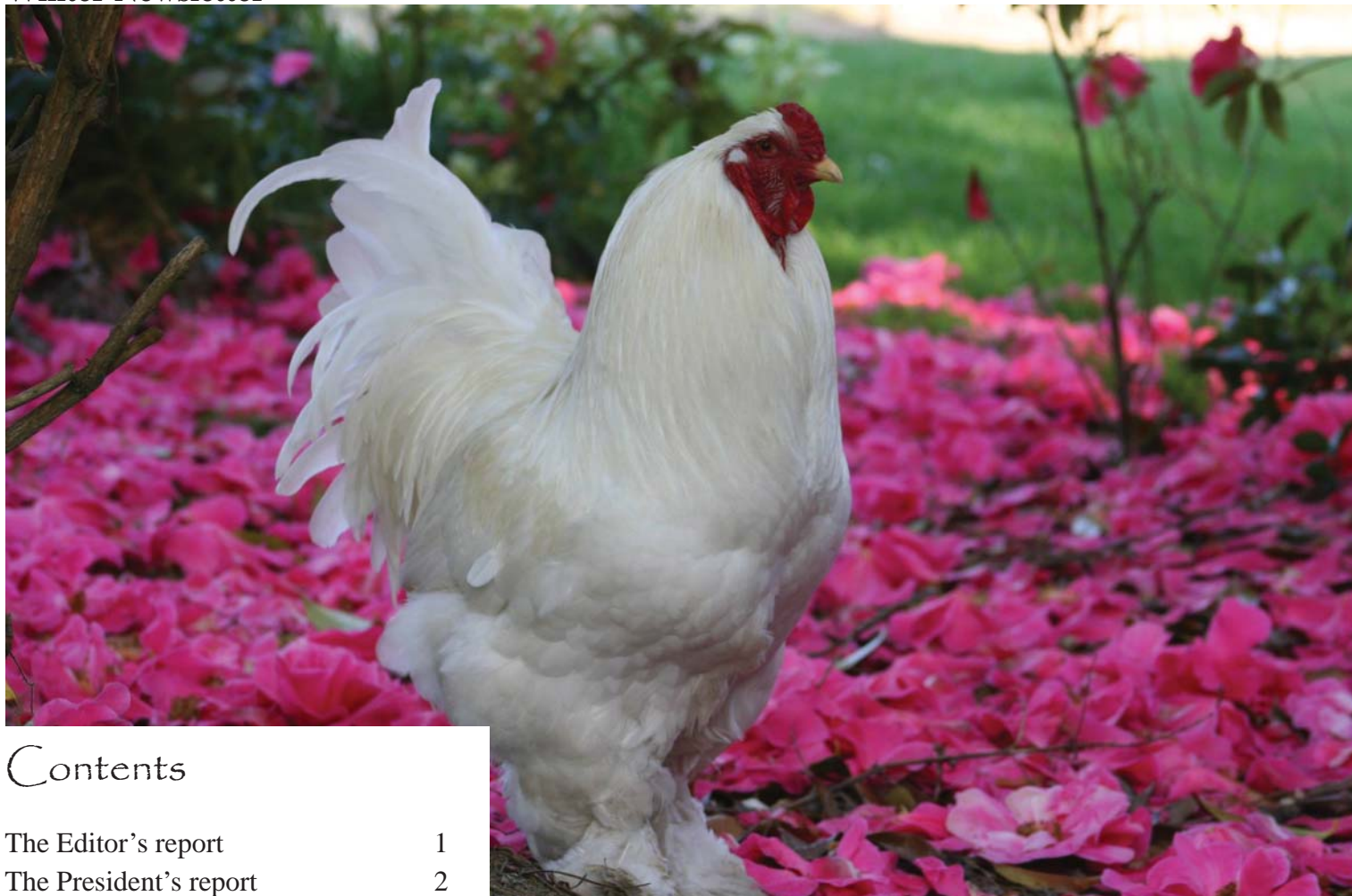


The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

Winter Newsletter



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White Brahmas, how stunning are these birds! Photograph by Bryan Meade.

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia Annual Show. 9th August 2015 Queanbeyan Showgrounds

Things to remember:

Penning of Birds, Friday 7th August (by prior arrangement)
Saturday afternoon, 8th August

	Sunday 9th August, 6am-9am
All Exhibits must be penned by	Sunday 9th August, 8.55am
Judging starts,	Sunday 9th August, 9am
AGM,	Saturday 8th August 3:30-6pm
Club Dinner,	Saturday 8th August 6:30pm

Venue for the Club dinner: venue to be provided closer to the date.

Email contact for enquiries, entries and prior arrangement of Friday penning – secretary@cqpoultryclub.com

Editor's Report

By Franz Mahr

Well I can't believe a year has flown by already! There was so much I had planned to do last year.... Well, there has been a few work changes in my life over the last year and I have suddenly found myself very time poor. Last season saw me only hatch about 20 eggs and hardly enough time to look after them! So this coming season will hopefully see me spend a bit more time with my birds and a plan to hatch at least 200 eggs....Starting in two or three weeks. This should allow me to consolidate my colours, and improve type a bit. In my opinion, if you aren't hatching at least 40-50 eggs per colour, then you will just slide backwards.

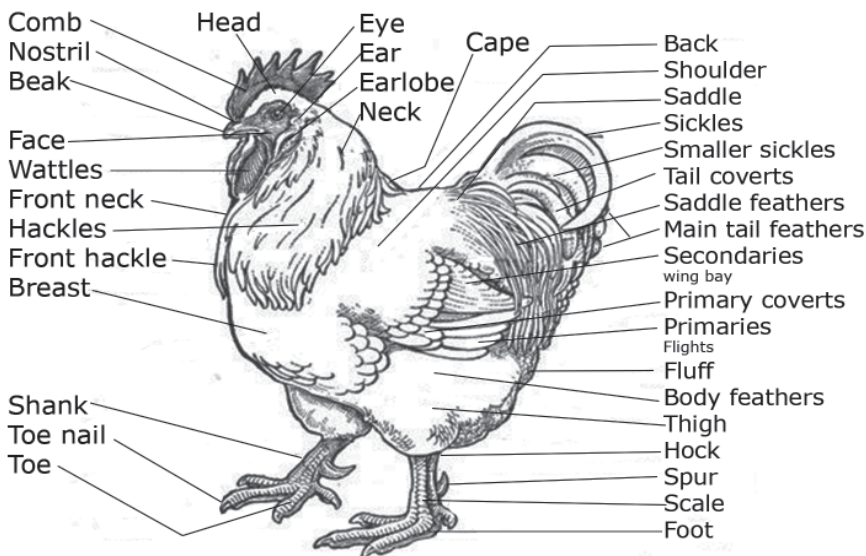
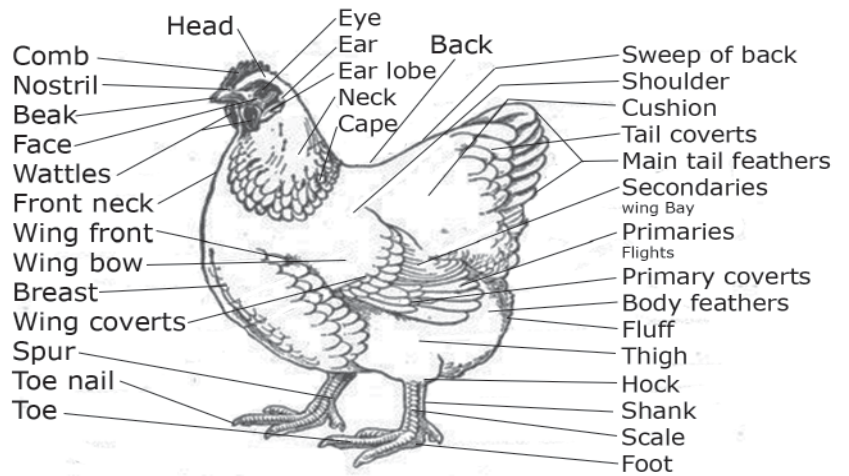
Two years ago I had a great season and hatched over 600 eggs, slowly I have culled these birds back to about fifteen hens and three roosters, with lots of birds also going to many good breeders, so hopefully they are out there still, producing some nice offspring. The birds left are all an improvement on my current birds, with a better length of leg, and improved comb and head type. By addressing only one or two faults at a time, I find it easier to keep focus on what I am trying to achieve with my birds, otherwise it is easy to get a bit lost :)

I hope everyone has a highly successful breeding season, with lots of future champions hatched and to all those who are going to the show, have a great time and I am looking forward to seeing some awesome photos of our very special breed of chook!

