The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

Winter Newsletter 2016

The Website Manager's report

Financial Statement 2015-2016

Minutes from 2015 AGM

2016 Club Show information

New Kids On The Block

2015 Club Show results

2016 National Poultry Show

Brahma Importation from UK

How I Started - Celeste Graham

Brahma and Cochin at CQPC Show 29

Genetics of Cream Partridge Brahma 38

Cochin Corner

Junior Members

Our Constitution

2016 AGM Agenda 2015 Judge's Report

Type

The Show!

Contacts

Membership form

In Black and White

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				MA	
					les many
		THE WAR			
Contents					= 4 7
The President's report	1				
The Editor's report	2		TO THE STATE OF TH		
The Secretary's report	3		ALTONOMIC NOW		

Bertha from UK - owned by Alison Wells and Robert Harrison. She is the grandmother to the gold and blue partridge, and red pyle Brahma that are being imported by AvGen and Jan Sparks.

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia Annual Show. 7th August 2016 Queanbeyan Showgrounds

Things to remember:

4

6

8

9

11

12

13

17

18

19

20

23

24

26

27

41

Entries Close: Wednesday 3rd August 2016
Penning: Saturday afternoon 6th August

Sunday 7th August 6 am - 8.55 am

All exhibits must be penned by Sunday 7th August 8.55 am

Judging Starts: 7th August (9 am) **AGM:** 6th August 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

Venue for AGM: Golden Age Motor Inn - Dining Room

Club Dinner: 6th August (6.30 pm) at Golden Age Motor Inn, confirm

dinner bookings with Bryan Jon Meade (03) 5158 6567

Email contact for enquiries and entries – secretary@cqpoultryclub.com

President's report

By Bryan Jon Meade

Hi to all Brahma and Cochin Breeders,

Well another year is gone and like everyone else it has been a very busy one. By now, we are all looking at our brahmas and cochins to see how they are growing out and presenting themselves for our upcoming annual show in Queanbeyan. This year, the AGM will be held on Saturday June 6 at 3.30pm, dinner together at 6.30pm at the Golden Age Motor Inn, and the show will be held the following day, Sunday June 7 at the Queanbeyan showgrounds.

Bellsouth Poultry Supplies, a very Australian company started way back by Jim Finger, and run today by Kelly, has been a great supporter of our club, and have donated the Breeder of the Year trophy, which was awarded last year to Dianne Anderson and Ian Nagle. Brahmas and cochins all need their vitamins, minerals and medications, as do all poultry breeds, and I have used BellSouth poultry equipment over many years with great success. They have also created an app for incubating chickens that can be downloaded to your digital device so you can keep track of the hatch dates, and when to candle and to lock down, plus incubating principles and lots more. It is called HATCHABATCH and is free, contains no advertising, and is available on Google Play or iTunes.

Last weekend, I travelled over to Esther Cohan Graham's place at Towamba in the Bega Valley on NSW south coast, then, with her mother and three kids, we all headed off to the Bega Poultry Show. We had not entered any of our brahmas in the show because all pens were booked out, and I was not organised, which was the main reason there were no brahma or cochin represented. So next year we are both going to make a real effort to lift our club profile at the show. Esther is breeding gold partridge and has brahmas from Kate Bradley's line. The Bega Poultry Show is a great day out and if anyone is interested in supporting the club at Bega next year, just let me know and I am sure we can arrange some free accommodation at Cann River Vic or Towamba NSW.

I also had a very interesting time at the 2016 National Poultry Show in Sydney, where I caught up with Luke Price and Celeste Graham and saw all the brahmas and cochins that were entered. Congratulations to Heather Proctor, Peter Wang, Bert Hewitt, Kevyn Davis, Elise Carlton, Bill Robinson and Dr Harry Cooper (apologies if I missed anyone!), for all their hard work and time they spent in showing their brahmas and cochins.

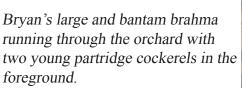


Esther's husband and kids

The show is held every four years and it is amazing to see 5400 birds exhibited of various breeds of soft feather fowl, hard feather fowl, waterfowl, jungle fowl, guinea fowl, geese and turkeys, with exhibitors coming from all over Australia. There were also numerous commercial and breed club stands. A dinner was held at the showground's pavilion where we were well catered for and all the winners had trophies presented to them. A great night was had by all. Luke and I also caught up with Megg, Liz and Jessamy from Australasian Poultry Magazine, Lyn Campbell from AvGen Poultry, also Dianne Anderson and Ian Nagle who were last year's champion breeders. Luke had a busy time over the weekend volunteering for AvGen with his good mate Daniel, and Celeste spent time working out our incubator problems with help from Bob Peel, from Greatlander. The poultry auction that was held on the Saturday saw some amazing prices paid for poultry. One pair of Toulouse Geese sold for \$3400.00!

Here's to an amazing 2016/17 breeding season and see you all at Queanbeyan for our annual show in August.

Regards, Bryan Jon Meade





Editor's Report

By Celeste Graham

Welcome to the 2016 edition of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia's newsletter. What a ride this year has been in my poultry world! Moving to a new property, building the Taj Mahal of chook pens, attending the National Poultry Show (although not as an exhibitor) and editing my first edition of the newsletter!

Fortunately for Franz Mahr, our usual editor, he has picked up some extra work on the home front, but unfortunately for us, this makes him unable to be editor this year. As I was Assistant Editor, I have stepped up into the role, however I have big shoes to fill! Franz has done an amazing job in the past, and while I have a steep learning curve ahead of me, I will do my best to live up to his illustrious example!

The past 12 months have been a trial by fire, for my partner Nathan, and myself, at our new property at Toogoolawah in Queensland. I am continuing with breeding brahma in Buff Columbian, Lights and Whites, and I have dragged Nathan, not quite kicking and screaming, into the breed also! He is now breeding partridge and golden crele and has already started to show some of his birds, winning AOV Champion at the Beaudesert Poultry Club Show. We also have other breeds, including waterfowl (Saxony, Cayugas, Indian Runners, Pekins, Muscovies to name just a few), Wyandottes (partridge and cuckoo) and I have just dipped my toe into the hardfeather world with some Modern Game bantams.

Nathan has also spent a significant amount of thought and effort on the planning and construction of our new pens. They are not yet complete, but already they feature a 2m wall around the entire complex, with a concrete trench to stop anything digging under, 10 grow-out pens, two solely-dedicated to waterfowl with ponds and all. The grow-out pens are partially roofed, giving us a huge water catchment area, and we are using 1000L tanks to store the water. Currently we have a 5000L capacity, but are working towards at least twice that. Our aim is to have water fully automated, large feed capacities in each pen and each pen at least partially roofed. Whilst it is not a cheap venture, it is a worthwhile one and we both look forward to its completion in 2017/2018.

I would like to wish everyone a successful breeding season for 2016, and that this is the year that you produce that champion bird!

Cheers, Celeste.



A 2015 white brahma cockerel



Nathan, my uncle Glenn and I at the Beaudesert Poultry Show. Photo by Cathy Newton



A cute early arrival!



A hatch from 2015

Secretary's report By Samantha Williams

It's been a very busy year for Luke and I, culminating in a big move to our very own little farm. It's been a long time coming and we're both incredibly excited to be taking this next big step. In chook terms, this means that we will finally have the space (and lack of noise restraints) to breed and keep all the chooks we want! We have been preparing for this moment for a while, and have a small little flock of Brahmas that we hatched from eggs from Luke and his dad's Pile and Cream Partridge birds in NSW, to bring with us. The next few months will see us building many chook pens, and bringing more eggs down from Luke's NSW birds to build our flock. It is sure to be exciting times ahead.

I will be handing over the reigns as Secretary for the year ahead, and I wish our new Secretary the best of luck. I'm sure they will do a fantastic job, and keep this wonderful club running smoothly, with the help of our incredible President Bryan and all the other Committee members. It's been a great couple of years being involved with the Brahma and Cochin Club. I have found the club to be very supportive and inclusive, and just a fantastic place to learn and grow as a breeder. There is so much knowledge to draw from, from within our club and everyone is always happy to help.

Membership renewals are now due and I have begun to receive renewals. If you are unsure if you need to renew your membership, please send an email to secretary@brahmacochin.org and the Secretary will check our members' database. If you haven't been receiving emails from the Secretary email address, please check your email accounts' junk mail folder. If you aren't receiving emails from the Secretary account at all, your details are likely to be outdated. Please contact us with your updated information.

All the best with the year ahead.

Samantha

Work In Progress (WIP) Class Brahma and Cochin

Our annual show features, a 'Work In Progress' class. Any colour variety, including non-standard colours can be entered if the breeder considers the bird to be a 'work in progress', i.e. the colour, type or certain breed characteristics aren't correct for the Australian Standard of Perfection. Birds entered into this class will be clearly identified on the pen as a WIP and are eligible to win the Best WIP (Cochin or Brahma), Breeder of the Year, Lance Hicks Memorial Award and Champion Junior. WIP entries are not eligible to win the Champion or Reserve Champion Brahma or Cochin of show or other special awards. Entries for the WIP classes must include their colour variety to assist with the judging process. WIP will give you a chance to show the results of your hard work, receive constructive comments from an expert judge; help with planning breeding pens and working out 'where to next?' Whether creating new colours or improving standard colours, the WIP class provides breeders with an opportunity to swap and sell birds that will help assist each other with our breeding programs. Entries for the WIP classes must include their colour variety to assist with the judging process.

Website Manager's Report

By Luke Price

Our 15/16 breeding season has been a fairly small one for my Dad and I, as we have had had less time to spend on the birds due to overseas trips, work commitments and my volunteer work for AvGen and Jan Sparks to assist with the importations. With the help of our fantastic Club President Bryan Meade, the Pyle (Pile) bantams and large fowl are moving ahead in leaps and bounds, and my Dad and I also managed to get a few chicks from the Cream Partridge, Blue Partridge, Birchin, Gold Crele and Gold Brahma bantams on the ground. Bryan Meade and I are working on a few other colours together, with Bryan doing most of the actual breeding at this stage...sorry Bryan;-) I'm incredibly grateful to Bryan for everything he does to keep the club moving ahead and for his support of the colour creation projects that we are working on together. I have also been helping Bryan with his work to maintain the Dark, Gold and Golden Crele colours in the large fowl Brahma.



