

The Angela & Kaitlyn Edser Story



Angela & her daughter Kaitlyn Edser help form the backbone of our society's committee with all their hard work and suggestions and the committee appreciates all they do as I am sure the members do as well.

I thank them both for taking the time to answer my questions.

Carol: Kaitlyn and Angela, how long have you been breeding birds and how

long did it take you to join a club please?

Angela: We have been breeding birds for eight years and the last four years we have been in the club. We wanted to learn as much as we could about the birds and we wanted access to the products that were available at a reasonable price, but we had no intentions whatsoever of ever showing a bird.

Kaitlyn: We wanted to purchase the products from the club as before then we only had access to pet shop quality medications and they are nowhere near as effective.

Carol: was BNSBS the first club you came to?

Kaitlyn: No, the first club event we attended was a BRASEA lawn show hosted by Jackie Jansen where no one else spoke to us except Jackie, and she told us about the BRASEA auction and that is when we met Keith and Carol Gough.

Carol: and you have regretted it ever since!

Angela: definitely the worst decision we ever made.

Carol: They are rogues, you definitely have to watch them. So, what varieties do you like and what varieties do you breed please?

Angela: We like Fallows, Golden Faces, Australian Whitecaps, and we love Spangle Double Factors.

Kaitlyn: You cannot breed everything you like because it does not work out. You are better off concentrating on a few varieties rather than a lot.

Carol: What about the magic variety that you have not mentioned yet?

Kaitlyn: Normals. We know we get fabulous Normals out of our Whitecaps pairings.

Carol: With your Whitecaps, where did the original ones in your stock come from please?

Angela: from Jamie Wright - we got those at an SQBBA auction a few years ago and they bred very well, and we are now breeding our own offspring from those birds.

Carol: What is the main feature you are trying to improve on this variety and how are you going about it?

Kaitlyn: Probably shoulder - we have lovely head, good size but they definitely need a bit more shoulder as they are a little tubular. Their mask is okay but if we get the shoulder they should have better masks.



Carol: With your Fallows, where did they come from, what are you looking to improve on them and how are you going about?

Angela: Well of course they came from the Goughs' and Greg Horrobin and we are trying to improve everything. Size is the most important thing we are concentrating on as we have found it is the hardest thing to put into them. And producing visual

Fallows as we have a lot off nice-looking splits but not many visual Fallows.

Carol: What attracted you to the Fallows?

Kaitlyn: They are different to any other variety. You cannot mistake a Fallow for something else.

Angela: I do not think that is right all the time as people mistake them for Clearbodies.

Kaitlyn: There is no mistaking them, not only do they have a red eye but I can look across the hall and they just stand out from everything else. They are an absolutely beautiful bird.

Carol: What about your Double Factor Spangles, what attracted you to them and where did your original stock come from?

Angela: We bred Double Factor Spangles when we were cluelessly breeding pet birds and we bred very nice Double Factor Spangles and we bred some nice Double Factor Spangles for the show bench as well. We got our original Spangles from all over the place when we first joined the club, as we did not know then that you are better off restricting your birds to a couple of breeders rather from everywhere.

Carol: Would that be a valuable lesson that you have learnt, to limit the number of breeders to get stock from?

Angela: Absolutely. Stick to a few breeders.



Kaitlyn: That is difficult when you are breeding a number of varieties so the lesson would be to stick to a couple of breeders that you obtain birds from per variety. You cannot just say you're only going to have three breeders you buy from because those three breeders might not have the same varieties you wish to breed.

Angela: we breed Dominant Pieds, Spangle Normals, Spangle Double Factors, Fallows, Whitecaps, Golden Faces & Normals. Which is not something you would recommend for somebody new in their aviary, but we had

already been breeding a number of these varieties for years before we joined the club. Kaitlyn: When you are in Novice and only concentrating on a couple of varieties, it is hard to see any improvement as you don't see improvement so quickly, whereas, if you were breeding Double Factor Spangles, Whitecaps and Dominant Pieds which all improve themselves quite quickly, it is easier to see the areas you have improved on.

Carol: Have you bred any Double Factor Dominant Pieds?

