar in its native habitat has these markings and to distinguish between mutations and the original markings the early breeders called them normal as against the variations.

The definition today embraces a number of colours i.e. light green, dark green, olive green and grey green to constitute the green series. Sky, cobalt, mauve, violet and grey to constitute the blue series. All of these birds to come under the heading of normal must have the following features. Wing Markings, striations on cheeks, nape of neck, back and top of head, all clearly defined in black.

Article by By Ron Hunt BSNSW Life Member and Retired Senior Panel Judge

These markings are on ground colour i.e. yellow in green series and white in blue series. Normals today are generally only normal in appearance and for exhibition purposes. That is how they should be classified. Breeding from them requires the breeder to understand that they may very well be carrying recessive features such as greywing, black eyed, self colour and recessive pied to name a few.

The green series being dominant to blue can often mean the green bird is carrying the genes to produce blue birds as well as their green progeny. The chapter on genetics will explain how these birds are produced and also covers the sex-linked varieties that can be carried by the cock birds only.

Why do experienced fanciers always advise beginners start off with normals? Reasons for this are considerable and new comers should pay heed to this advice.

Firstly from an exhibition point of view the normals available for sale are in the main, a higher standard than their fancier cousins, therefore a new comer would have a much better chance of establishing a reasonable line of exhibition standard much sooner than starting off with "prettier" varieties.

The body colour on normals is more readily recognised and identified correctly than say on a fallow. This fact helps the new comer in their early days of breeding budgerigars and the lessons learnt can be of great assistance when stepping out into other varieties.

Your normals lines may only be "B" grade, I would like to suggest your purchases in other varieties will probably be "C" grade at best, or even lower down the scale, and as most varieties can be improved by out crossing to normals you are on your way. The point I am making is that a "B" grade bird must surely be an improvement on your "C" grade

bird and you can start using your own bred birds to help improve your other varieties.

In the past our budgerigar standard was know as a 50/50 point score as against todays 60/40 point score. This meant that there was a lot more emphasise placed on colour than there was today. This was due to the fact that there were more points for colour and markings with a 50/50 point system. I have always favoured the 60/40 point score, however I am dissapointed in the the deterioration we have seen in both brightness of colour and poor variety features.

I would like to see breeders return to breeding again for colour and variety fetures, to this end I will pass on the system used in the past by breeders who bred for colour.

Light greens mated to light greens, their progeny were always mated to dark greens, never back to light greens. The dark greens from this pairing were often used to sky blues to produce green birds split for blue i.e. carrying blue genes in a hidden form. These birds were in turn use to breed blue series. The light greens and dark greens non used to produce blue series went back to other light greens bred from the same system.

The olives came into use when it was thought that the dark greens were becoming too yellow, to overcome this a light green was mated to an

olive. The resulting dark greens were generally considered better coloured than the one continuously bred from light green to dark green. The grey green of that time was a non standard bird and was also considered detim-ental to a colour breeders program.

I feel that not enough thought was given to the fact that grey greens have a light green, dark green and olive equivalent. By this I am saying they are simply light, dark and olive greens with a grey modifier.

The fact is the grey greens were probably not used in the same way as their counterparts. Size seems to ride parallel to the grey modifier, so i believe in using both greys and grey greens in the breeding program. The point I make is to use them in the sequence of the program as though they are light greens, dark greens or olives. Identifying which grey green in our possession is another matter, only by breeding these birds and considering where to use them will any breeders become familiar with the various shades of grey green.

Many breeders who are successful on the show bench, seldom consider the colour reproduction as in the main, they keep to just grey green and grey. This can prove very successful as by and large, grey and grey greens do not have the same colour problems as the other normals. The light green and sky can become very pale and flat.

The dark green and cobalt are often patchy in colour and in many cases quite dull and flat, more of a matte finish than a gloss. Dark greens often have a blue suffusion around their flanks and sometimes on their chest and lower body. Olives and mauves have been neglected for so long that they are generally poor in type and size along with suffusion of blue in the olive and again dull flat and patchy. It is a challenge for breeders to step out of the grey and grey green classes I know, but not such a problem if one uses simple basic breeding programs designed for colour.

I must state at this point that a geneticist will tell you to simply to use good colour birds in the first place. My difference is they are generally working on theory and most have not seen the different results at first hand. fanciers who have bred to colour programs will agree a dark green from light green to olive is always a different shade of green from one bred from light green to dark green. These variances will be noted in many of the progeny as you vary your colour program.

