

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia



Contents

From the Editor and Secretary	1
From the President	2
From the Vice President	4
Junior Members	4
From the Treasurer	5
From the Website Manager	6
Vale Don Jones	8
Vale Valda Jackson	10
Don Jones - Master Brahma Breeder	11
Royal Canberra Poultry Show	16
Our Constitution	18
Minutes from 2017AGM	19
2017 Club Show results	22
Brahma Bantam Winners	23
Brahma Standard Winners	24
Cochin Winners	26
Judge's Report - Standard Brahma and Cochin	27
Judge's Report - Bantam Brahma	28
Award Ceremony Photos	29
Contacts	31
Membership form	32

Above: Club photo - (from left) Nathan Maher, Bryan Meade, Ann Finch, Clayton Horspole, Ian Nagle, Megg Millar, Lyn Campbell, Celeste Graham, Linda Lynch, Amy Kerr, Neal Lynch, Heather Procter, Jonathan Daniel, Dianne Anderson, Rebecca Loy, Kevyn Davis

Show Edition Winter 2017

From the Editor and Secretary...

By Celeste Graham

Please allow me to welcome you to the 2017 Show Edition of our newsletter! It's always exciting to relive the excitement from the show as I put it the newsletter together.

Even though it's not yet over, 2017 has been a real year of ups and downs. Our show was definitely a true highlight for me, and many others, however it is a year where we have had to say goodbye to some of our foundational club members. Both Don Jones and Valda Jackson have passed away in recent months and will be sadly missed. Luke Price and Mellissa Mathe have written a tribute to each of them, and we have reprinted an article about Don Jones from a previous club newsletter. Please take the time to read these and see what amazing contributions these two breeders have given to our magnificent breeds.

It was so wonderful to see so many club members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year! We had 16 people attend and it was our largest turnout in many years. I do, however, have an apology to make. In 'The Great Laptop Swap of 2017', where I had to change laptops, not once, but twice, I lost the minutes for AGM, along with many other personal files. I do apologise for this, and I have written down as much as I could remember from the AGM, and have also asked other committee members for their input. I would greatly appreciate it if you attended the AGM, if you could read through the minutes carefully, and let me know if we have left anything out, or misremembered what was discussed. I will add anything I have forgotten and then re-present the minutes at next year's meeting for club approval. I really appreciate your assistance and understanding.

The 2016-17 year has been a wonderful one for the club, gaining several new members! I would like to welcome and introduce Rebecca Loy, Cynthia Moffat, Gaye Oldham, Francene Reo, Bill and Elaine Robinson, James Shreeve, Fiona Thompson, Angela Tisdell, Sophie Van Oosterhout, Alfred Woods, Clayton Horspole, Janine Murphy, Zoe Meade, the Iveson Family, Rebecca Nelson, Maria Mrcsic, Robert and Lee Sigmund and new juniors, Taylah and Blake Meade. My sincere apologies if I have missed any new members!

Over the course of the 2016-2017 year, the club received communication from the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS) regarding the Royal Canberra Poultry Show (RCPS) for 2017, firstly inviting us to participate, and then administrative details. I held many conversations with Peter Shands, the Poultry Section Head, to organise our club's national show to be held within the RCPS. After the show, we did receive an email stating that we had not paid our donations towards the prize pool, however after some investigation, Bryan had already posted the cheque but Peter Shands had been away and had not yet collected the his mail. That, however, has now been rectified and all fees and dues have been paid.

In consideration that our annual show for 2017 was significantly different to our prior shows, it is my intention to distribute a survey through Survey Monkey, and this will be to collect feedback regarding the 2017 show, to continually improve future shows. Please keep an eye out in your email inboxes and return the survey as soon as possible. If you would like for me to send you a paper version of the survey, please contact me. My contact details are on page 31.

As always, I am available if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions! I would love to see photos of you visiting shows to be included in future editions of the newsletter.

Good luck for this year's breeding!
Celeste

From the President...

By Bryan Jon Meade

Hi to all our Brahma and Cochin Club Members,

To start with, congratulations to the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society for hosting the Royal Canberra Poultry show over the Queen's birthday weekend. There was over 2000 birds benched of various breeds, and the show was opened by our very own Brahma and Cochin club patron Meg Miller with the message of having fun, enjoying the show, and meeting likeminded poultry people and that's exactly how it all went. Thanks must go to Peter Shands, Dale Ashton and Guy Fahey for all their dedication and hard work and to all those volunteers in pulling it together. I just cannot imagine how many hours those incredible people put into the planning of this amazing show.

There was a dinner held on the Saturday evening where everyone had a very enjoyable meal and had time to meet new poultry enthusiasts and make new friends, while all the major awards were given out.

Our Brahma and Cochin Club had a very successful show and weekend in Canberra and the weather was lovely and sunny as well. Our AGM was held at the Summer Nats building - the best venue we have ever had. Being a two-day show meant it was great to have so many members of our club there from WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND AND VICTORIA. I am not sure but it may be the third biggest AGM that our club has had. All the info will be in the AGM minutes on page 19.

Congratulations to Lynn Campbell from AvGen Poultry with her lovely big blue and gold partridge pullets and winning Champion Brahma or Cochin of Show and Champion Standard Brahma with a gold partridge pullet.

Congratulations to Clayton Horspole with his incredible buff cochins. His presentation was spot on and won Best Cochin in show.

Congratulations to Neal and Linda Lynch on winning the Best Bantam Brahma in the show with a dark Brahma cockerel. They are truly great supporters of our club.

Congratulations to all of our members of our club who entered their Brahmas and Cochins in the show, and all the results are in the show report, and really everyone is a winner by just being there showing their birds and helping out and sharing birds around.

Thanks to the judges, Kevin Smith and David Geering, as they are an integral part of the show. Both had a very hard decision picking out the champions so thank you both. It was rewarding to hear such high praise from Kevin, as he was surprised at the standard we have achieved over the years.

After seeing what Clayton has done, improving his big beautiful buff Cochins with the purchase of two buff Cochins from AvGen, I am going to get a pair of partridge brahma and a dark cockerel to increase size and improve the colour pattern on my Brahmas, as Lynn's partridge really looked good.

At our presentation on the Sunday morning, Meg Miller said some kind and encouraging words and a little history of our club and wished us well. It was not an easy thing to organise our presentation, with all the noise and so many things happening. The judges had meetings but we made it happen, even if it was a bit hectic. Next year, we hope to have it in the same pavilion as the AGM.

