



# parrots

*magazine*

PRESENTS



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# Welcome to Think Parrots 2012



*Dear Visitor,*

First of all, we would like to extend a very warm welcome, from all of us at *Parrots* magazine, to this brand new Show, which we hope will be the first of many.

This is the first event of its kind to be held in the UK and we are delighted that many of the country's most notable experts are present, to give their support, give advice and offer presentations on a wide range of topics.



We also have a great list of top exhibitors offering a wide range of products and services, headed up by our Show sponsor, Northern Parrots, to whom we are extremely grateful. Their support has been instrumental in making this day possible.

This event promises to provide many areas of interest for the parrot enthusiast, helping to encourage better care and a greater understanding of our feathered friends.

If you want to learn about avian UV lighting, see the latest nest-box cameras in action, see footage of parrot watching tours around the world, or learn to make DIY enrichment toys and treats out of every day throwaways, there will be demonstrations going on all day.

If you are attending any of the workshops, we are sure you will learn a great deal from our experts. We are delighted to see that the numbers attending the various workshops have exceeded all expectations - so much so, that we have had to move them to larger venues upstairs.

We are also very excited that 'A World of Wings' parrot trainers are here all day with their free-flying birds. Come and meet the

parrots and talk to the trainers, who travel the country training parrots at zoos and major parrot collections.

Chris Hall's veterinary surgeons will be able to advise you on healthcare and tell you about the new mini-microchip, and Alan Jones will also be around all day and available for book signings.

The World Parrot Trust, one of the world's leading parrot conservation organisations, represented by Alison Hales and Dr James Gilardi, are also here, along with the Parrot and Lovebird Societies, and Rosemary Low's annual Lory meeting is being held here too.

Food will be served all day in the cafeteria and restaurant areas, and there are full facilities for the disabled with the lift shown on the floor plan.

This is an event for you, the parrot enthusiast, and we hope you have an enjoyable, educational and memorable day out. We thank you once again for coming, and hope to see you next year!

*John Catchpole and Pauline James*

Think Parrots 2012 Show: Presented by *Parrots* magazine • Advertising Sales and PR: Natalie Ottaway  
Show Organisers: John Catchpole & Pauline James • Show Guide design: David Ransom

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# Welcome from the show's sponsor

*Dear Visitor,*

Northern Parrots is delighted to be here today, to support and be a part of *Parrots* magazine's brand new Parrot event. We thoroughly endorse the objective of the Show today, to promote responsibility through awareness and understanding, and make the world a better place for Parrots.

We are greatly encouraged by the popularity of the workshops and sincerely hope everyone here today will leave with a greater knowledge of Parrots, enabling owners to enjoy a better relationship with their birds and provide a better life for them. This includes improving their diet and providing lots of varied and stimulating enrichment opportunities on a daily basis.

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**Mike Taylor**

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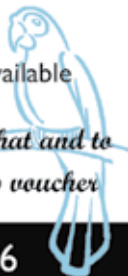
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# Update: Cosmo can converse!

*Cosmo is an African Grey, who we featured in the May 2012 issue for her conversational ability, but now she has begun to reveal even greater talents! Betty Jean Craig explains:*

Walter J. Ong's book 'Orality and Literacy,' explains how people of oral cultures, with no written language, think differently to people from literate cultures: more concretely and less analytically. In their speech they tend to refer primarily to their immediate environment, and because they don't depend on written texts to prompt their recall, their memory is much better than ours.

That's Cosmo. She has a marvellous memory for sounds, which she associates with what she hears, sees or smells. When she sees a Cardinal feeding on the deck, she calls out, before the Cardinal makes a sound, "Purdy-purdy-purdy!" When I approach the squeaky garage door, she squeaks just before I open it, and when I sit down in a chair, she sighs just before I do!

I assumed Cosmo referred only to her immediate environment when speaking to me, until a graduate student studying Cosmo's language for her master's thesis,

made a startling discovery. Erin set up a camera to video Cosmo when I was out, and it showed Cosmo looking at the deck railing and saying to herself: "That's squirrel!" Then Cosmo greeted me on camera, saying "Squirrel!" Erin hypothesised that Cosmo was telling me she'd seen a squirrel while I was absent.



Photo: Nancy Evelyn

So the next time Cosmo said "Squirrel" instead of her usual "Cosmo wanna go up," when I returned, I asked her, "Cosmo saw a squirrel?" Then she started saying: "Cosmo ssss a squirrel!" And before long: "Cosmo ssss a birdy!" I do believe that Cosmo was reporting to me what she had seen during the day. But should this be surprising? She has a good memory, I am her best friend, why wouldn't Cosmo want to share her experiences with me?

Cosmo must have a whole world of thoughts, feelings, memories and expectations that she cannot express in the language I gave her, but she communicates her desires well. She has just walked into my study and said, "I wanna cuddle," hopped on my hand, and laid her head on my chest!



