

# *Finch Bizz*



*The monthly magazine of the  
**Hawkesbury Finch Club**  
A Branch of the Finch Society  
of Australia Inc.*

**January 2023**

# *Finch Bizz* January 2023

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A branch of The Finch Society of Australia

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Next Meeting 1930hrs January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023:

***HAWKESBURY FINCH CLUB A BRANCH OF  
THE FINCH SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC***

**DATES FOR MEETINGS 2023**

**25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 ANNUAL MEETING  
SUBSCRIPTION DUE**

**22<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2023 \* 5 Wed this month**

**26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

**24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 \* 5 Wed this month**

**28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

**26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

**23<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2023 \_ \* 5 Wed this month**

**27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 CHRISTMAS MEETING  
\* 5 Wed this month**

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**Happy  
New  
Year To  
All Our  
Members**

## Brian Bohl

Admin



### **The Avian Advisory Hub.**

Update on the work carried out in order to prevent early chick losses in avian youngsters – summary of the three (3) posts to date on this most important subject

If you are reading this post and haven't perused my earlier posts on the subject of early avian chick losses, may I suggest you read post No 3 again to ensure the following summary of my investigation into the early avian chick losses situation is crystal clear and this ongoing problem of avian neonate deaths can be tackled with confidence by fanciers of all avian species..

Looking into this situation, I have learnt it is universal problem and a good deal of work has been undertaken by veterinarians and avian health organisations from all avian communities worldwide (HARI : the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute and Pantex Holland have products specifically designed to tackle the early chick death syndrome)..

In earlier posts, I mentioned that some bacterial species can infiltrate the avian egg prior to shelling as it passes down the reproductive tract; further reading indicates certain microbial communities have been found in the upper reproductive tract region between the isthmus and the uterus (Salmonella , E-coli, an Enterobacteriaceae , Campylobacter or Pseudomonas are just a few of the bacterial species to be found)..

Essentially early chick death (neonate mortality) is directly attributable to the presence of certain pathogenic

organisms either present during the formation of the egg in the avian reproductive tract or inadvertently passed onto the hatched chick via the parents whilst in the nest ; the chick has virtually zero immunity in the vital 5-10 days of life and chick death is inevitable..

Following on from Post No. 3, I shall now summarise my conclusions to practical work performed by myself and some canary breeder colleagues also some recommendations based on work conducted by avian authorities ...

Alternatives to Grog New (Pantex Holland and Dr Coutteel) As Pantex and Dr. Coutteel have used a complementary or combined medicant approach to solve the neonate death issue, my work involved the use of a 2 component combination of water soluble medicants..

Grog 3 consists of a triazinetrione (**Diclazuril**) and a broad spectrum tetracycline antibiotic (**Oxytetracycline**)..

A similar symmetric triazinetrione readily available in Australia (Baycox) with active ingredient **Toltrazuril** was evaluated against Sulpha AVS , Triple C and Sulpha 3

\*\*\*\*\*

Sulpha AVS = Trimethoprim and Sulphadiazine

Triple C = Chlortetracycline

Sulpha 3 = Sulphathiazole, Sulphadimidine, Sulphamerazine (all three are sulphonamide antibacterials)

\*\*\*\*\*

Blends of Baycox with the list of medicants above were prepared; it was noted that the blend of **Baycox with Triple C** produced a fine yellow precipitate thus this blend was removed from another further evaluation.

\*\*\* Note well both Baycox and Triple C are exceptional products used

alone but would not be considered as a complementary blend to

combat young chick deaths\*\*

The combination of Baycox /Sulpha AVS and Baycox/Sulpha 3 was trialled separately with a number of my own birds for 5 days with no ill effects ; as I had no unwell young chicks at the time , I cannot comment on the efficacy of these blends against neonate deaths but I can guarantee they do not harm either parents or young chicks when treated for a 5 day period .

Comments on my personal counter to Grog New Dr. Colin Walker (the Flying Vet from Melbourne) developed Sulpha AVS primarily to counter pathogens such as E-coli, Salmonella and others...

My reading of Dr. Walkers work with enteric bacteria and early chick death gives me the confidence that a combination of Baycox (Toltrazuril) and Sulpha AVS (Trimethoprim and Sulphadiazine) dosed to my birds prior to and during the 2023 breeding season should counteract and prevent early "in the nest" chick deaths..

\*\*\*\*\*

Treatment suggested by page member – Bev Cameron using Triple C

Referring back to Post No.3, page member Bev Cameron had good success with preventing early chick death using her 3:1:3 program..

