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“Chirp & Squawk”

February 2014 Newsletter

Next Club Night: Wednesday 12 February
7.30pm-9.30pm – Club Night

President's Report:

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014. The 2013 Christmas dinner at Fisherman's Table was a great success. Thanks to all that came and enjoyed the venue and each other's company.

February's Club Night: Wednesday 12 February 2014

This month's meeting is mainly to catch up with everyone after the long Xmas break, a general advisory on what is planned for the year for the club and an update on how the breeding season has gone so far for the members. Helen and I won't be at February's meeting. Our eldest daughter is off to Otago University next Friday and we have a meeting with Otago representatives on Wednesday night in Wellington before she goes. Other members of the committee will be running the club night in our place.

Guest Speakers

Last year we had speakers lined up to talk to us who had to pull out at the last minute for various reasons. We are always on the lookout for speakers so if you know someone (or are someone willing to speak to the group), please let Helen know. We try to have at least four speakers a year but we came up well short last year.

April 2014 Exhibition

If you could start thinking about this as we need to organize a few things already. We need non-perishable items for the raffle - please put these in the box by the name labels. This year we will have a small show committee to help organize things before the day. Volunteers for the show committee are welcome. Please advise Helen. Of course, we still need the usual volunteers for the actual day. Please put your name on the list or contact Helen.

February 2014 Nga Manu Reserve – Sunday 16th

We have booked Nga Manu Reserve – BBQ and tours/walks - for Sunday 16th of February 2014 11:00am. This allows for a lunchtime BBQ followed by a walk around and a visit to the eels when they feed at 2pm. Prices: Adult \$16.20, Child under 15yrs \$7.20 and Family \$38.00 (2 adults and any number of children under 15 in the same vehicle). BYO food for the BBQ. BBQ's are at the reserve. Will also be discussed next week at the Club Night. Those who intend to go please let June know numbers so she can let Nga Manu know an estimate of how many are going. (June's number is at the top of the newsletter).

A Peek in Your Aviary

We are currently in discussions with one of our neighbouring clubs to have an Aviary Crawl in March 2014 with the possibility of a return crawl either later in the same month or the following month. Watch this space. Those interested in allowing their aviaries to be seen on the return trip please let Helen know so we have an idea how many aviaries are available.

Raffle:

There was no raffle in December due to the Xmas Dinner. Raffles will return this month. \$1 per ticket. Get them while they are hot!

Club Rules

We are bound by a set of rules – our constitution – the little green book! We have been a bit lax these last few years and some members may not have a copy. Get a note/email to Don (Treasurer) for your copy or Helen (Secretary) will have spare copies at the Club meetings.

Bird Database:

If Helen has not contacted you about your birds for the database, feel free to either approach her at the meeting or call her (number is at the top). The club gets many queries about birds, whether someone is interested in buying or selling or just general information regarding a particular bird breed. Should a query come in, the database can be consulted and the database manager can then contact the member in question. At this point it is up to the member whether they contact the person querying or not – this is not compulsory. Also, the only person contacting the member will be the database manager – no one else, including other club members, will get contact details. All information remains confidential.

Club Library:

The latest Birdkeeper magazines are now available for loan. Don't forget: if you can think of any other books that may be suitable for the Club to purchase, feel free to let Bev know. We are having major problems finding up-to-date additions/replacements for the library so any help will be much appreciated.

Club Website:

Remember if you can't find a newsletter or want to ask a question, or have birds for sale/want to buy – go to our Club's website (<http://www.kapitibirdclub.org.nz/>). Remember this and you can advise other people interested in birds to check out the website or join the Club! I have added links to a couple of forums we use a lot and a couple of others I found. If you have any good links you want to share with the members, please let me know and I will get them added.

Seed Order / Seed Table Sales:

The next seed order is due at the March meeting. The club table has smaller amounts available and we do have some larger amounts (10kg/20kg bags) in the container of some seeds as well. See Jan/Lyn for the table sales and Adam for bags from the container.

There are also samples of the seeds Top Flight supplies in small containers so you can look at the seed selection.

Wanted: Your spare unhatched eggs. Helen wants to expand her current collection of eggs and is going to make a set for the club as well. She is looking at two of each type of bird's egg that cover all our member's different varieties/species. We can use this going forward both as an exercise in egg recognition and as a record of the different bird types within the club. There will be a sheet of paper on the club table/notice board which will have listed all bird types known to be in the club and also what eggs are currently covered and obviously what are still needed. Feel free to talk with Helen about this for further information or with your donations. Remember this is a long-term task – we are asking this now so people will have it in their heads to save some eggs that would otherwise be thrown away.