Me with a Gold Brahma male at Alison Wells and Robert Harrison's place



One of my Pyle Brahma Bantam Cockerels

I recently volunteered to go on a trip to the United Kingdom on behalf of Lyn Campbell (from AvGen) and Jan Sparks to visit the Pre-entry Quarantine Facility and help select birds and document the breeding pens for their 2016 importation, which is planned to include over 20 breeds in numerous colours varieties. The trip also had a fact finding component, where I visited many of the people involved in the project including; Dr David Spackman, Mr Rob Gauld, Mr Stuart Wilson, Mr Andy Marshall, Mr Fred Hams and many other wonderful UK poultry breeders. I gathered information to ensure the importations were appropriately documented, and down the track I plan to write a book about Jan and Lyn's importation achievements along with information on the many breeds. If you would like more information about AvGen and Jan Sparks importations, visit AvGen's website http://www.avgenpoultry.com.au/ or call Lyn on 0417 000 713 (between 7 pm and 8 pm is usually a good time to catch her).

Whilst in the UK, I had a wonderful time visiting Alison Wells and Robert Harrison, two likeminded UK Brahma and Cochin enthusiasts, who very kindly looked after me for a couple of days at their beautiful home in Northamptonshire. I also had a lovely day with Priscilla Middleton and Fred Hams whilst visiting Priscilla's farm with Fred whilst we were in Kent, they were both very accommodating and so helpful with information. Alison Wells and Robert Harrison and Priscilla Middleton supplied hatching eggs from their excellent Brahma for Lyn and Jan's final importation in 2016. I had the pleasure of visiting Andy Marshall and his wife in Devon, they were incredibly helpful and went to great lengths to make sure I had a most enjoyable stay. We even had dinner at a "proper Devon" pub. Andy breeds stunning Cochin along with a number of other breeds and has a website called http://www.stablegreenpoultry.co.uk/ where you can view his beautiful birds.

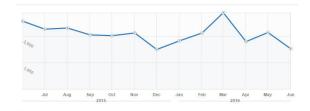


Selfie with Alison Wells Robert Harrison and their beautiful big Bertha. Bertha is featured the front page of this newsletter!

Unfortunately, my Dad Roger and I will not be able to make it to our club's annual show this year. Dad and Mum are at a conference in Darwin and Samantha and I are moving to our new farm south of Adelaide on the show weekend. We hope everyone has a wonderful time and I look forward to hearing all about it and seeing the photos. A special thanks to Celeste Graham and Nathan Maher for helping bring this newsletter together and offering to help Bryan out at the show in my absence. Celeste and Nathan have been so supportive and we really appreciate everything they are doing. Our long-time Newsletter Editor Franz Mahr has a huge amount of work on his plate at the moment and is unable to spend time on the newsletter and it has been great they can help the club bring the it all together.

Our website traffic is excellent, particularly for a small poultry club, and continues to receive regular visits from around the world. I have downloaded site traffic information from the last 12 months (at the time of writing June 2016) to provide some summary statistics for our members. The information presented is from the last financial year.

Website traffic is remaining fairly constant and people regularly visit our website to view photos, forum posts, and obtain information from the variety of resources we offer. Our website Forums continue to be underutilised, with our Facebook group the preferred method of communication. Our Facebook page will no doubt continue to be the preferred public forum for club members because of its accessibility and instant messaging. However, older conversations and posts with useful information appear to be easier to find on our website than on our Facebook page so our website may still perform a valuable function in the future.



Total number of page visits per month over the last 12 months - 1st 7th 2015 to 30th 6th 2016

Pages that have received the most views of the last 12 months include; Photo Albums, Home Page, Poultry Breeding and Genetics information, Breeders Directory, Brahma and Cochin standards of perfection and more. As always it is great to see just how many overseas people view our website. The map below shows the locations where people have accessed our site.

Over the last 12 months our website received 27,246 page views with a monthly average of 2,270 page views. The best month was over 3,000 around March. The majority of people access our site from desktop computers (74%) with a much smaller percentage visiting from mobile phones (13%) and tablets (13%); phone and tablet access has almost doubled from a couple of years ago. Sources of traffic are varied with 30% of people directly accessing our webpage, 52% finding it via links, 13% arriving via search engines and 4% through social media.



Locations of visitors to our site - Note locations are slightly off centre - shifted to the right - on the map

Traffic sources have changed slightly from several years ago when 39% of people were directly accessed our webpage, 34% via links, 25% via search engines and 2% through social media. Considering we don't pay for advertising or send regular email blasts to members, our site is performing very well. You can help increase our site stats by taking a look around our website today, Don't forget to click on 'More' to find more of our website pages including; the Brahma and Cochin Standards, Poultry Breeding and Genetics Information, Memorial pages, Frequently Asked Questions and several other informative pages. Click on the following link to visit our website http://www.brahmacochin.org/



Device usage to access our website as a percentage of total site visits

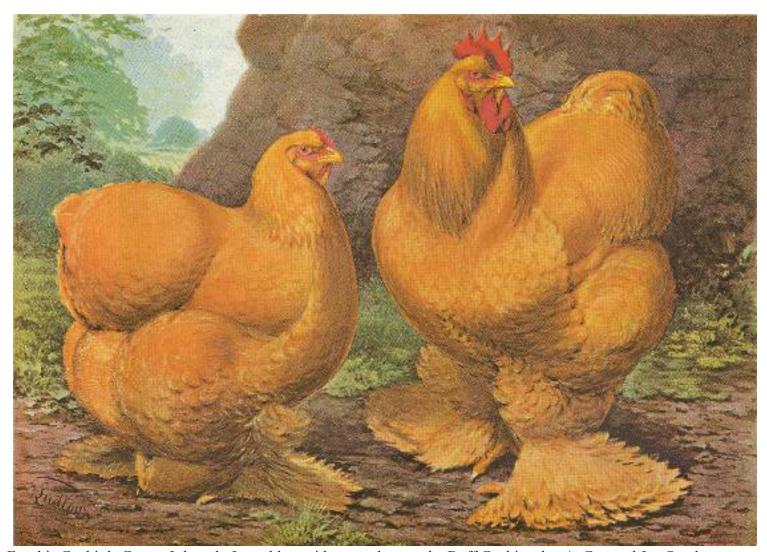
At the time of writing our Facebook group membership sits at 1,736; around 200 more members than this time last year. Our Facebook group also has several resource links. By clicking on 'Files' at the top of our Facebook group under the group photo you will find information about common faults, Brahma and Cochin type, feather colours and patterns, and more. Good luck to everyone at the show, have a fun time!.

Popular Pages	Pageviews	Share
Photos	12919	47%
Home	4666	17%
Poultry Breeding & Genetics	2749	10%
Breeders Directory	1922	7%
Brahma Standards Australia	971	4%
Forums	834	3%
2016 National Show	603	2%
Online Members	510	2%
Other pages	2072	8%

Page views displayed as exact numbers and a percentage share of total views

Facebook Group: https://web.facebook.com/groups/brahmacochinaustralia/

Cochin's Corner By Luke Price



For this Cochin's Corner I thought I would provide an update on the Buff Cochins that AvGen and Jan Sparks imported from the United Kingdom (UK) last year. So I sourced some information from Lyn and Jan and their UK team; Dr Spackman, Rob Gauld and Stuart Wilson.

The breeding stock for the Buff Cochin imported in 2015 was originally sourced for the 2013 importation of the Australian Rare Poultry Importation Syndicate (ARPIS). This importation unfortunately failed due to the detection of the presence of Salmonella pullorum in a number of Black Cochins housed in one pen within the Australian Quarantine facility. Despite initial attempts to save the birds in the Australian Quarantine facility, syndicate members made the very difficult decision to let the imported birds be culled in line with their biosecurity principles. The import failure was incredibly unfortunate and many people were left devastated and in financial trouble. The staff at the UK breeding facility (Pre-entry Quarantine Facility), that housed what was originally over 45 breeds and 22 additional varieties of fowl, were told no more money would be coming in and the syndicate could not pay the debts they owed them. At this point the UK staff were forced to disperse the source flocks and begin dismantling the facility. They began returning the original breeding stock to the UK breeders that wanted them back and commenced selling what was not wanted by the UK breeders to help recoup some of the outstanding costs.



10 week old Buff Cochin imported from the UK by AvGen and Jan Sparks in 2015

Fortunately for Australian breeders, Jan Sparks and Lyn Campbell (AvGen) heard about the subsequent dispersal of the UK source flocks and set out to rescue what remained of the importation project. They were able to pay the debts of the syndicate and halt the dispersal of the UK breeding flocks before it was entirely complete, and whilst some breeds still remained in the UK breeding facility. A reasonable number of younger Buff Cochins (only a few weeks old), which had been hatched in preparation for the planned 2014 ARPIS 2 import, still remained in the UK facility and these birds were grown on to maturity to form the source flock for the 2015 importation. This stock was bred from the initial breeding source flock supplied by three UK Buff Cochin breeders. These breeders had originally supplied hatching eggs, from which the chicks hatched were raised to form the initial ARPIS source flocks. The stock from all the breeder's strains was mixed in the UK facility to provide a diverse genetic base.



10 week old Buff Cochin imported from the UK by AvGen and Jan Sparks in 2015

Three UK Buff Cochin breeders supplied the original breeding stock - Peter Heywood (President of The Cochin Club – Official Breed Club of Great Britain), Elaine Oliver (Secretary of The Cochin Club) and Sue Shinwell, and possibly one other that I'm still waiting on confirmation. A number of these breeders received their stock back, once the flocks were due to be dispersed; including Elaine Oliver and Sue Shinwell. The young birds that were hatched from their stock and mixed to form the source flocks for the 2015 import were culled after their offspring were successfully imported into Australia. This was done to ensure these breeder's strains were not passed on to anyone else, as agreed. AvGen imported a total of 72 eggs, of which 36 hatched and were released from Australian Quarantine.

I was fortunate enough to be able to volunteer to help AvGen and Jan Sparks select the birds for their breeding teams of Buff Cochin. They set up 5 pens in total using the best of the imported stock and are now in the process of breeding from these pens to increase their flock numbers.