Angela: We have bred Double Factor Dominant Pieds and we do like them, but unfortunately they aren't usually successful on the show benches, but they are a beautiful variety of budgerigar. When we first came to the club we were told to concentrate on Normals and one other variety, and we said "no that's too boring" and we didn't see the value at that time of concentrating on Normals. We did very quickly in the first year or two learn to focus as much as we could on Normals and to show Normals and not just for our breeding program because I don't think there are enough novices showing Normals and that needs to be improved. I think Normals have a larger place in your aviary than using for breeding and they need to be shown..

Carol: What is your feeding programme you use with the birds please?

Kaitlyn: Seed and the occasional vegetables if I have time and the occasional soft food when I get around to it. There is no plan feeding other than the seed. They get what they get when we give it to them other than seed which is all the time. And they always have access to millet.

Carol: When is the breeding season in your aviary?

Kaitlyn: From about February to September/October depending on how hot it gets.

Carol: Now that you have moved out to Benarkin, how late in the year do you think you will be able to breed there as it does get very, very hot in the warmer months and very cold in the winter?

Kaitlyn: Last year we bred right through to October and we had a few straggling pairs beginning of December, but it was getting far too hot and we lost the majority of the babies.

Angela: We would need to finish up at the beginning of October I think. This year whatever pairs are breeding at the beginning of October will have to be split up.

Kaitlyn: Last year there was a lot of pressure to try and breed something as we moved house when we would normally be breeding and unfortunately we didn't know exactly when we were moving until it came upon us to be able to breed at any specific point in the year

Carol: What advantages have you found being in our club?

Angela: There is a wealth of knowledge to be gained.

Kaitlyn: There are very knowledgeable people around us and mentors who have taken us under their wing and made sure we have as much knowledge and help as they could possibly throw at us

Angela: And some great friendships and that is the most important thing, in fact apart from two people in our lives everyone else who is our friend are budgie people.

Carol: we have one other person and that is an old school friend mine. They are very nice people I must admit. What joy do you get out of showing?

Angela: Just seeing your birds up there on the show bench competing against other peoples' birds. It is fun as we don't enter shows to win although winning can be nice when it happens but that is not the purpose at all, we just enjoy the whole process of it and sometimes it is kind of nice to have your bird up there against an open breeder like in the Gold breeder when you know you are never really going to win against the Open section, but we came second once to Henry George and it was really cool. We knew it wasn't going to come first as we didn't have a hope in the world, but it was still fun. We are working towards getting back to that place when shows can happen again, and we can be more successful. It has taken a long time to bounce back from the illness in our Aviary.

Carol: The illness in your aviary would you like to expand on that? How did you detect it and what was it and how did you treat please?

Angela: We first sign was that we were starting to have birds that had been previously looking very healthy, but a few days later were light or dead and we thought this is a bit odd. these birds were healthy young birds that should be able to fight an illness but didn't and we couldn't understand why this was happening. After speaking to you and Keith and we said what the symptoms were, it fitted with what symptoms your birds were going through at the same time and it all made sense. So, we treated it and treated it and treated it again and eventually came out the other side. We lost 40 birds in the process.

Kaitlyn: It was very, very distressing to go to your aviary every day and find your birds dead and to have lost an entire year's stock after already doing our cull. We couldn't get them back, they were already gone so we had no birds at all from the 2017 breeding season and that set us back at least two years.

Carol: have you found any help from other club members?

Angela: definitely, with advice and support people who've been through that themselves and come back from it and made us realise it is not the end. We were at a point when we thought we should just give up as it was too hard but we knew other people had been through it and come back stronger so we kept working at it and we are going to come back from it too;

Carol: In the 46 years we have been in it, we have been totally wiped out twice and then when mega hit us I thought, we are not coming back a third time. We could not possibly come back

Angela: it is very stressful and very expensive but we now know that we need to prevent to treat every bird that comes into our aviary and preventative treat every bird in our aviary every six months to keep the mega numbers under control and with any luck we will never have to deal with mega again.

Carol: what about when you go out to buy a bird, we all have our champion Bird of show in our mind, and a cushy lead deep pockets for that so what do you look for, do you seek advice or are you looking for one feature all what?

Kaitlyn: we try to look for a specific feature that we are needing in our birds at that time if you are looking for the whole bird you had better rob a bank.