The other point to consider is that in this era breeders do not consider colour. Where has all the bright colour gone? some say this is due to the larger feather on the modern bird, this is probably true to a degree. I have seen very large birds as long and as broad as any of the birds on today's

show bench, with very good colour and at the same time smaller birds with very poor colour are being exhibited. We do not have to blame the modern bird for the deterioration in areas we have neglected.

Faults in normals do not finish with body colour, wing patterns and markings can be very poor and hard to breed out of your birds. Many normals have body colour creeping into their ground colour i.e. the wings and head areas, leaving the markings green or blue instead of yellow or white.

Type is important, in fact probably the most important point to consider before making your purchase . Please remember that colour and markings go to make a perfect bird on good type. Your normals should be your stepping stones to improve your other varieties as well as your front line to success on the show bench.

BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY OF NSW INC

Combined Membership and Ring Order Form 2027

2027 CODED RING ORDERS ARE DUE BY 30th June 2026

Rings are sold in multiples of 25. (Coded and un-coded)

Ring Cost \$17 / 25 rings \$33 / 50 rings - \$66 / 100 rings

**** ANBC Rings will only be issued to Financial Members of BSNSW ****

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH YOUR CLUB

Membership Number		First Name		Surname	
Exhibition Name			Club or Association		
Address				Suburb	
State		Postcode		Mobile	
Email					
Membership Type Circle or highlight Membership Type		BSNSW Membership - Adult		\$30	
		BSNSW Membership - Junior		\$10	
		Junior Date of Birth		/ /	
BUDGERIGAR MAGAZINE <i>Financial Members receive 4 issues per year by Email</i>					
A printed copy of the magazine by mail is only available to members who are currently receiving by mail.					\$60
Accepted By Club					
I..... certify that the details on this form are true and correct and I am a member of the Club for the period of this BSNSW Membership and/or Ring Order					
		CODE	QUANTITY	TOTAL	
ANBC RINGS \$66 / 100 Rings		CODING		\$	
		UNCODING		\$	
Starting Ring Number (Default=001)					
Postage		Standard Post	\$12	Express Post	\$16
		Total Cost Rings			
Summary					
Membership (BSNSW amount Only)					\$
Magazine (current printed copy recipients only)					\$
Rings (including Postage)					\$
Amount Due to BSNSW					\$
Club Membership		Adult		\$	
		Junior		\$	
Total Payment to Club (inc BSNSW Amount)					\$
BSNSW Use Only					
Date Payment Received :		Payment Reference Number			

CLEAR PHENOTYPES IN PIED BUDGERIGARS

***DarkEyed Clears, Recessive Pied Clears, and
the exhibition conundrum of convergent varieties.***

***By Bob Pitt, President, Pied Budgerigar Society of
Australasia Inc.***

Introduction

Clearbodied pied expressions have long been recognised within the Australian Budgerigar Fancy. Their appearance has prompted ongoing interest among breeders, exhibitors and judges, particularly when genetically distinct pathways produce visually similar phenotypes. This article provides an educational overview of the genetics underlying clearbodied pied varieties, with particular attention to the DarkEyed Clear and a second, increasingly observed pied expression referred to by the Society as the Recessive Pied Clear.

Historical Background of Clear Phenotypes

Clearbodied pied expressions have been documented since the early decades of the Fancy, well before the emergence of modern mutations such as Spangle. Early Australian and British records describe birds exhibiting full or nearfull absence of body colour while retaining dark eyes and pied related markings. These early clear phenotypes arose from high expression pied interactions. Over time, the most widely recognised clear phenotype became the DarkEyed Clear (DEC), a compound expression arising from specific pied mutations.



The Genetics of the DarkEyed Clear (DEC)

The DarkEyed Clear is a compound phenotype produced by the interaction of specific pied mutations. It is not a single mutation, nor a recessive gene that can be “carried.” Rather, it is the visible result of particular pied combinations that remove body colour while retaining the characteristic dark eye without a visual iris.

Key points include:

- **DEC is not a recessive mutation.** It cannot be “split,” “carried,” or transmitted in heterozygous form.
- **DEC arises only when the correct pied mutations are present.** Without these mutations, the phenotype cannot occur.
- **DEC is defined by phenotype for exhibition purposes.** Where genetically distinct pathways produce identical visual outcomes, exhibition classification is necessarily based on observable characteristics.