It is described in Post No.3 but in summary , Bev treated her birds with Triple 3 antibiotic (3 days), restored gut flora with Probac (1 day) then followed up with a 3 day vitamin/mineral treatment (Ornithon , Essential Minerals or similar) ; after losing young chicks in earlier rounds , Bev assured me she suffered no other losses after her treatment

\*\*\*\*\*

The final treatment regime has been used successfully by Qld canary breeder and exhibitor Neal Axelby and also long term and notable NSW canary breeder, Mike Fogarty... don't know the exact details of Mike's treatment with Moxi-T some time back but he is adamant he solved his early chick death issue.. Neal Axelby's trials and tribulations with early chick death have occurred within the last month or so and his information on this matter is hot off the press.

In summary, his 2022 season (his results are normally quite productive) was a disaster and he was growing tired of the disposal into the bin of dead youngsters..

Based on my Post No.3, Neal opted to try his own combination blend of treatment as he stated there was nothing to lose...

Preparing a blend of Moxi-T (Amoxicillin and Tylosin) and Triple C (chlortetracycline) at dosage levels slightly below recommended, he treated three (3) very unwell young chicks on the verge of certain death and lo and behold, all three seemed to respond..

He informed me that one of the three chicks displayed a black spot on the abdomen indicating its liver or spleen had been affected; within a day or two, this black spot actually disappeared. This is simply amazing information and truly shows that these chicks had been infected with some unknown pathogen species (bacteria) and treatment with the Moxi-T /Triple C combination had indeed saved the doomed chicks..

Using Probac on the youngsters after the antibiotic treatment seemed to also assist in their recovery...it all makes sense as they were weak from the effects of the bacterial infection , required nutrition to sustain growth but the parents obviously stopped feeding as they sensed problems with their youngsters. \*\*\* End Result of Neal's treatment : - Infection gone, parents resume feeding, gut



flora reinstated and healthy chick growth returns \*\*\*. Great work Neal.

\*\*\*\*\*

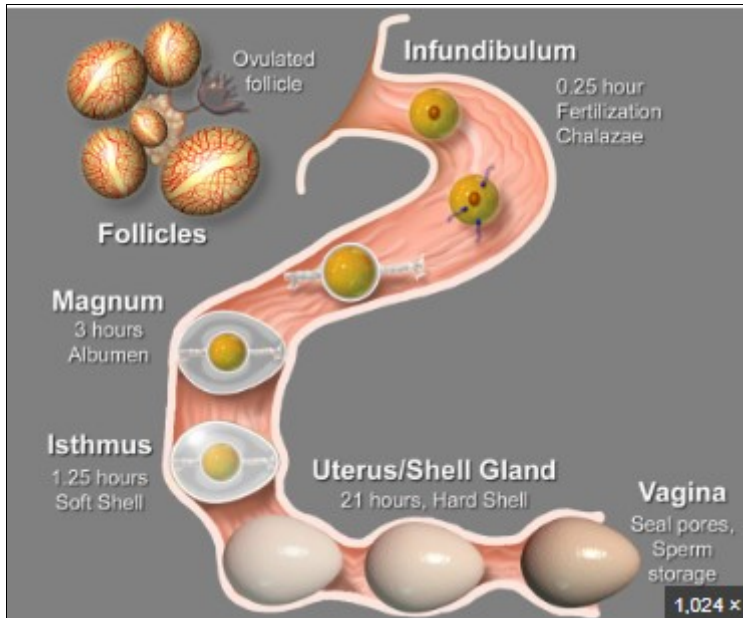
### **Conclusion Comments**

As I personally have both Baycox and Sulpha AVS in my birdroom supplies, in 2023 my pre-breeding, incubation and early brooding treatment will be a Grog New counter product approach but I shall be also looking at a gut flora restoration step using Probac and follow up with Minerals Essentials...

As Neal Axelby has obtained amazing results with the Moxi-T /Triple C combination, I am sure he will follow this treatment path during the 2023 season...

It is interesting that the problem has been addressed in a number of different treatment regimens; bacterial species and communities found within our birds do vary greatly so in a number of cases, one particular front line antibiotic may not address an infection challenge; this highlights the fact that one particular treatment product, designed and developed in Europe may not be appropriate in our warmer Southern Hemisphere climate... Messrs. Walker and Marshall have done a great job in addressing the early death syndrome and it just took a little digging to highlight this.