It is anticipated they will have young birds ready for release before the end of 2016. They have informed me that orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for those people that have paid a deposit or upfront. Considering the massive costs of importing and rearing these Buff Cochin, I think the \$750 price tag they are asking for a trio is incredibly cheap. Jan and Lyn continue to facilitate the running of the UK facility and have one more import planned for this year.

I will be making contact with the UK Buff Cochin breeders over the next few months to find out more information about them and their Cochins, so watch this space for more information about the imported Cochins in future newsletters.

Regards, Luke C Price

Wondering what happens when you cross different colours?

Take a look at our website Poultry Breeding and Genetics page for information on what to expect when you cross different colours, what colours you can breed together and how you can create colours using other colours. Here is the link to the page below...

http://www.brahmacochin.org/poultry-breeding-genetics

LP

Junior Members

A new junior member Melissa Heywood with her favourite brahma [Marshmallow] that she will bring along to the show. She is in Grade 3 at the P-12 school in Cann River. Melissa has been breeding Brahmas for this year and even has her father Darren building breeding pens. Melissa would like to breed speckled and partridge brahmas and is very keen to have as many brahmas as possible! We all know that requires lots more pens, so plenty of work for Dad. Melissa is the one to clean out pens and do all the feeding and at all times makes sure that her brahmas have clean water. She loves taking good care of them and has got her mother Faye running a small incubator with 22 eggs in Melissa's bedroom. She also has 2 cluckies with 22 more eggs between them at the moment so I am sure that by her birthday in November, she will have her wish and have plenty of brahmas!

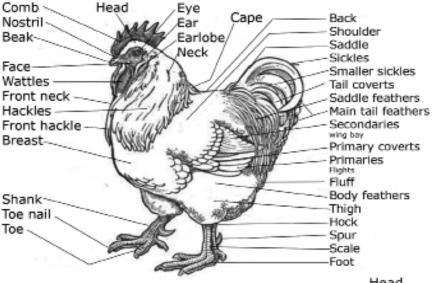
Bryan



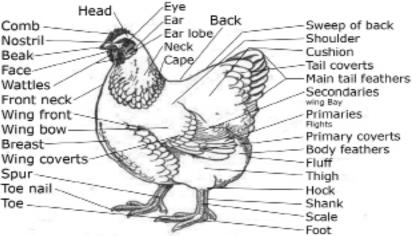
Melissa with Marshmallow



More of Melissa's brahma



Poultry Anatomical Descriptions



In Black and White

by Lance Hicks - reprinted from Winter Newsletter 2006

This is the story of how Bryan Jon and I vastly improved the type and quality of the white Brahmas that we had in 2001. Bryan had bought the only pair of white Brahmas that were available, from John Mercieca. They traced back over generations, to a white bird who was Malay Game. Within a fortnight the cockerel died. The pullet was of medium size, with a Malay type walnut comb and straw-coloured sparsely feathered legs. In despair, Bryan bought a large white Wyandotte cockerel from Andy McDonald. This was an acceptable cross, as he would add size and his brilliant yellow legs to her chickens. He was barely fertile and we hatched thirteen chickens from sixty-seven eggs. Of these only three were worth going on with - two white cockerels, one of which we named "Braxton", and a white pullet that we called "Sister to Braxton". Unlike most of the chickens they at had at least some leg feathering and the legs were yellow. They had walnut combs. The cockerel was crossed back to his mother. We realised that it would take some generations and heavy culling to get birds with reasonable leg feathering and the required pea combs. The pullet was put to a very large black Brahma with a good pea comb and an upright stance with an excellent "U" back. He had well feathered, pale black legs with pinky-white soles. His pedigree went back to Partridge Brahmas with an infusion of black Croad Langshan. Even so, he did have some red markings on his neck and saddle hackles; which led Bryan to call him "Dick Reynolds" after the V.F.L. footballer who wore the black and red Essendon jumper. We thought that our white birds were recessive white and this proved to be the case when all the chickens from the "Dick Reynolds" X "Sister to Braxton" pen were black. We toe marked them so that we could tell them from any other black chickens. All this was entered in our studbooks; from which I am writing this history.

It is at this stage that many breeders say 'I didn't get a single white bird, the experiment was a failure. I will cull the lot!' It is a great pity that, having taken the first step of a two-stage project, these breeders lack the confidence to go on. It is like driving at night with the headlights on low beam. Bryan and I could see further ahead and he selected the best young cockerel and named him after another footballer, a soccer player. "Renaldo" was a large black bird with some brassiness in his neck and saddle hackles. He was of excellent type and had well feathered legs of a bleached colouring. In 2003, he was matched with the best of his sisters. She was a solid black colour with dusky yellow, well-feathered legs. With the leg feathering getting better we needed only to retrieve the recessive white, with as great amount of leg feathering as possible. On the 26th October 2003, a white pullet, which I called "Alma", was hatched. It did not matter that her brothers and sisters were black. She was only about the same size as her grandmother, but had combined the pure white colour with a pea comb and profusely feathered yellow legs.

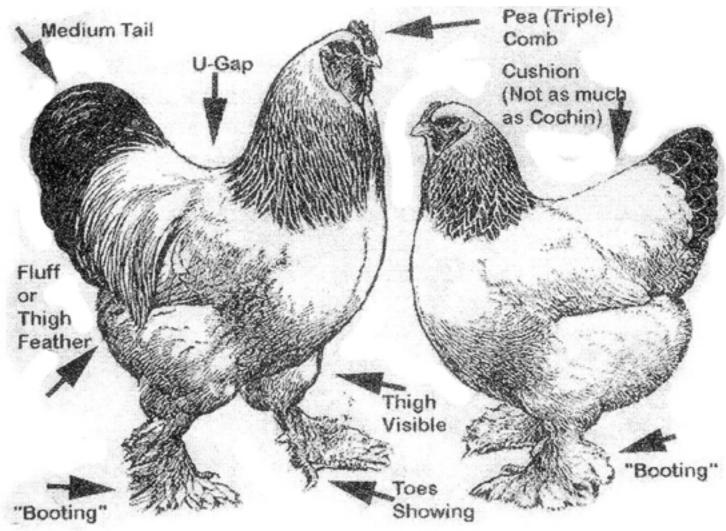
There was an amusing sequel to our success. The Southern Tasmanian Poultry Club celebrated its 150 years of poultry exhibition with a show in Hobart in July 2004. Brahmas had not been shown there for over fifty years, so Bryan loaded his truck with a selection of the colours of Brahmas bred in Victoria. He went over by ferry. I travelled, in greater comfort by plane. Among the birds were "Renaldo" and his sister, and their daughter "Alma". A number of Tasmanian poultry fanciers inquired about the breeding of good white Brahma. When I explained, as outlined above, and showed them the parents of "Alma", I was greeted by a stunned silence and a look of disbelief, followed by a look of distinct distaste. It seems that these locals had been subjected to mainlanders' attempts at leg pulling before; and that they expected a more plausible story than what they had just heard!

Are you looking for Brahma or Cochin?

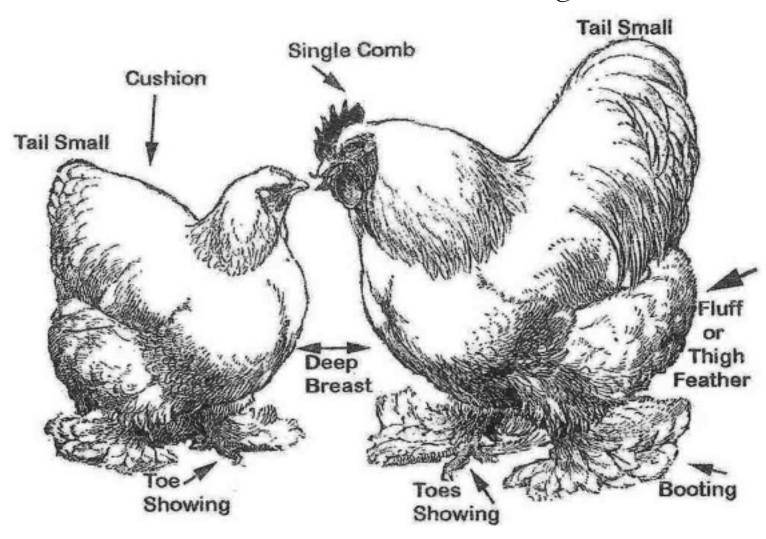
Check out our club website Breeders Directory. You will find a list of breeders from across Australia; they may have what you're looking for. Or place a post in our For Sale or Wanted section in our website Forum.

A post on the Facebook page is also a great way to find that 'hard to get' bird.

www.brahmacochin.org



Brahma and Cochin Features....Sketches showing basic features.



Financial Statement for 2015-2016

Income & Expenditure

	2015-2016		2015-2016
	\$		\$
Income:		Expenditure:	
Membership subscriptions	677.00	Trophies, medals and sashes	1033.84
Donations	0	Miscellaneous	0
Annual Dinner	0	Administration:	0
Sponsorship	0	telephone, stationary, post	0
Raffle	0	Miscellaneous	0
Grants	0	Other	0
Miscellaneous	0	Total	1033.84
Other	0		
Total	677.00		
Surplus for Season	-356.84		

Balance

	2015-2016
Opening Balance	3661.87
Total Income	677.00
Total Expenditure	1033.84
Closing Balance	3305.03

Membership Renewals Are Now Due for 16/17

Our membership year runs from the first Sunday in July. Annual family membership is \$30, full membership is \$20 per annum and junior membership (under 16 yrs.) is \$10.

By becoming a financial member of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia you will be doing your bit to financially support and empower our club to promote and develop the Brahma and Cochin breeds.

Membership fees help to pay for website hosting and services, a website domain name, trophies and prizes for our annual club show, and the printing and distribution of our newsletter. As a financial member you receive a copy of our annual newsletter, unrestricted access to our website pages and eligibility to vote at our AGM and have your say in the running of our club and group.

You can now pay your membership fees by direct deposit. For details see page 41 of this newsletter.

Please note we have a new email address for our Club Secretary secretary@brahmacochin.org

The membership form can also be downloaded from our website.

Important: your email address is required upon application

Constitution of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

The Club shall be called "The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia".