I had the pleasure of meeting up with Neal and Lynda Lynch who had a very successful show, Luke Price

and his parents Roger and Michelle who I had a chat with at the dinner, Amy Kerr from the show last year, Dianne Anderson and Ian Nagle, Ann Finch from Perth who needs to come back and get a big partridge boy, Heather Proctor with her partridge brahma and cochins, and our vice president Jonathan Daniel and his mate Kelvin. I would like to welcome some new club members - Clayton Horspole, Angela Tisdale, Rebecca Loy, Bill and Elaine Robinson, and Alf Woods a very well known poultry gentleman. It is great to have him join our club with our new members.

One of the amazing things that was on display was a demonstration of artificial insemination by David Plant, a very well-known Pekin and Australian Langshan breeder. David used his Pekins as participants, willing or unwilling, and the way he demonstrated AI it did not look all that difficult. He is very experienced breeder and they sometimes make something hard look easy! AI would be an advantage when breeding very fluffy feathered birds as with our breeds. But I will leave it to my Brahmas to work it out! If anyone is interested in AI, just get in touch with David. Other clubs had their displays up for all to see and they were on display around the entrance of the pavilion, promoting their clubs and giving out information. I am not sure of the number of visitors but it was truly a great success.

I would like to take time to say a big thank you to Celeste Graham and Nathan Maher for all their hard work they put into our club. Celeste did all the work to get our logo on all the jackets, mugs and pens, and helping me get those fantastic banners up and running (something I have been going to do for years), and getting our newsletter done twice a year. Thank you to Nathan for helping me out on the days of the show and organising the photo shoot which was hectic as well, so once again thank you both. You then had that long trip back home again. Awesome.

Thanks to Luke Price for all the work he put into his very informative genetics talk that many of our Brahma and Cochin club members attended, with his mate Daniel and his partner, Jemma. Luke will be able to chat to anyone that is interested in producing various colours in all breeds of poultry and how to produce coloured brahma from the imported lines from AvGen.

From feedback I received, everyone was very happy to hold our show there from now on. Celeste will send out a questionnaire soon to fill in for everyone's ideas to help make it even better.

Well everything comes to an end and as usual we all said our good byes at Maccas for a junk food boost to get home. Celeste and Nathan will have had a couple of those stops on their loooooonnggg trip home and after lots of text messages, we all got home safe as well as our Brahmas and Cochins.

Regards
Bryan

From the Vice President...

Jonathan Daniel

To any club members that may be interested in purchasing import Brahma.

I have spoken to Lyn Campbell. In light of these birds being bred out of season, none will be available for sale before the end of the year or early 2018. At this stage Avgen have not settled on pricing.

When the imports do become available, they will more than likely be sold as trio's, pairs or singles. Avgen do have a number of spare cockerels. Judging by the size of the Brahma on show at the Canberra Nationals, they will be well worth breeding with our local Brahma.

If any members would like to consider buying as a group this may be a method to make the imports affordable to more breeders. Please feel free to contact me so that we can get some balls rolling.

Jonathan Daniel

Junior Members

Bryan Meade

It was good to have Amos and Isobel Walker show their brahmas at our show in Canberra this year. Congratulations them both on their success. Amos breeds gold partridge and dark brahma while his sister Isobel is breeding birchen and also taking on a trio of Don Jones dark brahma bantams, which have been donated by Luke C Price. Amos and Isobel have a great understanding with their animals and poultry. Amos has judged at various sheep shows, is very involved in theater and the arts and is keen on being a poultry steward. Isobel has all of her own poultry to look after and is an avid reader and has a large collection on books. They are both home schooled by their parents Diane and Grant Walker [ABC program on home schooling]. We wish them all the best and I am sure Don would be please to have Isobel carry on his dark brahma bantam line.



*President Bryan Meade
with Junior members,
Isobel and Amos Walker*

From the Treasurer...

By Bryan Jon Meade

BRAHMA & COCHIN CLUB OF AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2016 / 2017

With great support from new members joining our club and with our existing members, our finances are in a good financial situation. A few members have also given donations with their membership and this has really put us in a secure position going forward.

Regards Bryan Jon Meade

	Incoming	Outgoing	Total
Balance - July 1, 2016			\$3305.00
Memberships and Donations	\$1287.00		
Medals and Trophies		\$305.00	
Sashes (2016 and 2017 shows)		\$371.00	
Australasian Poultry Subscription		\$190.00	
Engraving for trophies		\$45.00	
Total Incoming			\$1287.00
Total Outgoing			\$911.00
Balance - June 30, 2017			\$3681.00

Membership Renewals Are Now Due for 2017/18

Our membership year runs from July 1 - June 30 each year.

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.

Full Membership (1 adult) - \$20 per year

Family Membership - \$30 per year

Junior Membership (16 years and under) - \$10 per year

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

From the Website Manager...

By Luke Price

It has been a busy year for myself and Samantha. While writing this report it is 11 months to the day that we moved in to our new farm in South Australia. With the help of family and friends we have already built over 90 pens in various sizes, with a fair few more to go, particularly large grow out runs and breeding pens. To add to the fun we are currently in the process of renovating our house. Not something I think either of us want to do again for some time. Having the opportunity to pick and eat the vegetables and fruit we grow and spend time in our beautiful gardens is making all the hard work worthwhile. Some of our bantams are still with my wonderful folks in NSW and we are slowly working on bringing the various breeds and colours down via eggs that are carefully packaged by Roger.



Myself with Betty Jones, Cindy Pretty and Don Jones

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Don Jones. Bryan and I have written a few words about him for our newsletter. With the help of some of Don's friends and family we hope to write something more in depth, which will be available on our website, and possibly in Australasian Poultry, at a later date.

I had a marvellous time at our annual show in Canberra this year, it was lovely to catch up with familiar faces, finally put a face to a few names and make new friends. Peter Shands, Dale Ashton, Guy Fahey and team did a marvellous job organising the show and I'm already looking forward to next year. I will miss having our show with the Canberra Queanbeyan Poultry Club and its members, and want to thank them all again for their support and hosting our annual show over the last few years. The decision to move to the

Royal Canberra show wasn't easy for the committee, however the earlier timing of the show and increased exposure for the breeds was believed to be a better fit at this point in time for the club's members.

I'm excited about the imported Brahma and Cochin and what their genetics will do for these breeds in Australia. We have already seen the results of Clayton's cross of UK Buff Cochin with Aussie Buff Cochin at our National Show earlier this year; what an improvement in size, type and colour!

Congratulations to AvGen Poultry for winning Champion Bird of Show at our club's annual show and Reserve Heavy Soft-feather Rare Breed at the Royal Canberra Poultry show last month. This was an impressive achievement considering they only showed some of their 2nd grade Blue Partridge pullets and a Gold (Partridge) pullet at the show; because their best birds are in breeding pens. I'm looking forward to seeing how far the better pencilled and bigger birds go in future years, as well as the males.