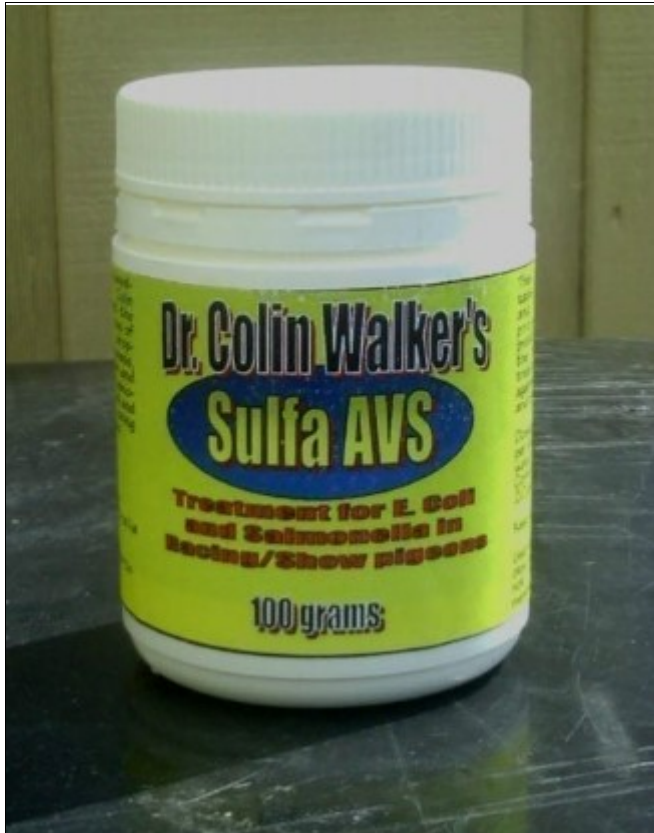
The bottom line is that early chick deaths (neonate mortality) has been thoroughly investigated and whether avian fanciers wish to use the more costly and imported Grog New approach or follow one of the treatment regimens I have explained , it can not only be controlled but this insidious and totally frustrating avian phenomenon can be totally eradicated ... Brian



What is the function of isthmus in birds? ^

Isthmus. The isthmus is approximately 12 centimetres long and has the functions of **adding approximately 20% of the albumen and the shell membranes to the egg**. There are two shell membranes: The inner shell membrane – laid down first.

Uterus (shell gland) and eggshell quality. The uterus is a relatively short, bulbous gland up to 12 centimetres in length. **The developing egg remains in the uterus for 18-20 hours while approximately 40% of the albumen and all of the shell is added.** It is for this reason that the organ is often called the shell gland.





Not quite up to the standard of the laboratories I worked in for over 39 years (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and SE Asia) Pretty basic medicant blending to ascertain the stability of Baycox with the three (3) antibiotics namely Sulpha AVS, Triple C and Sulpha 3. Note the yellow precipitate in the Baycox/Triple C blend in the centre of the 3 solutions resulting in this blend being removed from further assessment.

## **Brian Bohl**

Admin



### **The Avian Advisory Hub.**

#### **Information on Avian Feathers – slides of my Feather PowerPoint**

Back in late 2017 , new members of the Ipswich Canary Society here in Brisbane were confused with certain canary feathering terms and were constantly wrong classing when entering their birds in club shows...

To eliminate this issue, I prepared a comprehensive PowerPoint on the subject and presented it to the club of which I was secretary and show manager at that time..

Not only were the various functions of avian feathers discussed in detail, using my own birds as photographic

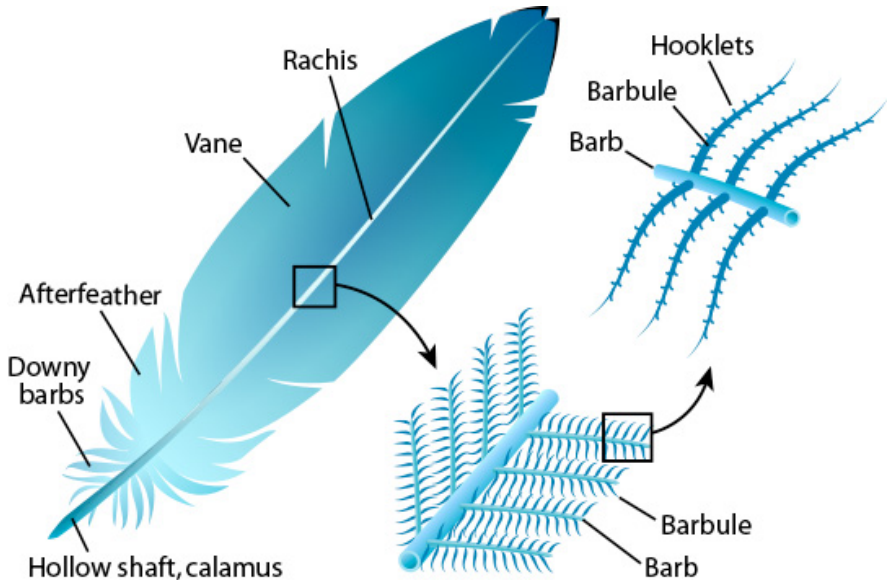
models was undertaken to show these new members examples of clear , lightly variegated , heavy variegated , self and foul feathering canary specimens...

