

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

Winter Newsletter



These two J.W. Ludlow prints truly capture what we should be aiming to re-create here in Australia. This edition has a great article for Cochin breeders on page 26, talking in depth about Cochin type.



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The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia Annual Show. 3rd August 2014 Queanbeyan Showgrounds

Things to remember:

Penning of Birds, Friday 1st August (by prior arrangement) **4:30pm-6pm**
 Saturday 2nd August, **5pm-6pm**
 Sunday 3rd August, **6am-9am**
 All Exhibits **must** be penned by Sunday 3rd August, **8.55am**
Judging starts, Sunday 3rd August, **9am**
AGM, Saturday 2nd August **3pm**
Club Dinner, Saturday 2nd August **6:30pm**
Venue for AGM: Golden Age Motor Inn, we are joining the Canberra Queanbeyan Poultry Club, confirm bookings with Peter Shands on 0401 832 395
 email contact for dinner bookings and prior arrangement of Friday penning - peter.shands@bigpond.com

Editor's Report

By Franz Mahr

Well, here it is... Our Winter newsletter.

This year we decided to take a bit of a trip down memory lane by republishing one of my favourite articles by Lance Hicks; he definitely knew his stuff when it came to the genetics of poultry. We have also included a two page spread of our previous shows with past and present club members.... It has been fun looking back at the history of the club but let's not forget about moving forward. We have had a lot of new members join this year and our website seems to be a worldwide hit! And so it should be with the wealth of information it contains!

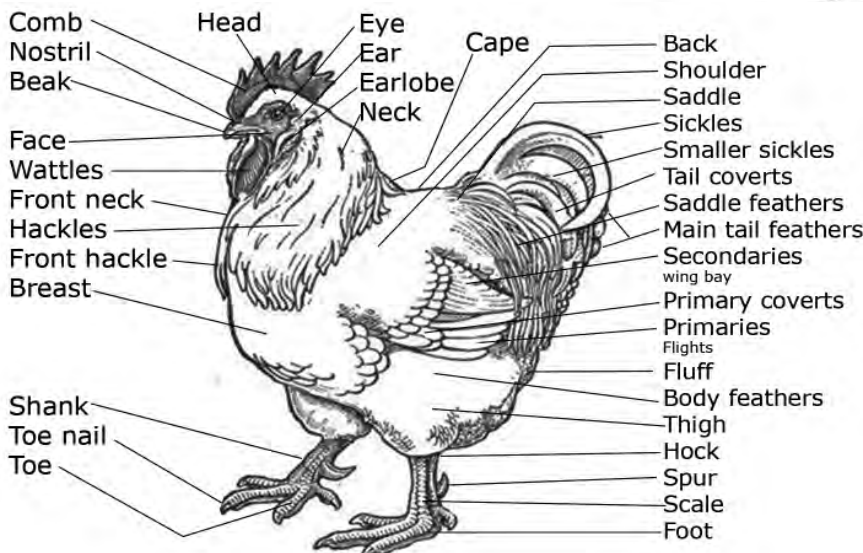
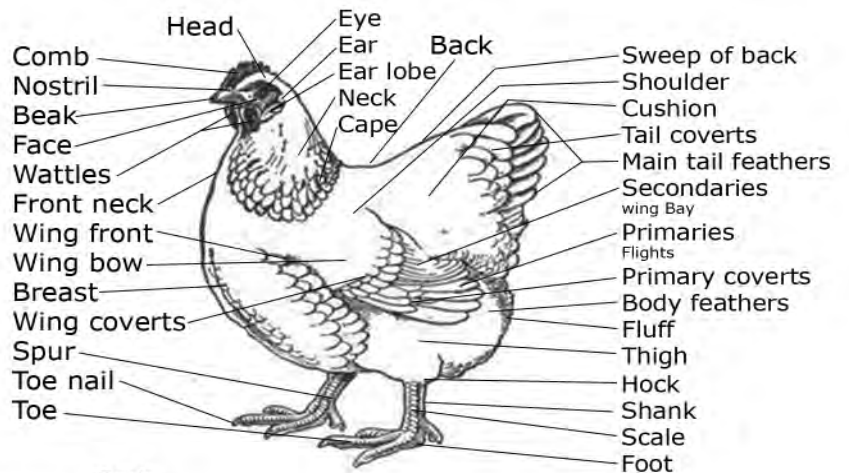
It has been a bit of a hectic year for the Mahr family, what with work, life, and having too many hobbies. I seem to keep running out of time!!! But it has proved to be a great breeding season with over 450 chicks hatched from about 600 eggs set! With a number of visits from Bryan and Mellissa during summer, we were able to work through the large numbers of chicks and remove about 50% each time. This quickly brought the numbers down, however I do seem to have a lot of cockerels still.

It was a bit of an experimental year in colour creation and it seems to have paid off. My black lines have benefited from some Croad Langshan blood, and a rooster Bryan created from an Orpington Cochin cross has allowed me to produce some nice Blue, Splash, Light Columbian, and Buff Columbian birds. A few of these birds will be at the show this year along with my Gold Laced and White laced lines. Both of which have also improved.

I have also completed two new breeding runs and upgraded my cockerel/pullet run. The new shed is finished and working well, but it still needs dividing in half to keep birds separate. This year's long hot summer prompted me to install a misting unit in all of my runs as well. I was really impressed with how much better my birds coped on those scorching days, and they quickly learnt to sit under the misters to really cool off! I am in the process of writing an article on what I did, and this will be published along with one Mellissa has written on keeping her birds cool in our Summer newsletter. There will also be articles on Posting Eggs, Poisonous plants for chooks, and much more! Our new club logo has been roughed out and will be redrawn soon. Until then, please feel free to comment on any changes you think are necessary. Also the standard and colours guide has had to be put on hold until I have sorted out a few work related issues, but things should start again soon... hopefully.

Cheers, and see you all at the show.