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*said Mark Hagen, M.Ag., Research Director at HARI.*



HARI proudly announced the launch of new and improved Hagen Tropicana Mash Hand-Feeding Formula, which is now made in Canada at Hagen Industries in Montreal.

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*8-week old Green-Winged Macaws are healthy and strong thanks to steady diet of Hagen Tropicana Mash Hand-Feeding Formula.*



## Thumbs Up!!

"The new and improved formula is very easy to mix with a whisk for small batches and does not clump. There are no small grainy particles and the consistency is very smooth. Hence, it does not clog up the feeding syringes. I've been using it for my baby parrots and cockatiels and they're digesting well and fast, crops empty completely between feedings and growth rates are comparable to results of babies raised using another brand."

*- Kalpesh Patel,  
Champion Breeder  
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# Kakariki - enhanced diet makes a difference

BY PAULINE JAMES

Top tips on improving the diet of Kakariki, to increase their life expectancy, their fitness levels and fertility - but good flying opportunities and plenty of exercise is vital too.

## Insects, flower heads, dock leaves and myrtle

Wild Kakariki eat shoots, buds, berries, fruit, leaves, flowers and seeds in their natural habitat and spend a lot of time on the ground foraging and scratching around with their feet, like chickens, looking for insects, such as caterpillars, aphids and scale insects that feed off the sap of plants.

They also eat ngaio and taupata fruit, flax and grass seed; fruit and seed make up over two-thirds of their diet. They also consume the flowers of the pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), a coastal evergreen tree of the myrtle family, closely related to the eucalyptus. Its flowers are made up of masses of nectar-rich stamens.

## Sap helps combat parasites

Wild Kakariki also chew manuka and kanuka leaves and they spread the sap over their feathers while preening. These leaves provide essential anti-bacterial properties and a natural insecticide called leptospermon which helps them combat parasites. Lorries have been known to use the common dock leaf in a similar way in captivity, so try offering Kakariki docks too.

The Kakariki species found on inhospitable sub-antarctic islands and the Kermadec

Islands have adapted their diet to their surroundings and feed on grass, invertebrates, penguin eggs and the flesh of animals, including washed up penguins.

## Staples and the extras that count...

Kakariki respond well to being offered new foods on a regular basis. Their staple diet should be a basic budgie seed mix including panicum, white millet, plain canary, Japanese millet and hulled oats with added sunflower, a little flax seed, buckwheat, safflower and spray millet. The remainder should be made up of fruit, berries, vegetables, green leafy vegetables, sprouted pulses and seed. Pear, banana, pomegranate, sweetcorn, Swiss chard, spinach, endives, cos lettuce and celery are favourites.

Freshly picked dandelion, sow thistle, chickweed and seeding grasses, can all be pulled up by the root for the birds to enjoy picking over. A small piece of wholemeal or multi-grain bread soaked in nectar, edible flower heads such as marigolds, and insects such as mealworms, including the larvae, pupae and beetle, are taken at breeding time. Cuttlefish-bone, shell grit, crushed oyster shell or mineral blocks should always be available.

(1) Interview with Eric Prior (here today) on breeding Kakariki (April 2012)

In *Parrots* magazine:

(2) Benefits of the dandelion plant (September 2009)

(3) Edible flowers (May 2011)