The aim of the club shall be to encourage the breeding and exhibition of Brahma and Cochin to the Standards of perfection, as laid down by The Australian Poultry Standards.

The Constitution of the club shall be:

- a) Grades of Membership
 - i) Full Members
 - ii) Junior Members
 - iii) Honorary Life Membership, may be elected at the Annual General Meeting and must be nominated by 3 (three) full members, with 12 months (1 year) membership
 - iv) Family Membership
- b) Officers of the Club
 - i) President
 - ii) Vice President
 - iii) Secretary
 - iv) Vice Secretary
 - v) Treasurer
 - vi) Editor
 - vii) Assistant Editor
 - vii) Liaison/Publicity Officer
 - viii) Website/ Facebook Manager

The Officers of the club shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may be sent to the Secretary prior to the Annual General Meeting, providing that the nominees prior consent to stand has been obtained. That the AGM members give permission for the Executive to act on the Clubs behalf in the absence of a Committee.

Subscriptions shall be:

- i) Family \$30 Annually
- ii) Full members \$20 Annually
- iii) Junior members up to and including the age of 16 years \$10 Annually

Subscriptions shall be payable on the Annual Show day each year. Members, whose current years subscription have not been paid by the Annual Show, shall receive one further reminder and should payment not be made, their names will be removed from the list of members. Lapsed members wishing to rejoin within a period of two years since the payment of their last subscription shall be required to pay for the intervening years as well as the current year.

All Perpetual Trophies awarded by, or in the hands of, the club are the properties of the club. It is the responsibility of the Club to adequately insure all such trophies against loss. Members who have been awarded Trophies shall be liable to defray the cost of repair to, or replacement of, any trophies damaged whilst in their possession. Club Show trophies shall only be awarded to members whose subscriptions have been fully paid up.

Any proposed alteration or amendments to the Constitution should be sent to the secretary so that they can be circulated to the members, together with the agenda for the AGM. Such items affecting rules ratified at the AGM shall take effect from that date, excepting any increase in subscriptions which will take effect as from the beginning of the next Annual Show.

All nominations for membership of the club are subject to the discretion of the Executive. Any complaints regarding new memberships are to be forwarded to the Secretary in writing. If the executive cannot solve the problem it shall be carried over to the next AGM.

May 2001

Updated July 2002 Updated August 2013 Updated August 2015

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 6th August 2015 – 3.30 pm Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Opening Remarks/Welcome

Bryan declares the meeting open and welcomes club members and friends in attendance to the AGM

Introductions and Apologies

Members in Attendance – Bryan Meade, Celeste Graham, Nathan Maher, Janet Ferguson, Stewart Ferguson, Paul Rodgers, Cindy Pretty, Belinda Bertram, Grant Bertram, John Roger, Luke Price.

Apologies – Don Jones, Roger Price, Samantha Williams, Joanne Aggar, Kate Bradley, Franz Mahr, Mellisa Mathe, Rialeigh Mathe, Charlie Mathe.

Minutes of 2014 AGM

Minutes tabled – no amendments proposed

Matters Arising From the Previous Minutes

No matters arising

Motion that the minutes be accepted:

Moved: Cindy Pretty Seconded: Stewart Ferguson Accepted: Yes

Annual Executive Reports

- President Main report provided in the Winter Newsletter 2015
- Vice President No report
- Secretary Report provided in the Winter Newsletter 2015
- Editor Report provided in the Winter Newsletter 2015
- Website Manager Report provided in the Winter Newsletter 2015

Motion that the Executive Reports be accepted:

Moved: Celeste Graham Seconded: Janet Ferguson Accepted: Yes

Presentation of Accounts (Treasurer)

The Treasurer's Report was included in the Winter Newsletter 2015

Motion that the accounts be accepted:

Moved: Belinda Bertram Seconded: Cindy Pretty Accepted: Yes

Correspondence (Secretary)

National Show

- Nominations for Judges and Stewards
- Donations/Sponsorship of prizes etc
- Invitation extended to have a Club Booth to promote breed and club
- Action: Luke to research costs (note: Luke researched costs but they were too high to warrant having a stand many small clubs couldn't have stand due to high costs)
- Cindy will donate \$100 for prize
- Action: Bryan to organise trophies for Best Brahma and Best Cochin
- Cindy will possibly nominate as steward if available
- Paul will nominate as judge for Brahma and Cochin

Election of Office Bearers – chaired by Belinda Bertram

Discussion

- Addition of another office Vice Editor
- Newsletter is a very big task for one person

Motion to accept Vice Editor as a new office: Moved: Luke Price Seconded: Bryan Meade Accepted: Yes

President Candidate: Bryan Meade	Moved: Cindy Pretty	Seconded: John Roger	Accepted: Yes
Vice President Candidate: Cindy Pretty	Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: Paul Rodgers	Accepted: Yes
Secretary Candidate: Samantha Williams	Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: Luke Price	Accepted: Yes
Vice Secretary Candidate: Luke Price	Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: Celeste Graham	Accepted: Yes
Treasurer Candidate: Bryan Meade	Moved: Steward Ferguson	Seconded: Janet Ferguson	Accepted: Yes
Editor Candidate: Franz Mahr	Moved: Luke Price	Seconded: Bryan Meade	Accepted: Yes
Vice Editor Candidate: Celeste Graham	Moved: Luke Price	Seconded: Bryan Meade	Accepted: Yes
Web Editor Candidate: Luke Price	Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: Cindy Pretty	Accepted: Yes
Liaison/Publicity Officers Candidate: Paul Rodgers Candidate: John Rogers Candidate: Janet Ferguson	Moved: Celeste Graham Moved: Luke Price Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: Janet Ferguson Seconded: Janet Ferguson Seconded: John Roger	Accepted: Yes Accepted: Yes Accepted: Yes
Patron Candidate: Don Jones	Moved: Bryan Meade	Seconded: John Roger	Accepted: Yes

Break

General Business

Bryan

- Letter from a member of the Maitland Rare Breeds Show
- Bryan thought to get a sash for Best Brahma or Cochin
- Sashes arrived late, Bryan agreed to send sashes to winners
- Each state can have a sash for their rare breed show donated to Rare Breeds clubs
- Discussion
- Bryan will find the shows

Addition to Standards

- New colours to try to get added to standards
- E,g, Pyle, Cream Partridge, Blue Partridge
- These colours are in other breeds e.g. Wyandottes
- Luke has been working on recreating a lot of these colours and has provided breeding stock to a number of members in the club
- Bryan colours can be included in the standards but there must be a focus on type, it must look like a brahma
- Birds often look better in real life than they do in the photographs
- The concern is that if the colour is not in the standard, it won't get put up in a show, or even be allowed to be shown in some shows
- What is the criteria to be included?
- Show evidence of their development (Photos and documentation)
- In the hands of numerous breeders, evidence of consistency in type and sufficient numbers

- Paul Rodgers There is a school of thought that adding extra colours takes away from doing the standard colours properly
- Megg Miller gave a talk at the Wyandotte National and mentioned that new colours is the way the breeds are heading an this should be recognised and embraced
- Luke is proposing to still encourage the keeping and breeding of the standard colours, but to work to include all of the new colours that are popular, and in the hands of several breeders and showing consistency in type, to the Aust. Poultry Standards
- A way to document could be a Facebook page so that breeders can document all in the one place (there is already one for Lavender Sussex Project as an example)
- Paul Rodgers There is a concern that the 'main' colours will die out because people are focussing on the less common colours. We mustn't lose our primary colours. We could have a standard for every colour there is so long as it actually looks like the breed it is.
- Luke not everyone wants to keep the original Light and Dark colour varieties and having additional colours can only serve to help with the breed's popularity e.g. Wyandottes which are very popular and have numerous colour options for people. It is up to the club to ensure the promotion of the keeping of Light, Dark and Gold along with the improvement and development of non-standard colours.
- Are we in agreement to start documenting? Luke is suggesting to add to the FAQ how to document etc to the website
- Last time, the club made an appendix document to be referenced to for the standards, but in the edits of the 2nd edition Aust Poultry Standard the reference was disregarded or edited out
- Nathan is it worth doing a register to see what colours each breeder has to track the colours? Survey Monkey action arising Celeste and Nathan to do a Survey Monkey in conjunction with Luke
- Luke to send out the appendix document to all members again
- Discussion around the colour of the Light Brahma with regards to sussex versus Wyandotte colour patterns no resolution.

Finalisation of the emblem

- Franz is working on the emblem (getting someone to do it)
- Having discussions with her
- Getting it redrawn due to copyright issues, to change 10%
- Franz is in trouble from Bryan! (joking!)

Venue for 2016 Show

- There was a talk of a Rare Breed show being held in Canberra that would provide a lot more exposure and be on a long weekend which would suit several club members that have to travel long distances
- Timing is very important!!
- Possibly June
- Celeste Not Week 7 of Term 2 preferably
- Agreement to explore options for annual show

Judges Guide

• Franz is working on it

Website and Facebook Page

Progressing well

Production of a Brahma and Cochin Standards and Colour Guide

• Franz – this is coming along

New Members Starter Pack

• Nuke

Changes to standards for Brahmas and Cochin

• Nuke

Update on Actions from 2014 AGM

- Franz and emblem is happening
- Organised venue for show
- Judges Guide
- Luke hasn't yet done that but he is working on a document modelled on a document for Wyandottes
- Visually appealing
- To go on the website
- People to provide Luke with content for Website
- Franz has not yet done the buying and selling guide
- Merchandise Bryan has got new badges

Other Business

There are documents to be filled out for change of signatories for bank accounts
Formal request for new delegation of signatures for cheques etc
Candidate – Luke – to provide 100 points of identification to bank
Transferring delegation from Belinda Dixon to Luke Price
Moved by Bryan Meade Seconded by Belinda Dixon Accepted: Yes

Meeting Closed – 5.47pm



Gold Brahma pullets - (Alison Wells' and Robert Harrison's line - supplier of breeding stock for 2016 importation) - Photo by Luke Price