Poultry Anatomical Descriptions



President's report

By Bryan Jon Meade

HI ALL BRAHMA AND COCHIN BREEDERS

I hope you all have had a great summer and a great, long, autumn, I am sure all our brahmas and cochin are glad the summer is over as the hot weather is not to their liking. The young cockerels and pullets that were born last spring should be looking good and it is now up to you, the breeder, to pick the best for the show at Queanbeyan on the 3rd of August, but they still have to compete against last year's champs.

I was able to get up to the Central Coast for a few days and I caught up with some of our brahma and cochin breeders. These were Don and Betty Jones, Cindy Pretty, Luke and Roger Price and Joanne Aggar. I was made very welcome by all and I stayed at Michelle and Roger's place and was really looked after, so a big thank you to those guys.

It was great to see the work that Don and Cindy have done to improve their Brahmas. Don had Dark Brahmas with a dewlap and had got some size into them, also their wings were horizontal and he has got the size of his combs down to a small pea comb. He is currently working on bantam Light Brahma at the moment and that is a very interesting story in itself. Give him a ring, he is a very interesting person to chat with about Brahmas. Don lifted up lino in an old house and saw a picture and a story about chooks (Brahmas) that had died out in Australia in 1947, and this was in the fifties, so he set about recreating them. So, many years down the track and he is still working on them. Cindy and myself all left with bantam Brahmas to work with. It was great to catch up with Cindy, as she is very busy and is off over to the states with her job but hopes to be back for the show.

Luke and I spent many hours setting up breeding pens and giving all the brahmas a good spruce up. The hardest thing was to do a serious cull, especially all the roosters; but as we all know, it makes the birds that are left have a better environment and are under less stress. Thanks to Roger, Luke has a great set up. Roger looks after them all while Luke is back home and work in Adelaide.

We are so lucky in our club, catching up with other breeders and friends, sharing breeding tips, and giving and sharing our birds between our members. Celeste Graham, a new member, sent a lovely email thanking Mellissa and myself for help getting her started in breeding Brahmas. She is travelling interstate for a wedding and is going to call on Franz for some Brahma breeding tips, so she is in good hands.

This year I have been to John Rogers at Buckley, down to Franz on the Morning Peninsula, Mellissa at Drouin, Joys at Gormandale, Maggie at Wonga park and nearer to home, Kate Bradley, a Partridge Brahma breeder in Bairnsdale. It was like the good old days with Lance Hicks, when we travelled from Tassie to the Central Coast and many places in between.

I hope to see as many members as possible at our show in Queanbeyan this August.



Luke Price, Betty Jones, Cindy Pretty, Don Jones



A few of Don and Betty's Light and Dark Brahmas.....

Joy and John's new chook runs.

By Bryan Jon Meade

Welcome to new members Joy and John Ross. They have chosen to breed Speckled and Barred Buff Brahmas, and as both colours are hard to come by it is great to have them working on these colours.

John has been very busy building new breeding pens and they have all been constructed out of recycled materials and even the feeders are recycled paint drums! In the large growing out pen John has used old ladders as perches and these can be lifted out for easy cleaning, so I have no excuse for not getting my new breeding pens under way.

I had a very enjoyable day there thanks to Joy and John.



Joy and John's "new" chook runs.



Re-used Paint Bucket feeders



Removable ladder perches



Speckled Brahma pair.

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

Vice President's report

By Mellissa Mathe

Hi Everyone, Just a few words on my experiences at last year's Brahma and Cochin Show. We left for Canberra on the Friday before the show. Arriving in Canberra around 4 pm, Rialeigh, Brittany and I checked into our cabin and unpacked. Saturday morning Janet Ferguson, who was also staying at the same place, called in to say hello. Our birds got a quick clean up after their 9 hour trip in our trailer. Well done, Rialeigh. Late morning Franz and Tash arrived and after about an hour we all proceeded down the street to meet everyone for the AGM.

The AGM was very enjoyable, largely due to Luke's wonderful Chairman skills. All in attendance were very positive about the club, grateful to those key members who have kept things going so well in the past, and hopeful to ease the work load on just a few, so as a result we had several people put their hands up for jobs. There were some exciting new ideas and projects raised for discussion, and I think all in attendance felt it was a positive, productive meeting. Saturday night, after a lovely dinner with the Queanbeyan Poultry Club, we headed back to a Cabin, where we had a few drinks and talked poultry. Sunday morning, up early to start penning birds by 9am. It was great to see our younger members getting along so well. I was watching Tash(Franz's daughter) wiz around penning and preparing birds quickly and efficiently. Rialeigh and Britt were a great help to me with our birds.

It was a very enjoyable day walking up and down the rows of the Brahma and Cochin and talking to interested people about our lovely breeds. There were many highlights to the day. Watching people working so well together on a common cause was certainly one. Meeting some potential new breeders and even putting faces to some of the names I have spoken to on the phone or online. I do hope we will see even more people make the effort to bring some birds this year. It really is a great weekend. Thanks to everyone for making it so wonderful.

Home from the Show and our feet barely touched the ground when we were back into the swing of the breeding season.



Some of my chicks in my new HUGE brooder, Charlie and Rialeigh made.

I have set up pens as follows, for last season. Black Brahma Hens with a Blue Brahma Boy for a short time, and then with my Black Brahma boy, bred last season. My Dark hens are with a Dark Boy and a Silver Crele Boy. I am very keen to build up numbers in silver crele, as there are so few around. My Gold Crele Brahma Boy, has his Gold Crele hens with him, The Gold Partridge Pen has a Lovely Gold Partridge Boy (on loan from Bryan), and My Gold Partridge hens. (season 2013).

Now to my Cochin – My Buff pen is going along well. I have divided it into two, as I have a lot of hens and WAY too many boys. I have used The Boy I used last season for a couple of months over 4 hens, one of them being his daughter I bred last season. I currently have a few boys without hens as I am waiting for a pen. Things will be moved around this week. By mid Oct I already had 5mth old Buff Chicks, which were coming along nicely (I am very pleased to say). I don't have a Buff Cochin in my pens who doesn't have bright yellow legs. My Black pen is looking great, with a lot of decent sized birds in there. My goal last season in the Blacks was to increase size and I feel the match of my hens to a HUGE Rooster I purchased from Lisa Burley will achieve this goal (Thanks Lisa). Of course this will help my Blue Line in the future too.