Angela: We usually have a few birds in mind that we are looking forward to mate for so we go looking for things that we need to improve on the birds we have selected to breed with we may have three hens we are wanting to breed with that season so we are looking for a cock that has features that will improve those three hens. If that bird won't breed for these three hens and into the future then it's not worth buying. We know in our minds what we want to achieve with the bird we buy so we tend not to just randomly buy a bird unless we go to an auction when we have been known to get carried away a little. (lots of laughter)

Carol: but then you normally have somebody sitting up on the stage shaking her head "no"

Angela: Yes, and we generally would have asked a much more experienced breeder ahead of bidding time "what do you think that this bird as this is what we need to do with it" and they will say yes or no

Carol: I remember speaking to both of you at an auction and I was trying to get through to you about the head coming up to a narrow point and I think that is an important lesson not to buy a bird that comes up into a point of the head

Angela: Yes, we do not buy pinhead birds anymore -we learnt a valuable lesson.

Carol: I think if everybody learnt that lesson, we would see a vast improvement.

Angela: Unfortunately, there would be a lot more passed in birds at auctions, but it would be better for the hobby.

Carol: Last year you attended your first National Show at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Brisbane and you were very busy helping in every way you could. What did you think of the whole concept?

Kaitlyn: I think everything ran very well and I feel South Queensland did a good job.

Carol: Did you enjoy viewing all the birds and be able to speak to different breeders from interstate?

Angela: Yes, we did but it was a totally different experience to anything we had been to or seen..

Kaitlyn: We imagined it would be like a normal show but on a much larger scale and it is nothing like that.

Angela: But it was great to be involved as we really enjoy helping although we were exhausted.

Carol: Except for the Monday when the holding room had to be cleaned up?

Angela: Except for the Monday –

Kaitlyn: We still managed to have a lot of fun until you broke your rib Carol.

Carol: Kaitlyn, you work with Henry George one day a week to assist with the cleaning of his marvellous aviary set up. What is that like and have you picked up any tips that will help you in your aviary?

Kaitlyn: I don't know if I have picked up tips and stuff but, the way people do things that works for them is interesting to see.

Carol: Henry holds his Nestfeathers in a nursery cage until they start sprouting pin feathers doesn't, he – so how long do you hold yours for before putting into a flight?

Kaitlyn: Until they can fend for themselves, about two weeks. We ensure they are eating independently before putting them into a flight.

Angela: If they appear to be a little weak, or a little immature, we hold them for a longer period.

Angela: We have picked up things along the way e.g. a simple thing like dipping eggs and when to dip them. Henry does it day 16 I believe,

Kaitlyn: I think only dips eggs on a Thursday so some miss out and don't get dipped at all.

Angela: We thought you just dipped eggs in and out quickly but Henry puts the egg into the bowl of tepid water and it is there until he does what he has to do and the egg could be in the water for as long as a minute. But we were always probably too careful by making sure the water was the right temperature, but Henry uses the same bowl of water all the way through every egg he wants to dip.

Carol: Do you soak eggs much as we don't. If it is very dry and hot, we will spray the tummy of the hen and then when she goes into the nestbox she puts that moisture onto the eggs when she is incubating them.

Angela: If it has been very dry for a long time and we find chicks having difficulty coming out, then we will dip the eggs. Usually they just need a quick soak to help them get their

way out of the egg. It varies whether we do it or not as it is not a standard practice we do, it is only if we feel the chicks need it. The standard things we do is evolving as we are in a different location with different environment and temperature now to what we were used to before.

Kaitlyn: We really have to think about what we are doing with the water as it isn't in the taps at all times as it was when we lived in the city. We really have to think about what we are doing so they are getting less water additives than they were before. They are not getting the Calcivet and other stuff all the time. Every time I do the water it takes 12 litres and this mounts up in cost, If I changed the water every day, then that is a lot of water. The birds get fresh water every 2 to 3 days and Vitabooost every weekend.

Carol: is very anything else you would like to add?

Angela: Yes, join a club, get active it was the best thing we ever did.

Carol: Well Brisbane is very pleased you joined our club as you are very hard workers for our club and the hobby so thank you very much

Kaitlyn: You cannot just join a club and do nothing, to help that is not what it is about. Being in the club is about helping it and helping your fellow members



This is a Nestfeather that Angela and Kaitlyn are proud of. The Golden Face is showing improvement in the head, shoulder, and top skull.

Just a little more work on the mask is needed but they should be very proud.

Secretary's note:

These two girls travel over 90 minutes to attend committee meetings, club meetings, SQBBA meetings etc.

They spend so much money on petrol and yet they are on disability pensions. I think everyone of our members should say a huge thank you to them.