Cheers,

Franz

Poultry Anatomical Descriptions



President's report

By Bryan Jon Meade

To our Brahma and Cochin Club members,

It is a very cold and wet winter here in far-east Gippsland, as it has appears to be in most of the southern states at the moment. Our Brahmas and Cochins have very profuse feathering to keep out the cold, just like their ancestors from northern India and china. This weekend we will probably feel like that is where we are...in a northern China winter! But no, we are heading to Queanbeyan, and although it will be in the negative degrees, every year the sun seems to shine. So after a hearty breakfast, and plenty of coffee or tea, we may have warmed up by 10 am and it will be a great day. As they say, 'the show must go on'.

It will be good to catch up with everyone again, and hard to believe that a year has gone by. Several members have a long journey ahead of them. Janet and Stewart Ferguson are making their way to Queanbeyan from south-east South Australia, Luke is traveling from Adelaide, and Celeste and Nathan are traveling down from a much warmer Queensland. It will be great to catch up with them all. Unfortunately, Ann Finch cannot make it over from Perth WA this year, although has plans for next year. Also John Rodger is travelling from Buckley in Victoria. It will be his first time at the show, and we are looking forward catching up with John. The last time we caught up was at his place with Franz. We all had a very pleasant afternoon, and his Maremma didn't eat us...they are truly beautiful dogs. Paul Rodgers is also able to make it this year, it will be good to catch up with him as he hasn't been able to make it to the show for a couple of years. Paul has lovely Buff Cochins which always do well at the show. I heard through the grapevine that Neal and Linda Lynch are also making their way to the show again this year. They rarely miss our show and often have had great success with their Bantam Dark and Light Brahma. We are looking forward to seeing them again. I haven't been able to touch base with Cindy Pretty this year, but hope to see her at the show again and have the pleasure of catching up. Cindy, like Neal and Linda, often does well with her bantam Brahma and has several colour varieties. With all our other NSW and VIC members attending too, it goes to make our show a true national show and an enjoyable, social occasion. We hope to have some more members from interstate, including Tassie members, over for the show one day. There are a growing number of members in TAS and QLD working hard to improve our breeds.

After the show I am planning to start up my incubator, and keep working on building up our brahma numbers. However, I'm well behind some members because they have chicks on the ground already. Well done! Our financial situation is good, and I have submitted the Treasurers Report for the newsletter. I am pleased everyone can pay their membership by EFT, because I have a two hour drive to bank cheques. All the accounts are paid up to date, and the bank statements will be at the AGM. If anyone would like to see them just ask me. It will be interesting to see how many birds we have in the show this year. Last year we had a record number of entries totalling 163, so I hope everyone can make it and beat last year's total.

I would like to thank Luke Price for all the hard work he puts into our club, and towards helping out so many poultry people with his knowledge; not to mention helping with aspects of AvGen's sourcing of UK Brahma for the their 2016 importation. Luke is blessed with support from the lovely Samantha Williams, who has been a valuable addition to the club committee. Samantha took on the role of secretary and has done an outstanding job over the last year.

Franz Mahr has the unenviable task of pulling together our newsletter, and despite being very busy with two jobs and a family, he always manages to find the time. As usual the President leaves his report till the last minute, sorry Franz! Thanks for everything you do.

We are so lucky to have such great friends in our small club.

I wish everyone a safe trip to the show, and bring warm clothes so nobody freeeezes.

Regards,

Bryan Jon Meade



Two very experienced Brahma breeders

Secretary's report

By Samantha Williams

It has been a fun experience in my first year as secretary. After a few glitches with the email forwarding from our website email address secretary@brahmacochin.org all appears to be well.

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 me an email and I will check our member's database.

If you haven't been receiving emails from the secretary email address please look in your email accounts junk mail folder, our club emails may have been automatically directed there instead of your inbox. If you aren't receiving emails from the secretary account at all, your details are likely to be outdated, please contact me with your updated information.

On an unrelated note, Luke and I have been fortunate enough to keep in touch with the chicken breeding process on a more day to day basis in Adelaide, despite not being allowed pets at our rental. Luke manages to get home to NSW on a semi-regular basis to attend to his and his father's flock, however for those of you who know him, you would know that a semi-regular access to birds just doesn't cut it.

A local Adelaide friend breeds Wheaten French Marans as well as a small number of Brahmas, and he has been kind enough to lend us both an incubator and dozens of eggs throughout the year so we can keep in touch with the breeding process. Luke has been able to bring some of his own eggs back from NSW also (Brahmas, and Wyandottes) and we have successfully hatched a number of chicks from these eggs.

I really enjoy having baby chicks around the place and it's been a great learning experience for me. I haven't grown up with poultry like a lot of people in the club and have been fortunate enough to have some wonderful breeders teach me a lot over the last few years. The club members I have met have been extremely warm and welcoming to me and I feel proud to be part of such an inclusive club.

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

The 14/15 breeding season has been fairly successful for my Dad and I, and we have a reasonable number of birds to pick from. As always they have taken a long time to mature but, several are showing promise. The Pile bantams are moving ahead in leaps and bounds, and we also have some nice Cream Partridge and Blue Partridge to move forward with. We have a reasonable number of birds in our other colour varieties and will be doing some culling over the next few weeks. Many thanks to Dallas Smith who kindly gave me some pullets, which were single comb sports from his bantam Cockerel Breeding (CB) Wyandotte bantams to help improve the desired lemon hackle colour of my bantam CB Partridge Brahma. The project pen has already produced some chicks and I'm hopeful of some more this season. The Dunn Partridge Brahma project is in full swing, with the hen currently sitting on eggs. My sincerest thanks to Mathew Pickstone for giving me the Dunn Indian game bred female.

After several years spent creating Pile bantams we are delighted to now be developing them in conjunction with Bryan Meade and Natasha and Franz Mahr. We are also looking for more breeders to take on this beautiful and rare colour. We hope to have Pile Brahma in bantam and standard recognised in the 3rd edition of the Australian Poultry Standards, and will need to show they are established and in the hands of numerous breeders in Australia before this can happen.



Bantam Pile (or Pyle) Brahma cockerel. A colour I started creating in Brahma over 9 years ago.

Bryan visited the central coast recently and we had a great time catching up for lunch and dinner with friends and family. Bryan helped me go through many of our birds and we managed to worm and trim the nails and spurs of almost every bird...thanks Bryan! It was great to see Don and Betty Jones again and spend some time catching up over a nice meal at the local golf club. Don generously gave me some Dark Brahma bantam males to assist with a project of mine and a lovely Dark female to help maintain a line of Dark Bantams.

Our first round of breeding pens have been set up for a few months now and we have a number of chicks on the ground already. Hopefully this season will be as good as the last. A big thanks to my friends Joel Giusti, and Daniel Dennis and Jenna, who helped look after the chooks when my folks were on holidays. A big thanks to Joel who also kindly gave me some bantam Blue and Blue Barred hens to use in my bantam White Brahma project.

I was at the Central Coast Poultry Club show in May and briefly caught up with Zizhong Wang and the gang involved with the Morisset High School poultry program. It was great to see our club members representing the Brahma and Cochin breeds at this show. Joanne Aggar and Michael Nelson have been out and about promoting Brahma at a number of their local shows and have both produced some lovely birds in the last year. I have probably forgotten some people, sorry guys and gals, hopefully I can be forgiven as my reports are always too long winded anyway.

I have been closely following AvGen's successful importation of rare poultry breeds from the UK. I can't thank Lyn Campbell (AvGen) and Jan Sparks enough for including both Cochin and Brahma on the list for importation. They have had to make some very tough decisions on what breeds and colour varieties to bring in. AvGen are hoping to import Buff Cochin in 2015. I have been very fortunate to assist them in finding breeders of top quality Brahma in the UK to supply hatching eggs for the development of source flocks, which will be housed in the UK quarantine breeding facility. The source flocks will provide hatching eggs that will hopefully be sent to Australia in 2016. In 2016 AvGen are planning to import Standard Brahma in Gold (Partridge), Blue Partridge and Red Pyle (Splash Blue

Partridge) and hopefully Dark. I will be liaising with the UK breeders that supplied hatching eggs from their Brahma and Cochin over the next year and if they are happy to have their names revealed, I plan to write an article about them to properly thank them for their generous contributions. Many of the UK breeders, donated their eggs to help build the source flocks. The article may not be released for a while, stay tuned for more info.

Breeders of Cochin and Brahma should register their interest with AvGen as soon as possible to ensure they have the opportunity to purchase these breeds if they are successfully imported.