I believe AvGen are planning on releasing some male Brahma this year if they receive enough genuine interest to warrant letting a few birds go early. They will even have some spare original import males to sell, which will have a few



Dark Brahma Cockerel - 6 months old



Dark Brahma Cockerel - 11 months old

minor faults but still be incredibly valuable genetics to incorporate into the breed in Australia. Their trios in each of the colours will not be released until next year. If people are quick enough to buy cockerels for breeding with this season, we may see some first cross UK/Aussie Brahma at our annual show next year in a variety of colours. Self-colours (e.g. Black, Blue, White) and Columbian based patterns such as Light and Buff (Columbian), along with Birchin and Brown Red colours, may all produce offspring with suitable exhibition colour in the first cross if paired appropriately. Not to mention the potential of improving the dimorphic colour patterns such as Dark, Gold (Partridge), Blue Partridge and Red Pile, which could easily be incorporated into Australian lines of these corresponding colours, and the laced varieties.

Our website membership currently sits at 161 members. Over the last 12 months we received 63,247 page views with a monthly average of 4,865 page views. Our best month was over 5,185. Our best week was 3,492 and best day 841, with our daily average sitting at 160 page

views. Not surprisingly these high page view numbers were in March 2017, when the video of the large Light Brahma from Kosovo went viral on social media. I still don't understand how some people thought it was a person dressed up in a costume. hmm.



Dark Brahma Pullet - 11 months old

Most people access our site from desktop computers (76%) with a smaller percentage visiting from mobile phones (12%) and tablets (12%). Sources of traffic are varied with 17% of people directly accessing our webpage, 67% finding it via links, 11% arriving via search engines and 4% through social media. Pages that have received the most views over the last 12 months include; Photo Albums, Poultry Breeding and Genetics information, Breeders Directory, Home Page, 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.



Dark Brahma Pullets - 11 months old

At the time of writing our Facebook group sits at 2,058 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. If you are listed on our website breeders directory please let me know if your contact information or the breeds or colours you keep changes and I will update the directory.

I wish everyone a successful breeding season and look forward to seeing you all next year at our annual show.

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

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

Vale Don Jones

By Luke Price and Bryan J Meade

It is with immense sadness, that I sit down to write a few words about Don Jones and his beloved Brahma with the help of his friend and club president Bryan Meade. Don passed away in late June at the age of 83, in the company of his loving wife Betty and immediate family.

Don was a true visionary, and an exceptionally clever man. Not only was he a skilled builder and craftsman, his love of poultry led his creative talents to recreating bantam Brahma in Australia. Having started in the late 1970s he developed a wealth of knowledge on the Brahma breed and had a big influence on The Brahma Club of Australia (now The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia).



Don and Betty Jones in what was once Betty's vegetable garden

Don was a founding member of The Brahma Club of Australia when it formed in July 2000 at Castle Hill Showgrounds. Along with Megg Miller, Don was our club Patron for many years and since 2013 the club has had an award for Best Bantam Dark Brahma named in his honour. Don actually won his own award at our annual national show a couple of times.

His generosity with his knowledge, and willingness to help newcomers in Brahma get the best start possible with the breed has helped to firmly embed this culture in the club; which will no doubt be a long-lasting legacy. He was a somewhat stubborn man, that almost certainly must have frustrated his devoted and wonderful wife Betty from time to time. However, despite numerous setbacks along the way, it was surely this same tenacity that helped him persevere with the recreation of bantam Brahma, and make his endeavour so successful.

Not only was Don generous with his knowledge, but over his many years breeding Brahma, he would



Don feeding his growers

have freely given away hundreds of birds! On one occasion, we can remember Don giving his very best female Brahma (who had just won a major prize at our annual show) to a new breeder to help them get started. His passion for developing Brahma, as well as encouraging other breeders was well known. In fact, we can recall Don reminiscing about the delight he felt when other breeders beat him in shows, using birds he had given away, or with offspring from his own line. This is a relatively rare quality among poultry show people, with some breeders preferring to hold onto their own strains for fear of being beaten later.

My own introduction into bantam Dark Brahma was 8



Don Jones with his awards for Reserve Champion of Show at the 2007 Annual Show with a Dark Brahma Bantam female.

through birds given to me by Don. Since that day about 10 years ago, he continued to support my passion for the breed, offering knowledge and advice, and additional birds on a number of occasions. In fact, in 2016 I won Champion Bird of Show at our annual poultry show with a bantam Dark Brahma cockerel that was sired by a bird Don had given me in 2015. This bird was crossed with Bryan Meade's (our Club President) bantam Dark Brahma which coincidentally had some of Don's bantams in its make up from a couple of years prior. I still have one of the original hens Don gave me all those years ago.

Bryan recalls, "Don and I had many discussions regarding bantam type and how to go about correcting the head and wings on the bantam Brahma at our show, but mostly on the phone. Lucky for Betty I did not live next door. Don had also encouraged Cindy Pretty with her light Brahma and in later years he gave her some Darks. Don had a great sense

of humour as I recall once I described the head of one of his bantam dark Brahma as having a head like a revolving mallee root. In a flash he replied back 'Bryan don't stand next to it, as I am sure no one will be able to tell the difference'. Don and Betty always had coffee and cake and made us all feel so very welcome, whether it was at the show in their caravan in the early days, or when we visited them at Wyong. Don was a truly great friend and set an excellent example for our club, helping people get started with breeding Brahma by donating birds and helping juniors in their breeding programs."

Don's loss will be felt for many years to come, and Bryan and I, along with many other club members will miss him dearly. Personally, I can't speak highly enough of Don, he has been an inspiration for me, and a mentor. Living in different states, it was always a thrill when I had a chance to catch up with Don and Betty, over a cup of tea or coffee, and some biscuits or cake. I will miss our chats and hearing his wonderful stories; even at 83 his memory was incredible. He was a truly remarkable man.

These are some examples of Don's birds, taken just after his passing, by Michael Nelson, 2017.

Below: Light Brahma Pullet



Above: Dark Brahma Cock - Don kept his birds indoors, hence the large comb

Below: Light Brahma Cock



Above: Dark and Silver Wheaten Brahma Pullets

Vale Valda Jackson

By Mellissa Mathe

It is with much sorrow I announce on behalf of the Jackson Family the passing of Valda on 9 June 2017.

Valda is survived by her two best mates – daughter Jessica and husband Len with whom she was with for 37 years.

I personally first met Valda through a mutual passion of the Poultry breed ‘Cochin’ and we struck up a friendship. I was lucky to visit her place on several occasions and talked in the yards for hours about the birds and the many projects she had on the go.