My Blue Cochin are also hatching away. This pen has a lot of broodies and it is not uncommon to see 2-3 hens all wanting to sit in the same laying box (silly things). My Partridge Cochin Project is moving in the right direction. It is rather exciting seeing them hatch. Of course it will be a long time before I really start to see these looking the way they should, but I am glad the project has begun. Last but not least we come to our Lace Cochin. We have several Gold Laced chicks running around, but as anyone who works with lace knows, time will tell what they turn out like. The Silver laced have been a bit slower. When you do as many colours as we do, you have to hatch Huge numbers of chicks to do anything justice. I would expect we will be up around the 700 again this year by the end of the season. As most of you know I had a stroke in March 2013. My family did a massive effort to not only look after me, but still manage to keep our breeding program on target. Many thanks to them and all the members who showed concern and kindness during this difficult time.



Brittany Mathe with Bryan's old Speckled Hens

As well as trying to hatch lots to improve my flock, I have also been trying to help some new breeders with theirs. I sent two boys to Tasmania; both arrived fit and healthy, and their new owners were delighted with them. I have also sent eggs to help a lovely lady in QLD, and some across to a very keen new Brahma Breeder in WA. Everyone got good hatches which was pleasing to both them and me. I hope everyone had a successful breeding season. From the birds I have seen being displayed on the facebook page it looks like people are moving ahead with their lines.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bryan for the use of his birds and the encouragement he has shown both my kids. Rialeigh is always in his ear about something poultry related, And he has shown Brittany a lot of kindness, when she recently lost the imports and was very upset about the fact she would not be getting mottled birds. Bryan kindly explained how to create this colour and offered her the use of his precious and very rare speckled Brahma. It was Cochin that were coming in the imports but she is over the moon about the prospect of one day having mottled Brahma. It is wonderful what we can achieve when we work together. Well that pretty much sums up past events. I can't believe we are almost at breeding season again already. This season, I will mainly be focusing on my dark Brahma and silver crele lines. I am confident my Buff Cochin will keep moving along due to the fact I recently sent a good number of them to two Breeders in QLD who I know will continue working on them.

I am currently working on getting the best trio of partridge Brahma together I can, to send to a very keen breeder in WA, who is making her way over from Western Australia to our annual show, It is going to be great to meet her. We also have another new breeder making her way to the show from Queensland. It is fantastic to have so much enthusiasm, in our breed and club.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new members and Wish everyone a successful and enjoyable breeding season. Take care everyone.

Website Manager's Report

By Luke Price

Well my Dad and I have had a reasonable 13/14 breeding season, with a number of nice fowl produced. The bantam Birchin Brahma are really coming along. After several years of work we're satisfied enough with them to let a few pairs of this rare bantam colour go to interested people. Several of our other bantam colours have made substantial improvements including; the Pile, Blue Dark, Blue Partridge and Cream Partridge. A recent visit from Bryan resulted in about 50 excess birds being moved on...it was a slightly painful but necessary process...thanks so much for your help Bryan! I guess almost 30 spare roosters is a little excessive. Bryan and I spent many hours putting together breeding pens for this season. Having a second opinion and different perspective really helped with the decision making process. Bryan went home with two bantam Pile Brahma males to help improve the Pile Brahma in bantams and create large Pile Brahma. Bryan has some very good quality Wild Type (as in female Welsummer colour) Brahma females that he is pairing with the Pile boys.

It was also great to briefly catch up with Don and Betty Jones, Cindy Pretty and Joanne Aggar whilst Bryan was in town. Don has started work on a line of bantam Light Brahma by crossing his bantam Dark Brahma to Large Light Sussex. The results of his first cross have been nothing short of amazing! See Bryan's article on page # of this newsletter to hear more about Don's WIP Light bantams. In addition to her columbian patterned (Light, Blue Light, Blue Buff, Buff) bantams, Cindy, with the help of Don and myself, is also working on bantam pullet breeding Silver Pencilled and Blue Silver Pencilled bantam Brahma. Joanne breeds several colours in large and bantam Brahma and has been working hard to create pullet breeding lines of large Partridge and Dark Brahma. To do this Joanne is using exceptional quality large pullet breeding Silver Pencilled and Partridge Wyandottes. The results so far have been spectacular. When Joanne is finished with some of her first crosses I'll definitely be putting my hand up for a couple so I can cross them into my pullet breeding bantam partridge to improve the size and head. Mellissa, Rialeigh and Brittany Mathe have also crossed large pullet breeding Partridge Wyandotte to partridge Brahma, with, from what I hear, excellent results. I'm really looking forward to seeing some of their first crosses in the WIP section at this year's show.

We're also taking full advantage of having the breeding pens set up early in the season. With a few settings under broody hens and the help of my friends the Pratt Family and Joanne Aggar, who are kindly incubating some eggs for us, we have been trying to hatch every egg we can.

By hatching from hens that lay in winter we should retain the winter egg laying traits in our flock. Winter egg laying is a characteristic trait of the Brahma fowl. With a few years of continuing this practice there should be a much higher percentage of females in our pens that lay through winter. Although we are working with Brahma, the same principal would apply for Cochin or any other breeds of fowl. At the time of writing (early June) we already have a number of chicks on the ground.

I was at the Central Coast Poultry Club show in May and briefly caught up with Neal and Linda Lynch. It was great to catch up with them. They had some Dark and Light bantam Brahma at the show and won Champion Brahma with a Bantam Dark Cock. Neal also introduced me to Zizhong Wang who had some nice large Light Brahma entered in the show. I have sent some club info to Zizhong Wang and look forward to seeing him at future shows. The Central Coast Poultry Club (CCPC) are big supporters of the Brahma and Cochin Breeds; last year making them the feature breeds of the show. Brittany and Rialeigh took out some major awards at the CCPC in 2013 – check out our website 'Latest News' post to see more details.

