



David Ingoe

David is a New Zealand who was invited by the Wynnum Redlands Budgerigar Society in 2006 to be one of their judges at their Annual show held on November 5th. I took five minutes out with David to ask him a few questions.

Carol: Is this your first Australian Judging Appointment?

David: Yes it is. I thoroughly enjoyed it – it wasn't too difficult as quality birds always stand out. The most difficult thing was probably the fact I was judging nestfeathers and they can be rather unsteady.

Carol: They can be a real pain as the better ones don't seem to perch that steadily. They say you can tell if a society likes you or not – if they get you to judge Nestfeathers, they don't like you.

David: Well that probably means I won't be coming back.

Carol: Did any of the birds catch your eye today?

David: There were a number of birds. There was a very nice Grey hen which I made Best Hen in my section but there were a number of others who were unsteady and did not do themselves the justice their quality deserved. I made my final choice of best cock with every bird on the floor – I couldn't get any of them up.

Carol: Comparison – is the quality equal to New Zealand birds or a long way behind.

David: You are ahead of us. We would probably have one or two exhibitors who may have done well here today but only one or two. The quality is definitely a lot higher than what we are used to which made the job a bit easier. It is easier to judge good birds than it is to pick a winner out of poorer quality birds.

Carol: They had 650 birds today – how does that number compare to the average at a New Zealand show?

David: Seeing this is just a club show and you have 650 budgerigars, that is on the large size. In New Zealand we have our Nationals which would top with about 900 to 1000. We even went higher than that last year. We also have we call a patronage show where the BS of NZ puts up special prize money and we normally get about 5 to 600 for that, but apart from that we usually have smaller club shows.

Carol: To become a judge in New Zealand, what is the process?

David: We have two levels of judges. In the first instance you don't have to do an awful lot. You have to be a champion breeder for three years and then get your local club to nominate you. That goes forward to the Federation of Caged Bird Societies which includes all birds not just budgerigars and they more or less rubber stamp your nomination. But the budgerigar society has not been satisfied with the quality of judges that has been coming through so we have our own training scheme and that would normally take you another three years to become BS qualified. We now have an agreement with the Federation of Cage Bird Societies that to judge the National or the special patronage show you must be BS qualified.

Carol: You don't have many Fallows over in New Zealand do you?

David: No very few Fallows: Most of the remnants of what's left are not English stock so you very rarely see them on the show bench. There are also a numbers of other varieties that we are short on. I think there are only one or two exhibitors with Texas Clearbodies: I love looking at them when I am here in Australia. What else haven't we got? We don't differentiate to the degree with Pieds – we just have Dominant and Recessive – and most of the people over home would not know the differences between the others.. We don't have saddlebacks and very few Clearwings. The Clearwings we do have go back to before the English days so they are very inferior examples of the variety.

Carol: You attended the Nationals this year at Caloundra. Was this your first National?

David: I went to Melbourne last year and Caloundra this year. I had a load of fun and will be in Adelaide next year.

Carol: Do you like the National format or can you see some way of improving it?

David: I like the concept. I really do. We in New Zealand are looking at the way you organise it here and we are going to start taking steps to head in the same direction. I'm not really qualified to say I can see a better way and until we do it we will just head down your road. The team challenge concept is very exciting and that is one area we are talking about in New Zealand. Making it a north south challenge. It is just so exciting to see your different states coming together. This year at Caloundra I had a friend who was not a budgie breeder come along to the show and he watched both days judging and he told me he had never seen such a fantastic show. Everyone was so happy, there was no bitching, biting and it was really quite wonderful and that was from a non budgie man. So if he thinks it was good than it must have been.

Carol: I like the friendships you form even though you only meet up once a year.

David: I know what you mean. Although we have only been here twice, I now know a considerable number of people and they all come up to speak to you at a show.



Carol: I have got to ask you about this big fat judging stick that Customs was rather worried about when you arrived. I was told that Bill Sedgwick was waiting to meet you at the airport and you were so long in customs he thought you must have missed the plane.

David: They were just interested in Kiwi wood – I didn't even think about declaring it.

Carol; It is a massive judging stick – did you bring it over to judge the Emus.

David: I have a friend who is into wood turning and he offered to make me a judging stick which I thought was a great idea. Basically it stays in my bag until I get a birds that doesn't show (not nestfeathers) and I basically bang the cage with it.



