

# THE BRAHMA CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

## President

Andrew Rathbone  
"Carcolla"  
Bathurst NSW. 2794

Ph 02 6337 3840

## Secretary

Carol Abuid  
PO Box 100  
Maldon Vic. 3463

Ph/Fax 03 5476 2758

## Email:

[Brahma2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Brahma2000@yahoo.com)

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## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hi to all members,

Our second birthday is fast approaching with the celebration of the clubs Annual show. The new venue at Wyong should be an exciting change and a step forward in the clubs history, as membership and interest in the Brahma fowl grows.

Preparations fore the Annual Show are running on track with generous support and prizes, but additional input from members would enhance our shows success.

An excellent article on Brahma's written by Wendy Valentine in the April/May 2002 issue of Australasian Poultry has generated tremendous interest in the breed and the club. From that article I have received numerous inquiries from beginners to poultry exhibitors wanting further information.

Many Thanks go to Wendy Valentine and Megg Miller, for their ongoing support over the years.

There was a very encouraging display of Brahma's on show at the 2002 sydney royal Easter show with 34 entries from 6 exhibitors in 10 classes. Best Brahma exhibit was a Standard Gold cock bird (4years old) looking in his prime after a summer moult. A few weeks later he was awarded Reserve Champion Softfeather at the Orange Agricultural show (only just beaten by my Light Sussex hen) His current appearance does not reflect his recent awards, as he has decided to go into another moult.

Congratulations, go to all the poultry exhibitors at the Sydney royal for being able to have birds ready to show, although some exhibits had not completed their moult when they were benched. Because the poultry exhibits had a long stay at the Sydney royal, some even had time to go into a moult during the 15 days. There were a few empty pens because of withdrawals and in some cases I was unable to find any birds ready to exhibit in certain classes that I had entered.

Our annual show is a much easier time to have poultry reday for exhibitionso we haven't any excuse for not bringing as many birds as we can to Wyong.

See you all there.

Regards

Andrew

# **PRESIDENT OF VICE**

(Vice President)

Hi All Brahma Club members,

Well down here in sunny south Gippsland, we are having a superb autumn, with just enough rain to keep everything lovely and green, and as we have not had a wet winter since 1996, maybe we are going to get one this year. I hope not.

After being a little concerned about my Brahma's earlier in the season, I am finding that some are growing out OK, and as larger fowl, they take time to develop to their true potential, and as a result, I have had to delay my culling except for the obvious.

With some of the members coming down in April to run a critical eye over my Brahma's I decided to cull a few more when they were penned in correct colours and according to their type and various faults, my first choice pens started to look like Brahma's, especially my Partridge Brahma's. The Darks still lack type and size, but are progressing; also my White and Black's have taken another step in the right direction. I have even managed two Black cockerels with very good yellow legs, vulture hocks, heavy leg and toe feathering. They have a splash of white in the feathers and neck hackles, but still they have yellow legs. I just hope I can maintain the yellow legs after they are used over my black pullets and hens that have black, slate and yellow legs!!! The whites have great yellow legs, but lack feathering and I need to improve the shape and type, but they have good eyes and heads.

It is not long before our show and AGM which is on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and I hope to see as many members as possible there, showing their Brahma's, and remember with the large we still have a long way to go, except for Andrew's Large Light Brahma that are a superb example of Brahma's, so PLEASE enter your birds, even if you think that they are not up to standard because we are all learning, and this show is a great chance to learn and help each other, as this breed has not existed in Australia since the 1940's

There is a great article in Australasian poultry regarding Andrew's Brahma's and all the hard work he has put into re-creating the breed. Volume 13 No 1 The article is by Wendy valentine.

Regards

Bryan

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our new members. I hope to meet you all at our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show on the 30<sup>th</sup> June at Wyong.

Khris and myself have had a very late start to our breeding season, so unfortunately we both do not have great deal to Show and sell this year, so I do hope everyone else has had a more successful season.

I must also apologise for the delay in this Newsletter, as we have all experienced some heavy commitments in one way and another as well as getting the articles together, anyway happy reading, better late than never.

Some of our newer members, to our delight have been asking for advice and some hints on how to achieve particular attributes in breeding the Majestic Brahma. So could our members who have been in the breeding game for years please help us out here, it would be greatly appreciated, no doubt by quite a lot of us.

