

Dear Club Secretaries and Budgerigar Enthusiasts

Supporting Letter for the formation of an ANBC Management Committee

Introduction:

This letter is provided to all members on behalf of the ANBC, it has been compiled by an interim subcommittee whose task was to develop a format that would allow the ANBC to better take head on some of the more pressing issues that are putting real pressure our great hobby.

The current Delegate system has its difficulties, the tyranny of distance and meeting once a year on the National show weekend are only two, so it is easy to see why the list of challenges for the hobby is becoming larger.

The interim Subcommittee is proposing a more permanent management committee / Working group be established that works for and on behalf of the ANBC delegates committee.

We are hoping that All States and Zones can be in a position to vote on this matter shortly after the closing date for voting 16 March 2021, Voting will be collated at a club level and then at a state and zone level, so please no direct correspondence to the National secretary, but rather your local ANBC Zone delegates.

The Issues:

At the ANBC Delegates meeting held on the 31/07/2020 the meeting called for volunteers to form a Sub Committee to investigate ways going forward with regard to the ANBC. This committee has now met on multiple occasions and investigated many avenues of possible improvements to the way we conduct the business of running our hobby. We have decided on seven key areas of critical needs for our hobby and have listed them in order of importance.

- Growth of membership in each zone
- National responses regarding animal welfare matters

- Outwork the future of the National show
- Develop a forward-looking strategic plan
- Attract high level national sponsorships
- Establish relationships with Australian Federal and State Governments.
Department of Agriculture
- Support and develop Avian research

The biggest single obstacle facing the ANBC is our dwindling membership. The current membership is mostly an aging membership with few younger members and very little in the way of junior members. We need to form policies for attracting newer members. This hobby can be a great family adventure and we need to promote it as such. If we can get families involved, the children gain an appreciation of the hobby and although they may leave for educational purposes, to form their own families and such, they will most likely return to the hobby in later life, and maybe their parents will remain within the hobby as well. There is a plethora of people that are retiring and recent empty nesters that are looking for a hobby or such to occupy their later years. We should be targeting those people.

Animal welfare is a critical area and we need to develop definite, sensible strategies and a single national “Code of Practice” that suits our hobby and satisfies the requirements of the various Federal and State Government Departments. We must note there are various animal welfare groups that are lobbying the Federal and State Governments to curtail the keeping of domestic pets. We need a plan to counteract these groups that are attempting to force unrealistic controls on our great hobby.

The National Show is respected worldwide! This showpiece of our hobby needs to be promoted and expanded to satisfy the needs of our current and future members Australia wide. Rather than relying on a few overworked members of the various States and Zones that currently do heavy lifting to organize and run the Show we should consider outworking the management of the National show to an authorized committee in conjunction with the host State or Zone. The need for increased sponsorship for the show is another factor we need to investigate as well as the promotion of the show to a wider audience to encourage the already mentioned growth of membership.

The ANBC and its affiliated members are required by Federal and State Governments for organization's whether they be large or small businesses, not for profit groups, charity organizations or sports and recreational groups to have precise and recorded Governance procedures in place. If, as a group, we fail to provide such governance measures they will set them for us. Do we want government bureaucrats with no knowledge or interest in our hobby to set the rules of how we operate or do we as the ANBC set our own rules and still satisfy the governance requirements? This subcommittee recommends that we set our own governance matrix covering government interactions, animal welfare agenda's, updated codes of practice and conduct and risk assessments for our activities.

Recommendation's for a NEW ANBC Management Committee

How do we achieve these abovementioned goals? This subcommittee recommends that the ANBC form a Management Committee made up of seven (7) people.

Comprising:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Membership/Promotions/Marketing Co-Ordinator
- Events Manager
- Colour & Standards Co-Ordinator (as per existing)
- National Judges Co-Ordinator (as per existing)

This Management Committee would be the work horse delegated to investigate and formulate ideas for the successful running of the ANBC, then present those ideas to the ANBC Delegates for approval. If approved the Management Committee would then be tasked with implementing those ideas and recommendations. The Management Committee would need to liaise with the various Government departments in regard to various governance issues and grants, animal welfare matters and various businesses regarding sponsorship.

This Management Committee would in short be doing the day to day work of the Council. The Council would however retain control over the major decision making.

The proposal is that this Management Committee would be formed by calling for expressions of interest from within our membership on a voluntary basis for a term of three (3) years and would meet bi-monthly. This may change as circumstances change.

Conclusion & Members Action:

In conclusion we feel that the hobby will be better served by having a Management Committee that focuses on the operational aspects of the ANBC by meeting on a regular basis. This committee needs to be positioned to deal with the ongoing threats to the hobby – such as declining membership, animal welfare issues, financial challenges and political interference that are impacting on our hobby.

We feel that it is important this matter be widely discussed across all club Australia wide, It is hoped that you club would then take that their position on this matter to there representative State / Zone body so in turn this vote can be tallied at a National level.

Your State /Zone representatives have a closing date of 16th March 2021, so please support the process by providing feedback prior to this date.

Signed

The Members of the interim Sub Committee

Colin Flanagan	Leigh Downey
Catherine Charlesworth	Dave Ganzer
Russell Ogden	Peter Thurn