2016 Annual General Meeting

Agenda Saturday 6th August 2016 – 3.30 pm

Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Opening rema	arks / welcome			
Introductions	and apologies			
Minutes of 20)15 AGM			
Matters arisin	ig from previous i	ninutes		
Motion that the	ne minutes be acc	epted:		
Moved		Seconded	Accep	oted Y / N
Annual execu	itive reports			
Club Presider	nt			
Vice Presiden	nt			
Secretary				
Editor				
Website mana	ager			
Adoption of a				
Motion that the	he executive repor	rts be accepted:		
			Accep	oted Y / N
	of accounts (Treas	surer)		
Adoption of a	accounts			
Motion that the	he accounts be acc	cepted:		
		Seconded	Accep	oted Y / N
Corresponder	nce (Secretary)			
Election of th	e Office Bearers			
President	Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
	Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
	Candidate(s)	Moved:		Accepted Y / N
V/Secretary	Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded: _	Accepted Y / N
Treasurer	Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
Editor		Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
Web Manager	r Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
Liaison/Publi	city Officer			
	N	loved:	_Seconded:	
Candidate(s)	N	floved:	_Seconded:	_Accepted Y / N
Patron	Candidate(s)	Moved:	Seconded:	Accepted Y / N
Break				4.30 pm
General Busin	ness			
Addition of n	ew Brahma and C	Cochin colours to the 3	rd edition Australian Poultry	y Standards – who is working on
what colours	 documenting cr 	eation, showing at loc	al and national shows.	
				Canberra on June Long weekend
Newsletter - p	proposal to split n	ewsletter into 2 parts -	January (husbandry/breed	focus) and July (show focus) issues
-	etions from 2015 A	AGM		
Any other bus	siness			

6.00 pm

Meeting close

Judge's Report - 2015 By David Drum

I'd like to thank the Cochin and Brahma club for the invitation to judge the club show in Queanbeyan. I firstly apologise for my lack of thorough knowledge regarding these two rare breeds, but for the basic understanding I do have, I was very impressed with the majority.

For the limited genetics available breeders should be commended for their resilience and perseverance in recreating such a beautiful bird.

Limited genetics have however not allowed the birds to reach their potential in size which was probably one of the biggest weaknesses throughout the show

One other concern was some very nice typed birds carried split wings which was disappointing when you think you have a ripper in your hand.

Brahma

The winning bird was a lovely well rounded hen, having carriage very true to type and plenty of size. She was in prime show condition. Only problem was feathering in the head may have been a little washed out in colour. Overall a fantastic bird being a real standout.



Judge David Drum and steward Luke Price

The reserve champion standard once again was a cracker. This white cockerel had a lovely upright stance, neat head and an abundance of feather shining like a new coin. His superior size and real presence in the cage gave him the edge over the best dark standard which was also a great example of the breed. He also had a very colouring and good depth of body with ample feathering.

Cochin

The size of the birds here ranged from very heavy, well structured birds to quite dainty fluff balls. Here line breeding may have been a factor, not giving the birds a bit of hybrid vigour which may be of benefit (and yes I know outside blood is limited).

The winning buff hen had good feather and correct characteristics for the breed. Her size, leg colour, correct comb and abundant tail cushioning gave her an advantage immediately over many of her competition although the reserve champion cockerel I think has the potential to be the best Cochin in the shed. His immaturity was probably all that held him back from winning champion.

The buff Cochins had the best type and feather in the shed however a Birchen cockerel caught my eye. His profuse feathering and large upright stature was to be commended.

Keep up the good work with the breeding and thanks to all who helped me during the day, especially Luke for his help as steward.

Kind regards David Drum

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia 16th Annual Show Sunday 7th August 2016

The 2016 national show of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia will be hosted by the Canberra Queanbeyan Poultry Club (CQPC) who have, once again, kindly offered to include our classes as part of their annual and rare breed show.

All of the usual classes and awards are available; however entries need to be made via the CQPC Annual and Rare Breed Show schedule and entry form. The schedule and entry form have been forwarded to members with this newsletter.

A major benefit of the 2016 show arrangement is the eligibility to win awards of the CQPC Annual and Rare Breed Show as well as our own club awards.

Entries close Wednesday 3rd August 2016 (For late entries contact Greg Davies at president@cqpoultryclub.com or Luke Price 0431 346 326 but there is no guarantee there will be a place for your exhibits)

Contact: The CQPC secretary via email: secretary@cqpoultryclub.com

Schedule and entry form: available for download from our club website http://www.brahmacochin.org/2016-national-show or via request at secretary@cqpoultryclub.com.

Entry Fees: See CQPC Annual and Rare Breed Show schedule and entry form.

Where: Queanbeyan Showground Poultry Pavilion, Glebe Avenue

Judges: Peter Cliff (Softfeather large and waterfowl), Tim Johns (All hardfeather) and Warwick Saunders (softfeather bantam)

Time: 9am

Chief Steward for Brahma and Cochin: Celeste Graham

Stewards: TBA

Penning: Exhibits must be penned before 8.55 am Sunday 7th August. The pavilion will be open between Saturday afternoon 6th August 2016 and before 8.55 am show day. Please contact Greg Davies at president@cqpoultryclub.com if you need to get in at other times.

Contact Celeste Graham for more details - celeste@marzeeonline.com or 0413 307 594



How I Started...

By Celeste Graham

In 2012, Nathan and I had been living together in the Gold Coast Hinterland. The country vibe of the area was really tickling my fancy and I managed to convince him to get some chooks. After months of planning and building the coop and run, we finally brought home 6 brown commercial layers in January of 2013. In February, my birthday was drawing near and Nathan said to me, "Hey, did you know there are pretty chooks too?" He then proceeded to show me many, many pictures of chooks, the likes of which I had never seen before! Sussex, Polish, Wyandottes, Dorkings, Leghorns, the biggest variety that I had ever seen and had never known existed. For my birthday, I was given two Sussex pullets (which are still languishing in our layer pen) and 7 mixed ducklings and the poultry obsession had begun!

We visited the Gatton Feather Club's Poultry auction on the Easter weekend and we came home with 3 more breeds of chooks (leghorns, Japanese, breeding Sussex) and some Cayuga ducks. There began our 'Experimentation' period! We bought every breed of chook and duck that caught our fancy until we went to an auction in Toowoomba that spring. A friend of friend was selling brahma and I fell in love at first sight. That cranky-looking brow was all I could think about. I loved it! I bought a mixed-colour group (this was before I had any breeding knowledge). I was proud of my new acquisition and I searched for a brahma club.



Photobomb!

After only a small amount of searching I found our club and I was on the phone to Bryan straight away, wanting to find out just how good my brahma were. With some very hesitant, but kindly delivered, opinions from Bryan, to not breed with most of my brahma, he pointed me in the direction of Franz, Kate and himself. We planned a road trip, and we used visiting my family in Melbourne as an excuse, and made the drive to meet them. Bryan and Kate furnished me with some very lovely partridge and golden crele birds, and Franz set me up with some buff columbians.

The following season, my learning curve for the brahma skyrocketed. The more I learned, the more excited I was, and the more interested Nathan became in the brahma as well. While I was developing my brahma program, he was exploring chicken genetics, with particular interest in laced and pencilled colours. He was thinking about experimenting with Wyandottes, and considering using some brahma in some learning projects. I also discovered that my buff columbians were carrying recessive white from a bird that Franz had used a few generations back and out popped white brahma, much to my delight. It was during this year, 2014, we visited the show in Queanbeyan for the first time. We didn't take any birds but we learned heaps and had a wonderful, if chilly, time catching up with everyone.



One of the surprise offspring with recessive white

The 2015 breeding season saw the continuation of our brahma breeding program, although not to the extent we wanted, but that was a mixed blessing because we finally moved onto our 40 acre property at Toogoolawah. The move in the middle of breeding season caused us some grief with losing some grow outs, and some adults. It was at this time that I decided pencilled birds were not my passion in the brahma and I handed all of the partridge and crele birds over to Nathan. 2015 also saw us take birds to the show for the first time. My white cockerel, Otis, won Best Self-Colour and won Reserve Champion for the Standard brahma.

Oddly enough, we only took 11 birds down to Queanbeyan, but we managed to take back 25 birds, all in a little Toyota Corolla! Some of these birds went to some other breeders on the way home, and just a few made it to our place too!





Otis, preparing for his debut at the 2015 show in Queanbeyan

This facial expression is known as 'Far out! There's barely enough room for us!'



Packed to the rafters, or rooftop as the case may be!

In realising that partridge was not my passion, I discovered that the whites and the columbians were. This season, I am working on improving the buff columbians, that seem to be getting rarer and rarer, in black, blue and splash, and I am also going to work on the project of creating white buff columbians, using dominant white to create a wholly white columbian collar etc. I am hoping to enter some of these birds in the WIP section of the show in 2017.



A very promising blue light pullet hatched in 2015

Nathan with his AOV Champion Partridge Brahma Cockerel





New friends visiting the new pens

Nathan is continuing to work with the partridge, hoping to improve the pencilling and increase the head size.

It has been our great pleasure to have found the club, with it being the best club we have been associated with, hands down. We have found nothing but support, friendship, friendly advice and endless goodwill. We look forward to continuing to be involved in our wonderful club and seeing everyone at the show.



Sunset at Toogoolawah

Lance Hicks Memorial Page

Besides his passion for Brahma, Lance Hicks loved his poultry genetics and wrote several articles for the club newsletter over the years that he was a member. Lance had a way of translating what is considered to be difficult genetics information into a palatable and enjoyable form. He wrote with flair and humour and his usual cheeky demeanour. The article titled 'In Black and White' is a great piece of club and breed history. The article has been reprinted in full on page 9. If you haven't taken the time to read at least one of Lance's articles you are missing out. Here is the link to Lance's memorial page http://www.brahmacochin.org/lancehicksmemorial.htm

New Kids On The Block

Meet the Kids Outdoor Learning Team breeding heritage Brahma chickens at Bundoora Park Farm

Bundoora Park is a 180-hectare oasis of rolling green parklands in the heart of Melbourne's inner northeastern suburbs. Our children's farm is located at the centre of this peaceful natural haven.

Kids and adults come to visit us hoping to spend a few hours meeting the animals and experiencing the joys of the farm environment. There are all sorts of animals making their homes on our farm (some more welcome than others, as any farmer knows!)