Some of the Victorian members had a get together at Bryan Jons property in South Gippsland a few weekends back, quite a lot of ooohhhs and arrrrhhhs were going on but I shan't say anymore, Bryan will tell you further on in the Newsletter

Perhaps other members might like to try getting together for social weekends in other states, it's good fun and it's surprising what talk happens, particularly with ideas swapping back and forth.

Don Jones has been very helpful, (as always) advising me on what accomodaton is available up at Wyong for the Annual Show, as a lot of members are coming from great distances no doubt it will help us all if we know what accommodation is there, also don't forget that camping is available on Dave Saunders property (Directions went out with the schedule) There will be toilet facilities but No shower facilities there. Don Jones has offered Shower facilities.

**To aid everyone prepare, if you are going to camp at Dave Saunders, or you are wishing to take up the offer of the showers at Don Jones PLEASE ring and advise so that they may plan.**

Also Don has advised that the Tennis Club has a smorgasbord for \$12/head (all you can eat) on the Saturday night. It's in walking distance of the Poultry shed. Sounds like a good deal. If you are interested please let Don Jones know as early as possible and he will organize BOOKINGS for us all. OK

Now to explain our fundraising, by now everyone should have received a book of 10 tickets, each ticket is worth \$2.00. Even if people are not interested in the prizes, perhaps you could ask them to donated \$2.00 towards the club. As this is our only way of making money for the club, it would be really appreciated if you could all sell your books, more books are

available if you think that you can sell more. (**This fundraiser replaces a raffle on the day**). The club is steadily growing, and we are receiving a steady flow of inquiries about the Brahma. At present we have about 43 members 9Financial), not bad considering we are a young club. If anyone has any other ideas how we could fundraise for the club, don't hesitate to get in touch and let us hear your ideas.

Well that's about it for me, see you all soon.  
Kindest Regards

Carol.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Opening Balance		502.95
Income	Membership	35.00
	Membership	15.00
	Total	50.00
Expenditure	Aust Post Feb Newsletter	21.00
	Central Vic Office Supps	32.40
	Aust Post Schedules	20.25
	Gov Debit Tax	00.30
	Total	73.95
Current Balance		479.30

## **PATRON'S REPORT**

By now all members are getting ready for the clubs AGM and Show at Wyong. I would ask that as many members as possible try to come to the Show and get together with other members as this is really the one time of the year that we can get together to discuss issues that affect us as a club.

In the Agenda for the AGM there is provision for discussing these issues with the view that it may be worthwhile for the Club to form a Committee to examine the Standards as a whole and recommend changes if they feel they are required. I would urge all members to give this serious thought. We have the opportunity to have a say about the Standards as we feel they should be judged by. Each time they are printed means that there will be a few years that the birds are going to be judged by the Standards as printed. We are a small country and do NOT expect that they are going to be reprinted every few years, because they won't be. Also note the Judges report from the Sydney Royal, last paragraph.

## **A MEMBERS PROGRESS**

I'm sure Carol had given up all hope of ever getting any sort of an article out of me, but here it is. As you might have guessed I'm pretending to be a typist and a breeder of Fair to middling Brahma. (The article was presented typed)

Thanks to Andrew Showers and Andrew Rathbone, I've some pretty good Light Brahma's (Large) Of the dark variety; the two cockerels have good yellow legs, one with vulture hocks and one without. Their breast feathering is mostly black with a miniscule amount of white pollution (shafting). The fellow with the vulture hocks obviously has feathering on all three toes whereas the hockless one has his feathers on the outside toe only. Their wings need more colour and their neck hackles could bet better marked. As for the females, I'm still trying for foot feathering, maybe this year. I'll try the vulture-hocked male over a Silver penciled Wyandotte. I'm having similar problems with my Gold females.

The Gold male that is being used is fairly good, although he could have a better comb and boofier head, unfortunately I seem to be getting reddish/buff when I use a Gold male over Partridge Wyandotte females, still I'll keep plugging away. I'm always open to constructive advice; so don't hesitate to get in touch. I've taken a couple of photographs to give you a better idea of where I am and where I'm going with the Darks and Golds.

Well, lets hope for successful experiments this breeding season, cheers for now.

PS.I thought that you might like to know of the other breeds that I keep.