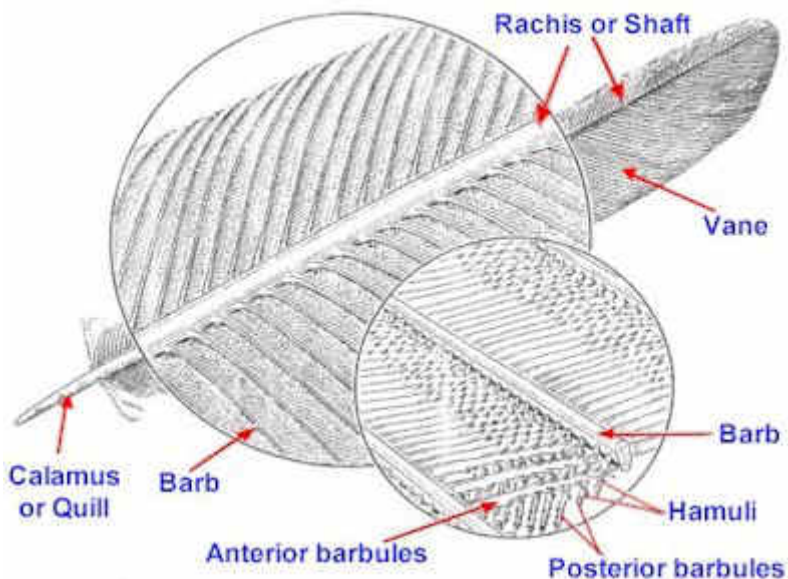
This portion of my Feather article will be of great benefit to canary fanciers that may become confused with canary classes..

The latter part covering variegation in canaries has no relationship to other avian varieties but the feather function component relates to all avian species that possess feathers..

To offer this information to all page members , I am in the process of converting my Feather powerpoint across to a simple slide format then posting it on my Google Drive then linking it to the Google Cloud for all to peruse ; Andrew G (Coast Budgies) made the initial enquiry but why not share it with all avian fanciers on the page ... Brian

PS: Thanks for raising this matter Andrew..





**Comment from Brian Bohl** , Some avian folk tend to take their bird's feathering for granted but let's face it , when on a show bench , feathering is one of the first things a good judge will take note of and it can be the difference between 1st and a 2nd placing.... **Brian**

**MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL APPLICATION**

Secretary,

**Mr Ron James:**

**Hawkesbury Finch Club**

[varrajames@bigpond.com.au](mailto:varrajames@bigpond.com.au)

**I wish to become / renew a member of your Club as a:**

- \* FULL MEMBER
- \* FAMILY MEMBER
- \* PENIONER
- \* JUNIOR MEMBER / STUDENT:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Phone

MOB

E-Mail

---

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

**ADULTS \$ 20.00**

**FAMILY \$ 25.00**

**PENIONER \$ 15.00**

**JUNIOR (Student) \$ 5.00**

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Annual meetings are held on the Fourth Wednesday of August each year. At this time subscriptions become due and are payable. Those people who join the Society at the August meeting or after are not required to pay the subscription until the following August.

We ask that you please try to attend our meetings and the various functions we have, to enable you to get to know your fellow members and enjoy your membership to the fullest.

**Ron James Hon. Secretary**

**NOTE: \* Delete which is not applicable**

**Attention, Attention, Attention:**

**Available each and every meeting from Rosslynn Davidson:**

A list of what items I carry to each meeting

**Cydectin plus** 50/100ml jars \$7.50 /\$15.00

**Baycox** 50/100ml jars \$15 /\$30 both use separate or together to treat worms and coccid.

**Coopex powder** used as spray or a paint for crawling insects, ants' cockroaches. \$11.00 packet

**Split plastic coloured bird rings** small /large finch and small parrots \$4.50/\$4.50 \$5.00 a sleeve of 10 rings

Mouse season is quickly approaching I did my bate stations a week ago and found an adult mouse within 2 days.

**Attention, Attention, Attention:**

Now Available from Mr Bob Cliff:

- 1) Fly Boxes,
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