We're aware of the kinds of lessons people learn at the farm just by looking at what surrounds them, as well as what we set out to communicate directly. Life in the big smoke can pull the wool over your eyes when it comes to understanding the connections between food and the natural world. Take, for example, the not uncommon question: "Can roosters lay eggs?" (And not asked only by kids!)

In 2014, we began exploring the idea of promoting Heritage chicken breeds after becoming concerned about the loss of genetic diversity and negative health impact on chickens bred for intensive egg production. We settled on Brahmas as a docile, fascinating and rare breed, suitable for both life on a children's farm and backyard laying.

Two proud dads!

Enter the Kids Outdoor Learning Team (KOLT)! What better way to promote awareness than to involve kids in the establishment and running of the program. Our KOLT team is a group of secondary students meeting on Saturday afternoons during school terms. The kids have taken to the running of the program like ducks to water (or chickens to your precious vegetable garden!) and have worked hard on housing, fencing and tending to the health of the flock.



Three proud mums!



KOLT Kids with brahmas

It's now June 2016 and our fledgling breeding program has really taken off, blessing us with our first batch of 11 healthy, lively Brahma chicks proudly fussed over by 3 diligent mums!

We will be breeding Partridge and Light Brahmas- along with Double-Laced Barnevelders- and would like to sincerely thank Bryan Meade for all his support and advice in getting our breeding program up and running, and for the very kind donation of three partridge Brahma hens and a gorgeous crele rooster. We're looking forward to further involvement with the club over the coming years.

Rachel MacBryde **Education Assistant** Bundoora Park



Hayley, Piper and Kiva with chicks



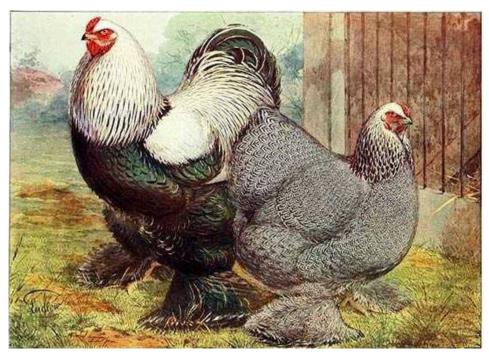
Type precisely defines the standard of perfection that designates all poultry breeds to a category or class of their own. All poultry breeds must be bred true to their correct type, which adequately describes their breed of poultry, from hard feather to soft feather, in standard or bantam, and in their particular colour patterns.

Brahmas are thought to have originated from northern India along the Brahma Poutra River and cochins from China, where they were originally called Chittagongs. However, in Australia, we lost our remaining brahmas in the late 1940's and so brahmas and cochins were recreated here. Standards of perfection for brahmas and cochin were developed in both America and Britain, and in Australia, our standard of perfection follows the British standards very closely. In our standards, however, there are a few deviations from the British standards. As an example, the head of Australian brahma varies from the British and European brahma, as some of the British/European cock birds can have very long wattles, very similar to a cochin wattles, and an Australian brahma head is very different to a cochin, as seen on our club emblem.

In the very early days of recreating brahmas, Lance and I used Wyandottes to introduce the colour (silver penciled) and Malay game for the head and the height as a brahma is a large bird. Andrew Rathbone used light Sussex to build his great lights but all of that was long ago and with time we have produced some very outstanding brahma and cochin in new colours, such as Luke Price and his pile brahmas in standard and bantam and these will be at this year's show.

It is a lot of work, time and dedication to breed brahmas and cochins and just when you think you got it right, out pops all of those unwanted genetics; dropped wings, large wattles, lack of dewlap, short legs, squirrel tails, lack of prominent brow, not to mention when the colour pattern going astray. We just need to keep checking with the standards of perfection and continue on. Whilst there were some errors made in the 2nd Edition of the Australian Poultry Standards in regards to the brahma, they have printed an erratum, which was sent out to all purchasers of the standards, but is also available in the back of the addendum to the Australian Poultry Standards that was released at the National Poultry Show. Our club has plenty of time to ensure that the standards are correct in the next edition, and the correct standards are also published on our club website. The Brahma standard is printed here and the Cochin standard is here

Here are some pictures of some outstanding brahmas and cochins that have been bred by some of our club members.



The ideal brahma type - drawing by J. W. Ludlow



An awesome head -Bred by Franz Mahr



Bred by Luke Price



Bred by Jonathan Daniel



Bred by Kelvin Cosgrove



Bred by Bryan Meade



Bred by Jonathan Daniel



Ruby (dog) and Brahma bred by Bryan Meade



Bred by Bryan Meade



Bred by Kate Bradley

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia 2015 Show Champions

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia 2015 Annual Show was held on Sunday the 9th of August in Queanbeyan NSW. This year the annual show was again kindly hosted by the Canberra Queanbeyan Poultry Club Inc. (CQPC), as part of their 2015 Annual and Rare breed show.

We would like to thank the hard working members of the CQPC for incorporating our club show again this year, and for being such excellent hosts! Your friendly and dedicated members put together a well-run and successful show. As always we felt incredibly welcome and really appreciated your efforts to make our show such a success.

2015 Show Champions and Recognition Awards

Champion of Show - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson (Standard Brahma Light Hen)

Brahma

Champion Brahma - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson (Standard Light Hen)

Reserve Champion - Bryan Jon Meade (Bantam Dark Pullet)

Champion Standard - Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson (Standard Light Hen)

Reserve Champion Standard - Celeste Graham & Nathan Maher (White Cockerel)

Champion Bantam - Bryan Jon Meade (Bantam Dark Pullet)

Reserve Champion Bantam - Bryan Jon Meade (Bantam Dark Pullet)

Best Standard Light - Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson (Hen)

Best Standard Dark - Bryan Jon Meade (Cockerel)

Best Standard Partridge (Gold) - Kate Bradley (Cockerel)

Best Standard Columbian AC - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson (Buff Columbian Hen)

Best Standard Self Colour AC - Celeste Graham & Nathan Maher (White Cockerel)

Best Standard Barred AC - Cowled's Poultry Farm (Barred Buff Columbian Pullet)

Best Standard AOC - Jonathon Daniel (Gold Laced Pullet)

Best Bantam Light - Neal & Linda Lynch (Hen)

Best Bantam Dark - Bryan Jon Meade (Pullet)

Best Bantam Partridge (Gold) - Bryan Jon Meade (Gold Pullet)

Best Bantam Columbian AC - No Birds Benched

Best Bantam Self Colour AC - No Birds Benched

Best Bantam AOC - No Birds Benched

Best Bantam Barred AC - No Birds Benched

Best Standard Work In Progress - Hope Vella (Buff Columbian Hen)

Best Bantam Work In Progress - No Birds Benched

Cochin

Champion Cochin - Diana and Vince Honan (Buff Hen)

Reserve Champion Cochin - Paul Rodgers (Buff Cockerel)

Best Opposite Sex Cochin - Paul Rodgers (Buff Cockerel)

Best Buff Cochin - Diana and Vince Honan (Buff Hen)

Best Black Cochin - Morisset High School (Cockerel)

Best AOC Cochin - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson (Gold Laced Cockerel)

Best Work in Progress Cochin - Jenevieve Baxter (Birchin Cockerel)

Recognition Awards

Breeder of the Year - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson

Lance Hicks Memorial Award - Stewart and Janet Ferguson

Andrew Rathbone award for Best Standard Light Brahma - Ian Nagle & Dianne Anderson

K & C Abuid award for Best Bantam Light Brahma - Neal & Linda Lynch

George Childs award for Best Bantam Partridge Brahma - Bryan Jon Meade

Don Jones award for Best Bantam Dark Brahma - Bryan Jon Meade

Judges Medallion - Mr David Drum (Large Fowl Brahma and Cochin) and Mr Ken Watson (Bantam Brahma)

The Show! Queanbeyan 2015



Club members and judges at the show!



Club awards and display



Grant and Belinda Bertram



Bantam Judge Ken Watson with stewards - Neal Lynch in background



Cindy Pretty and Celeste Graham



Diana Honan receiving her award



Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson receiving their many awards



Cindy Pretty, Janet Ferguson and John Roger, checking out the chooks!



Jenevieve Baxter receiving her award from Bryan Meade



Jonathon Daniel, Nathan Maher, Dianne Anderson and Bryan Meade



Janet Ferguson, John Rodger, Stuart Ferguson and Peter Wang



Judges David Drum and Ken Watson providing comments - pictured with Bryan Meade and Celeste Graham



Judge Cochin and large Brahma
David Drum and steward Luke
Price



Kelvin Cosgrove and Bryan Meade discussing life's mysteries



Luke Price, Cindy Pretty and Bryan Meade



Cowled's Poultry Farm receiving their award.



Vince and Diana Honan with Paul Rodgers

Brahma

A very big thank you to Nathan Maher and Geoffrey Pfitsner for their photography on the day, of both brahma and cochin winners.



Champion of Show, Champion Standard, Best Standard Light



Best Standard Work in Progress



Reserve Champion of Show, Champion Bantam



Best Standard Columbian AC



Best Standard Light Brahma

Best Standard Dark Brahma



Best Standard Barred AC Brahma



Best Standard AOC Brahma



Best Standard Partridge Brahma



Best Standard Self-Colour Brahma



Best Bantam Light Brahma



Best Bantam Dark Brahma



Best Bantam Partridge AC



First place Dark Brahma Cockerel



Best Bantam Light Brahma Cock 30

Cochin



Champion Cochin and Best Buff Cochin



Reserve Champion Cochin and Best Opposite sex



Best Black Cochin



Best AOC Cochin





First Place Work In Progress Cochin Hen

2016 National Poultry Show or A Newbie's Take On The Poultry Olympics! By Heather Proctor

After months of deliberation, preparation and indecision about my crazy idea to enter four of my beloved chooks into the National poultry show, the day had finally come to pack them up into my old Navara and head off on my road trip to Sydney for the long weekend. We arrived at 3pm on Thursday the 9th of June, to be greeted with about 300m of cars, trailers and many, many chook cages lined up on the side of the road waiting to unload their chooks into the Faulkner pavilion. The decision was then made, that to save us all getting fines for blocking a lane of the road, we would all be allowed into the showground and have to line up with our chooks and wait to bump in from inside. With so many of us suffering the same fate it was actually quiet a pleasant afternoon. I managed to meet some lovely people whilst waiting, and some I now consider life-long friends.

