

# **Breeder Profile**

## **Barry & Maree Wise**

### **an interview with Barry Wise**

***Congratulations on winning the BSNSW Annual Show championship. Please tell us about your Grand Champion who features on the front cover of this magazine.***

He is a Cinnamon Grey cock. His grandfather was an Opaline Cinnamon Grey Green from Geoff Wood and was bought at the 2002 Hills auction. He was paired to a hen that goes right back to my imported Moffat birds, producing a very good Cinnamon Grey cock that was paired to a Yellow Faced Cinnamon Grey hen from a line that I've been breeding with for about 10 years and which also can be traced to my import birds. In turn this pair bred some very good birds – one the BSNSW Annual winner and a Yellow Faced Cinnamon Grey cock that came 7th at the Melbourne National Championships in 2005.

***Please provide a history of your breeding and exhibiting Budgerigars. Is there anyone you would particularly like to acknowledge?***

I bred Budgerigars as a young fellow and made my first aviary when I was 13. The budgies were the pet type and I used to swap with other kids from school to get new stock. When Maree and I were married in 1985 and bought our first home I made our first breeding room in a shed at the rear of the yard, and had about six aviaries with a collection of small parrots and finches.

We were introduced to exhibition Budgerigars when we attended a Tamworth Cage Bird Society Table Show held at Gladys and Allan Giles' home at Tamworth – Maree and I were amazed at the size of the birds. There we met Tim Corliss who at that time was living in Gunnedah. We received a lot of help pre-importation days from these people.

***How did you build your stud? Do you line breed and, if so, how often do you out-cross?***

My stud after importation is based on two birds we imported from Jim Moffat and birds from Robert Manvel and Neville Seage. In later years we obtained birds from Wally Capper (a very good friend from Gunnedah days and still so today), Gary Gazzard, Allan Druery, Don Harper, Phil Jones, Ian Hannington, John Barden and Geoff Wood. We have three lines we inbreed using the

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previously mentioned breeders' lines. Outcrosses only come from breeders with the same lines, but if a bird has a particular feature we need I will add it to the stud.

***What varieties do you specialise in?***

Most people know us for our Greywings. Our line started from birds we bought from Phil Jones, whose birds originated from Scottish breeder Jim Moffat, and from Larry William of Taree. We have had a lot of success with our Greywings, winning two National Championships in 2001 and 2004 and placing at two others. We've also had success with Yellow Faced Blues and would like to improve that variety further.

This year I was fortunate to buy 20 Lacewings from Jan Milne prior to her sell-out. We have a good line of Lacewing Whites and we also keep a few Crested and Fallow pairs.

***What are the main features of your aviary?***

Our current aviary is the fifth one we've built and, hopefully, the last. It measures 6 m x 6 m and is divided into three rooms. The walls and roof are lined and insulated and the floor is tiled. The main entry is via a 1800 m x 2100 m sliding screened glass door.

The breeding room is 3 m x 6 m – it includes a sink with cold water only. We use 40 all-wire cabinets which are housed in wheeled frames that hold eight cabinets each. Of these only six are used for breeding – the bottom two house baby birds or hens that have finished breeding. The nest boxes are placed on the outside of the cabinets. In each cabinet I have a wooden tray, measuring 200 mm x 400 mm, that houses seed trays and enables young birds to get off the wire base and not waste too much seed. The breeding room also has an industrial exhaust fan that eliminates almost all dust – noisy, but a great bit of gear.



Maree at the entrance to the breeding room

The flight is 4.5 m x 3 m and is split in two. It has a night light and a small pop-out. The third room measures 3 m x 1.5 m and is completely dustproof. It contains all my seeds, seed sprays, show cages, medicine cabinet and basically everything else I use.

**What do you consider are the most important elements of your feeding and preventative health regime?**

The mainstay is good clean seed. I buy seed and mix it as the season changes. Each cabinet has a rectangular Chinese container for the seed mix. I also have a container with just Japanese millet.

Twice a day each cabinet gets soaked oats that are soaked in one of three things – aviclens, vitamin B12 or moulting aid. My birds love soaked oats which I use to ensure they get what I'm trying to administer. The water tubes have water only or worming mixture when it is due.

I have two forms of grit – a special multivitamin and fine grit mix that goes into finger draws as well as a dish of Canoundra grit. Every day the birds in each cabinet are given green food – celery, spinach, beetroot leaves or carrot – and lots of millet sprays.

**What do you think contributes to a successful breeding season?**

Observation of your birds is very important. Check that all your birds are healthy or coming into breeding condition. A month before breeding commences I put all the birds on a 14-day course of Doxycycline 10%. When that is completed I replace their grit pots, dose them with multivitamins and spray them with Coopex. The birds are jumping out of their skin and busting to breed.



Maree checking that all is well with the young birds in the cabinets

**How do you pair your Budgerigars and what do you look for when pairing them?**

We try to balance the features in the pairs but our main consideration is that the hen must have good directional feather. Most of our birds have a good length of mask. Spot size is very hard to maintain so I am using Opalines to improve this feature. However, with Opalines comes flecking.

**What is the best advice you have been given about breeding and exhibiting Budgerigars?**

You have to be patient. Success doesn't come overnight.

**What is your approach to exhibiting Budgerigars?**

We show no more than ten birds per show and, to be honest, don't give them enough show training. To get to shows I have to take annual leave so I only show at the BSNSW Annual Show; the Hunter, Newcastle and Central Coast Annuals; and the State Team Challenge Competition. I always attend the National Championships. After coming home from shows the birds are placed in holding cages and given heaps of millet spray and spark in the water.

**Obviously winning the BSNSW Annual Show was a highlight for you. What have been some of your other highlights breeding and exhibiting Budgerigars?**

We've been very lucky on the showbench but our National wins were special. Whether we win or lose is not important, but catching up with old friends is.

**What are your goals for breeding and exhibiting Budgerigars?**

Our main aim is to breed birds that are competitive on the bench and keep improving the overall quality of the stud.

**Is there any particular advice you would give people who are new to the Fancy?**

All persons new to the Fancy should try to get a mentor or buddy with someone who lives in their area. Do aviary tours of breeders that are consistent on the showbench and only buy birds from breeders that have similar lines that will mesh together.

I tell novices to buy dominant varieties to start because they will always be able to sell off any culls. When they have learnt the ins and outs of breeding, then move onto the recessive varieties which, as a rule, have a lot of wastage.

*Interview by Marilyn Harrington*



**Opaline Cinnamon  
Sky Blue Hen  
2006**



**Barry Wise  
receiving the trophy  
2007  
BSNSW Annual Show  
Grand Champion**



**Greywing  
National Champion  
2004**



**Cinnamon Sky Blue Hen  
2006**



**Normal Grey Cock  
2007**



**Grey Green Cock  
2006**

**Birds  
from the  
aviary  
of  
B & M Wise**

**BUDGERIGAR**  
AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL BIRD