Understanding DEC as a compound phenotype helps breeders recognise why its appearance depends on specific pied interactions rather than on a single gene.

The Recessive Pied Clear: A Distinct Pied Expression

In recent years, breeders have increasingly encountered a second clearbodied pied expression. The Pied Budgerigar Society of Australasia refers to this phenotype as the **Recessive Pied Clear (RPC)**.

The RPC arises from a genetically coherent pied pathway, typically involving:

- **Recessive Pied (rp/rp)**
- **Double Factor Spangle (Sp/Sp)**

This combination can produce birds that are:

- clear or nearclear in body colour
- darkeyed
- without a visual iris
- and phenotypically similar to DEC

Importantly:

- **The RPC is a genuine pied expression.**
- **It is genetically distinct from DEC.**
- **It is stable and reproducible within pied breeding lines.**

The emergence of the RPC represents a natural development within pied genetics and reflects the increasing diversity of pied combinations in Australian aviaries.

Why Double Factor Spangle Produces Clear Birds

Double Factor Spangle (Sp/Sp) is a dominant pattern mutation that significantly reduces melanin across the plumage. In Single Factor form (Sp/n), Spangle redistributes melanin in the wing feathers, producing the characteristic spangled pattern. In Double Factor form, however, melanin suppression becomes widespread, resulting in very pale or near clear body colour.

When combined with Recessive Pied (rp/rp), which removes melanin entirely from large regions of the plumage, the remaining pigment is further weakened by Sp/Sp. The interaction of these two mutations can produce a clearbodied, darkeyed phenotype without a visual iris, genetically distinct from the DarkEyed Clear but visually convergent with it.

Varietal Convergence: When Genetics Diverge but Phenotypes Align

The DEC and RPC together illustrate a classic case of **varietal convergence**: genetically distinct origins producing visually identical phenotypes.

In such cases:

- exhibition classification is determined by phenotype
- breeders must rely on genetic knowledge to understand lineage
- and judges assess birds solely on observable characteristics

Convergent varieties highlight the importance of ongoing education, as they demonstrate how different genetic pathways can lead to similar exhibition outcomes.

The Exhibition Conundrum: Two Pathways, One Class

The emergence of two clearbodied pied varieties raises an important question for exhibition practice:

What should be done when two genetically different pied varieties are both acceptable as DarkEyed Clears?

The answer must remain consistent with established judging doctrine:

Exhibition classification is based on phenotype alone.

This means:

- DEC and RPC birds should probably be shown in the same class.
- Judges assess what is visible, not what is genetically possible.
- Breeders must maintain clear genetic records to understand lineage.
- Specialist societies must provide educational clarity, not adjudication.

Renaming the class is not currently necessary. Instead, the Fancy benefits from recognising that clearbodied pied phenotypes may arise from more than one genetic pathway.

Breeders may choose to work with both DEC and RPC lines, provided they do so with clarity and purpose. Both enrich the pied family and both deserve understanding.

The conundrum is real — but it is manageable through education, not structural change.

Recognising ClearBodied Pied Phenotypes

While convergent varieties cannot be separated visually for exhibition purposes, breeders and judges may find the following indicators helpful when studying clearbodied pied expressions:

- **Eye colour:** dark eyes **without a visual iris.**
- **Body colour:** full or nearfull absence of pigment.
- **Mask and cheek patches:** may vary depending on underlying pied combinations.
- **Lineage:** breeding records remain the most reliable method for distinguishing genetic pathways.

These indicators support both phenotype based judging and breeder education.

The Role of Specialist Societies

Specialist societies play an important role in documenting, preserving and disseminating technical knowledge relating to complex varieties. The PBSA is committed to supporting breeders, exhibitors and judges by providing clear, accurate and historically grounded educational material on pied genetics.

By contributing to the broader understanding of pied varieties, specialist societies complement the work of governing bodies and help ensure that breeders and judges have access to reliable information.

Conclusion

Clearbodied pied expressions have long been part of the Australian Fancy. The DarkEyed Clear and the Recessive Pied Clear represent two genetically distinct pathways that converge on a similar phenotype. Understanding these pathways strengthens breeder knowledge, supports judging consistency and enriches the historical and genetic appreciation of pied varieties.