Our website membership continues to grow and currently sits at 153 members. I have steadily been adding content to the website and refining resources. 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. Be sure to check out my Traffic Update on page 15. At the time of writing our Facebook group sits at 1,328 members; several hundred more than this time last year. Our Facebook group also has several resource links. By clicking on 'Files' at the top of our Facebook group under the group photo you will find information about common faults, Brahma and Cochin type, feather colours and patterns, and more. Look forward to seeing you at the show.

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

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

Financial Statement for 2013-2014

Income & Expenditure

	2013-2014		2013-2014
	\$		\$
Income:		Expenditure:	
Membership subscriptions	1,350	Trophies, medals and sashes	567.39
Donations	220	Miscellaneous	0
Annual Dinner	0	Administration:	0
Sponsorship	0	telephone, stationary, post	0
Raffle	0	Miscellaneous	0
Grants	0	Other	0
Miscellaneous	0	Total	567.39
Other	0		
Total	1,570		
Surplus for Season	1,003		

Balance

	2013-2014
Opening Balance	2718.85
Total Income	1570.00
Total Expenditure	567.39
Closing Balance	3721.46

Membership Renewals Are Now Due for 14/15

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 45 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

Cochin's Corner

by Paul Rodgers

Well fellow breeders, I hope your year has been a good one. Doesn't time fly, a lot has happened this year. The disappointment of the new bloodlines from the UK are now behind us and I have heard that a number of breeders including myself are getting on with the business of creating new colours in our beloved Cochins.

As many know colour makes the variety but TYPE makes the breed. So in creating new colours we must take care that after all the hard work, we end up with a Cochin and not a black or white or what ever that resembles a Langshan or Sussex with foot feathers, I think you get the drift. As I have said many times before, Cochin type is one of the hardest things to get right, profuse feathering is not the natural form of the Gallus genus. You only have to look at the jungle fowl and other wild forms of poultry to see that.

I know all may not agree with me but the only large fowl we have here in this country that is close to the Cochin type is the Black and Blue Orpington and possibly some White Orpingtons and White Wyandottes. They are the breeds we need to produce the type with Black Pekin or buff Cochin to bring in the foot feather. This is for those wanting to start from scratch. It will take 5 or 6 years to get there depending on if the Pekin blood is carrying the dwarf gene. I have seen a Buff Cochin X Bantam Columbian Wyandotte female that was nearly as big as her Cochin father! She would have passed for a fairly decent buff Columbian Cochin with a rosecomb :)

I would tend to recommend buff Cochin, because size is not easy to get once crossing with bantams. Gold from the buff cochin will not be that easy to breed out but can be done. I have found it easier when crossing Buff with White than Buff with Black....

Crele Cochins are easy to make just cross Buff Cochins with Crele Brahma or Silver Crele. Buff Cochin female to Silver Crele Brahma male and select for single combs and cochin type.

Cuckoo Cochins can be created by crossing Cuckoo Brahma or Cochin if you are lucky to find one spare with Black Orpingtons, they also should not take that long to create.

For those who are already breeding these colours keep going and with patience and hard work the effort will be worth it. It will be interesting to see what turns up at the show in these colours.

.All the best with breeding this spring and good luck to those who attend our show.



One of my Buff Cochin hens



Buff Cochin rooster

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

DRAFT Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting By Luke Price

Saturday 3rd August 2013 - 3 pm
Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Opening remarks / welcome **3.00 pm**

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

Introductions and apologies **3.10 pm**

Members in attendance: Bryan Meade, Roger Price, Luke Price, Melissa Mathe, Rialeigh Mathe, Brittany Mathe, Cindy Pretty, Joanne Aggar, Franz Mahr, Natasha Mahr, Corrine Lynch, Emily Lynch, Kylie Sparkes, Janet Ferguson, Stewart Ferguson.

Apologies: Don Jones, Neil and Linda Lynch, Erik Black, Victoria Fulton, Valda Jackson, Joel Giusti.

Minutes of 2012 AGM **3.20 pm**

Minutes tabled – no amendments proposed.

Matters arising from previous minutes **3.25 pm**

No matters arising

Adoption of annual reports

Motion that the minutes be accepted:

Moved Bryan Meade *Seconded* Cindy Pretty *Accepted* Yes

Annual executive reports

President **3.30 pm**

Main report provided in the Winter newsletter 2013. Additional comments - the club constitution needs updating now that The Brahma club of Australia and the Cochin Breeders Group of Australia have amalgamated. More people are required to help share the load on the few core people that keep the club running.

Vice President **3.40 pm**

No report

Secretary **3.40 pm**

Main report provided in the Winter newsletter 2013.

Editor **3.45 pm**

Main report provided in the Winter newsletter 2013. Additional comments – Need more content for the newsletter e.g. How I started. It would be great to have some people helping to source content for the newsletter and send it to Franz. Would be prepared to produce two newsletters a year if more people were providing content.

Adoption of annual reports

Motion that the executive reports be accepted:

Moved Franz Mahr *Seconded* Cindy Pretty *Accepted* Yes

Presentation of accounts (Treasurer) **4.00 pm**

The treasurer's report was included in the Winter newsletter 2013.

Adoption of accounts

Motion that the accounts be accepted:

Moved Mellissa Mathe *Seconded* Joanne Aggar *Accepted* Yes

Correspondence (Secretary) **4.10 pm**

Correspondence – email from Valda Jackson regarding changes to the Cochin standard. Email presented to those in attendance and will be considered when developing a Brahma and Cochin Standards and Colours Guide. Bryan received a sash from Dallas Smith to be presented at the annual club show as an award.

New emblem for the Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia**4.15 pm**

Discussion around the shape and content of emblem. Discussion led to general consensus around an oval design with two cock birds (one Cochin and one Brahma) facing each other. Based on Lewis Wright style birds.