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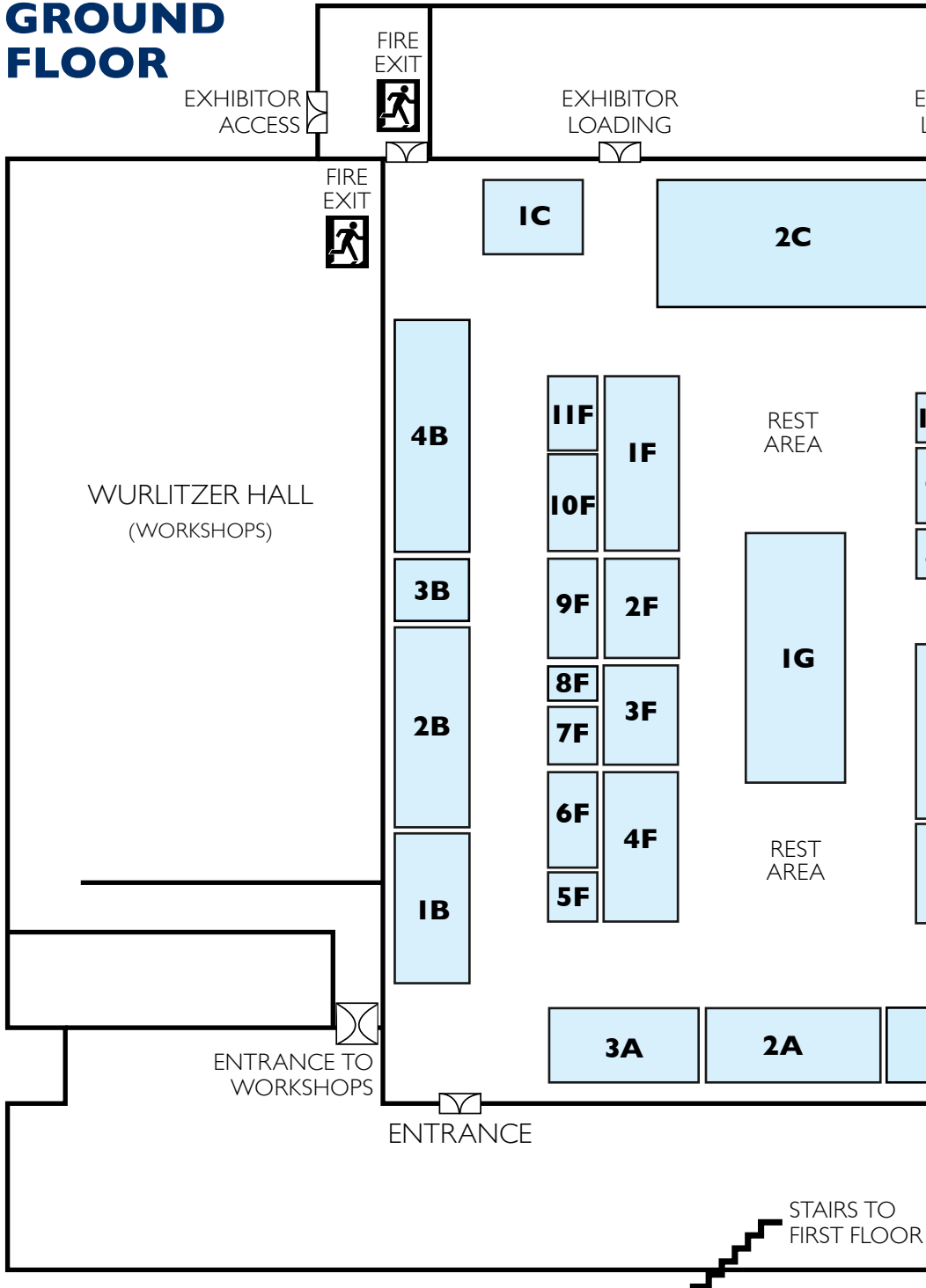


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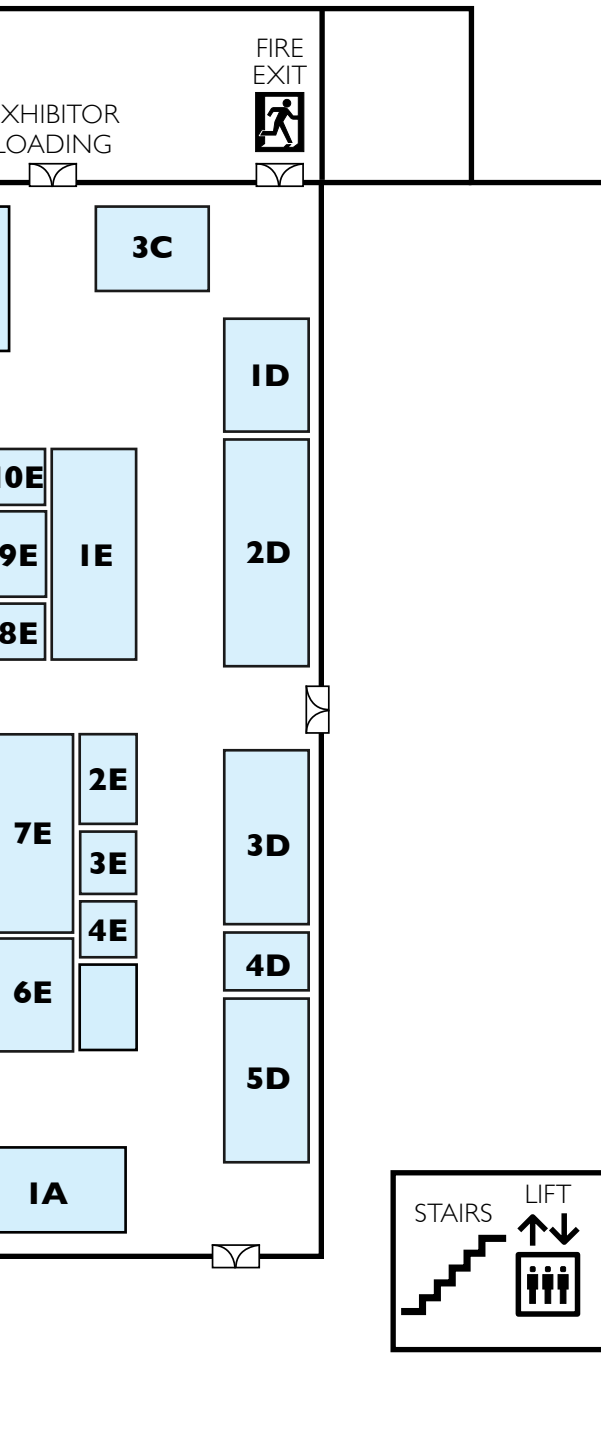
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# Parrots

