



NSW Waterfowl Breeders Association



Biannual Magazine May 2021

Quack Chat

A note from the Committee

2020 was a challenging year. We had our ups and downs however, the support of the NSW Waterfowl Breeders Association remained strong. When we had little else to celebrate we had one another to lean on.

We would like to thank our community for the commitment!

We would also like to extend our thanks to those clubs and shows who have featured waterfowl or waterfowl breeds at their exhibitions.

As we move into the 2021 show season we will begin enjoying the sights, sounds, smells and energy of the poultry shed once again.

We are also excited to see the release of our very first Calendar and the release of our Bi-Annual waterfowl magazine.

We hope to see all our wonderful friends at the upcoming shows across NSW and the rest of Australia.

Cheers

NWBA Committee



Understanding the Eclipse Moul

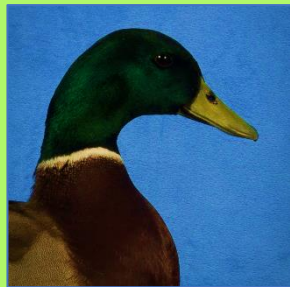
Gerald Farrugia

First time owners of coloured drakes often scratch their head before turning to the internet for an explanation as to why their previously stunning drake has suddenly transitioned into a more dull and bland member of the flock.

Throughout the summer months drakes will loose their bright and dressy plumage and replace this with colours and patterns more alike their female counterparts. The purpose of the eclipse moult is a protection mechanism to camouflage otherwise brightly coloured drakes. Throughout the summer/autumn moult a drake will loose his flight feathers which would normally give him the option to escape predators.

Most other species of birds undergo a "sequential moult," which their flight feathers are lost and replaced one at a time. This allows many birds to retain their flight capabilities while moulting. Waterfowl undergo a "simultaneous wing moult", losing all of their primary feathers at once, which renders them flightless thus vulnerable for 20 to 40 days hence Mother Natures requirement to protect the drakes.

It takes some support to get your drake through his moult. Moulting is the most nutritionally taxing thing a drake will do throughout the year. If you are exhibiting your drake, strong, healthy and glossy feathers are a must. Protein rich food are a must throughout the moulting period. A mallard drake will be required to ingest 3grams of protein per day to thrive throughout his moult. The drake will lose the value of 66grams of protein through the moult of his plumage.



2021 Gold Sponsors

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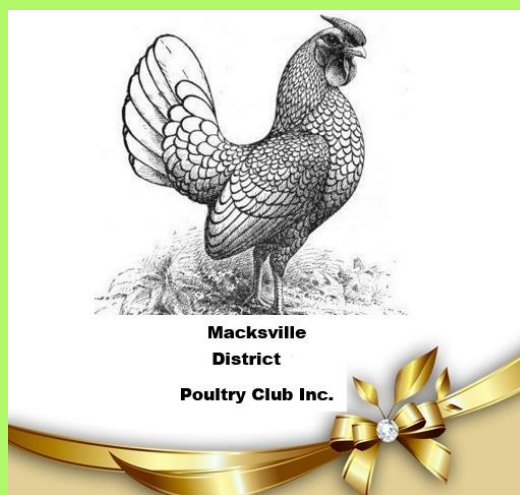
Mossvale



Southern Lights

Vocal Academy

Dapto



Sydney Royal 2021 Quack Up

Heidi Fagan

Thrilling, Amazing, Fulfilling, Excellent – A Benchmark Royal!

These are the words our fancy has used to describe the 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show Poultry Competition and the general consensus is these are accurate.

Sydney Royal Easter Show 2021 played on the world stage as the largest ticketed event to be run since COVID-19 shut down the world, leaving many people simply treading water. The Royal Agriculture Society should be thanked for its stringent risk mitigation procedures and commitment to bringing the bush back to the city!

As if 2020/21 wasn't difficult enough for the poultry keeper 10 days out of the show the East Coast of Australia was battered with cyclonic weather bring torrential rain and ultimately devastating floods.... but you can't rain on a ducks parade!

The NSW Waterfowl Breeders Association was invited to provide a "display" to showcase the feature breed for 2021 that was the Indian Runner. A call out for display birds, display aesthetics and man-hours was generously met by members and committee alike. We were able to provide a beautiful presentation which brought Indian runners to the attention of exhibition poultry breeders, farmers and backyard poultry enthusiasts.