Sussex.... Light, Speckled, Lavender, Buff and Silver

Wyandotte.... Silver Laced, Gold Laced, Partridge/Gold penciled and Silver Pencilled

Silver Grey Dorking, Croad Langshan, Barnevelder, Welsumer, Plymouth Rock

New Hampshire Red, Maran (French- undergoing recreation)

# SYDNEY ROYAL 2002

(Judges Report)

Brahma's made a very brave showing at this years Royal Easter Show. One very nice trio of Large Lights appeared in the AOV class for Heavy breed trios. They were ideally matched to breed winners of both sexes, with a nice even coloured male mated to two good type females. One, very strong in undercolour, and the other much clearer but still of good top colour. They won this class quite easily. (Owner: A Rathbone)

The Large single classes brought forth a most interesting collection, for, in addition to the Lights, there were one each of Gold, Buff and Black. The best class appeared in the cocks with three prime exhibits. Two really nice lights, one of which I could not handle, but the highlight was a beautiful Gold cock. He was really good type and colour of the highest order. Shown in exemplary fashion, he could only be improved by a bit more size and more typical head points (Owner: A Rathbone)

The young stock were very promising, and I thought the light pullet would make a good adult. (Owner: A Rathbone)

The bantams had 22 exhibits, and they were a pleasure to judge. Again the lights dominated with quality varying. Several different types were on show, although colour was mostly quite good. The winning cock (Owner: B Raines) was a real top class Brahma and the same owners cockerel a clear winner in his class.

AOC Brahma class comprised 4 Darks, and clearly there appears to be quite a bit of work needed on colour. Markings are generally tending towards "stippling" rather than penciling, and the winner here (N&A&N Lynch) was closest to the desired pattern. Perhaps an infusion of Silver pencilled Wyandotte blood could help, although good Wyandottes in this colour are few and far between.

Just an observation in closing. Most of the better Brahma had "vulture hocks"; and until the Standard is worded more correctly, these birds must remain in contention. In other words, until "vulture hocks" are listed as a disqualification, then they cannot be penalized too severely. Besides I don't find them offensive for they give the Brahma another distinguishing feature that sets them apart from similar style fowls.

Signed  
Dallas Smith

# SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW RESULTS

Class	154	Brahma	AOC	Cock
		3 245	Raines B	
		2 246	Rathbone A	
		1 247	Rathbone A	
Class	155	Brahma	AOC	Hen
		1 248	Rathbone A	
		249	Rathbone A	
Class	156	Brahma	AOC	Cockerel
		1 250	Raines B	
		2 251	Rathbone A	
Class	157	Brahma	AOC	Pullet
		2 252	Rathbone A	
		3 253	Rathbone A	
		1 254	Rathbone A	
<b>(S158)</b>		<b>Champion Brahma 247</b>	<b>Rathbone A</b>	
<b>(S159)</b>		<b>Best Brahma 247</b>	<b>Rathbone A</b>	
Class	863	Brahma Bantam	Light	Cock
		2166	A.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2167	A.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2 2168	N&A&N Lynch	
		3 2169	J&M Mills	
		1 2170	B Raines	
		2171	T&D Saunders	
Class	864	Brahma Bantam	Light	Hen
		3 2172	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2173	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2 2174	N&A&N Lynch	
		1 2175	J&M Mills	
Class	865	Brahma Bantam	Light	Cockerel
		2176	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2177	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2 2178	N&A&N Lynch	
		1 2179	B Raines	
		3 2180	T&D Saunders	
Class	866	Brahma Bantam	Light	Pullet
		2181	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2182	R.M. Abbott & W.J. Armistead	
		2 2183	N&A&N Lynch	
		1 2184	J&M Mills	
<b>(S867)</b>		<b>Champion Bantam Light 2170</b>	<b>B Raines</b>	
Class	868	Brahma Bantam	AOC	Male
		1 2185	T&D Saunders	
Class	869	Brahma Bantam	AOC	Female
		3 2186	N&A&N Lynch	
		1 2187	N&A&N Lynch	
		2 2188	T&D Saunders	
<b>(S870)</b>		<b>Champion Brahma Bantam AOC 2187</b>	<b>N&amp;A&amp;N Lynch</b>	



# MEMBERS LETTERS

Stephen Kilpatrick

This is my first year with Brahmas and my second with Wyandotte's. The Wyandotte's have bred and grown very well this year.

Due to the fact that I am a novice at poultry rearing, I can tell you some things that I have learnt.