June 2012 issue

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## Severe Macaw's **biting problem**

Biting is a common problem with adolescent parrots but how it is dealt with can determine how it matures and behaves for the rest of its life. Here, James Rogers explains how he dealt with his biting Severe Macaw.

## Homemade **summer foody treats** and recipes

- ideas to help provide parrots with  
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## Blue-throated Macaw success in Texas

Laney Rickman describes in detail  
her **unique breeding techniques** which have allowed  
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genetically diverse flocks of Blue-throated Macaws in the world  
(main article on Blue-throated in issue May 2010)

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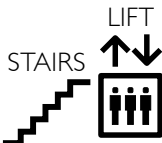
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Image description: The advertisement features a red parrot in the bottom left corner. The background is a collage of various bird-related products including Harrison's Bird Foods, Quiko Classic bird food, a yellow bird house, a green bird feeder, and several wooden toys. The text is primarily in bold yellow and white on a red background.



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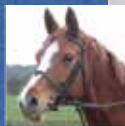
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Email: [lovebird1990society@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lovebird1990society@hotmail.co.uk)

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Email: [rosemary.low@virgin.net](mailto:rosemary.low@virgin.net)

Rosemary is past curator of birds at Loro Parque and Palmitos Parque, and can advise on many avicultural topics.

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The World Parrot Trust has gained worldwide credibility and respect because of its work dealing with conservation and education.

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## TOP TIPS

Over-breeding drains a bird's resources and puts its health at risk. Take the nest-box away after two nests and let them rest.

Parrots should have fresh water at all times - change it at least twice a day and give them separate bathing water. Water keeps fresher if water bowls are scrubbed clean on a daily basis and if they are kept out of direct sunlight.

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## The common dock and its attributes

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The dock plant is part of the buckwheat family (*Polygonaceae*) and in the UK the two common species are broad leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), sometimes known as yellow dock. Many wild birds feed on this plant containing high levels of essential ascorbic acid, which provides antioxidant properties and a form of vitamin C. Pick only the freshest, young leaves which are less bitter.



### Dock root

Feeding on the root provides protein, zinc and vitamin A and can help liver ailments by stimulating bile production, and help fight rheumatism in older birds.

The root can also be slow boiled in water, and the potent liquid when cooled can be offered as a drink and bathing medium, which the birds can splash on their feathers. It soothes and heals skin irritations and works to prevent ringworm.

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## Superfoods, potent spices and other special foods...

Every month we cover superfoods, potent spices and other foods, which are parrot-friendly and greatly benefit our parrots' health. One such food is red-hot chillies, which we covered in the March 2012 issue. Chillies, and the hotter the better, are a real superfood for parrots, and today the Kent Chilli Farm is here to offer many locally grown varieties - for you and your parrots. So, give your parrots a surprise and a real treat by taking them home a variety of freshly grown chillies today!

### **Ginger: A little goes a long way...**

Ginger has been used as a homeopathic treatment by the Chinese for nearly 2,000 years, and offers great benefits for our parrots... Read more in the May 2012 issue of *Parrots!*

### **Cinnamon: The 'new' superspice**

The health benefits of cinnamon are so powerful that even just smelling it enhances the mental and physical wellbeing of humans and parrots! Read more in the October 2011 issue of *Parrots!*

Here is an excellent way to offer ginger and cinnamon to parrots, while providing them with a much appreciated and healthy treat!

## **Parrot-friendly Ginger and Cinnamon biscuits**

### **Ingredients:**

- 3/4 cup wholegrain flour
- 1 1/2 cups organic white flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup low-sugar chopped dried fruit
- 1/2 cup unsweetened, cooked apple slices, liquidised in a little water
- 1/3 cup dark molasses
- 2 tsp fresh, dried cinnamon
- 2 tsp fresh, dried or freshly-chopped ginger
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg + crumbled shell

### **Directions:**

Mix all wet ingredients with a wooden spoon. Gradually mix in two flours and baking powder. Adjust amount of flour, to blend mix to a firm dough. Roll into balls, and flatten with your fist, placing on lightly greased foil or greased-proof paper on a baking tray. Bake at 160degC for 10-15 mins until firm and lightly browned. Cool on a wire rack. Crumble into small pieces for small birds and give whole to larger parrots. These biscuits can be frozen and thawed as required.



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