At roughly 5pm it was finally my turn to get the chooks into their pens, do some last minute touch ups, feed them and call it a night. This was some two hours after our arrival; yes it was a bit hectic on Thursday afternoon as the cut off time to get into the building loomed near, lesson learned for next time! This was also my first opportunity to take a quick look at the competition and it was lovely to see some nice birds benched. There were decent numbers of partridge Brahma and quite a few light Brahmas as well.

Friday the 10th had arrived, Judgment Day. To say I was nervous was an understatement! It was all in the judges' hands now.

I was hoping to see bigger numbers of Cochin and Brahma benched but it was lovely to see what was at the show. There were a total of five Cochins benched; two buff cockerels, a buff pullet and my two blue Cochin, a cockerel and pullet as well.

The buff cockerel class was won by Miss Elsie Carlton of QLD, with Mr. Kevyn Davis of NSW coming in 2nd. Elsie Carlton's cockerel also went on to win Best Standard Cochin, Buff, Male. The buff pullet, owned by Mr. Kevyn Davis of NSW, won her class and was also awarded best standard Cochin, Buff, Female And CHAMPON Standard Cochin, Buff! I had a bit of a soft spot for this pullet; I thought she had a great body shape and a huge cushion.



Blue Cochin Pullet by Heather Proctor -Photo by Cathy Newton



Buff Cochin Pullet by Kevyn Davis - photo by Cathy Newton

The Cochin, AOC, Pullet Class was won by myself with a Blue Pullet, and this pullet was also awarded Best Standard Cochin, AOC, Female and went on to win CHAMPION Standard Cochin, Female.

The Cochin, AOC, Cockerel class was also won by myself with a Blue Cochin, who went on to win Best Standard Cochin, AOC, Male, CHAMPION Standard Cochin, AOC and also CHAMPION Standard Cochin. I thought he had a nice overall type of Blue Cochin, and he will continue to improve as he matures.



Blue Cochin Cockerel by Heather Proctor - photo by Cathy Newton

Class	Prize	Breeder	Other Prizes
Cochin, Buff, Cockerel	1st	Elsie Carlton	Best Standard Cochin, Buff, Male
	2nd	Kevyn Davis	
Cochin, Buff, Pullet	1st	Kevyn Davis	Best Standard Cochin, Buff, Female Champion Standard Cochin, Buff
Cochin, AOC, Cockerel	1st	Heather Proctor	Best Standard Cochin, AOC, Male Champion Standard Cochin, AOC Champion Standard Cochin
Cochin, AOC, Pullet	1st	Heather Proctor	Best Standard Cochin, AOC, Female Champion Standard Cochin, Female



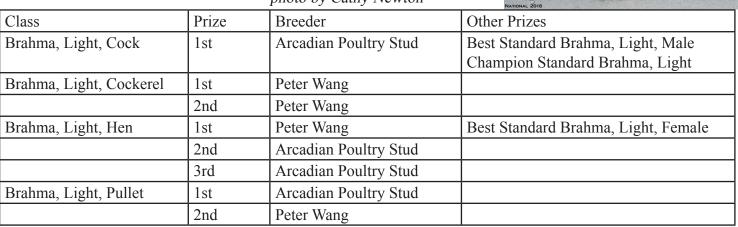
Light Brahma Cock by Arcadian Poultry Stud - photo by Cathy Newton

There were a few more brahma's benched for the show, and some nice birds to be found amongst them. Arcadian Poultry Stud NSW won the Brahma Light Cock Class. This bird also went on to win Best Standard Brahma, Light, Male and CHAMPION Standard Brahma, Light. I thought he was of good size and had a

nice topline.

Mr. Peter Wang's Light hen also went on to win Best Standard Brahma, Light, Female. In my opinion, she was a lovely hen, had good size, great yellow legs, and a lovely top line and tail set.

Light Brahma Hen by Peter Wang - photo by Cathy Newton



I was pleased to see a decent number of Partridge Brahma entered in the AOC category! There were some nice birds here, including the Champion Standard Brahma male. I thought he was a nicely balanced bird of good size and some stiff competition.

So in The Brahma AOC Classes the results were as follows:

Class	Prize	Breeder	Other Prizes
Brahma, AOC, Cock	1st	Arcadian Poultry Stud	
	2nd	Arcadian Poultry Stud	
Brahma, AOC, Cockerel	1st	Bert Hewitt	Best Standard Brahma, AOC, Male Champion Standard Brahma, Male
	2nd	Arcadian Poultry Stud	
Brahma, AOC, Hen	1st	Arcadian Poultry Stud	
	2nd	Arcadian Poultry Stud	
Brahma, AOC, Pullet	1st	Heather Proctor	Best Standard Brahma, AOC, Female Champion Standard Brahma, AOC Champion Standard Brahma, Female Champion Standard Brahma
	2nd	Heather Proctor	
	3rd	Bert Hewitt	



Gold Partridge Cockerel by Bert Hewitt - photo by Cathy Newton



Blue Partridge Pullet by Heather Proctor - photo by Cathy Newton

In the bantam Brahmas, there were limited entries. The results of the bantam classes are as follows:

Class	Prize	Breeder	Other Prizes
Bantam Brahma, Light,	1st	Bill Robinson	Best Bantam Brahma, Light, Male
Cock			Champion Bantam Brahma, Male
Brahma, AOC, Hen	1st	Bill Robinson	Best Bantam Brahma, Light, Female
			Champion Bantam Brahma, Light
			Champion Bantam Brahma Female
			Champion Bantam Brahma



Champion Bantam Light Brahma Hen by Bill Robinson - photo by Cathy Newton

The thrill of realising how well my birds had gone on Friday was amazing, especially with some nice birds with which to compete. It's one thing to go to my local Ag shows and win my classes with them (as I'm always the only one there with my two breeds) but it's another to be competitive at a larger event. I had the pleasure of meeting many of the faces I regularly see and talk to on Facebook, as well as meet many more that I have never seen before. I got to speak "chook" for many hours and learn some tips and tricks from the 'old timers'. I always find it invaluable to pick the brains of people who have been breeding for decades and have so much passion for their poultry! I even got to spend Saturday talking to many people about my chooks and breeding aspirations, and got many insightful tips on what I can improve on and strive for with my own birds. And that's what has made this show such an amazing and eye-opening experience, all the knowledge gained and friends made along the way!

I owe a lot to Bill Robinson, with whom I was speaking at my first ever poultry show earlier in 2016 at Mudgee Ag Show! We got talking about the Brahmas and I said how I would love to go to the Nationals but I was so scared of a big show, how my birds would compare and if I was even ready to go! He simply told me (and I'm sure this isn't word for word but you will get the basic idea) that the only way to find out is to enter and make the effort. You may win, you may loose but you will learn a lot either way! So thank you to Bill, you gave me the push I needed to step outside my comfort zone, and I encourage anyone that is even thinking about showing to just give it a go! You will learn so much, meet some great friends, never meet more helpful people and it will be a blast I promise!

Until next time Heather!

Brahma Importation from United Kingdom By Luke Price

Many of you will have heard AvGen's and Jan Spark's recent importations of over 27 colour varieties in 18 poultry breeds from the United Kingdom (UK) in 2014 and 2015; including a large number of beautiful Buff Cochin. These being the first successful importations of pure bred chicken breeds into Australia since the late 1940s.

The importations were the successful culmination of a 'rescue mission' to salvage some of the chicken breeds that remained following the incredibly unfortunate failed importation attempt of the Australian Rare Poultry Importation Syndicate (ARPIS). After hearing about the subsequent dispersal of the UK source flocks, which originally comprised over 45 breeds and 22 additional varieties of fowl, Jan Sparks and Lyn Campbell (AvGen) set out to salvage what remained of the importation project. They were able to halt the dispersal before it was complete and some breeds remained in the UK breeding facility (Pre-entry Quarantine Facility). They continue to facilitate the running of the UK facility and this year AvGen and Jan Sparks are set to do it again, with one last importation that includes several colours of large fowl Brahma!



Blue Dark (Silver Blue) Brahma owned by Alison Wells and Robert Harrison - photo by Luke Price



In early-mid 2015 Lyn Campbell and Jan Sparks asked myself and the staff at the UK facility to help find suitable breeders in the UK who may be able to assist with supplying hatching eggs from their Brahma. The chicks hatched from these eggs to be raised in the UK facility and form source flocks from which hatching eggs could be sent to an Australian Quarantine facility in 2016. With a lot of work and the incredible generosity of several UK breeders, hatching eggs of a number of colours were sent to the UK facility in mid-2015.

Blue Partridge Brahma (Alison Wells and Robert Harrison's line - supplier of breeding stock for 2016 importation) - photo by Luke Price

The colours to be imported in 2016 are Gold, Blue Partridge, Red Pyle (Splash Partridge), Dark and Silver Blue (Blue Dark). The Gold, Blue Partridge and Red Pyle source flock are comprised of the stock donated by Alison Wells and Robert Harrison, top breeders in the UK who have a won several major awards, including Best Gold Brahma at the Federation Show in 2013 with a hen and Champion Brahma at the Federation Show 2015 with a cock.



Dark brahma enjoying the sunshine - owned by Priscilla Middleton - photo by Luke Price

A well-known and respected UK poultry breeder, Priscilla Middleton also supplied eggs from her Gold Brahma however unfortunately only one chick hatched from her eggs in the UK facility. The majority of the Dark Brahma (over 90%) that form the UK source flocks were supplied by the Dr Steven Wang and Mr Dave Knowles from Clucking Good Chickens (http://www.cluckinggoodchickens.co.uk/), who recently won Best Dark Cock and Best Dark Cockerel at the Federation Show in 2015 as well as Best Dark Brahma male at the National Poultry Show 2015. Steven and Dave also Supplied Silver Blue Brahma of which a small number hatched in the facility. Priscilla Middleton supplied hatching eggs from her Dark Brahma however only two chicks hatched. Jacqui Moore very kindly donated hatching eggs from her Dark Brahma and a small number of these also hatched in the UK facility. Colin Sussams also kindly donated Dark Brahma hatching eggs though unfortunately there was an issue with transport/hatching and none made it through.