Actions arising

Franz Mahr to mock up basic logo concept design based on old cochin and brahma drawings by Lewis Wright and run past committee members for comment and final decision.

Franz Mahr to contact Zoe Watts and ask to draw a logo for the club

Creation of new club positions**4.30 pm****Discussion around the club positions proposed and needed.**

Motion – That officers of the club jointly listed under section b) III) ‘Officers of the Club’ be listed as individual positions following on from III) in chronological order; and the word ‘Honorary’ be removed from the title Honorary Secretary so that the title of the officer shall simply be Secretary; and that a new officer of the club position be created and called Liaison/Publicity Officer and that this position can be jointly held by more than one person.

Moved Luke Price **Seconded** Bryan Meade **Accepted** Yes

Motion – That a new officer of the club position be created and called Vice Secretary.

Moved Mellissa Mathe **Seconded** Franz Mahr **Accepted** Yes

Motion – That a new officer of the club position be created and called Website Manager.

Moved Mellissa Mathe **Seconded** Cindy Pretty **Accepted** Yes

Discussion around the roles of officers of the club. General consensus that the Editor compiles the newsletter and distributes to members, the Vice President will provide support to the President and club members, Liaison/Publicity Officers will help with promotion of the brahma and cochin breeds, maintaining a breeders directory and provide content to the Editor for the newsletter and website manager to be added to the website and Facebook page e.g. when various poultry shows will be held. General consensus that role descriptions need to be developed and drafted by relevant officers of the club, discussed and finalised by the committee during the year.

Election of the Office Bearers**4.55 pm****President**

Candidate: Bryan Jon

Moved: Franz Mahr **Seconded:** Cindy Pretty **Accepted** Yes

Vice President

Candidate: Mellissa Mathe

Moved: Bryan Meade **Seconded:** Franz Mahr **Accepted** Yes

Secretary

Candidate: Corrine Lynch

Moved: Mellissa Mathe **Seconded:** Luke Price **Accepted** Yes

Treasurer

Candidate: Bryan Meade

Moved: Luke Price **Seconded:** Joanne Aggar **Accepted** Yes

Editor

Candidate: Franz Mahr

Moved: not recorded **Seconded:** Roger Price **Accepted** Yes

Patron

Candidate: Cindy Pretty

Moved: Bryan Meade **Seconded:** Franz Mahr **Accepted** **Yes****Vice Secretary**

Candidate: John Roger

Moved: Mellissa Mathe **Seconded:** Bryan Meade **Accepted** **Yes****Website Manager****Candidate: Luke Price****Moved:** Cindy Pretty **Seconded:** Joanne Aggar **Accepted** **Yes****Liaison/Publicity Officers**

Candidates: As joint appointments

John Roger**Moved:** Mellissa Mathe **Seconded:** Kylie Sparkes **Accepted** **Yes****Kylie Sparkes****Moved:** Kylie Sparkes **Seconded:** Mellissa Mathe **Accepted** **Yes****Joanne Aggar****Moved:** Kylie Sparkes **Seconded:** Mellissa Mathe **Accepted** **Yes****Mellissa Mathe****Moved:** not recorded **Seconded:** not recorded **Accepted** **Yes****Break****5.20 pm****General Business****Online Photo Competition****5.30 pm**

John Roger via Mellissa Mathe proposed the club hosts an online photo competition to get more people involved in the club. Ideas for categories include what colour is that and cutest chick. Suggested it is hosted on website and posted on Facebook page.

Franz Mahr suggested we have a web based photo show on our club website at the same time as Brahma/Cochin Show

Action arising

Liaison/Publicity Officers Kylie, John and Mellissa to develop a story board for the online show and photo competition.

Membership Fees**5.40 pm**

Kylie Sparkes raised that the membership fees are too low. Discussion ensued and there was a general consensus that fees should be raised.

Motion – That fees be raised as follows: family membership to increase to \$30 / year, single membership \$20 / year and junior membership \$10 / year with fees to increase from the 2014-2015 financial year.

Moved Franz Mahr **Seconded** Roger Price **Accepted** **Yes****Newsletters****5.50 pm**

Mellissa Mathe contributed that six people over the last year have provided feedback via the facebook page that they would like two newsletters produced each year. Discussion around the lack of content and burden of two letters on the editor if no help for content is provided. Mellissa, Kylie willing to help contribute content for the newsletter so that two newsletters can be produced each year.

Motion – That two newsletters be produced a year

Moved Mellissa Mathe **Seconded** not recorded **Accepted** **Yes****Venue for 2013 Show****6.00 pm**

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 2014 show.

Website and Facebook Site

6.05 pm

Online membership application and payments

Discussion around the current payment methods and general consensus this is working well.

New pages – e.g. FAQ

Luke Price raised we have the ability to add more content to the website and create more pages but require more people to assist with developing the content and providing it to Luke. Discussion around what type of content we could add.

Action arising

Kylie Sparkes to draft a FAQ for the difference between Cochin and Brahma

Action arising

Franz Mahr to write an article about Kangaroo Apple plants killing poultry when consumed.

Facebook

Discussion around buying/selling/swapping birds on the facebook page and ways to make this easier. Further discussion about the general need for information from the club to assist prospective buyers with selection of birds from sellers. Franz raised that as a club we could produce a guide for selling Cochin and Brahma.

Action arising

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

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

6.15 pm

Franz spoke about his ideas of developing a standards and colours guide. General consensus among members that this is a good idea.

Action arising

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

Other Business

6.20 pm

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.