Avgen's Facebook group is <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AvGen-Poultry/1479259152344697?fref=ts>

Our website membership currently sits at 157 members. Over the last 12 months we received 79,045 page views with a monthly average of 2,726 page views. Our best Month was over 4,000. Our best week was 1,391 and best

day 535, with our daily average sitting at 89 page views. The majority of people access our site from desktop computers (72%) with a smaller percentage visiting from mobile phones (14%) and tablets (14%). Sources of traffic are varied with 32% of people directly accessing our webpage, 44% finding it via links, 20% arriving via search engines and 4% through social media. Pages that have received the most views of the last 12 months include; Photo Albums, Home Page, Breeders Directory, Poultry Breeding and Genetics information, Brahma and Cochin standards of perfection and more.

When you visit, be sure to click on 'More' to see more of our website pages. If you would like to contribute to the website, please send me an email with your suggestions or content.

At the time of writing our Facebook group sits at 1,546 members. Remember, 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. I look forward to seeing you at the show.

Website: <http://www.brahmacochin.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/brahmacochinaustralia/>



Bantam Cream Partridge male and Blue Partridge female, a colour we have been developing for a few years.

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

Cochin's Corner

by Paul Rodgers

Well here we go again folks, show time I hope the Cochin breeders in the club have had a great year, breed lots of fluffy bums. I've see some nice Cochin on the different facebook pages. There has been a bit of talk about if we will ever see imports here. I personally hope so. How they will blend with our Aussie ones remains to be seen, but new blood should nonetheless be welcome addition.

Those working on new colours need to be encouraged, it is not easy. Feet and foot feather are one of the first things to suffer when outcrossing to create new colours. I've been wondering about type too, some breeders are going for the slightly forward tilted style and others shorter flatter style. I prefer the former type.

Remember to watch for feather plume development it is so important, as it makes the feather stand out from the body giving the bird a more rounded look, and thus creating the Cochin look. Familiarize yourself with the standards too, it is very important to know them intimately. This is how you go about picking the birds you want to go on with.

I have included some photos below to explain the tilted versus flatter style of bird.



Buff Cochin Male showing more upright style



Buff Male - One of my old boys showing the tilt

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

Life Members.

The Club has been very fortunate to have a number of incredibly dedicated members over the years. For some, their contribution to the Brahma and Cochin breeds and our club has been remarkable, and we have sought to recognise the contribution of those people. Our club rarely bestows the honour of life membership, and we currently have five life members of the club. Life members; the late Lance Hicks (may he rest in peace), Megg Miller, Andrew Rathbone and Don Jones were recently joined by Luke Price, who was awarded a life membership at our 2014 AGM. In recognition of their service to the club, this year we provided each of the life members with a life membership badge. See the images below of our Life members; the late Lance Hicks, Don Jones, Andrew Rathbone, Megg Miller and Luke Price.



Andrew Rathbone



Don Jones



Lance Hicks



Bryan Meade presenting Megg Miller and Luke Price with their Life Membership badges

Financial Statement for 2014-2015

Income & Expenditure

	2014-2015		2014-2015
	\$		\$
Income:		Expenditure:	
Membership subscriptions	1,275	Trophies, medals and sashes	623.60
Donations	0	Miscellaneous	0
Annual Dinner	0	Administration:	0
Sponsorship	0	telephone, stationary, post	0
Raffle	0	Miscellaneous	1142.59
Grants	0	Other	0
Miscellaneous	0	Total	1808.19
Other	0		
Total	1,275		
Surplus for Season	-533		

Balance

	2014-2015
Opening Balance	3781.46
Total Income	1275
Total Expenditure	623.60
Closing Balance	3248.27

Membership Renewals Are Now Due for 15/16

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 32 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) 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

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd August 2014 – 3.30 pm

Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Draft Agenda

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, Roger Price, Luke Price, Charlie Mathe, Rialeigh Mathe, Cindy Pretty, Joanne Aggar, Franz Mahr, Natasha Mahr, Janet Ferguson, Stewart Ferguson, Joel Giusti, Kate Bradley, Celeste Graham and Nathan Maher.

Apologies: Don Jones, Neal and Linda Lynch, Paul Rodgers, John Roger, Erik Black, Victoria Fulton, Melissa Mathe, Valda Jackson and Brittany Mathe.

Minutes of 2013 AGM

Minutes tabled – no amendments proposed.

Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising

Adoption of annual reports

Motion that the minutes be accepted:

Moved	Franz Mahr	Seconded	Roger Price	Accepted	Yes
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Annual executive reports

President

Main report provided in the Winter newsletter 2014.

Vice President

Report provided in the Winter newsletter 2014

Secretary

No report

Editor

Main report provided in the Winter newsletter 2013. Additional comments – more content needed for the newsletter.

Action arising

Bryan Meade – will provide an article on history of the club for 2015 newsletter.

Website manager's Report

Report provided in the Winter newsletter 2014

Adoption of annual reports

Motion that the executive reports be accepted:

Moved	Joel Giusti	Seconded	Celeste Graham	Accepted	Yes
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Presentation of accounts (Treasurer)

The treasurer's report was included in the Winter newsletter 2014.

Adoption of accounts

Motion that the accounts be accepted:

Moved	Luke Price	Seconded	Janet Ferguson	Accepted	Yes
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Correspondence (Secretary)

Correspondence – no correspondence.

Election of the Office Bearers

President

Candidate: Bryan Meade

Moved: Luke Price Seconded: Joel Giusti Accepted Yes

Vice President

Candidate: Cindy Pretty

Moved: Luke Price Seconded: Bryan Meade Accepted Yes

Secretary

Candidate: Samantha Williams

Moved: Bryan Meade Seconded: Roger Price Accepted Yes

Vice Secretary

Candidate: Luke Price

Moved: Joel Giusti Seconded: Celeste Graham Accepted Yes

Treasurer

Candidate: Bryan Meade

Moved: Natasha Mahr Seconded: Janet Ferguson Accepted Yes

Editor

Candidate: Franz Mahr

Moved: Cindy Pretty Seconded: Nathan Maher Accepted Yes

Liaison/Publicity Officer

Candidate: John Roger

Moved: Luke Price Seconded: Franz Mahr Accepted Yes

Website Manager

Candidate: Luke Price

Moved: Roger Price Seconded: Bryan Meade Accepted Yes

Patron

Candidate: Don Jones

Moved: Franz Mahr Seconded: Joanne Aggar Accepted Yes

Break **no break required**

Finalisation of Brahma and Cochin Club Emblem

Franz is arranging with Zoe to have the emblem redrawn.

Action arising

Franz to arrange finalisation of Emblem by December 2014.

General Business

Venue for 2015 Show

General consensus that we continue to hold the club show as part of the CQPC show.

Action arising

Luke Price and Bryan Jon to organise the venue and date for the 2015 show.

Development of Judges Guide

Action arising

Luke Price to develop a judge's guide and include visualisations of standards.

Website and Facebook Page

Luke – requested that members help to provide content for the website.

Production of a Brahma and Cochin ‘Standards and Colours Guide’

Action carried forward

Franz to compile a draft of the standards and colours guide.

New members starters pack

Action carried forward

Member sought to develop a draft members starter pack for the committee to review and have implemented.

Update on previous actions

Action carried forward

xxxxxx

Action carried forward

Franz Mahr to compile a draft of a selling/buying guide for Brahma and Cochin.

Action arising

Franz to secure large prints of Lewis Wright Brahma and Cochin to put up at the show (possibly on banners). Franz to cost items, run the cost by the committee and purchase if the price is right.

Any Other Business

Bryan welcomed new members to the club. Bryan mentioned Ross Summerell called prior to the show to discuss the finer points of Brahma before judging them and was very appreciative of his interest. Bryan has purchased badges to sell at the show to help raise money for the club. Bryan ordered a new display banner with the new club name.

Luke Price – suggested we develop a Don Jones Testimonial Show. There was general agreement that a one off show would be a great tribute to Don.

Action arising

Luke Price to look into venues and dates for a show.

Discussion around the promotion of Brahma and Cochin.

Action arising

Luke Price to arrange announcements and encourage club’s members to attend the Sydney Royal National Poultry Show in Sydney on the Queen’s Birthday weekend Thursday 9 – Sunday 12 June 2016.

Discussion around raising funds for the club

Action arising

Bryan Meade and Mellissa Mathe to develop merchandise for the club to raise funds and send Luke information to add to website.

Discussion around content for newsletter

Action arising

Luke Price to send Franz old info and items on Brahma for newsletter.

Nomination for Life Membership

Bryan Meade, Cindy Pretty and Joanne Aggar nominated Luke Price for an Honorary Life Membership. The motion was unanimously accepted by all club members in attendance.