Bills had been polished, feathers had been preened, the Judges donned their dust coats and exhibitors waited anxiously, admin staff and volunteers prepared themselves for what would be a very long day!

The Standards were high and the competition was hot, 1sts, 2nds and 3rds marked on pen cards. Champions were mulled over and eventually decisions were made. The representation of waterfowl was a credit to the exhibitors and competition organisers.

As the day drew to a close, so did a drought 199 years in the making, a drought that had never seen waterfowl place as Grand Champion Bird of Show in the history of Sydney Royal.

That was all about to change, like long anticipated drought breaking rains, the Champion Bird of Show was declared to be a White Indian Runner Drake (Ferdinand), owned and presented by Danny Benn and Gerald Farrugia.

To say the owners of Ferdinand were shocked would be an understatement, and have been humbled by the support and warm messages from the entire poultry community.

The ensuing media frenzy over the 'Babe Duck' was overwhelming, Ferdinand was literally a celebrity overnight.

With all the attention given to Ferdinand, it would be easy to think the show was all about one history making drake, but the truth is everyone who exhibited at the show had already won. They had won the opportunity to get their birds out on display, they had won the chance to catch up with long distance friends, they won the chance to compete on the biggest poultry stage in the country.

It was encouraging to see a strong, quality line up of waterfowl at Sydney 2021, noting the courage of those who travelled from interstate with huge numbers of quality birds, risking state boarder closures and being committed to get themselves to the show, and home again.

The hope is to see more breeders and exhibitors of Waterfowl take the leap to bench their birds in front of a full house in 2022.

Finally, a special mention should go to the following, with whom The Sydney Royal 2021 would not have been the amazing, elevated event that it was.

Georgia Clarke - Royal Agriculture Society Poultry Competition Coordinator

Cory Nordstrom - Sydney Royal Easter Show Poultry Competition Chief Steward

Cathy & Ben Newton – Photography Team

Glenn Best – Royal Agriculture Society Pigeon & Poultry Committee. Calendar

To view the results of the Poultry Competition results follow this link.

2022 NWBA CALDENDAR ORDER NOW

\$20 members

\$25 non-members

- Bright monthly photos
- Judges register
- Essential contacts
- Show dates

*Left: Ch Goose/Gander,
Res Ch WF*

F Gleeson

Middle: Ch Wf, BOS

Benn & Farrugia

*Right: Ch Bntm, Res Ch
Duck/Drake*

M & K Holmes



Junior Showcase

Adam Jordan

I am very interested in breeding Indian Runner Ducks, Ancona ducks and I also have a few crested ducks. Over the next few seasons I am planning on focusing on increasing my number of Ancona ducks, improving the overall quality of my Indian runners. I plan to be paying a lot of attention to my whites, chocolates and blacks. I would like to increase the number of quality females I am keeping and breeding from.

I love meeting and spending time with other quackers including hanging out with my poultry bestie Kollah, we see each other at a lot of shows!

I find showing birds very rewarding, having the opportunity to attend shows is great, I get to learn about other peoples breeds and hearing the judges views on my birds and how I can improve on them. Winning sometimes is pretty fun too.

I really like being part of NSW Waterfowl Breeders, everyone is really friendly and happy to help you and talk to you. I really look forward to the show in Goulburn every year, it is a great event to be part of.

Adam Jordan



Breed Profile

Caygua

A medium sized birds classified as a heavy breed occupied the place of prime table duck in North America until the introduction of the Pekin.

First standardised in North America in 1874 the breed was added to the British Poultry standards in 1901. The breed very distinct in appearance was originally found on Lake Cayuga and is thought to be a derivative of a local black duck.

CARRIAGE

“Slightly elevated, clear of the ground from breast to stern.”

TYPE

“Long, broad and deep. Breast: broad, full and prominent, without a keel. Tail: long and closely folded, slightly elevated.”

HEAD

“Head: large. Bill: moderately long, wide and flat, well set in a straight line from the tip of the eye. Eye: full and bold. Neck: long and strong, with a graceful curve.”

LEGS AND FEET

“Legs: large, strong boned, placed a little back from the centre.”

PLUMAGE

“Smooth close and glossy.”