Action arising

Liaison/Publicity Officers to draft a members starter pack for the committee

Meeting close

6.30 pm

Work In Progress (WIP) Class Brahma and Cochin

Our annual show features, a ‘Work In Progress’ class. Our WIP Class accomodates colours and strains still in development. 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 the Don Jones and Andrew Rathbone awards. 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.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 2nd August 2014 - 3 pm

Golden Age Motor Inn, Queanbeyan East, 56 Macquoid St

Draft Agenda

Opening remarks / welcome	3.00 pm
Introductions and apologies	3.10 pm
Minutes of 2013 AGM	3.20 pm
Matters arising from previous minutes	3.25 pm
Adoption of annual reports	
Motion that the minutes be accepted:	
Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N	
Annual executive reports	
Club President	3.30 pm
Vice President	3.40 pm
Secretary	3.45 pm
Editor	3.55 pm
Adoption of annual reports	
Motion that the executive reports be accepted:	
Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N	
Presentation of accounts (Treasurer)	4.05 pm
Adoption of accounts	
Motion that the accounts be accepted:	
Moved _____ Seconded _____ Accepted Y / N	
Correspondence (Secretary)	4.15 pm
Election of the Office Bearers	4.25 pm
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
Patron Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____	Accepted Y / N
Liaison/Publicity Officer	
Candidate(s) _____ Moved: _____ Seconded: _____	Accepted Y / N
Break	4.55 pm
Finalisation of Brahma and Cochin Club Emblem	5.05 pm
General Business	
Venue for 2013 Show	5.10 pm
Development of Judges Guide	5.15 pm
Website and Facebook Page	5.25 pm
Production of a Brahma and Cochin 'Standards and Colours Guide'	5.35 pm
New members starter pack	5.45 pm
Update on Actions from 2013 AGM	5.55 pm
Any other business	6.10 pm
Meeting close	6.20 pm

Traffic Update

By Luke Price

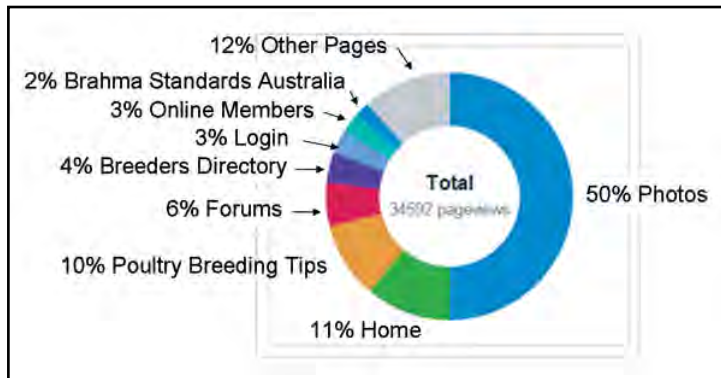
Website traffic that is! I'm pleased to report our website continues to receive regular visits from Brahma and Cochin enthusiasts around the world. I have downloaded site traffic information from the last 12 months to provide some summary statistics for our members. The information presented is from the 12 months prior to the 11 June 2014, when I extracted the data. For a small poultry club that focuses on just two breeds, the data is exciting.

Traffic is remaining fairly constant and as I gradually add new content and improve the avenues for people to find our site, I have no doubt traffic will increase. Although our Forums continue to be underutilised (due to the preferred use of ours and other Facebook pages), people regularly visit our website to view photos, forum posts, and obtain information from the variety of resources we offer.

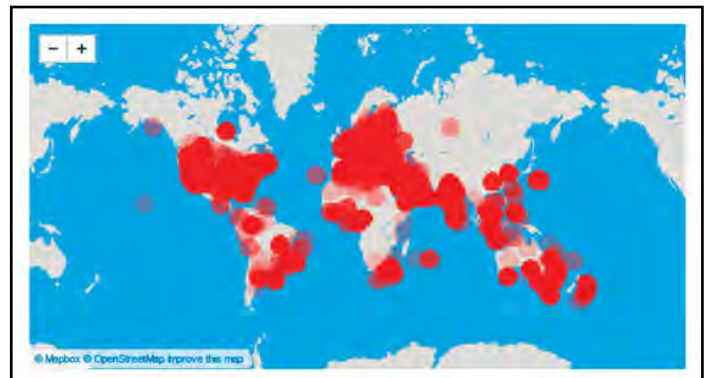


Total Number of visitors per month over the last 12 months. Note: June 2014 visitors is low because data is from a portion of the month - 1st to 11th of June

Facebook is likely to continue to be the preferred public forum for club members because of its accessibility and instant messaging. However, older conversations and posts with useful information appear to be easier to find on our website than on our Facebook page so our website will still perform a valuable function. Pages that have received the most views of the last 12 months include; Photo Albums, Home Page, Poultry Breeding and Genetics information, Forums, Breeders Directory, Brahma and Cochin standards of perfection and more. I'm always surprised to see just how many overseas people view our website. The map below shows the locations where people have accessed our site. The viewers in Hawaii, the middle of Russia and Madagascar stand out!



Page views displayed as a percentage of total views.



Locations of visitors to our site. Note: locations are slightly off centre (shifted to the right) on the map.

Over the last 12 months we received 42,440 page views with a monthly average of 2,829 page views. Our best Month was 4,280 around August, which is when our show is held. Our best week was 1274 and best day 454, with our daily average sitting at 91 page views.



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

The majority of people access our site from desktop computers with a much smaller percentage visiting from mobile phones and tablets. Sources of traffic are varied with 39% of people directly accessing our webpage, 34% finding it via links, 25% arriving via search engines and 2% through social media.

Overall our site performs very well, particularly since we don't pay for advertising or send regular email blasts to members. Why not increase our site stats and take a look around our website

today? Be sure to click on 'More' to find more of our website pages including; the Brahma and Cochin Standards, Poultry Breeding and Genetics Information, Memorial pages, Frequently Asked Questions and several other information packed pages. Click on the following link to visit our website today <http://brahmacochin.org/>

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

14th Annual Show

Sunday 3rd August 2014

The 2014 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 2014 show arrangement will be eligibility to win awards of the CQPC Annual and Rare Breed Show as well as our own club awards.