I soon learned Valda had a great relationship with Lance Hicks who of course was instrumental in recreating the breed of ‘Brahma’ in Australia. He had also spent many hours helping Valda with her Cochins in the early days.

It is important to note that Valda never worked on Buff Cochins instead choosing to recreate other colours for Australia. Her ‘Blues’ and ‘Blacks’ were stunning and in 2012 at the Queenbeyan Show in Canberra she won the ‘Lance Hicks Memorial Award’ and ‘Champion Cochin’ with one of her lovely ‘Blues’.

I remember walking through her pens one day and seeing ‘Blue Laced Red’, ‘White Laced Buff’, ‘Solid Blue’, ‘Solid Black’, ‘Speckled’, ‘Cuckoo’, ‘Blue Cuckoo’, ‘Silver Birchen’, ‘Gold Birchen’, ‘Gold Laced’ and ‘White’.

Valda bred Cochin in Australia for 14 years and hatched hundreds of chicks each year. There is no doubt that without this lady’s tireless commitment to the breed, the variety of ‘colours’ of Cochins would not be as advanced as they are today. Her commitment and knowledge, which she was only too happy to share, will be as sadly missed as her.

R.I.P. My Friend
Mellissa Mathe



Valda receiving her awards at the 2012 Annual Show

Don Jones – Master Brahma Breeder

A Story of Don's Recent Endeavours
By Luke Price
(reprint from newsletter Winter 2014)



2014 visit: Bryan Meade & Ruby, Betty, Don and Cindy
Pretty in the vege patch...errr...chook pen.

Brahma died out in Australia some time around World War 2 (between 1935 and 1947). Following the breed's disappearance, Don Jones was one of the first people in Australia, along with Andrew Rathbone, to recreate the breed and the first to recreate bantam.

Don has been around poultry his whole life and has bred Light Sussex for many years just like his father, uncles and brother. He first became aware of the Brahma breed in the 1954 after seeing photos of them in old poultry papers that he had found under some vinyl 'lino' flooring he was pulling up. When he started seriously searching for the breed around 1959, he couldn't find them.

In 1979/1980 Don started recreating Brahma. He began with Light Sussex; over time, adding Pekin, Indian Game and Wyandotte. Over the next 15 years and with a couple of changes in strategy along the way, by 1995 Don had

them at a point where they were breeding reasonably true, and he had a reasonable strain of bantam Light Brahma. Around this time he was also well on his way to recreating bantam Dark Brahma. The Darks arose as a sport of some very "smutty" (excessive dark undercolour and black in the hackle and tail areas) Light bantams. It took a couple of years to get the white wing bay in the males.

Don has given away hundreds of bantam Brahma to people over the years. On a number of occasions, I have observed Don giving his best bird to someone to start them off in the breed. Among many of his



other qualities, Don's generosity and passion for the breed is definitely something to aspire to. Over the last couple of years Don has helped me out with a couple of bantam Darks to help improve my Partridge and Blue Dark bantams. One of my colours in development - Cream Partridge has some of Don's Dark Brahma bantam in their makeup.

Don is always striving for continued improvement of the Brahma breed. At 80 years of age (on 12th July) and with almost 35 years of 'recreation work' his enthusiasm has not diminished. In 2007/2008 Don mated a Standard Dark Brahma Cockerel (given to him by Bryan Jon Meade) with his bantam Dark Brahma and bantam Silver Wheaten females. He was concerned about the lack of size and the lack of a

Left: One of Don's bantam females from the 2007 show, prior to the introduction of the standard Dark Brahma to his line. A quality fowl in her own right, she won Reserve Champion Bantam of the Show.

strong Brahma head which is so characteristic of the breed, in the bantam. The results were fantastic and dramatically improved the size, wing angle, brow and dewlap. After a few years of increased variation in size, the variation settled down and he is consistently producing bantam darks that have more substance and improved Brahma characteristics.



Far Left: One of Don's Dark Brahma Hens 2009 Show (result of the standard Dark Brahma x bantam Dark Brahma).

Immediate left: Hen - Best Bantam Dark 2012 show (~4-5 years after the introduction of Standard Dark). Note the improved brow, width of head and dewlap.

In the images above the hen on the left was too large for a bantam and she was entered in the standard class at the 2009 show. I think she won Champion Standard Dark Brahma that year. Note her substance, type and improved head. The hen on the right shows the appropriate bantam size but with an improved head and type. The bone and muscle in Don's bantams has been improved substantially with many of his cockerels displaying fine table qualities. Don is continuing to work on his bantam Darks including improving comb size and shape.



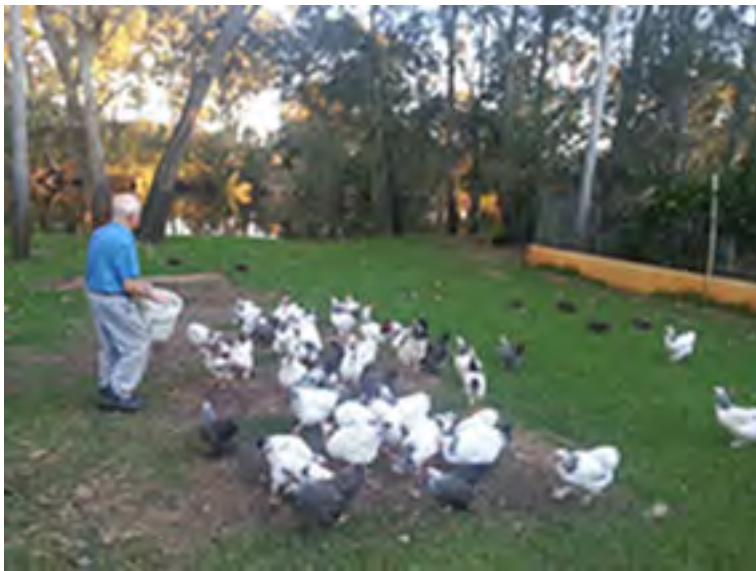
Left: Don's Champion Dark Brahma bantam at our 2013 annual show (~5-6 years after the introduction of standard Dark). Note the improved wing angle and excellent colour. This male was of very good bone and muscle with a broad head and brow.

Don's cock bird took out the inaugural Don Jones Award for Best Dark Brahma Bantam of Show. A fitting reward for year's of hard work. Don continues to face stiff competition from Neal and Linda Lynch in the Bantam Dark Brahma classes; with Neal and Linda winning one year and Don winning the next year and so on. Neal and Linda also maintain an excellent line of bantam Dark Brahma in addition to their bantam Lights.