Meeting close

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 8th August 2015 – 3.30 pm

Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Draft Agenda

Opening remarks / welcome

Introductions and apologies

Minutes of 2014 AGM

Matters arising from previous minutes

Motion that the minutes be accepted:

Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N

Annual executive reports

Club President

Vice President

Secretary

Editor

Website manager

Adoption of annual reports

Motion that the executive reports be accepted:

Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N

Presentation of accounts (Treasurer)

Adoption of accounts

Motion that the accounts be accepted:

Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N

Correspondence (Secretary)

Election of the Office Bearers

President Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

V/President Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Secretary Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

V/Secretary Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Treasurer Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Editor Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Web Manager Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Liaison/Publicity Officer

Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Patron Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____ Accepted Y / N

Break

4.30 pm

General Business

Addition of new Brahma and Cochin colours to the 3rd edition Australian Poultry Standards

Finalisation of Brahma and Cochin Club Emblem

Venue for 2016 Show

Development of Judges Guide

Website and Facebook Page

Production of a Brahma and Cochin 'Standards and Colours Guide'

New members starter pack

Changes to standards for Brahma and Cochin

Update on Actions from 2014 AGM

Any other business

Meeting close

6:00pm

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

15th Annual Show

Sunday 9th August 2015

The 2015 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 2015 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 5th August 2015 (For late entries contact Greg Davies on xxxx xxx xxx 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/2015-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: David Drumm (Large) and Ken Watson (Bantam)

Time: 9am

Chief Steward for Brahma and Cochin: Luke Price

Stewards: TBA

Penning: Exhibits must be penned before 8.55 am Sunday 9th August. The pavilion will be open between Saturday afternoon 8th August 2015 and before 8.55 am show day. Exhibits can be penned on Friday afternoon by prior arrangement, email secretary@cqpoultryclub.com. Please contact Greg Davies if you need to get in at other times.

Contact Luke Price on 0431 346 326 for more information.



How I Started...

A steep learning curve with a lot more to learn.

By John Roger

Since I was a youngster growing up in north Queensland I've been interested in keeping chooks. Back then Brahmas didn't exist as far as I knew and I kept a few different breeds over the years including Australorp bantams (the one I am holding in the picture was imaginatively called 'Blackie'). As well as the Australorps I had Gold Pencilled Hamburgs and Rhode Island Reds as well as a few crossbred chicks that I hatched under one of the red hens from eggs I was given.



Years later I was able to renew my interest in poultry when I moved to Victoria, initially with silver Dorking bantams and some Pekins I hatched. Foxes took their toll on these birds. Only after an interest developed in breeding Maremmas was this problem solved. A large number of feral bantams which bred randomly and produced some interesting colours began an interest in poultry genetics which is confusing and fascinating at the same time.

Fast forward to 2012 by which time Brahmas had been recreated. After looking at a few different breeds I decided that I liked the information I found on Brahmas, particularly the temperament of these gentle giants. That they are big and look fierce, but are really quite placid and calm, appealed greatly.

In the course of my research I discovered The Brahma and Cochinchina Club Facebook Group and from a flyer I found heard that some Brahmas were going to be offered at the Bacchus Marsh poultry auction in February. At this auction I saw my first Brahma, and experienced my first Helmsman auction. I also met Franz Mahr and spent some time talking about the breed. I bid on a number of lots but since Franz' birds were in a different part of the shed and he was only selling pullets, I decided to concentrate on a trio from a different breeder; because I wasn't able to be in two places at once. I bought the trio and a pair of partridge pullets but was outbid on Franz' birds. The irony is that once I learnt more about the breed I decided not to use the cockerel I bought and ended up buying a couple of birds from Franz!

These are really not my lines as both go back to Franz so I prefer to call myself a poultry keeper rather than a breeder, maybe one day! I'm assuming that learning what to select for is a start in that direction!



Golden Crele hen



Pair of Speckled Brahma

On the way I've introduced a few birds from Sharyn Marshal in Tasmania and Mellissa Mathe in Gippsland. Proper brows are one of the things I particularly look for but it is important to keep in mind overall type first. Along the way I also acquired a pair of speckled Brahma. These birds were not very productive as the rooster proved to be infertile and the hen died. However they did spark an interest in this colour which I'm pursuing and have since purchased fertile eggs (only hatching 1 chick from a dozen eggs but luckily she is a pullet) and managed to get a cockerel from the club President. After this shaky start I have actually hatched a small number of speckled chicks and hopefully will be able to hatch more in the 2014 season. As well as these, I am working to improve the genetic base and have a few birds that are split for the mottle gene since they have 1 speckled parent. I'm very tempted to try to source a black hen to introduce into the speckled pen to further improve type and perhaps result in mottled brahma. One problem that seems common in speckled is a lack of foot feather and hopefully these split birds will help to improve that.

I should also add that all speckled seem to be very closely related and share similar features. Since they do get whiter with age (because that's how the mottled gene seems to work), it seems that selecting chicks that look right as youngsters actually selects for too much white. I suspect that along the way the ones that should have been used were discarded as not having enough white as youngsters. This is from the benefit of hindsight so would have been

impossible to know at the time. This is further complicated by not having a lot of choice! What I'm doing is working with what is available and hoping my assumptions are correct. Looking back at photos, chicks that look too white often look less white once their adult feathers come in but the genetic tendency is there.



2. Blue Speckled Hen



3. Speckled Brahma male

I'm currently using a young rooster that as a chick looked too white but now looks much better. He was the only cockerel I had so my choice was limited! The birds in Images 2, 3, and 4 were much less well marked as youngsters, in fact the blue speckled hen in Image 2 looked quite lacking in white when she was younger (that's her at the front in the group photo – Image 5!). Still foot feather is not ideal, would be nice if it was as profuse as I'm getting in the barred buff birds (Image 6). The latest chicks still have some growing to do, but show some promise.



4. Speckled Brahma female



5. Young Speckled and Blue Speckled



6. Barred Buff Columbian male

Show Report, Moruna District Poultry Club Inc. 54th Annual Show- Sunday 28th June 2015

By Diana Honan

A total of 435 birds were entered in the Show. Exhibitors travelled from Canberra, Nowra, Vincentia, Wandandian, Milton/Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Bodalla, Narooma, Cobargo, Bega, Wolumla, Bibbenluke and Moruya. The judges were Greg Davies from Queanbeyan and Wayne Rigby from Young (a former member of Moruya Poultry Club). Champion Bird of the Show was awarded to well-known Bega Poultry breeder Ray Ubrihien for his White Leghorn Bantam pullet. Ray also 'scooped the pool' with the same bird taking out six major awards including Champion Soft Feather Bird in show. Champion Hard Feather went to Bega breeder Ian Hogan's Black/Red Modern Game, Bantam cockerel. Champion Pair went to Belinda Cox of Canberra with her pair of Salmon Faverolle Bantams. The Champion Waterfowl was won by Vincentia High School's White Indian Runner Drake. The Inaugural Schools Competition had a trophy for each winning High School and Primary School, which was based on a point score of the number of winning entries in each class, per school. The winners were Vincentia High School and Wolumla Primary School.

The day was enjoyed by all and many indicated they would be back next year. The Poultry Club is deeply grateful to all those Sponsors who contributed donations of cash and/or prizes, for without their support the Show could not function successfully. Thanks also, to the hard working helpers in the canteen, the judges ...and the exhibitors, many of whom came from afar to support our 54th Show.

We entered our Buff Cochins in the show which included 2 cockerels, 3 pullets and 2 hens. Unfortunately we were the only exhibitors of Cochins and there were no Brahma entered. One of our pullets was chosen as best of breed. It's a shame there was no other Cochin competition, but the judge did compliment on the good quality of the Cochin.



Ribbons won by Ray Ubrihien (Bega) for his White Leghorn Bantam pullet (almost obscured)!