Entries Close **Saturday 26th July 2014** (For late entries contact Peter Shands on 0401 832 395 or Luke Price 0431 346 326 but there is no guarantee there will be a place for your exhibits)

Contact: Peter Shands ph: 0401 832 395. Email: peter.shands@bigpond.com

Schedule and entry form: available for download from our club website

<http://www.brahmacochin.org/2014-national-show> or via request at myentry@cqpoultryclub.com

Entry Fees: See CQPC Annual and Rare Breed Show schedule and entry form, available from Peter Shands.

Where: Queanbeyan Showground Poultry Pavilion, Glebe Avenue

Judges: Ross Summerell - Mt Tamborine Qld (Large) and Rod Lucht - Thagoona Qld (Bantam)

Time: 9am

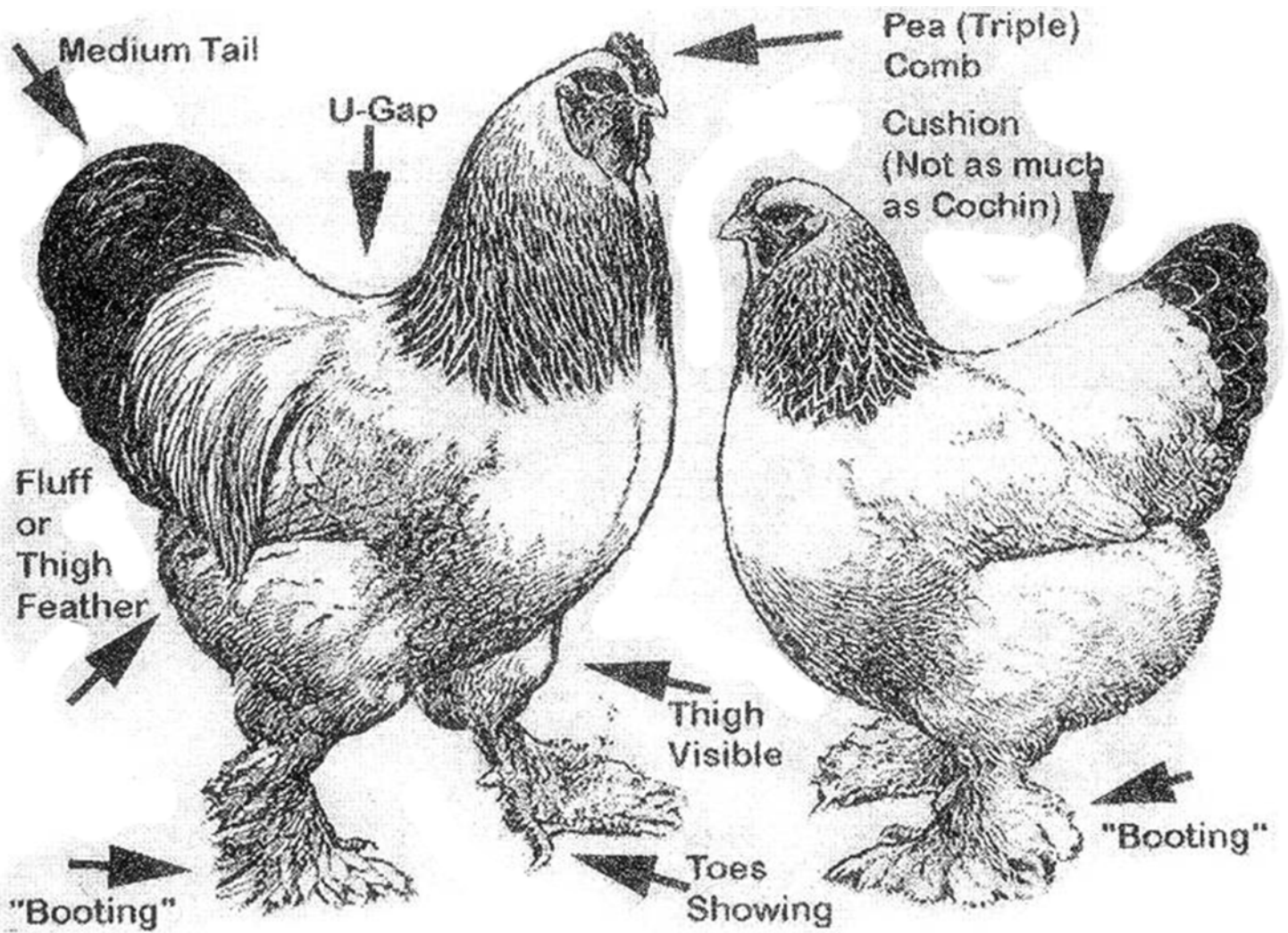
Chief Steward for Brahma and Cochin: Luke Price

