

FOOD FOR THOUGHT?

By Helen Cullen

Question: What would happen to your birds, the aviaries and all the associated equipment if you were suddenly no longer here?

Answer: You have a son, daughter or other family member who's "into birds", and they will care, rehouse or sell them. Problem fixed.

But...what if no one in your family, or circle of friends, are bird people? Would your spouse/family know how to care or dispose of them? Would they know their true value? If the birds are on permit, would they know how to do the paperwork or where to send it?

I recently had the misfortune to need a new Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu hen. The male was driving both he and me "up the wall" after his "missus" dropped off the perch. My nearest bird dealer charged me \$95.00 for a replacement hen. This set me to thinking...what are our birds worth? Does your partner or family have any idea what the birds in those "damned cages down the back" are worth?

I know some amongst us are very careful to ensure the "other-half" DOESN'T know what's there, or how much money is involved, but is that really wise? If you suddenly depart for "the big aviary in the sky" and the birds are disposed of without the facts being known, both they and an unsuspecting buyer could have to do a lot of explaining if the correct paperwork is not done.

What if a bloke a few blocks away offers to take the birds off their hands and the family subsequently finds they were worth six times what was offered? Could they march down to the new owner and demand the true value—I think we both know the answer to that one!

Making your wishes know to your family, or friends, or even your bird club might just save a lot of hassles, heartache and financial loss for your loved ones.

Yes...certainly food for thought.