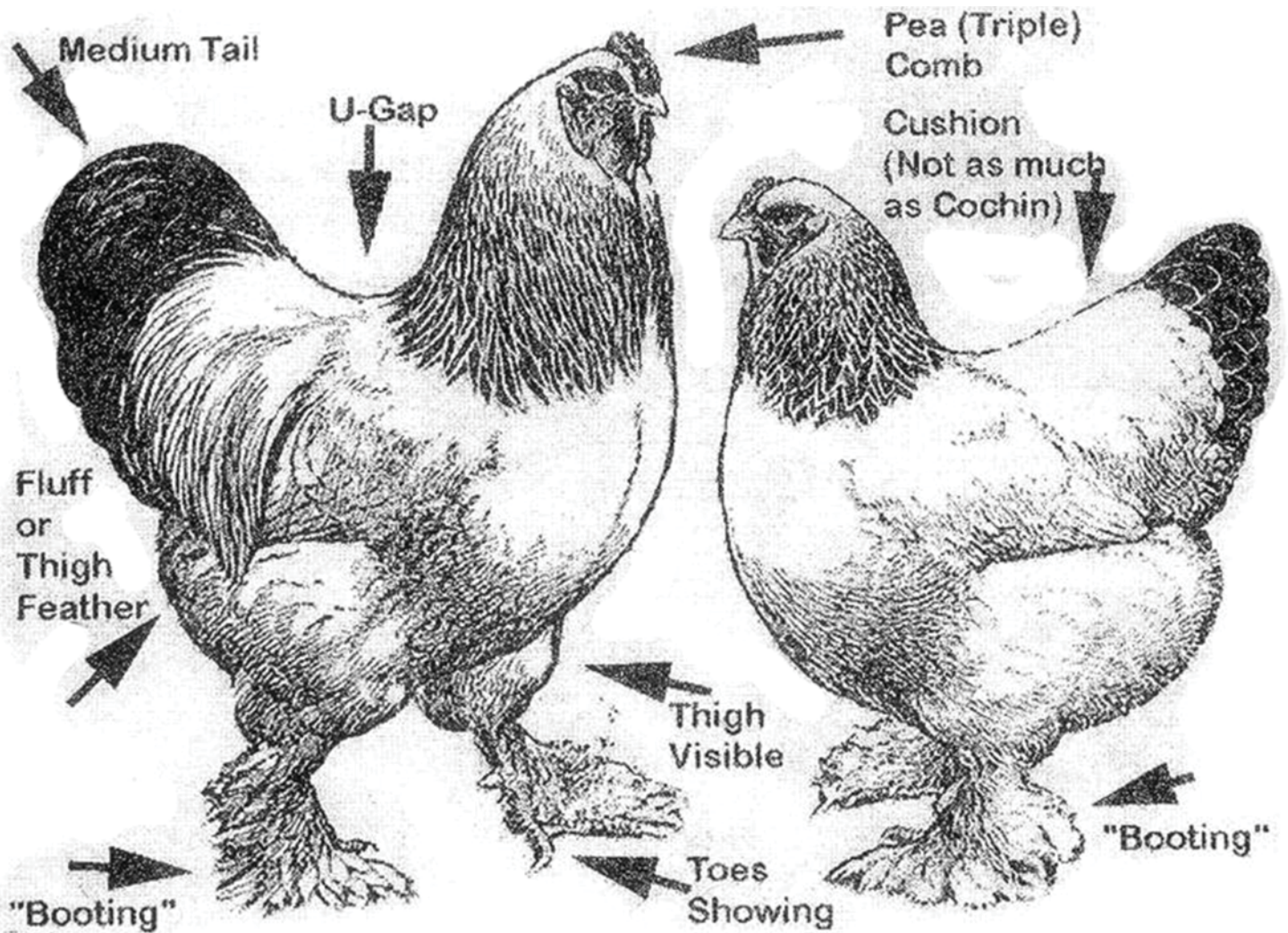
Judges left to right- Greg Davies, Wayne Rigby and poultry breeder Ray Ubrihien, of Bega.

Lance Hicks Memorial Page

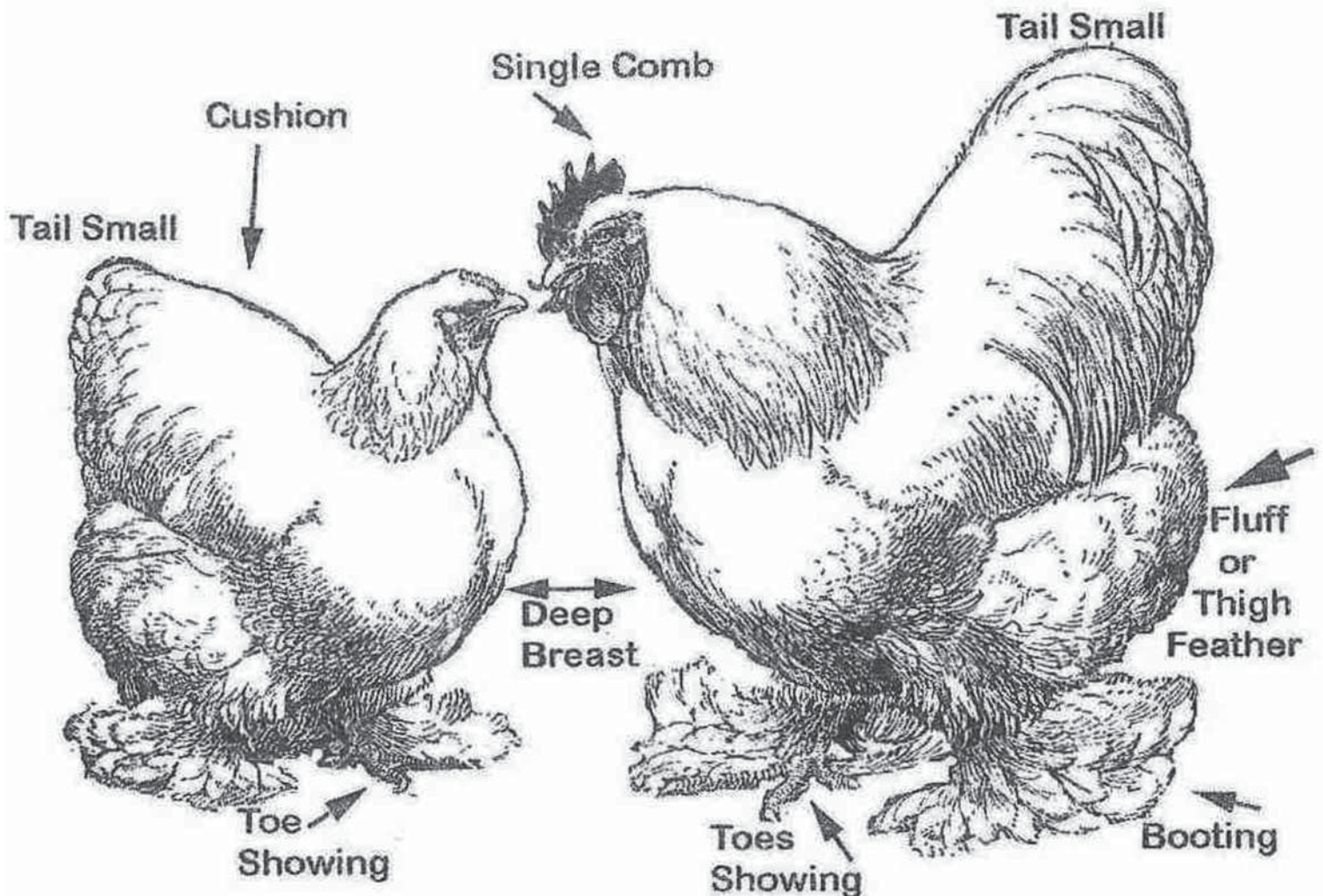
Besides his passion for Brahma, Lance Hicks loved his poultry genetics and wrote several articles for the club newsletter over the years that he was a member. Lance had a way of translating what is considered to be difficult genetics information into a palatable and enjoyable form. He wrote with flair and humour and his usual cheeky demeanour. The article titled 'For Adults Only - Contains Fowl Language' is my favourite and as fortune has it we have reprinted the entire article in this current newsletter on page 34.

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 below...

<http://www.brahmacochin.org/lancehicksmemorial.htm>



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



Trip to the Central Coast

By Bryan Meade

After the great time we had on last year's trip up to the Central Coast NSW to see Luke, Roger and Michelle Price; Luke suggested I bring up some Brahmas this year and go to the Central Coast Poultry Club (CCPC) Annual Show in Wyong. So off I went, following in Rialeigh and Brittany Mathe's footsteps from 2013. Check out the CCPC show report on page 24.



Jonathon's Buff Columbian Brahma

have in both large and bantam in the years to come. Colour is looking good and we are most importantly working to improve the type of bantams. We even managed to find some time to begin recycling a large bird aviary, converting it into two breeding/growers pens.

I had plans to call in and see Joanne Aggar, however we couldn't find a time that suited both of us and by Monday I had unfortunately ran out of time. But I'm looking forward to my visit next year. After staying in Goulbourn



Jonathon's Gold Laced females.



One of Luke's Bantam Cream Partridge Brahma males

Whilst there, we visited Don and Betty Jones, and yes we did chat about Brahmas. Don suggested I had brought the rain with me. I had planned to bring up Don's Life Membership badge to present it to him, however that is the one thing I forgot to bring! Sorry Don. Roger and Michelle have a busy lifestyle, out and about working hard, on top of raising money and volunteering to support needy and worthy courses. They always seem to have a house full of interesting friends dropping in for a day or two to say hello.