With the bantam Lights in a number of breeder's hands Don gave away the last of his Light Brahma several years ago to focus on improving the Dark bantams. However, after observing the results of his Dark program he embarked on a new project. Around August last year Don set about creating a new strain of Light Brahma bantam using his Dark Brahma bantam (bred down from the standard) and standard Light Sussex. Last season he set 550 eggs from his Light Sussex x Dark Brahma bantam pens. Don set up two pens: 1) with a

standard Light Sussex Cock x bantam dark females; and 2) a larger bantam Dark cock x standard Light Sussex females. Many of the eggs were infertile due to the size difference between the standard Light Sussex and the Bantam Dark Brahma. He had no fertility from the first pen but managed to hatch around 40 chicks from his second pen with the bantam dark male x standard Light Sussex females.

“I have built doctors surgeries, farm sheds, dairies and fancy houses but nothing has given me as much satisfaction and pleasure as recreating Brahmas.” Don Jones 2014



Don feeding some of the 2013 hatch and standard Light Sussex he used to begin his strain of bantam Lights. You can see the first cross work in progress Light Brahmas.

As you would expect there was a lot of variation in the offspring from this cross. Based on the genotypes of the parents there were a number of traits that could be expected including; dominance of white legs, dominance of columbian pattern (so they appear as Lights), poor to no foot feather, flatness across the back (characteristic of Sussex) and pea split blade combs. Most of these expectations were met, however some of the offspring have single combs indicating that the Dark bantam parent bird possessed a pea split blade comb. There is a large amount of variation in size of the offspring too. Another unexpected, but pleasant result was bright yellow legs on a few of the offspring. Don explained this unexpected outcome...he knew a few of the standard Light Sussex females he used had been bred from

standard Rhode Island White, which have yellow legs. These Light Sussex females were carrying yellow legs, hidden by the white leg genes that are dominant over yellow. When mated to the Dark Brahma bantams (pure for yellow legs) the hens carrying hidden yellow leg colour can produce yellow legs in 50% of their offspring; the other 50% produced have white legs but carry the hidden yellow leg gene. Don hatched 4 or 5 of these yellow legged birds out of the 40 or so he managed to get out. What do you get after setting 550 eggs and 12 months work? At the time of writing, Don kept 2 cockerels and 13 pullets from his WIP Light Brahma project to continue on with.

Below: A selection of Don's 2013 hatch 'WIP' Light Brahma – the result of a first cross between bantam Dark Brahma and standard Light Sussex. Left: Cockerel with pea split blade comb, yellow legs, brow and dewlap. Right: front of photo – cockerel with single comb, white legs (hiding yellow), brow and dewlap.



A Tip From Don

If you live in a suburban area, keep your roosters quiet to avoid problems with the neighbours. Once you have a complaint about crowing it is too late. Don keeps his roosters in show pens in his garage over night and lets them out at an acceptable time in the morning. The comb size increases due to the lower light levels but this is a much better alternative than being forced to get rid of your roosters by the council.



A selection of Don's 2013 hatch 'WIP' Light Brahma continued...

Above right: Pullet with pea split blade comb, white legs (hiding yellow), brow and dewlap.

Above left: several WIP Light Brahma and young bantam Dark Brahma and standard Light Sussex male (right rear of photo).

Right: several WIP Light Brahma bantam. Note the variation in leg colour, comb, size and foot feather.



Don's work recreating Brahma has been made possible with the continued support of his wife Betty. Betty has her own hobbies outside of the chook fancy but has always encouraged Don to follow his passion, and likewise Don has always supported Betty with her endeavours. The Brahma can really be called Don and Betty's Brahma! Don and Betty recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary, a grand milestone. Congratulations to them both!

Don keeps his feed costs low by feeding mostly wheat and bread (left over from the local bakery). He soaks the wheat and mixes it together with soaked bread, providing a fresh mix each day. The birds get a regular green pick from lawn clippings and free ranging on the grass. I'm informed they recently enjoyed devouring the vegetables in Betty's vegetable garden too.

Don will have a team of bantam Dark Brahma and some of his work in progress Light Brahma at our 2014 annual show in August. I'm looking forward to seeing the results of this season's WIP Light Brahma. Don is planning to hatch at least 500 eggs in this colour to account for the variation that will be present in the offspring. He now has the task of removing the white legs, single combs, absence of foot feather, wheaten base colour (which produces a white undercolour) and flat backed type introduced by the Light Sussex; whilst retaining and combining the Light (Columbian) pattern, yellow legs, feathered feet, brow, dewlap, correct type and other Brahma characteristics. Don may also flock mate his WIP Light Brahma Cockerels with his Dark and Silver Wheaten hens - which will help to speed up the process by improving Brahma features. I wish Don and Betty all the best! LP



Don's Brahma - Above left: 2014 Breeding team of bantam Dark and Silver Wheaten Brahma. Above right: 2014 Dark Brahma bantam Cock. Bottom left and right: Silver Wheaten Pullet - Best Bantam AOC Brahma at our 2013 annual club show. Note the width of head, brow and dewlap.

Some Secrets of Don's Success

- Focus on one or two colours in the one breed.
- Have a vision/goal 'mental picture' of the birds you want to attain and select your breeders accordingly.
- Hatch large quantities of eggs – at least 100 per colour each year.
- Cull hard, particularly cockerels.
- However, when first developing a new colour keep your vision in mind and don't cull too hard. Look for the breed characteristics you desire across all the birds, even if each bird only has one of these characteristics. The aim is to combine these characteristics so that eventually every bird in your flock has a high proportion of all the breed characteristics that you desire.
- They are a rare breed; keep several spare males to account for accidental death, fox attack, infertility, faults etc.
- Flock mate - 1 or two males and many hens. A large number of females provides sufficient diversity to compensate for faults that may be present in males.
- Provide plenty of space and green feed, particularly when growing out young birds. They need room to grow.
- You need a couple of pens, for every colour you have, to hold breeders and growers of various ages.
- Don't give up – be persistent! Accept you are going to make mistakes along the way.
- Have faith in your ability –people believed Don couldn't recreate Brahma and look at what he has achieved!

Royal Canberra Poultry Show

By Amy Kerr

I am new to the poultry show scene, this year's Annual Brahma and Cochin club show was held in conjunction with the 2017 Canberra Royal Poultry Show and it was everything I ever envisioned a poultry show to be!

I had previously only exhibited my Brahma at one local club show and at a Rare Poultry Breeds Show and both times I was one of only two Brahma Exhibitors and the only one in my class so it was very disheartening. As a breeder of this rare and special fowl, the sole purpose for me to show my birds is to put them up beside other Australian Brahmas and compare them to make sure I am on the right track and to help me select my breeding birds each season. I know we should all be guided by the breed standard but there is nothing like looking at (and admiring) the real thing!