The PBSA remains committed to advancing education in this area and to supporting the Fancy through accurate, constructive and well researched technical material.



A Reflection from the Pied Piper — A Venerable Icon of the Fancy

In preparing this article, the Society sought the counsel of a venerable and knowledgeable figure affectionately known throughout the Fancy as the Pied Piper.

His reflections offer a gentle perspective on the exhibition conundrum of convergent varieties in the following story.

The Canterbury Tails Café was quiet and the Pied Piper sat in the corner, with his hat tilted just enough to signal that he was in a reflective mood.

He tapped his cup once — softly and said “Two pathways,” but only “one phenotype.”

He leaned back and stated “The DarkEyed Clear walks one road. The Recessive Pied Clear walks another.”

- different stories
- different histories
- different genetics — but when they arrive at the show bench
- they wear the same coat

*He smiled - **and judges, my friends, judge coats — not stories.***

He lifted his cup and said:

- Should we now rename the class? I don't think so.
- Should we fear the new pathway? I don't think so.

- Should breeders explore both? Yes — with knowledge, with care, and with pride.

He tapped the table.

✓ Convergence is not confusion.

✓ Convergence is richness and

✓ Convergence is the Fancy telling us that pied genetics still has secrets worth discovering.

He stood, adjusted his hat and with a flourish and then said:

- Let the judges judge the bird.
- Let the breeders understand the genetics and
- let the Pied Society tell the tale — clearly, calmly, and with a smile.

And with that, he left the café, leaving behind only the faint scent of coffee and the unmistakable feeling that the Fancy has nothing to fear from two pathways that meet at the same perch.



Extract from the ANBC The Standard - page 30 (Last updated March 2025)

DARK EYED CLEAR	
MASK AND SPOTS	Mask to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches.
GENERAL BODY COLOUR	Back, rump, breast, flanks and underparts to be a solid and even shade throughout.
MARKINGS	To be absent from all areas. Wings corresponding to body colour.
EYES	Dark with the absence of a white iris ring.
PRIMARY FLIGHTS	Approaching body colour.
FEET & LEGS	Pink.
CERE	Cocks flesh colour.
COLOUR	Yellow (Buttercup) or White*
CHEEK PATCH & TAIL QUILL	White*
TAIL FEATHER	Approaching body colour (yellow) or white (white)*
DARK EYED CLEAR GROUP: This includes Yellow Faced Blue Series combined with Dark-Eyed Clear. The Standard for these birds is as for Dark Eyed Clear White modified by the applicable Yellow Faced Blue colour with which it is combined.	

Extract from the ANBC The Standard - page 36 (Last updated March 2025)

PIED GROUPS:

Dark Eyed Clear is a composite variety with at least one dominant gene from the Clearflighted Dominant Pied and two recessive genes from the Recessive Pied.



CANBERRA BUDGERIGAR CLUB



Annual Bird Show

Sunday, October 25, 2026

WESLEY CENTRE
CORNER FITZROY &
DOMINION CC
FORREST, ACT 2603

Judges:

Richard Bucior & Steven Wilson

Contact the secretary:

jwrate1@bigpond.com or
0412 285 644

[Click here for schedule](#)