Luke and I had time to go through his Brahmas. Penning up pairs and trios for the season ahead, and focusing on the Pile (Pyle) variety of Brahmas, that we hope to

overnight, the next day managed to call in and see Johnathon's and Kelvin's Brahmas at Goulbourn. Jonathon and Kelvin have been showing birds and pigeons from their teenage years they have a great eye for TYPE. They have spent considerable time and energy sourcing some excellent breeding stock in a variety of colours. We hope to see them and their Brahmas at the Queanbeyan show this year. Kelvin has judged pigeons all around the world. I was lucky enough to see his birds and...OMG, they are amazing. I had no idea that their where so many different types of pigeons. Then I headed on to Tanya MacArthur's place in Sidon to pick up a Speckled Brahma cockerel; he will keep my speckled line going. Thanks Tanya, much appreciated! It was a great six days and I didn't even get booked for speeding this time.

Regards Bryan

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia

2014 Show Champions

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia 2014 Annual Show was held on Sunday the 3rd of August in Queenbeyan NSW. This year the annual show was again hosted by the Canberra Queanbeyan Poultry Club Inc. (CQPC), as part of their 2014 Annual and Rare breed show. The 2014 show of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia was our club's most successful show to date, with a record number of entries totalling 162 Brahma and Cochin! Thank you to Mr Ross Summerell and Mr Rod Lucht for their fantastic work judging the Brahma and Cochin.

A massive thank you to the hard working members of the CQPC for incorporating our club show, and for being such fantastic hosts! Your friendly and dedicated members put together a very well run and successful show. As always we felt incredibly welcome and really appreciated your efforts to make our show such a success. Thank you also to the CQPC who generously donated a prize for Champion and Reserve Champion Brahma and Cochin of Show.

2014 Show Champions and Recognition Awards

Brahma

- Champion of Show** - Mellissa Mathe and Family (Standard White Cock)
- Reserve Champion** - Joanne Aggar (Bantam Partridge Hen)
- Champion Standard** - Mellissa Mathe and Family (Standard White Cock)
- Champion Bantam** - Joanne Aggar (Bantam Partridge Hen)
- Best Hen or Pullet** - Joanne Aggar (Bantam Partridge Hen)
- Best Standard Light** - Zizhong Wang (Hen)
- Best Standard Dark** - Stewart and Janet Ferguson (Pullet)
- Best Standard Partridge** - Kate Bradley (Cockerel)
- Best Standard Columbian AC** - Ian Nagle (Buff Pullet)
- Best Standard Self Colour AC** - Mellissa Mathe (White Cock)
- Best Standard Barred AC** - Mellissa Mathe (Barred Cock)
- Best Standard AOC** - Bryan Jon Meade (Birchin Hen)
- Best Bantam Light** - Neal & Linda Lynch (Cockerel)
- Best Bantam Dark** - Cindy Pretty and Don Jones (Cockerel bred by Don Jones and owned by Cindy Pretty)
- Best Bantam Partridge** - Joanne Aggar (Bantam Partridge Hen)
- Best Bantam Columbian AC** - Cindy Pretty (Blue Buff Columbian Hen)
- Best Bantam Self Colour AC** - No Birds Benched
- Best Bantam AOC** - Bryan Jon Meade (Golden Crele Cockerel)
- Best Bantam Barred AC** - Joel Giusti (Barred Pullet)
- Best Standard Work In Progress** - Stewart and Janet Ferguson (Buff Columbian Pullet)
- Best Bantam Work In Progress** - Luke Price (Golden Crele Cockerel)

Cochin

- Cochin Champion Cochin** - Paul Rodgers (Buff Cockerel)
- Reserve Champion Cochin** - Paul Rodgers (Buff Pullet)
- Best Opposite Sex Cochin** - Paul Rodgers (Buff Pullet)
- Best Buff Cochin** - Paul Rodgers (Buff Cockerel)
- Best AOC Cochin** - Mellissa Mathe and Family (Black Hen)
- Best Work in Progress Cochin** - Mellissa Mathe and Family (Partridge Cockerel)

Recognition Awards

- Breeder of the Year** - Don Jones
- Lance Hicks Memorial Award** - Joel Giusti
- Andrew Rathbone award for Best Standard Light Brahma** - Zizhong Wang
- Don Jones award for Best Bantam Dark Brahma** - Cindy Pretty and Don Jones
- Champion Junior Exhibitor(s)** - Natasha Mahr and Summer Andersen

- Judges Medallion** - Mr Ross Summerell (Tamborine, Qld) and Mr Rod Lucht (Rosewood Qld)

Brahma



Champion of Show, Champion Standard, Best Standard self colour AC



Reserve Champion of Show, Best Hen, Champion Bantam, BBP



Best Bantam Light Brahma



Best Standard Dark Brahma



Best Standard Work in Progress



Best Standard Light Brahma



Best Standard Barred AC Brahma



Best Standard AOC Brahma



Best Standard Partridge Brahma



Best Bantam Dark Brahma



Best Bantam Columbian AC Brahma



Best Bantam AOC Brahma



Best Bantam Barred AC



Best Bantam Work in Progress Brahma



Best Standard Columbian AC

Cochin



Champion Cochin and Best Buff Cochin



Reserve Champion Cochin and Best Opposite sex



Best Work in Progress Cochin



Best AOC Cochin

Brahma and Cochin

at the Central Coast Poultry Club Show

By Bryan Meade

The Central Coast Poultry Annual show is one of the largest and best club shows in the country. This year the show was held on Sunday the 31st of May and celebrated the life of R. L. Roberts, who was a treasured member of the Central Coast Poultry Club. As usual the facilities and atmosphere was fantastic. It was great to catch up with Peter Wang, who was in attendance with his Light Brahmias. I was also pleased to see Stephanie Cramond and her daughter Genevieve who were there with their Cochins, along with Hope Jasmine with her new Brahmias.



Hope and Genevieve from Morisset High School in front of their winning Cochin male

with their show preparation, no wonder they won their classes. Well done girls! We hope they can make it to our show on the 9th of August in Queanbeyan.

There were also two bantam Brahma at the show. These were owned by R. Fuller and P. Fewtrell. Their Dark Brahma bantam was well presented and won best brahma in show. I didn't get an opportunity to meet them but it is great to see more bantam breeders getting out to the shows.

All of these birds are a part of the Morisset High School poultry program, which is part of the agriculture course run by Mr Ron Victor. Ron and Stephanie have helped develop this school program even though Ron is a self-confessed non-poultry person. Hope and Genevieve are very dedicated Brahma and Cochin breeders and have set Ron in the right direction. They have other students lined up to follow on the poultry program after they finish Year 12. Both Genevieve and Hope presented their birds in a very professional way. It was their first show and I was really very impressed



Buff Columbian female won her class



Washing in preparation for the CCPC show

Poultry Pens from Recycled materials

By Bryan Meade

I am still building pens so I have decided to recycle my old cattle crate, as it had passed its used by date, or should I say roadworthiness, and turn it into two breeding pens. I only had to cover the south west side as that is where all the cold wind and winter rain comes from, so I set about clearing away the scrub and blackberry's and to my surprise there was a satin bower birds bower, in all its glory, surrounded by everything blue; pegs, plastic bottle tops, lolly rappers, blue broken bits of glass, anything blue that he could find. All his girls must have been very impressed. I had to save his bower so a site was chosen not too far away that I thought appropriate. With a large coal



The old Cattle Crate



Cleared site with the Cattle Crate moved in to place

shovel carefully inserted underneath it, the bower was painstakingly moved to its new surroundings, settled in and then I placed all his blue love making trinkets around his new bower. I did not see his black and electric blue shiny body flying around the garden after that, so I thought that maybe I had not placed his blue trinkets correctly, however to my surprise he had built another bower on the other side of the garden, so all is well. But after the dark brahmas moved in to their new home and began free-ranging, I found that they had unfortunately destroyed the bower. I would have simply preferred the brahmas to chase the bower birds away from their food, as the bower birds consume copious amounts of poultry feed, so now I feed out daily. Next year nets will cover the chook runs. Using materials from my old pens that I bought with me from my previous home, the first thing was to work out the foundations and lift the old crate into place. I had set it in a position not too far away from the main water line that comes from the river. After cutting into it and running it underground to the new pens, all I had to do was to plumb in the old water drinkers.