COLOUR OF MALE AND FEMALE

“Plumage: a very lustrous green-black, free from purple or white, the whole of the back and upper parts of the wings, the breast and underparts of body deep black, the wings naturally more lustrous than the than the rest of the body plumage; a brown or purple tinge is objectionable, although not a disqualification.”

“Bill: slate black, with a dense black saddle in the centre, but not touching the sides or coming within 2.5cm (1 inch) of the end, the beak black. Eyes: dark brown. Legs and webs: as black as possible.”

WEIGHTS

The drake is listed as 2.70 to 3.60 kg (6 to 8 lb) and the duck as 2.25 to 3.20 kg (5 to 7 lb). So to give a point of comparison with other breeds, the Cayuga lower weight ranges start at what is at the top end of the Campbell weight ranges for the drake and duck respectively, and goes up to the bottom end of the weight ranges for Pekins.

SCALE OF POINTS

Body (15 points), carriage (10 points) and head, bill and neck (15 points) combined comprise more the “type” elements of the breed (40 points in total). Colour is obviously next in importance with 30 points. Then there are 15 points for size, 10 for condition, 5 for legs and feet.

Breeding Tips Colour faults including ticking or barring can be difficult to resolve. By closely monitoring any signs of this fault on the underside of the wing you will be able to identify if the bird is likely to carry this trait. Avoid breeding from these birds, utilise birds with solid black underwings. White flecking throughout particularly as the bird ages may aid in your breeding program. There is a belief that including a bird with this trail will improve the sheen of plumage in future progeny.



Left: 2003 Golden West Waterfowl Show (QLD) – Ch Cayuga – Trevor Atkinson (Photo courtesy Ray Mathiesen)



Middle: Cayuga Drake, Poultrykeeper.com. UK



Right: Cayuga Drake, The Livestock Conservancy. USA

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia

Many waterfowl breeders and exhibitors can't be blamed for not realising they are holding onto breeds which may be considered breeds which are at risk, vulnerable or critical in terms of national flock numbers. Our pure breeds have rich and important heritage, historical and biodiversity value which may be irreplaceable. The Rare Breeds Trust of Australia's is preparing to hold its biennial poultry survey to review the status breeds in this country.

The 2019 survey revealed that the waterfowl are not performing as strongly as the chicken breeds and may be in need of more support. While a number of breeds like the Australian Call and the Indian Runner are being bred by many breeders in strong numbers, many other breeds unfortunately are not.

Historically poultry breeders have been shy about sharing their personal & flock information however the survey may be completed anonymously. As much information as possible paints the clearest picture so it is hoped that people do complete it to help us assess the breeds but breeders do have the option of full anonymity when undertaking the survey.

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry Categories



Red - Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable and at Risk - Top Priority Breeds

Amber - Recovery Status, Recent Increases - Support and Monitor

Green - Survey Numbers >500 over a number of surveys - Monitor

	Critical	Endangered	Vulnerable	At Risk
Poultry	<100 Breeding Birds	<200 Breeding Birds	<300 Breeding Birds	<500 Breeding Birds
Waterfowl	<100 Breeding Birds	<200 Breeding Birds	<300 Breeding Birds	<500 Breeding Birds

Breeders Dispersals

A common concern amongst the poultry community is what will happen to their flocks should their circumstances change at short notice. Injury, illness, finances and council regulations can all impact your ability to keep your birds and you might not have planned what's to happen should you be impacted.

The NWBA acknowledges the hard work of breeders and exhibitors have done to maintain the small genenic pools of exhibition waterfowl and extends an invitation to anyone who finds themselves in these predicaments to reach out.

Maintaining our fancy is work that should be done by everyone.



Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry Survey 2021

**The 2021 Rare Breeds Trust of Australia POULTRY SURVEY is now open!
1 May to 30 June 2021**

This is the third biennial national RBTA poultry survey in Australia. It has been expanded to gain a more comprehensive picture of the security of our breeds. Questions will include current numbers of each breed, the colour varieties held, the colour of eggs, the numbers of breeders of each breed, the level of crossing taking place in flocks, and where breeders are located in Australia. Breeds need to be in good health, held in sufficient numbers by sufficient hands, and be spread apart geographically in order to be considered safe for the future.

The survey may be completed anonymously.

Scan QR Code with your phone and open the link to go to survey