Get together for dinner Friday night

Raffles, Bird Displays & Food available



Northern Budgerigar Association



Grand Champion

Josh Short

Champion Any Age Bird

Jeff Hinze

Champion Any Age Bird Opposite Sex

Mark Haywood

Champion Platinum Young Bird

C. & E. Rogers

Champion Platinum Young Bird Opp. Sex

Jupp & Scheerer

Champion Open Young Bird

Jeff Hinze

Champion Open Young Bird Opp. Sex

Paul Battaglia

Champion Intermediate Young Bird

Ron Langford

Champion Intermediate Young Bird Opp. Sex

Justin Urquhart

Champion Novice Young Bird

Josh Short

Champion Novice Young Bird Opposite Sex

Mark Haywood

Best of Variety

<i>Normal Green</i>	Jeff Hinze	<i>Spangle Double Factor</i>	Joel Kuene
<i>Normal Grey Green</i>	Jeff Hinze	<i>Opaline ASC</i>	Brian Walters
<i>Normal Blue</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Clearbody</i>	Ramsey Family
<i>Normal Violet</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Lacewing</i>	C. & E. Rogers
<i>Normal Grey</i>	Joel Kuene	<i>Fallow</i>	Jupp and Scheerer
<i>Yellow Faced Blue</i>	Brian Walters	<i>Spangle ASC</i>	Josh Short
<i>Aust. Golden Face</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Spangle AOSU</i>	Jeff Hinze
<i>Dilute</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Dominant Pied</i>	Mark Haywood
<i>Lutino</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Recessive Pied</i>	Jeff Hinze
<i>Albino</i>	Ron Langford	<i>Darkwing</i>	Jupp and Scheerer
<i>Dark Eyed Clear</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Aust. White Cap</i>	Ramsey Family
<i>Clearwing</i>	Steve Kilduff	<i>Crested</i>	Justin Urquhart
<i>Greywing</i>	C. & E. Rogers	<i>Non Standard</i>	Peter Wise
<i>Cinnamonwing</i>	Jupp and Scheerer		

I was honoured to be invited by Mark Haywood to Judge their 1st Annual Show run under the BSNSW show Rules with Cris Druery that was held on Sunday 12th July 2026 at Raleigh Hall Raleigh between Nambucca Heads and Coffs Harbour.

On Saturday 11/7/2026 I travelled to Mylestom, which is a small coastal town between the Ocean and Bellinger River not far from the Show Venue. I stayed at Reflections Holiday Park in a tiny House quite nice which was a short walk to the Beach. On Saturday Night I went to the Local Club where I met up with Cris and his wife and had a very nice meal After Cris and his wife left, I caught up with Mark Haywood and his partner also with Jess & Kyle Sykes and had a nice social night. A very nice quiet place to stay.

On Sunday morning I arrived at the venue ready for the day when all the birds were benched, Cris and I went around and had a look at the birds benched and reclassified all the birds that were in the wrong class. Jess Sykes did a great job with the changes required and had all the paperwork out for us to start Judging, as per the Show Schedule.

Well done, Jess.

There was around 135 Birds benched for us to Judge on the day. The Exhibitors travelled from the Central Coast, Hunter Valley, Brisbane, Armidale and the Mid North Coast.

On the day I Judged the Open Young Hens, Intermediate, Novice and some off the Open young Cocks.

There were some very nice Birds on display in all sections. Well done to the Exhibitors. Some birds were unlucky on the day because they were either out of condition or did not display themselves.

After the Judging was done and dusted, the Grand Champion was won by Josh Short. A very nice Spangle Green Cock, which would be very competitive at any show. Josh is a local Novice Breeder and that was his first Grand Champion. Well done Josh.

The Major awards winners were
Grand Champion Josh Short
Champion Any Age Jeff Hinze
Champion Any age Opp Sex Mark Haywood
Champion Platinum Chris & Elena Rodgers
Champion Platinum Opp Sex Jupp & Scheerer
Champion Open Young Bird Jeff Hinze
Champion Open Young Opp Sex Paul Battaglia
Champion Intermediate Ron Longford
Champion Intermediate Opp Sex Justin Upquhart
Champion Novice Josh Short
Champion Novice Opp Sex Mark Haywood

A couple of the Birds that I judged that I would like to mention are, a very nice Spangle Green Hen that won Champion opp Sex Open Young, owned by Paul Battaglia, that did not show herself on the day that may have gone on further. A nice variety Clearwing owned by Steve Kilduff and a nice Albino owned by Ron Longford, that ran 2nd in its class that did not show itself and was also out of condition.

To all the members of the Northern Budgerigar Association I would like to thank you once again for the Invite to Judge your 1st Annual Show under BSNSW Rules and for a well run Show. Well done.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for the Hospitality that was shown to me.

Thank you

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Interesting Reads

Gene function in Yellowface Budgerigars

www.MUTAVI.info

Part 1 - When is a Yellowface not a Yellowface?

Yellowface budgerigars have probably had more written about them than any other variety. Opinions differ about what Yellowfaces really are and debates about Yellowface genetics have at times become quite heated. The prevailing view today is that the three Yellowface varieties are brought about by alleles of the genes for Blue and Green. It makes sense that this should be so because it allows the same genetic infrastructure which produces the yellow pigment in the Green bird to produce the yellow pigment in the Yellowface varieties as well.