My previous experience of those two shows was very off-putting and I felt that perhaps poultry showing just wasn't for me. But in 2016, I thought I might book a night's accommodation in Canberra and visit the Brahma and Cochin Club's National Show held at the Canberra/Queenbeyan Poultry Club. I wasn't confident that my birds were good enough to attend a national level show so I left them behind.

Wow, was I blown away! I had never seen so many Brahma and Cochin in one place! I wished I had brought some birds along after all! I met a few friendly faces that I had previously chatted with on Facebook and felt so involved and welcomed even as a spectator! Jonathan Daniel took me under his wing (pardon the poultry pun! Lol) and went about educating me on the good and bad points of the birds on show. I was introduced to Bryan Meade and the education continued!! Before I knew it Bryan had very generously gifted me a dark pullet to help me on my breeding endeavours and I also purchased a Silver Birchen Rooster from Kelvin Cosgrove. So off I dashed into town to try and source some boxes to get my new charges home!

I made the decision there and then that I would continue showing my Brahma each year at the Club's Annual Show and I went with a new found enthusiasm back to the pens at home.

I had only ever taken two birds to a show before but this year I made the trek to Canberra with EIGHT! I was excited to bring my most favourite Dark and White Brahmas and a few spare cockerels to enter in the auction as well.

The Royal Canberra Poultry Show was so organised and ran like a well oiled machine. I drove straight off the highway and parked right by the shed doors on Friday night. The first person I saw greeted me with a smile and that really set the theme for the entire weekend, when everything is well organised there is no stress, everyone is happy and can enjoy themselves. The numbered leg tags are a super idea and worked great!

The next morning, oh how lovely it was to walk into a heated shed!!! Real coffee and bacon and eggs cooking at the front entrance, what a treat! The corflute pens are clean, neat and bright and really show off the birds. Once I had tended to the birds it was time to talk chook! It was excellent to meet more faces that I have only ever spoken to via Facebook and the people I had met last year welcomed me like old friends! We are all so lucky to be a part of such a wonderful club packed full of friendly, warm and kind people who all share the same passion for these feather-footed beauties! Again I was eagerly soaking up as much knowledge from anyone generous enough to offer it and once I found the courage to ask questions I was once again flooded with knowledge from Club members who so willingly and graciously took the time to share their thoughts and opinions of the birds on show. The poultry shed was also open to the public and there were lots of "Oohs" and "Aahs" up and down the Brahma and Cochin aisles... such great exposure for our rare breeds. We have all drooled over them on the internet but it was wonderful to be able to finally see some imported 16

Partridge Brahma entered in the show alongside our Aussie birds and when one made it to the champions row for Reserve Champion Softfeather of show it was fabulous exposure for the breed.

I found out my white cockerel won his class when I heard the cheers from the club members in the aisle!! Everyone was so happy for me and that made it just so much more special!

My previous showing experiences involved lots of sitting in the cold, some awkward small talk with strangers and watching the clock tick, but at this show I didn't have a spare moment ALL WEEKEND it was fantastic!

Luke Price hosted two talks including informative and interesting slideshows, one about behind the scenes of the incredibly involved AvGen importation process and also the history and characteristics of the breeds that have been imported to Australia. The second talk was the basics of genetics which was fascinating and left us all with our heads spinning! It was excellent to be able to ask questions throughout the seminars and it was a shame that more people didn't take advantage of coming along.

The auction was a great idea and I managed to sell a gold pullet and a spare white cockerel, both found homes with people that were new to the breed.

There was also the club's AGM to attend and after all this chicken talk you could wander down to the next pavilion to the handmade markets which was full of gourmet food stalls and yummy samples to be tasted, amongst other goods for sale.

The presentation evening was not what I expected! Awards were presented over a formal dinner with a very entertaining MC on the keyboard. There was also a hilarious stand-up comedian and an emotional fundraiser for cancer research in memory of a young poultry and waterfowl enthusiast, who sadly succumbed to the terrible disease. I regretfully didn't book a ticket as i thought I would be on my own and feel out of place, but wasn't I wrong! Dianne, Celeste, Nathan and Bryan did everything in their power to get me a seat and make me feel included, I felt so silly for being shy and so grateful for their kindness.

I drove home from Canberra with a smile from ear to ear, my brain busting with thoughts of genetics and punnet square possibilities, my heart warm with the support and kindness of my Brahma and Cochin friends and my beautiful birds safely packed in the trailer after their exciting and comfortable weekend away eating treats in their heated show pens!

What a wonderful experience, I cannot wait until next year!!! Bring it on!!

Constitution of The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

The Club shall be called “**The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia**”.

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

The Constitution of the club shall be:

- a) Grades of Membership
 - i) Full Members
 - ii) Junior Members
 - iii) Honorary Life Membership, may be elected at the Annual General Meeting and must be nominated by 3 (three) full members, with 12 months (1 year) membership
 - iv) Family Membership

- b) Officers of the Club
 - i) President
 - ii) Vice President
 - iii) Secretary
 - iv) Vice Secretary
 - v) Treasurer
 - vi) Editor
 - vii) Assistant Editor
 - viii) 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 July 1st each year. Members, whose current years subscription have not been paid by July 1st shall receive one further reminder and should payment not be made, their names will be removed from the list of members. Lapsed members wishing to rejoin within a period of two years since the payment of their last subscription shall be required to pay for the intervening years as well as the current year.

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

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

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

May 2001

Updated July 2002

Updated August 2013

Updated August 2015

Updated June 2017

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 10th June 2017 – 3pm
Committee Room, Exhibition Park in Canberra

Attendees	Bryan Meade, Celeste Graham, Nathan Maher, Jonathan Daniel, Luke Price, Heather Proctor, Dianne Anderson, Ian Nagle, Clayton Horspole, Neal Lynch, Linda Lynch, Ann Finch, Rebecca Loy, Kevyn Davis, Amy Kerr, Kelvin Cosgrove	
Apologies	Roger Price, Samantha Williams, Don Jones	
Roles	Chair: Celeste Graham Minute Taker: Nathan Maher	
Speaker	Agenda Item	Minutes
Bryan	Opening remarks/ Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to our largest AGM in many years. Thanked everyone for coming
Celeste	Attendance, introductions and apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone in attendance introduced themselves, including our new member, Clayton Horspole
Celeste	Minutes from 2016 AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented in Show Newsletter 2016 Issues arising? No issues Minutes accepted
Committee	Annual Executive Reports	<p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan <p>Vice President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan <p>Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celeste Several new members over recent months Correspondence will be discussed further in the meeting Show organisation has been very easy and successful, with the great assistance of Peter Shands <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bryan As below <p>Editor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celeste Splitting the newsletter into two editions has made the job easier Positive feedback has been received about the new format <p>Website Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke

Bryan	Presentation of Accounts (Treasurer)	<p>Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening balance at July 1, 2016 - \$3305.00 • Memberships and donations - \$1287.00 • Show memorabilia - trophies, sashes, engraving - \$721.00 • Australian Poultry Subscription - \$190.00 - our ad runs free of charge, and so the club has bought a subscription to the magazine for 5 years. Celeste receives the magazines and has created a folder to be the club library. These can be borrowed by club members at the postage cost of the club member. Contact Celeste. • Closing balance at June 30, 2017 - \$3681.00
Celeste	Corrospondence	<p>Royal Canberra Poultry Show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only correspondence has been from Peter Shands and the RCPS regarding the show – invitation to participate, and general administrative communication
	Election of Office Bearers Conducted by Heather Proctor	<p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Bryan Jon Meade • Accepted: Bryan Jon Meade
		<p>Vice President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Jonathan Daniel • Accepted: Jonathan Daniel
		<p>Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Celeste Graham • Accepted: Celeste Graham
		<p>Vice Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: N/A
		<p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Bryan Jon Meade • Accepted: Bryan Jon Meade
		<p>Editor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Celeste Graham • Accepted: Celeste Graham
		<p>Website Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Luke Price • Accepted: Luke Price
		<p>Liaison/Publicity Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates: Nathan Maher, Heather Proctor, Dianne Anderson, Celeste Graham • Accepted: All
		<p>Patron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate: Megg Millar, Don Jones • Accepted: Megg Millar and Don Jones
	Break	Not taken
	General Business	Update on Actions from 2016 AGM

		<p>Celeste – Membership due date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three different dates were advertised prior to 2017 Info edition of newsletter (dates were changed in ad to conform to constitution) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution – show day • Title of ad – July 1st • Body of ad – first Sunday of July • Celeste would like to propose to change the constitution to state that memberships run from July 1st- June 30th • Vote: Accepted
		<p>AvGen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan spoke about club members pooling together to buy some birds from AvGen, due to the high cost. • It was discussed that either a trio of birds could be bought, and/or some spare cockerels and then these birds and/or their offspring can be traded amongst those members • Any members interested to contact Jonathan directly
	Meeting Close	Approximately 4.30pm

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia

2017 Show Champions

The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia 2017 Annual Show was held on June 10 and 11 in Canberra ACT. This year the annual show was kindly hosted by the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS), as part of their 2017 Royal Canberra Poultry Show. We would like to thank the hard working members of RNCAS for incorporating our club show this year, and for being such excellent hosts! Your friendly and dedicated members put together a well-run and successful show. We felt incredibly welcome and really appreciated your efforts to make our show such a success.

2017 Show Champions and Recognition Awards

Grand Champion Brahma or Cochin of Show - AvGen Poultry (Lyn Campbell)

Champion Standard Brahma - AvGen Poultry

Reserve Champion Standard Brahma - Bryan Jon Meade

Best Standard AORC Brahma - Isobel Walker

Best Standard ARC Cockerel Breeding Female Brahma - No birds benched

Best Standard ARC Pullet Breeding Male Brahma - Kevyn Davis

Best Standard Barred AC Brahma - Kevyn Davis

Best Standard AC Colombian Brahma - Celeste Graham

Best Standard Dark Brahma - Amos Walker

Best Standard Light Brahma - Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson

Best Standard Partridge Brahma - AvGen Poultry

Best Standard Self Coloured Brahma - Amy Kerr

Champion Bantam Brahma - Neal and Linda Lynch

Reserve Champion Bantam Brahma - Luke Price

Best Bantam AORC Brahma - Luke Price

Best Bantam ARC Cockerel Breeding Female Brahma - Luke Price

Best Bantam ARC Pullet Breeding Male Brahma - No birds benched

Best Bantam Buff Colombian Brahma - No birds benched

Best Bantam Dark Brahma - Neal and Linda Lynch

Best Bantam Light Brahma - Neal and Linda Lynch

Best Bantam Partridge Brahma - No birds benched

Champion Cochin - Clayton Horspole

Reserve Champion Cochin - Clayton Horspole

Best AORC Cochin - Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson

Best Buff Cochin - Clayton Horspole

Recognition Awards

Cindy Pretty Breeder of the Year Award- Lyn Campbell

Lance Hicks Memorial Award - Bryan Jon Meade

Bryan Jon Meade Award for Best Standard Dark Brahma - Amos Walker

Andrew Rathbone Award for Best Standard Light Brahma - Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson

Robert Gollop Award for Best Standard Partridge Brahma - AvGen Poultry

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

George Childs Award for Best Bantam Partridge Brahma - No birds benched

Don Jones Award for Best Bantam Dark Brahma - Neal and Linda Lynch

Champion Junior Exhibitor - Isobel Walker

Reserve Champion Junior Exhibitor - Amos Walker

Judges Medallion - Kevin Smith and David Geering

Brahma - Bantam



*Champion Bantam Brahma
Best Bantam Light Brahma
By Neal and Linda Lynch*



*Reserve Champion Bantam Brahma
Best Bantam AORC Brahma
By Luke Price*



*Best Bantam ARC Cockerel Breeding
Female Brahma
By Luke Price*



*Best Bantam Dark Brahma
By Neal and Linda Lynch*

Brahma - Standard



*Reserve Champion Softfeather Standard - Rare
Champion Standard Brahma
Best Standard Partridge Brahma
By AvGen*



*Reserve Champion Standard Brahma
By Bryan Jon Meade*



*Best Standard Barred AC Brahma
By Kevyn Davis*



*Best Standard Light Brahma
By Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson*



*Best Standard Self Coloured Brahma
By Amy Kerr*

Brahma - Standard cont.



*Champion Junior Exhibitor
Best Standard AORC Brahma
By Isobel Walker*



*Best Standard ARC Pullet Breeding
Male Brahma
By Kevyn Davis*



*Reserve Champion Junior Exhibitor
By Amos Walker*



*Best Standard Columbian AC Brahma
By Celeste Graham*



*AORC Brahma
By Bryan Jon Meade*

Cochin



*Champion Cochin
Best Buff Cochin
By Clayton Horspole*



*Reserve Champion Cochin
By Clayton Horspole*



*Best AORC Cochin
By Ian Nagle and Dianne Anderson*

A very big thank you to Cathy and Ben Newton for their photography skills and poultry-wrangling on the day! All copyrights for photos belong to Cathy Newton.

