

THE BRAHMA CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi to all Brahma Fanciers,

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. The heat in January hit with a vengeance with most of Australia receiving temperatures in the high 30's and low 40's and beyond.

At this stage, poultry breeders would be busy culling their birds to make more room for their better fowls. An easier job for bantam breeders I feel, as breeders of the large Brahma's (in their quest for larger stock) have to wait longer for this procedure to let the birds fully develop their size. Consequently my feed bill grows as the birds do each week. As this season I am further developing the Light, Dark, Gold, Buff and Black Brahma's in the large variety. One thing I've observed with my stock is that the dark and Gold chickens are more loosely feathered than their light cousins. The lights seem to retain their tightness of feather even though I've crossed them, on two occasions over the years with Large Light Sussex. As you breed the pure traits back in the strain they seem to loose the fullness and loose feather of the Sussex. Maybe the Dark and Gold varieties present an easier challenge – time will tell.

Preparations for our Inaugural 2001 Brahma Club Show are now well underway, so if members have some ideas or input please feel free to contact Carol or myself – It would be much appreciated.

Sponsorship and donations have been forthcoming (and appreciated) for our show in July, but we still need some support to make it a successful event. Most of the colours will be well represented, with the member's goal to beat entry numbers of The Brahma Feature Show. So the challenge is to get those prospective show birds geared up for our 2001 Federation Show.

Wishing you all well,
Andrew

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful break and are now looking forward to our first show.

I've been busy trying to get lots of things organised down here for our show. I've had a lot of dealings with two of our members who are organising our Perpetual Trophies, and also receiving ideas on what else can be done.

At this stage I've started the banner for the club, as the weather down here has been so hot and humid I have had to leave it for a while.

Andrew has ordered the Trophies for the show, Thank You Andrew. I've been chasing up the coloured card to make the award cards. Khris has been good to us all by doing the computer work for the club ie: Newsletter printing and the Prize Cards and also giving me a lot of support, Thank You Khris.

I have been in touch with Megg Miller, who has been so good to the club with running the advertisement in Australasian Poultry from which we have had a lot of inquiries. Megg has also written an article for us which should be in the next Newsletter and has also been able to get some information together which cannot be published yet until we get permission from the authors, but hopefully we will be able to publish it in the not to distant future.

For those who don't receive Australasian Poultry, in the last issue I'm pleased to tell everyone that there is a report from Ken Burgin regarding the Brahma Feature Show, not a bad report I must say. It's great to see the Brahma getting a mention, as they are such a deserving breed.

Don't forget members I still need articles desperately for our Newsletter. Also if any members need to advertise Poultry or eggs for sale don't forget we can also put that into our newsletter. I've been getting inquiries for both so if you have got extra's in either please let me know.

Until next issue
Happy chooking

Carol

TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Balance 14/7/2001	\$100.00
Deposits for memberships	\$100.00
Monies still to bank	\$ 35.00
Total Amount	\$235.00

Expenditure:

Maylor Office Supplies	Ink refill	\$ 17.95
Australia Post	Postage 1 st Newsletter	\$ 12.15
Australia Post	Postage 2 nd Newsletter	\$ 9.00

Current Balance	\$195.90
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The difference in postage from the first and second newsletter is those who showed an interest at the show received the newsletter but if they didn't join by the time the second was ready they missed out.

Still to be paid out of this amount are as follows:

- Sashes for Annual Show
- Trophies for Annual Show
- Card for Awards
- Postage for two Newsletters
- Also our share of costs for hire of shed etc.

HOW I GOT STARTED.