I constructed the nesting boxes and the feeder from old pie warmers. I used the stainless steel interior with a little modification as feeders and the exterior as nesting boxes, then used an old road sign as a cover, which was set at an angle of 45 degrees so that birds cannot roost on it and foul the feed box. I added some log rounds for the drinkers and the feeder and a perch, and added a gate that was salvaged from the tip to divide them. The roof was constructed from the left over bull nose veranda panels that were removed from the house after the extension was completed. All it needs now is a coat of paint, maybe that's not recycled but that may take a while



Finished cattle crate pen with Ruby in front



Some of last season's young Dark and Blue Dark Brahma females in bantam and standard

The Early Days

some of the clubs early members.

By Bryan Meade

All poultry clubs start out with a group of enthusiastic, like-minded people, who have the same interest in the breeding and promotion of their chosen breed. The Brahma Club of Australia (as it was first known) was no different. The brahma is thought to originate from northern India or China, and following its ongoing development in England and the USA, was used in the creation of many dual-purpose utility breeds, such as the Wyandotte (which is one reason why our club uses the colour standards of the Wyandotte in Australia).

By the 1920's, brahmas were not to be found in Tasmania, and had completely died out on mainland Australia by the 1950's. It was not until the 1970's that the breed was again becoming more sought after, but was not to be found. I began looking for Brahma in the late 1990s and after some research and luck, I discovered that a few dedicated poultry enthusiasts were already working to recreate this magnificent breed.

Andrew Rathbone

Andrew was instrumental in the formation of the Brahma club. He organized the first feature show of Brahma at the Belgian bantam club of Australia show at Castle Hill showgrounds on Sunday the 2nd of July in the year 2000. The Brahma club was formed following the success of the feature show and Andrew was the first president of the Brahma Club of Australia. He bred brahmas, Belgian bantams and game birds, but it was his incredible large light brahmas that we all admired, along with his big buff Columbians and fantastic gold partridge. Andrew could use his lights over his buffs or vice versa, depending on the gold and silver gene to create the required colours. Andrew was very talented with his knowledge of genetics and experience and has a good eye for perfect TYPE in his brahma. When Andrew turned up at the show, we knew we would have a good show and he dominated the field, however he often helped others out with birds. On one occasion, Bruce Pattinson judged the show and awarded Andrew's pair of buff Columbians best in their category. Lance Hicks purchased them and they came back to my place to breed but after that season, still no eggs. One day as we walked passed them, shaking our heads, we were shocked to hear the 'female' crow! Everyone, including Lance and myself had agreed that they had looked like a perfect pair! Andrew was a member of the Bathurst and District Poultry Club and he has shown brahmas all around NSW and on numerous occasions at the Sydney Royal. He also breeds exceptional angora goats, which have been shown at the Melbourne and Sydney Royal shows with great success. The Large Light Brahma Trophy that is awarded at the Brahma Club show is named after him. Andrew continues to breed his large Light Brahma to this day and is a valued Life Member of the club.

George Childs & Bruce Raines

Two very influential poultry personalities, George Childs and Bruce Raines were both born and raised in Chipping Norton, NSW and have been best mates since they were 4 years old. George had many breeds of poultry, including outstanding Barnevelders and Bruce bred Silver Sussex. It seems that everyone got their start from George, as he was one of the first to recreate and breed bantam brahmas. He worked on buff first, and developed very good type, then went on to light and white brahmas. George was very particular on type, and he and Bruce have always stipulated that TYPE COMES 1ST, 2ND, 3RD and then colour. Bruce has also said, "My personal opinion is a lot of breeders today go for the wrong type of bird". At one stage George also attempted large dark brahma and Bruce had given him some of his large light brahma to work with, but as Bruce recalls, "Somehow they all just went to God, I think he just stayed with his bantams." George was a member of the Camden Poultry Club, the president of the Exhibition Poultry Association (EPA) and a very highly regarded poultry breeder. He passed away at 94 years of age.

Neal & Linda Lynch

Neal has been good mates with Bruce Raines for many years and breeds brahmas as well. He had a good start in getting birds from George Childs, Don Jones and Bruce Pattinson, and today he continues to work with Linda on dark and light brahma bantams. Neal and Linda have won the national show with their bantams on numerous occasions, along with Cindy Pretty. Neal and Linda have been instrumental in keeping the bantams in our club going and were a part of the club's first show at Castle Hill. They rarely miss our annual show and to this day continue to support the Brahma breed and our club.

Khris & Carol Abuid

These two avid breeders were the driving force behind the creation of our club, both being members of the Rare

Breeds Trust of Australia, the Belgian Bantam Club and then the Brahma Club. They had the knowledge and experience to form and run the club. Khris did all the technical work, starting a standards committee, connecting with overseas clubs and starting up and maintain content for our newsletter. Carol was the boss, kept us all on our toes and made sure our newsletter articles were in on time. We had four newsletters a year, dealt with other clubs and had a great way of making everyone welcome. Khris and Carol were great friends with Megg Miller, from Australasian Poultry. Megg has also been a great supporter to our club, and critical in the formation and success of the club. Carol was at the helm of our club in those early years (2000-2005) and the Brahma Club appreciates her dedication as secretary and treasurer, and for all her hard work that she put in. We all thank Khris & Carol for their wonderful work in helping start up the Brahma Club and there were many jovial, fun times had by all.

Bruce Pattinson & Dallas Smith

Both Bruce and Dallas have written and published books on various poultry breeds, including rare breeds of poultry, as well as bred them for many years. They have been very sought-after judges who have, over the years, judged our brahma club annual show on several occasions. Bruce and Dallas have been very supportive of the club and recreation of the Brahma and Cochin breeds and are very well informed on our breed standards. They took an active role in the early development of the club and always provided comprehensive judge's show reports with insightful and helpful feedback for our members.

Bruce bred brahmas for many years and has a passion for the Brahma and Cochin breeds. As with all breeds, he agrees TYPE is everything. Bruce also bred Barnevelders which originated from George Childs, and he ended up with some light bantam brahmas that he bred and kept two different lines for fifteen years. He has an exceptional knowledge of poultry, was also the president of the EPA and still judges at shows. At the moment, as their children have grown up, the Pattinsons are planning to live overseas for some time, starting in England, Spain and Italy. We wish them all the best.

Dallas continues to take an active interest in the development of the Brahma and Cochin breeds and has been very forthcoming with advice and even birds to help breeders in our club with the improvement or development of new colours. He continues to breed bantam Wyandottes and bantam Orpington in a number of colours and Silver Spangled Hamburg bantams. Dallas has helped in the formation of the 2nd edition Australian Poultry Standards book and held numerous executive positions in a number of clubs over the years. He is taking a step back from judging these days but continues to support several clubs as well as mentor a number of breeders, in addition to writing poultry books.

Don Jones

Don started recreating brahmas back in the late 1970's to early 80's, with lots of failures and a few successes. He has persevered for well over 20 years, always seeking to improve the breed. He is now working on bantam light brahmas in addition to his Dark bantams. Don is a Life member of the club and we have named the Best Dark Bantam Brahma trophy after Don in recognition of his hard work. He is always giving birds away to help people get started and is available to have a chat at any time. You can read about Don's recent endeavors in the 2014 newsletter.

Megg Miller

Megg has been there from the beginning and has played a large role in maintaining the club's continued success. A valued life member, Megg continues to support our club, particularly through her Australasian Poultry Magazine. Megg has always sought to publish articles about Brahma and Cochin in Australasian Poultry to help progress the development of these breeds in Australia. A prolific writer, Megg has written numerous articles on both Brahma and Cochin, including articles on Brahma from as early as 1999. One was titled "The Brahma – A Giant Fowl in All Ways", which is very comprehensive in discussing the origins of the breed. It was first published in Volume 10 No. 4 October/November 1999 issue of Australasian Poultry. We are all very grateful for Megg's ongoing support.

Summary

How lucky our small brahma and cochin club is to have the likes of such brilliant poultry people, many of which started to breed brahmas even before there was any thought of the first brahma club. On the day of the feature show with the Belgian bantam club show at Castle Hill in 2000, each of these breeders and like-minded people came together, and it was inevitable that it would lead to the formation of the Brahma Club of Australia. With all of their expertise, they had varying opinions on how to go about it, what breeds to use - Game, Sussex, Pekin, Belgian, and Wyandotte - and even today that discussion is still going on. Brahmas have come a long way in that time and there are still good and not so good genes in the mix. The club continues to evolve, and a few years ago we added the Cochin breed, which not only has similar origins to Brahma, but also a similar story of recreation in Australia. The important thing is to enjoy the experience, look to the future, and follow the standards. Look, listen and learn and be a creator, not an imitator!