If the Yellowface genes were not alleles of Blue and Green then it would require a restructuring of the yellow producing apparatus which would be more complicated to evolve than the simple mutation of a pre-existing gene. Not all breeders agree that the Yellowface genes are alleles of Blue (bl). Some breeders claim that they have paired Green birds to Blues and produced Greens, Yellowfaces, and Blues from the one pair. If the Yellowface genes are alleles of Blue (**bl**) this result should not be possible. However, it should be pointed out that in the instances I am aware of where it had been claimed that a Green to Blue pairing yielded Greens, Blues, and Yellowfaces in the nest, the Yellowfaces involved were Goldenfaces. That in itself suggests the Green birds in the pairings may not have been true Greens at all but heavily pigmented Goldenfaces.

Genotypic and Phenotypic Aspects of the Sex-Linked clearbody

www.MUTAVI.info

The number of cases of albinism in birds that have been studied genetically is rather small. One of the first sex-linked genes known in birds was studied in cinnamon canaries by Durham and Marriyat [5]. They found that affected birds had pink eyes at hatching but these darkened with age. It was presumed that the cinnamon plumage and pink eyes might have been caused by a gene for imperfect albinism.

Sex-linked albinism was first studied in the Budgerigar by Kokemüller in 1935 [8]. The effects of the sex-linked ino allele in the Budgerigar are similar to those seen in birds affected by the non sex-linked a-locus, (the reappearance was reported by Ken Moore in 1990 [11]), causing a "ghost pattern" to show on the wingcover feathers and the back of the head. Microscopical examination of feathers from N.S.L. inos showed elimination of pigment also to be incomplete [13], and therefore this type of albinism is called incomplete albinism.

Imperfect albinism occurring in the Fowl was also found to be caused by a sex-linked recessive gene. Inhibition of the formation of melanin in these birds is also not total, since affected birds also show "ghost barring" in their plumage [20]. The sex-linked gene for imperfect albinism in the Fowl has been found to be multiple allelic, as already was reported by Werret in 1959 [25]. He described a new sex-linked allele of two already described namely silver and gold, they formed a series of three alleles at one locus on the sex-chromosome.

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NEXT STOP...

CANBERRA 2027

✓ THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.

The ANBC container has
officially departed the
Gold Coast following the
50th ANBC National
Championships.



51ST ANNUAL

Trill™ Expert ANBC National Championships

21 to 23 May 2027 at
the Rex Hotel, Canberra

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BUDGERIGAR COUNCIL



USE OF THIS STANDARD - MATRIX

1. For describing Standard Varieties.
2. As a guide and reference for Breeders and Judges.
3. As a guide and reference for exhibitors in ascertaining the classes in which to enter their exhibits.
4. As a guide for compiling show schedules.
5. Combinations of varieties accepted as standard are listed as groups under the primary variety in the combination. Such birds are described as:

Opaline (primary variety) Greywing (other variety) Sky Blue (colour).

For combinations of more than two varieties to be accepted as standard, every combination of the varieties involved must appear in the groups.

Standard Primary Colours & Varieties	Section Number	Recognized Combinations											
Primary Colours		As with any Green and Blue Series the Yellow Faced Series Blue is recognized and accepted in sections 4-21											
Normal Green Series	1												
Normal Blue Series	2												
Yellow Faced Blue Series	3												
Primary Varieties													
Black Eyed Self	4												
Dilute	5												
Red Eyed Self	6												
Dark Eyed Clear	7												
Clearwing	8												
Greywing	9												
Cinnamonwing	10												
Spangle Double Factor	11												
Opaline	12	4	5		8	9	10						
Clearbody	13								12				
Lacewing	14								12				
Fallow	15					9			12				
Spangle	16					9	10		12			15	
Dominant Pied Group	17					9	10		12			15	16
Recessive Pied	18					9	10		12			15	16
Aust. White Cap Group	19	Recognised in 1 to 20 of the above groups/section											
AOSV	20												
Crested	21	Recognised in 1 to 20 of the above groups/sections											

Standard Primary Varieties 12-21 may combine with one or more than one of its group varieties, but will remain the primary variety for exhibition purposes. The largest number listed in the numerical list of sections and combinations is always the primary variety.

NOTE: The "Section Number" is the code number for *The Standard Primary Variety* it represents and includes any birds displaying the Violet Colour Intensity Modifier.



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