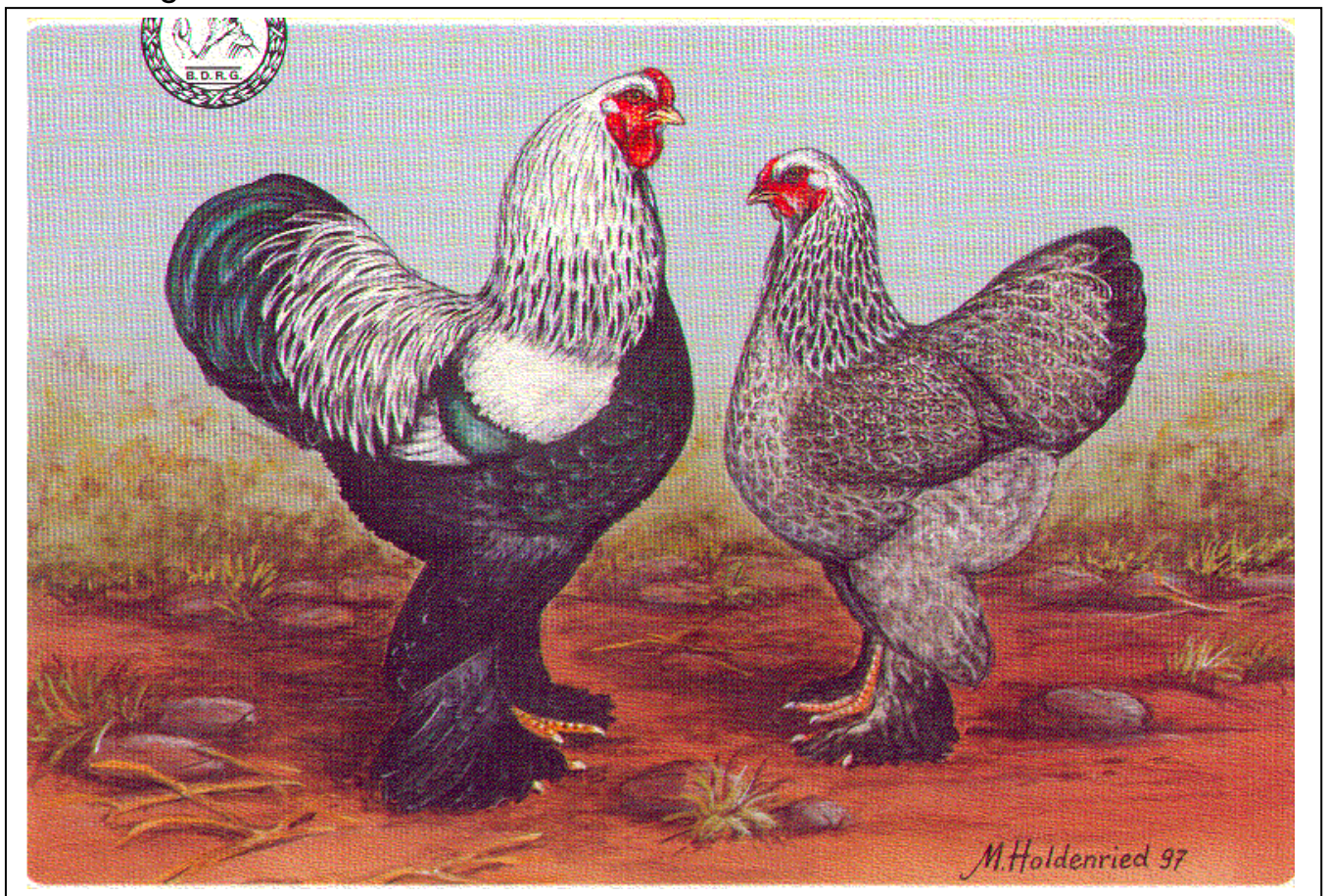
Alex King

Both of my Grandfathers kept Poultry for money, in a small way just 2k birds. I used to eat the mash they were fed with!!, come to think of it I still like a pellet or two!!

I got into Brahma's when I was given my Great Grandfathers copy of "Wrights Book of Poultry" and saw the Ludlow prints. WOW!! I managed to get some at the Rare Breeds Show in Bristol UK in 1971. I have kept other breeds as well but now that I live in the suburbs I only have room for one breed and it has to be Brahma's.

I have crossed a Golden Creale Oz game bantam male with some Black, Blue and Light Brahma's. I have a barred Light male and a barred Blue male. If anybody would like some eggs from them when I put them over pure Brahma's in about 2 months, please drop me a line or email me: tors@hotmail.com Eggs are free to members, just pay the freight. The crosses are very Oz game but have great heads, very long legs, tight feathering and feathers down the legs and outside toes.

Regards to all in the club,
Alex King



My Christmas was fine except for an unwanted houseguest, as I was burgled just before Christmas. They stole the usual things, so after a few obscenities, and new gates I am looking forward to the new Year watching all my cockerels and pullets develop.

I am finding that I am growing out healthier chicks as I have overcome last years coccidiosis, lice and mite problems using Dynamaltym and Amproleum, but most of all I keep them always on dry litter, and separated from the adult birds. The only ones I have lost so far this season have been from Marricks Disease. Marricks is a problem, so do you vaccinate or try to breed a genetically resistant bird. It would be interesting to hear what other breeders do about the problem.

I have produced a mixture of Light, Dark, Black, Partridge, Buff and one White pullet. But the best results are my Black Brahma's. I hatched out a couple of Jeff Nutals Partridge Sussex to use next year to improve, I hope, my Partridge line of Brahma's.

I have found I will need to produce a lot more chickens next year as I have only ended up with a few good birds. I hope they make it through the Merricks timetable 16-24 weeks, but it makes you realise that this is a long-term project.

At the moment I'm busy building sheds at the farm to house all the pullets and two smaller sheds to house the cockerels. As you all know that is a lot of work, as well as feeding and watering, controlling rats and mice, but summer helps eliminate these little vermin and also a couple of snakes working overtime. I can remember visiting Megg and she said to keep an eye out for tiger snakes. At that time my idea of a snake was, a good one was a dead one, but now I think I have changed my mind, or have I !!.