How we Started...How the Brahma took over

By Janet Ferguson

My childhood did not include poultry with just vague memories of my grandparents having some on the farm. My father was not into animals preferring machinery so it was only when married and spending time at home with a young family that I finally got some layers to go with the vegetable garden. We lost these a couple of times to foxes due to forgetting to shut them up or getting home late from work. It is heart breaking to find them maimed or dead so the last time I said, enough. No more chooks!



*Stewart holding a silver birchen Brahma cockerel -
December 2014 hatched*



*Feet of the silver birchen Brahma cockerel - December
2014 hatched*

Then around 2008 I got the urge to get some chooks once again but none were available from the local school for several months. As I'd started to use the internet to browse in place of watching television, the subject of nightly searches and reading online became poultry and pure breeds more specifically. Somehow this whole universe had been hidden from me but had now been discovered! After looking at countless photos and breed descriptions, I fell in love with the Salmon Faverolles.

Another search for breeders lead me to the breed club and finally some hard to find birds that were transported from interstate, a fine trio and some young Araucana too as had to have those blue egg laying beauties as well. And so my hobby began in a small way, with my two children & husband looking on with amusement. In a very short time I found myself involved in helping get an inaugural SA Faverolles Feature show up & running and am still a member of the Faverolles club today.

It was at one of these shows in May 2011 that my supportive husband, Stewart looked at a Blue Faverolles cockerel in the row of show pens and said to me "I need a breed of my own to show. Quite like these Blue ones." Now I grew up on a farm but Stewart is a town kid, country town but still a town kid so I'd been teaching him all about animal stuff since we first met in 1987. Even so the animals were always my 'thing' so this was a bit of a surprise. His hobby has always been sailing, off the beach racing catamarans which he, well we actually, still do even now when I swear I'm too old to be out there! Anyway getting back to poultry.

We did try hatching some posted fertile Blue Faverolles eggs but only one chick hatched and I really was not that keen on a hard to sex solid colour compared to my salmons. Then I remembered that he was quite taken with some 28

very large Faverolles bred by a lovely couple on the Gippsland side of Melbourne. We'd seen their birds at the Victorian Faverolles Feature show at Bendigo in August of 2011 and I'd gone on to purchase some birds off them 6 months later. They had freely told us, seven years earlier they had crossed a Salmon Brahma in to their Faverolles to increase size, with all future breeding to pure Faverolles males. One of the cockerels I'd got off them was tall and had profuse leg feathering so he was named 'Trousers' as he appeared to have feathered trousers on. Stewart was very taken with tall Trousers.

Dwelling on this I got the idea to look into the Brahma breed and quickly determined the Dark was both a traditional colour but also ticked the box for me of being easy to sex at a young age due to the different feather patterns of the sexes. Oh boy! I thought Faverolles were rare, well Dark Brahma proved even harder to find. I found a cockerel in Bathurst but reared by a school who got chicks out of the Sydney area so breeding unknown. Then I stumbled over Dark cockerels Sharyn Marshall in Hobart had for sale on Facebook group.

On Facebook: I had been forced into getting a Facebook page by a sister 10 years younger than me who said "You have to be on Facebook!" and promptly set it up one day when visiting. I really, really, really didn't like it at all, as it all seemed so contrived. That was until I discovered the poultry groups!!! Now I couldn't imagine life without it. It was how I found the Brahma club and especially how I made friends with other breeders who I could never have known or met any other way. Chatting online, seeing everyone's birds and feeling very much involved was the drive behind me nagging and finally at the eleventh hour getting agreement from Stewart for us to attend our first Brahma & Cochin Club show in 2013. But I digress.



Light Boy - messy light hiding buff that is a son of 'Jack'



Stewart at the Wimmera Poultry Club show in June 2015

We live in the SE of South Australia so I was never going to be able to pick up either of the Dark boys but via Facebook had learned of people who offered transport services. Sharyn was kind enough to also offer a dozen fertile eggs with the hope of future hens out of any chicks as I still hadn't found any. The transport operator who collected Max & the eggs is no longer in business and took from memory 10 days to get to me, so I was in grave fear of getting any chicks out of the eggs at all.

The Bathurst cockerel was not picked up as he forgot about him altogether but eventually we got him some 6 weeks later. Sharyn's eggs gave us 4 chicks, 1 pullet and 3 cockerels so I was at wits end in search for Dark girls still when I recalled the owner of that Blue Faverolles Stewart liked had mentioned in passing that his wife had a few Brahma. The phone call I made to them revealed they had some Gold partridge hens but their only rooster of the same colour had proved infertile with not a single chick hatched in the previous season. I was able to negotiate the loan of the hens for half the resulting chicks in return.

These Gold partridge hens gave us our start in the breed. It was late in the season when we got them yet hatched as many as we could in late November into December before they went off the lay due to very hot weather. We returned the hens in early January as I sadly lost one in the heat and feared losing more. All the chicks were fathered by Max from Tassie as the Bathurst boy was much younger and held over for use the following spring.



2013 spring hatched Dark Brahma - who sadly died a few weeks ago

As Max was split for gold we got a 50/50 mix of Dark and Gold Partridge. Around late February 2013 we dropped off half the young birds being mostly gold ones and we kept the silver based Dark half. At this stage our focus was on breeding the best Dark Brahma we could.

While browsing various posts on Facebook I came to see some partially pencilled birds hatched by a local lady and noted the breeder who had sold the eggs had a rooster I was intrigued with. He showed a spotted chest which I had read was associated with strong pencil genes. So I told the owner Jan, if you ever need to find him another home I'm interested. Well it wasn't long before she replied that he was up for adoption. And so 'Jack' came to live with us. As he was a gold bird we paired him with the only gold partridge pullet we had kept from the Max to borrowed hen breeding. This pair were our experimental breeding pen along beside setting eggs from both Max to his daughters and also to the Bathurst boy.

What we hatched from Jack and his girl was a total surprise. We got solid Black pullets and cockerels in Light, Buff (columbian) and Gold partridge. All these chicks had fantastic foot feathering, great pea combs, size and a type I was very pleased with. In comparison the Dark breeding was pretty disappointing and if not for Jack we may have even given up. The dark birds were small, the penciling poor and we got a number of gold partridge pullets as clearly the boys were hiding gold.

After nagging and getting Stewart to agree to the 1,000km journey (one way) to Queanbeyan to attend the club's annual show and most importantly for me to meet in person people I'd been chatting to online for months, he insisted we enter ONLY 3 birds! Well I fudged that to 6, three Dark pullets and 3 Dark Cockerels. And off we went. We had a fantastic weekend, well actually 4 days away as it took one to travel each way and two there to attend both the club AGM and the show. Yes we had the usual disagreements on navigating our route, struggled to find fuel and food when we needed it but we made it. Everyone was so friendly and helpful, it was well worth it to meet all there and get priceless advice on breeding and selection from our club president. We came home wanting to breed better next year and be back again. Stewart was now as keen as mustard to be on this Facebook thing too!

In spring 2014 we no longer just had Dark Brahma in the breeding pens but also Gold partridge, Lights, Buff, Black and Birchen. I did try and hatch a few of my breeds but there was little spare room in the incubators and those that did hatch had a hard time in the brooders with so many big robust Brahma dominating. At the club show Stewart took home a major ribbon for the best WIP bird and was as proud as punch.

As I type this we are expecting the first small setting of all Brahma eggs to hatch in two days time for season 2015. Followed by a large setting of over 100 due the day we get back from the show. I have created a monster. And this is how the Brahma took over.

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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

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PHONE 0431 346 326

Membership fees can be paid by direct deposit (details below), money order or cheque.

**Required Information*

*NAME (Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms) _____

*ADDRESS: _____

*STATE _____

*POST CODE _____

*TELEPHONE

*Home _____

Mobile _____

FAX No _____

*EMAIL _____

We don't hand out any personal details without your prior consent

ANY OTHER COMMENTS _____

Would you like to be added to the Breeders Directory on our club website? YES / NO (please circle)

BREEDS KEPT (please include colours and state if standard or bantam). _____

THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP IS \$30 PER ANNUM

FULL MEMBERSHIP IS \$20 PER ANNUM

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP (UNDER 16 YRS.) IS \$10 PER ANNUM

Payment by Cheque or Money Order is available however;

Direct Deposit is the preferred method of payment

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.

Paying by Direct Deposit

Preferred Payment Method

Send an email with the required information and other details requested above to secretary@brahmacochin.org or email or post a completed membership form, and direct deposit your payment to our Bendigo Bank Account:

Name: The Brahma Club of Australia

BSB: 633-000

Account No: 110892072

IMPORTANT: Please use your FULL NAME as the deposit reference so we can match your payment to your email or posted membership form.