I have 2 incubators. The first holds the eggs for the first 18 days; the second one is used as a hatcher. After hatching it is cleaned while the first is left undisturbed. When hatched they are put in a large brooder and given plenty of clean water, starter crumble and plenty of cloverleaf which is broken up. Then I put them in a large pen where they are given plenty of grower crumble, wheat, Lucerne chaff and green grass until about 8 weeks. About this time I start culling, any with deformities, slow feathering, weak or unthrifty chicks. The ones that pass are then separated into groups of males and females and fed separately. The cockerels get as much grower crumble they can eat, with Lucerne chaff, wheat and calcium powder as a scratch grain.

Every second night they also get small pieces of red meat for protein, and to train them. The pullets are let loose outside to mainly forage and get crumble and wheat sparingly. With Wyandotte's the pullets get fat easily, which means they look droopy, so require plenty of exercise but the cockerels will convert the feed into muscle and bone more efficiently. The cockerels are also kept separately to stop fighting.

All are wormed every 8 weeks. The pens are always cleaned and their bedding consists of about 20cm of hay. They also eat some of the seed in the hay. You may have noticed I don't vaccinate. Apart from worming, I don't believe healthy birds should get sick and if they are handled regularly, to reduce stress, then it further improves their immunity. The pens are also sprinkled with lime to reduce external parasites..

My Brahmas feather pecked on the saddles at about 5 weeks, but this has never occurred in the Wyandotte's. To stop them doing this I ran the Brahmas with a group of Wyandotte pullets.

I have found the Brahma to be a very docile breed and will regularly come up to me and peck at my boots, showing no fear at all. They are also fussy eaters, while the Wyandottes enjoy foraging on worms and grubs, the Brahmas appear to not bother and will preen and groom themselves instead.

When I get my camera back from my daughter, I will forward on some photo's

Regards  
Stephen

## VICTORIAN GETOGETHER

The weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> May arrived and so did some of our Brahma breeders. Khris and Carol Abuid, Lance Hicks, Brendan O'Leary, Alex King and Megg Miller. But Megg must of felt like Count Strezlecki felt after he discovered the Strezlecki Ranges or that famous American Indian tribe "Whereinthe\*arewe". But after that adventure in her Mazda 121, we all got stuck into talking Brahma, looking at Brahma and being critical of Brahma, albeit constructively. Everyone was inspecting the sheds and discussing vulture hocks, leg feathering, dewlaps, small wattles, small neat pea combs, short beaks, eyebrows, upright stance, in fact all those things that make Great Brahmas just like the front cover of our Newsletter.

We all realize that we still have some way to go to produce those magnificent Brahmas, but they are definitely on the way, and by Sunday afternoon so were all my guests. Even Megg headed back over the Stezlecki's rather than the longer way around.

After all this talk, we agreed that we would suggest at the AGM, that a steering committee be formed to put together in consultation with the membership, a set of Standards that more accurately reflect the standards of the Brahma.

We are all aware of the differences in the British and American Standards, and the fact that we are limited in genetics in this country, with this information we need to all decide on the Standards that are **achievable** in this country.

And that brings us to the naming of colours, as I mentioned earlier, it is appropriate that historically there has always been Light and Dark brahmas and we should keep that, but after having seen the new Wyandotte Standard and their approach to new colours and the naming of their traditional colours, we could achieve all our aims by adopting the colours of the Australian Wyandotte Club. We will have 2-3 copies at the show to look at so we can achieve a great Standard for future generations.

**Apologies:** There are photo's from this weekend and of Brendan O'Leary's birds, that have been held over until the next issue.

Also held over were two articles from Leigh Keidge, these will be in the next issue.

## **NOTICEBOARD**

Members, Don't forget that all positions are up for election at the AGM. If you have someone in mind for a position please come forward.

All membership fees are due for renewal as of 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Adults \$15.00

Juniors \$7.00

## **WANTED TO BUY**

Dale and Skye Baker are after Large Light hens. If someone can help please contact them preferably before the show.

## **WANTED TO SELL**

Dale and Skye Baker

Have a few large Light cockerels for sale. They will be at the Show.

Andrew Rathbone

Will have stock for sale at the show or contact him earlier if you are definite on what you want.

Bryan Jon

Will have limited stock for sale. He has Large Brahma only. Contact him before the Show as it is a long way for the birds to travel. (2 Dk Cockerels, 2 Dk Pullets, 3 Partridge Pullets, Lavender Arcana's

Don Jones

Has limited amount of Bantam Dark Brahma for Sale. Either contact him before the show or catch him at the show.