Before closing I would like to Thank Bellsouth for the poster for a prize in our July show, Thanks Jim. Carol is also busy making up a banner and show place cards, Oh what a woman.
That's all for now so have a Happy and Healthy Summer.

Regards
Bryon

NEWS FLASHS

For those with access to the Internet, Alex King, one of our Victorian members has set up a website for us. The site address is: <http://aneki.sub.net.au/brahma/index.htm> For those of you who do access this site you will find that it is quite a fast site, so if you can, have a look.

A Thank you to **Megg Miller and Australasian Poultry** for the donation of a 12mth subscription to Australasian Poultry for a lucky winner at the July Show.

A Thank you to **Bellsouth Poultry Supplies** for donating a Large Chart of Poultry as a prize for our show.

Do any members know of cheap, easy and reliable ways of shipping livestock Interstate.

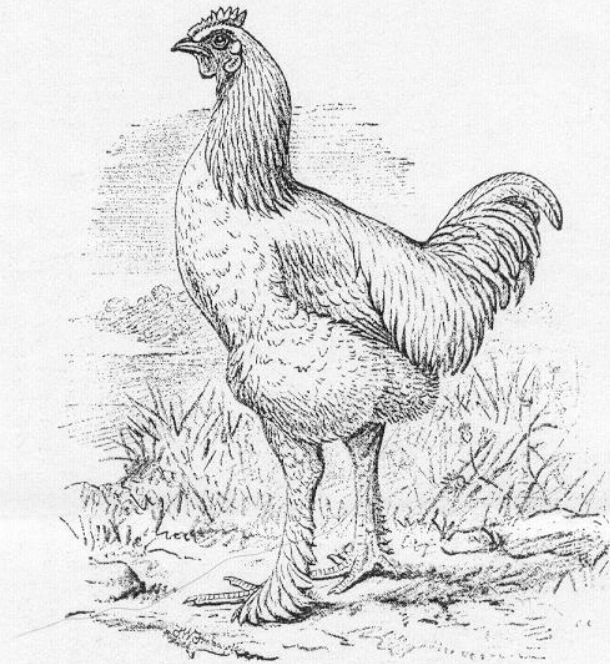
Questions

Does any member have a remedy for slow feathering birds. If so contact Carol. (Apart from the axe)

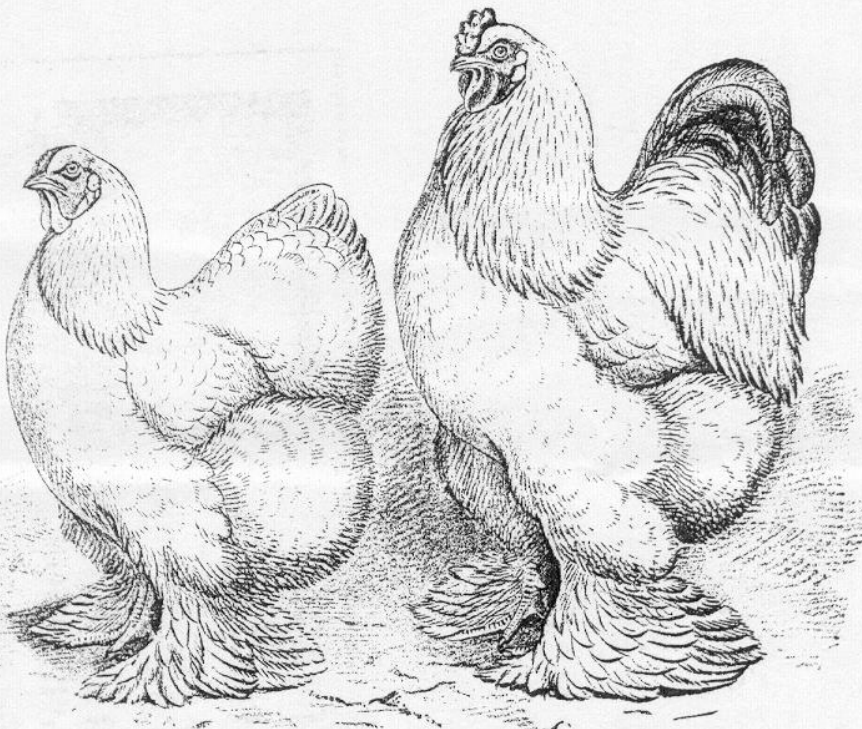
Note: The postcard on page 5 is from a New member, Jake Van Baalen

They are German Brahma's. Jake was also kind enough to give Carol names and addresses of 3 different clubs overseas to contact for more info.

Thank You Jake



Brahmas in their original form



Brahmas in Exhibition form