Without the generosity and support of these UK Brahma breeders the importations would not have been possible and I think I can safely speak for all Australian Brahma and Cochin enthusiasts when I say that we are all incredibly grateful for what they have done. Likewise, a gigantic thank you to Jan and Geoff Sparks and Lyn Campbell for everything they have done to make our dreams a reality! The time, energy, literal blood, sweat and tears, and vast amounts of money they have put into making the importations succeed is truly astonishing; they are remarkable, passionate people.

Gold Brahma (Alison Wells and Robert Harrison's line - supplier of breeding stock for 2016 importation) - photo by Luke Price



Large Fowl Lavendar Orpington - colour created by Priscilla Middleton in the UK - photo by Luke Price



Gold Brahma - (Alison Wells' and Robert Harrison's line - suppliers of breeding stock for 2016 importation) -Photo by Luke Price

I recently had the pleasure of visiting Alison Wells and Robert Harrison, and Priscilla Middleton whilst on a recent trip to the UK on behalf of Lyn Campbell and Jan Sparks. I had the privilege of spending a few days with Robert and Alison at their beautiful home, where we delighted in talking about Brahmas, new colour projects and genetics for hours. They were incredibly hospitable and kind and made me feel right at home. I also spent a very special day with Priscilla whilst visiting her farm with her long-time friend Fred Hams. Priscilla and Fred were very helpful and I had a wonderful time with them. They are a wealth of knowledge and I was amazed at the sheer variety and excellent quality of the breeds and colours that Priscilla maintains. Fred Hams was everything I expected and a truly extraordinary fellow. His knowledge of poultry breeds and the history of breeds in the UK was equally matched by his knowledge of the local history of the various villages, farms and forests of Kent. Fred was like my very own private tourist guide whilst we were driving through the English Countryside of Kent. Interestingly, Fred Hams helped to get the importation project moving right at its inception and also supplied eggs from his old, high productivity utility strain of Light Sussex for the upcoming 2016 import. All of UK poultry fanciers I met were lovely, very welcoming and so generous with their knowledge. I only wish I was there for longer so I could spend more time with everyone and visit more of these wonderful people.



Light Brahma female - owned by Priscilla Middleton - photo by Luke Price

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Gold Brahma pullets - (Alison Wells' and Robert Harrison's line - supplier of breeding stock for 2016 importation) - Photo by Luke Price



Light and Blue Light Brahma owned by Priscilla Middleton - Photo by Luke Price

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My whirlwind trip included a fact finding component to ensure the importations were appropriately documented and a visit to the Pre-entry Quarantine Facility where I helped set up and document breeding pens for the 2016 import – comprising over 20 breeds in numerous colours varieties. I have included a number of photos of Brahmas owned by Alison Wells and Robert Harrison and Priscilla Middleton from my recent UK trip.

Everything going well with the importation, I hope to write a much more in depth article which will include lots of photos, the history of each of breeder's strains and more details about the numbers of birds in various breeding pens and notes supplied by the UK breeders on how they breed their Brahma.

Keep your fingers and toes crossed for a successful importation!

For more information or to register your interest, visit AvGen's website http://www.avgenpoultry.com.au/ or contact Lyn Campbell by calling

0417 000 713 or emailing avgenpoultry@westnet.com.au.

Luke C Price

Red Pyle (Blue Splash Partridge)
Brahma (Alison Wells' and Robert
Harrison's line - supplier of breeding
stock for 2016 importation) - Photo
by Luke Price



Genetics of Cream Partridge Brahma

By Luke Price

Over the last few years I have been developing Cream Partridge (also known as Yellow Partridge) Brahma bantams. Several years ago I noticed a lighter coloured Gold (Partridge) brahma female which popped up in a hatch of bantam Gold Brahma. She was bred from my Golden Crele lines which I had bred down over several generations from a large fowl Golden Crele Cock given to me by Bryan Meade. At first I thought she may be carrying one copy of recessive white as this can have a slight dilution effect on red pigment, which is particularly evident on the partridge (eb – brown E series allele) background colour. As such I thought she would be useful for my developmental cockerel breeding line to improve the desirable lemon coloured hackle on my males. Subsequent pairings with my cockerel breeding Gold line did not have the desired outcome, with all of the offspring possessing the orange-red hackle colour you would expect from a pullet breeding line. This led me to suspect that the female may be carrying two copies of a recessive gold dilution gene and not one copy of recessive white as I had first anticipated. So I tried a different mating.



Cream Partridge Bantam male with Blue Partridge Bantam female (split for Cream) female showing walnut comb from interaction of pea and rose comb genes



Diluted hackle of Cream Partridge Cockerel Breeding female showing desired solid black center to hackles

This time with a Gold son of the original Cream female (from the former cockerel breeding experimental pairing) who had excellent size, feather and type; paired to some Gold pullets. These pullets were bred from a Gold brahma male, given to me by Joanne Aggar, over a Dark female that Don Jones had given me. The Dark female had a very clean silver and I had previously read that the purest silver birds often have gold dilution genes which help clean out the presence of any brassiness or straw colouring that may otherwise be visible. The gold dilution genes (other than sex-linked silver) presumably accumulating as a side effect of continual selection by breeders for very clean silver colouring over many years.

Whilst I felt reasonably confident that the Gold cockerel would be carrying one copy of a recessive gold inhibitor gene I was unsure if the females would also be carrying one copy of the same recessive gene, but I thought it was worth a shot. The original Cream Partridge female was raising another family of chicks at this stage so I thought this pairing would be worth a shot whilst I waited for the hen to start laying again; at which point I planned to mate her with her son. Fortunately, my hunch paid off and out of a small hatch of chickens (around 6 or 7) two Cream partridge males were produced. Both possessed good type, colour and foot feather, however one of these was a single comb sport. The Cream Partridge male with the pea comb, along with his grandmother were then used as the basis for the development of my Cream Partridge line – with various outcrosses to Partridge and Blue Partridge (to create Blue Cream) over the last few years. Interestingly, after being kept as a spare male for many years, the single comb Cream Partridge brother has subsequently been used by Mathew Pickstone to develop a line of Cream (Yellow) Partridge Bantam Wyandottes, and upon his return I then gave him to John Baldwin; who is using him to make Cream Leghorns and more. Many thanks to Celeste Graham and Nathan Maher for kindly taking him and a few other project birds up to John on their way back to Queensland last year, especially considering you already had a very full car.

Diluted hackle of

another Cream Partridge Cockerel Breeding female

The normal Gold colouring on a male brahma without the presence of Cream genes.

Genetics of Gold and Cream

The Gold Brahma and Cream Partridge Brahma colour varieties can be bred together to make improvements in either colour. Genetically, the Gold and Cream Partridge varieties differ by the absence or presence of the recessive inhibitor of gold gene (ig) (also known as Cream) and its wild-type alternative Ig+. The Gold variety possesses two copies of the normal wild-type alternative and the Cream Partridge variety possesses two copies of the cream gene. When present in two copies, the Cream genes lead to a reduction in the amount of red pigmentation added to the feathers; creating a diluted (duckwing) appearance. Because the cream gene is recessive, Gold birds split for Cream (possessing only one copy of the cream gene and one copy of the wild-type alternative) retain the normal 'Gold' appearance.

The uppercase Ig+ indicates the wild-type gene is dominant to its recessive counterpart ig. The superscript plus symbol (+) is used to indicate the wild-type condition. There are three possible combinations of the Cream and wild-type alternative: Gold (Ig+/Ig+), Cream Partridge (ig/ig) and Gold (split Cream Partridge) (Ig+/ig). The results of crossing Gold and Cream Partridge Brahma varieties are shown below:

 $Gold \times Gold = 100 \% Gold.$

Cream Partridge x Cream Partridge = 100 % Cream Partridge.

Gold x Cream Partridge = 100 % Gold (split Cream).

Gold x Gold (split Cream) = 50 % Gold and 50 % Gold (split Cream).

Cream Partridge x Gold (split Cream) = 50 % Cream Partridge and 50 % Gold (split Cream).

Gold (split Cream) x Gold (split Cream) = 50 % Gold (split Cream), 25 % Gold and 25 % Cream Partridge.



Wing and hackle of Cream Partridge
Bantam male showing the diluting effect
of the gene on gold pigment and making
the wing bay almost white

It is clear from the results above that both the Gold and Cream Partridge varieties are true breeding when pure for their respective wild-type and Cream genes. However, individuals which are Gold (split Cream) will produce Cream Partridge offspring when mated to an individual that is either Cream Partridge or Gold (split Cream).

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Cream Partridge Brahma please don't hesitate to contact me.

Luke C Price



Cream Partridge Bantam Brahma male

Contacts

President / Treasurer
Brahma Club of Australia
Bryan Jon Meade
Phone: (03) 5158 6567
bjm@activ8.net.au

The Secretary
Watch this space
Phone:TBA
secretary@brahmacochin.org

The Website/Facebook Manager
Luke Price
Phone: 0431 346 326
brahmacochin@gmail.com

The Publicity/Liaison Officer
John Roger
Phone: 0414 988 673
brahma@mohair.net.au

Janet and Stewart Ferguson Phone: 0408 991 860 catsailing1@hotmail.com Vice President
Cindy Pretty
Phone: 0434 259 605
cindy.pretty@agriculture.gov.au

The Vice Secretary
Luke Price
Phone: 0431 346 326
brahmacochin@gmail.com

The Editor Franz Mahr Phone: 0419 878 366 themahrs@bigpond.com

Assistant Editor Celeste Graham Phone: 0413307594 celeste@marzeeonline.com

Contact The Secretary for membership enquiries and payments, annual show matters and other general enquiries.

Contact the Website Manager for all website related enquiries or updates and matters relating to Facebook. Contact The Editor for additions to our newsletter and other publication matters.



Membership Form

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

The Secretary
secretary a brahmacochin.org
PO Box 54 Toogoolawah QLD 4313
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Membership fees can be paid by direct deposit (details below), money order or cheque.

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THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY.

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NOTE: ALL CHEQUES TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO "THE BRAHMA CLUB OF AUSTRALIA"

The Brahma Club of Australia and the Cochin Breeders Group of Australia recently amalgamated and are now called The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia. Our banking details are yet to change.

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