Judge's Report - Standard Brahma and Cochin

Kevin Smith

What a delight to have the opportunity to judge the standard Brahma and Cochin Fowl at your annual show held in conjunction with the Royal Canberra Poultry Show this year. As I said during the presentations I was impressed by the quality of the fowl and the winning birds were very good. I don't propose to write a blow by blow description of each class but rather provide some general commentary on how I saw the birds on the day.

To start with some points of concern/areas to watch and improve.

Brahma

- Height - some of the birds were still somewhat short in stature. This may also have been due to a lack of pen training in some instances, as some of the birds I remember as short look good in the pictures that Cathy Newton took. However, to go to the next level I think some of the birds need a little bit more height in their frame and the bone to support that height and bulk.
- Feathering – some of the birds lacked sufficient feather. Adequate feather adds greatly to the look of a Brahma and without it there is a tendency for the birds to look somewhat vulture hocked.
- Colour – Many of the self-coloured fowl had colour faults that detracted from them. I think that some of the white fowl are built on a gold base and it would be desirable to flip them over on to a silver base to avoid some of the yellowing that was apparent.

Cochin

- Stance – watch the cushion and tail. There was a tendency in some birds for it to drop away.

Please take these comments as suggestions to consider, ponder and use or reject during your breeding this year. The best birds in these breeds are worthy to trouble more established breeds for major prizes in open shows.

Enough negatives. I would like to finish on a positive note. I was really impressed with the birds and where you are going and I think the best way to highlight this is to mention some of the winners on the day (I have already said these comments in my wrap up at the show so the breeders themselves have heard them).

My Champion Brahma and Res Ch Standard Rare Breed was a Blue Partridge pullet. She was an exceptional fowl with the right balance of profuse feather and adequate tightness, to give that real Brahma character. Note quite out in feather that went against her when I found an exceptional Minorca pullet later in the day. Other Brahma fowl that impressed were the Partridge cockerel, White cockerel, Light cockerel and a Birchen pullet in the AORC class.

In the Cochins the Buffs were outstanding. I couldn't fault their colour, it is not often you can say this with buffs of any breed. As I mentioned they would not play the game for me with respect to dropping their tails. With Blacks and Blues a little more work is required on leg colour (I know it is a pain – I breed Black Leghorns) but get it right and you will be rewarded.

Thanks again. I was impressed by the quality of birds in both breeds as was my steward and we had a little chat about how good it was for both of this to have this opportunity to spend this time thinking about your breeds.

Judge's Report - Bantam Brahma

David Geering

As the appointed judge for the Rare Breed Bantams at the Canberra Royal Poultry Show it fell to me to judge the Brahma bantams. This was something that I was looking forward to as I had attended shows featuring Brahmas and Cochins in the past. However, on this occasion, I was somewhat disappointed by the number of birds presented and the overall quality of the bantams. I took the opportunity to have a look at the large fowl after judging and it was reinforced that the bantams are, generally, way behind in type.

Judging of the bantams started well with the AORC classes. The two birds exhibited were impressive although one was out of feather and the other just refused to show himself - he simply did not want to "play the game" on the day. Moving onto the Darks and Lights judging became trickier. The Darks were of an appropriate size but lacked the substance that Brahmas need to possess. There were also colour issues, a number of the males tending to be broken in the breast – essentially pullet breeders. The Lights were rather variable, some being on the small side.

My best bird on the day was a Dark cock bird that, despite his colour issues presented himself well and had the building blocks of a good Brahma. My reserve was a Blue Dark cockerel. Had he been pen trained he would have been my best. The day after judging he was clearly more settled and displayed impressive type although the red coming through was of concern. However, as a project under development, he had everything you might look for in a Brahma.

David Geering

David Geering accepting his judges medallion



Kevin Smith choosing Reserve Champion Cochin

Award Ceremony Photos

Photos by Nathan Maher

Right: Lyn Campbell from AvGen, posing with her many awards



Left: President Bryan Meade, standing with club patron Megg Millar and Lyn Campbell, addressing the masses



Right: (from left) Lyn Campbell, Neal Lynch, Amy Kerr, Kevyn Davis and Ian Nagle (sitting)



Left: Bryan preparing to present a champion trophy



Bryan presenting Linda Lynch with an award





Left: Clayton Horspole accepting his Champion Cochin trophy



Right: Bryan presenting Amy Kerr with her award



Left: Judge Kevin Smith giving Celeste Graham some tips on the finer points of showing



Right: Website manager, brahma breeder, genetics aficionado and all-round good guy, Luke Price



Left: Reserve Champion Standard Softfeather (Rare) from AvGen, taking a well-earned break from being awarded and admired

Contacts

President / Treasurer

Bryan Jon Meade
Phone: (03) 5158 6567
bjm@activ8.net.au

Vice President

Jonathan Daniel
Phone: 0418 431 362
adaniel@bordernet.com.au

Secretary

Celeste Graham
Phone: 0413 307 594
secretary@brahmacochin.org

Publicity/Liaison Officer

Nathan Maher
Phone: 0418 598 330
marzee@marzeeonline.com

Website/Facebook Manager

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

Editor

Celeste Graham
Phone: 0413 307 594
celeste@marzeeonline.com

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

Contact the Website Manager for all website related enquiries or updates and matters relating to Facebook.

Contact The Editor for additions to our newsletter and other publication matters.



Membership Form

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

secretary@brahmacochin.org

PO Box 54 Toogoolawah QLD 4313

PHONE 0413 307 594

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

*Name:	
*Address:	
*State:	*Post Code
*Telephone:	Alternative Telephone:
*Email:	
We will not distribute any personal details without your prior consent	
Would you like to be added to the Breeders Directory on our Club website? YES/NO (please circle)	
I keep:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bantam Brahma (list colours)</i> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Standard Brahma (list colours)</i> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cochin (list colours)</i> _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other breeds (please list)</i> _____	
THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM 1 ST JULY – JUNE 30.	<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$30 PER ANNUM <input type="checkbox"/> FULL MEMBERSHIP - \$20 PER ANNUM <input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP (16 YRS AND UNDER) - \$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" <i>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.</i>	
Paying by Direct Deposit – Preferred Payment Method	
Send an email with the membership form to secretary@brahmacochin.org or post a completed form to the address listed above, then direct deposit your payment to our Bendigo Bank Account.	
Account Name: The Brahma Club of Australia BSB: 633-000 Account Number: 1108 9207 2	
IMPORTANT – Please use your FULL NAME as the deposit reference so that we can match your payment to your membership application.	