**A green bird with yellow head

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Justin Urquhart

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| **How did you become involved in budgies & the hobby?**  When I was about 10 years old my father bought me two pairs of Budgies. It was then they I started reading about them and learning and breeding, I then joined a club in Melbourne and started showing.  **What set-up do you have for keeping and breeding your budgies?**  I have a large outdoor flight aviary and 16 breeding cages that I have in the shed.  **What advice would you give to someone starting up the hobby?**  Be patient, it takes time to breed good birds. Talk to breeders that have been in the game for a lot of years and learn from them as well as reading on line forums etc.  **What bloodlines do you have in your birds?**  Mike Whitney, Doug Rawson, SFK, HKM  **How do you prepare your birds for a show?**  I like to separate them into individual cages about 6 weeks before a show, spray them with water daily to encourage them to prune their feathers and ensure they have a good diet.  **Is there anything you do in the bird room that has helped your breeding success?**  Keep it clean and well ventilated, ensure your birds have fresh water and a balanced diet.  **What main features do you select for in your budgies?**  I look for a long wide mask, a nice wide chest and shoulders, a bird that sits up well on a perch with flight feathers that just touch each other across the back as it sits tall and proud | **What varieties are you favourites?**  I don’t really have a favourite variety, I like a bird that shows all of the characteristics that make up a nice exhibition bird. If I had to choose a favourite, I would probably lean towards a Lutino.  **What do you enjoy about being part of the New England Club?**  Everyone is very supportive. The members are all there for the right reason, to display their birds, share their knowledge and encourage others to be part of a wonderful club with great people.  **What was one of your favourite moments in the hobby?**  I would have to say that one of my favourite moments would be watching the young leave the nest and grow out, watching them mature and improving your flock.  **Who influenced or helped you when you started out?**  My father was a big influence, he was into breeding Budgies and Pidgeon’s as a child and bought me my first couple of pairs and got me hooked, the rest is history.  **How do you prepare your birds for the breeding season?**  I will look at my birds and look at what characteristics they have and try and improve on them. I will often put pairs away prior to breeding to ensure they get along and then open up the nest boxes. I will also make sure they are in good condition before I pair them up.  **Anything you would like to say or comment on about the hobby?**  I get a lot of enjoyment in being part of the club, breeding and showing, and improving the birds I have. It is a lot of fun, you meet some great people. It doesn’t have to be expensive unless you want to buy some top quality birds, it is a hobby for all ages. |