Stewards: TBA

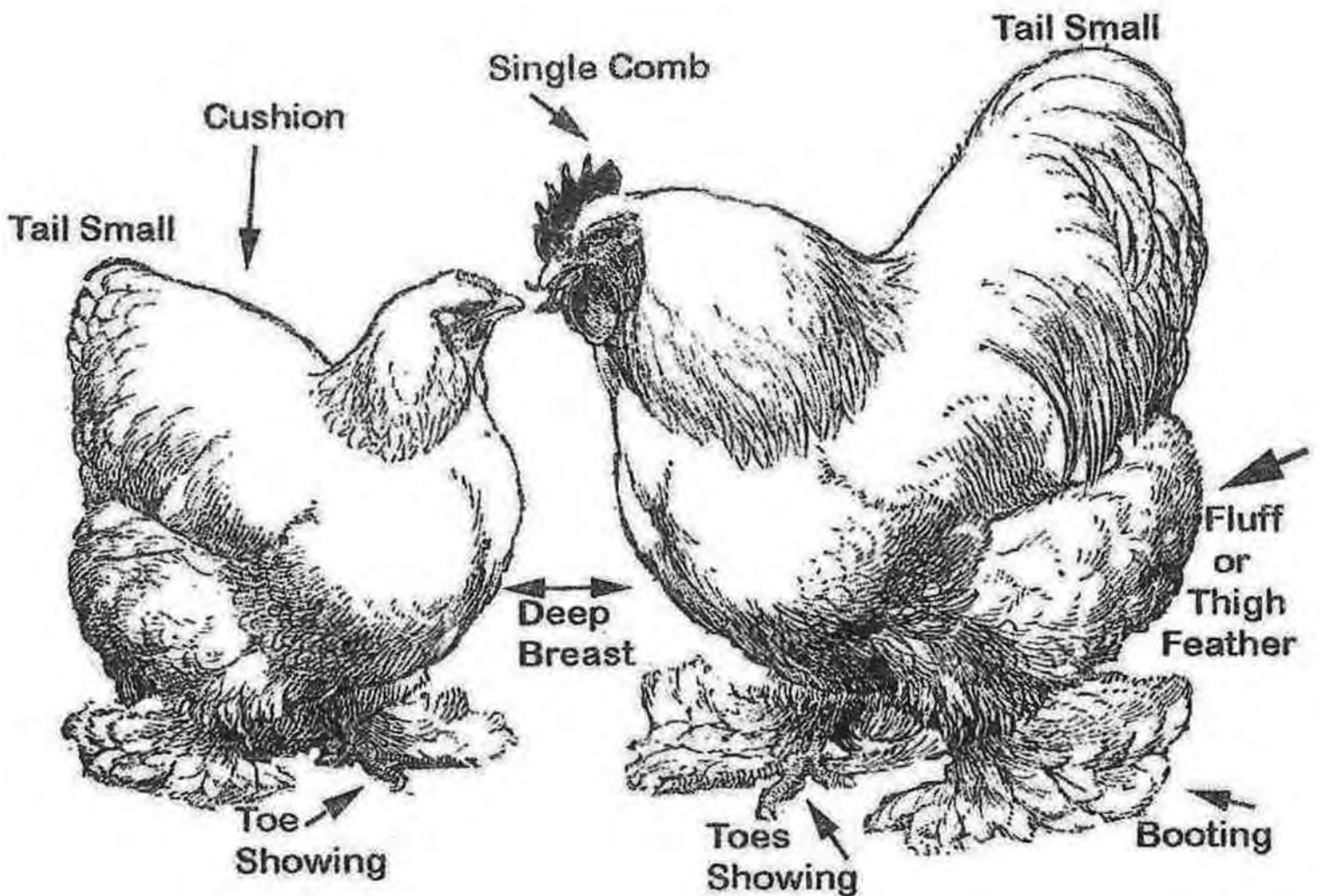
Penning: Exhibits must be penned before **8.55 am Sunday 3rd August**. The pavilion will be open between **7.30 am and 9 am and 4 pm and 6 pm on Saturday the 2nd August 2014 and before 8.55 am show day**. Exhibits can be penned on **Friday afternoon roughly between 4.30 pm and 6 pm** by prior arrangement, email myentry@cqpoultryclub.com.

Contact Peter Shands on 0401 832 395 or Luke Price on 0431 346 326.





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



Our Youngest Member Ever??

by Kate Bradley



This is Summer, aged 3, with one of her 'cheepers'. His name is Rumble. Summer helped her Mummy hatch 6 Brahma eggs, our first hatch. Summer would take the chicks out of the brooder and wrap them in a cosy blanky and sit with them on the couch or push them in her pram. She named them all, we have Rumble, Pinky, Patch, Holly, Pinky (mark 2) and Pork Chop. Great names don't you think? Summer loves going to help feed her cheepers and check for eggs. She is very excited as I have said she can enter her Rumble in the show.



Some of our Partridge Brahma Cockerels



Our Blue Partridge Brahma Boy

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>

How I Started

...and a little bit more

By Penelope (Pene) Gile

Hello everyone, thank you for welcoming me to The Brahma and Cochin Club.

I have lived in Tasmania for the last 6 years in a little slice of heaven on the banks of the Tamar River where I have enjoyed the company of Alpacas, Emden geese, Lavender Muscovy Ducks, Orphaned lambs, Two British Bulldogs (Gabby and Goober), a very talkative cockatoo “Jack”, a local cockatoo we call “Nelson”, a resident Kookaburra “Kookie”, and last but not least my lovely Brahma, Cochin and Wyandotte chickens... Oh and a very, very, very patient partner who threatens to have me committed on a regular basis ... usually when I’ve sat up all night watching chicken, goose or duck eggs hatch. I really don’t get him at all!



Figure 1. Home sweet home for the chooks (Fernando’s Hideaway)



Figure 2. Fernando the Main Man

After purchasing our semi-rural block and deciding we (I) wanted chickens I set about researching different breeds etc. I had an idea in my head of what a perfect chicken should be. I did some research on temperament and found that the light Brahma epitomised my idea of the ‘perfect chicken’. So the search was on. After several months I finally found some beautiful Lights and purchased some young birds, being seven pullets and two roosters from a lady at Pipers River. This was the beginning of my Brahma addiction.



Figure 3. Our hairy children Gabby and Goober

I bred Lights for about four years and was lucky enough to breed some birds worthy of winning blue cards in that time. I just love the overall handsome appearance of the Brahma and the gentle nature they possess.

Unfortunately my husband and I had to go overseas indefinitely in 2012 forcing me to re-home all my chickens and in fact all the farm animals except for the alpacas and the dogs.

Upon returning home it didn’t take long before I noticed how lifeless the property was without our gorgeous chickens. My husband went out and bought some Lavender Aracaunas because he wanted ‘Blue Eggs’ ... to him “a chook is just a chook” ... but he wanted blue eggs... go figure! They only lasted 3 months with me. ... crazy scatty birds that stampeded every time you approached the pens. I promptly sold them and proceeded to hunt for some Brahmas. I tried to source some Lights again but found them next to impossible to buy in Tasmania and I was not aware of this club at that time.

I eventually purchased two Blue Partridge pullets down south (simply because they sounded interesting) and after joining the club purchased a stunning Golden Crele Rooster from Mellissa Mathe. I have 2 doz. eggs from this trio in the incubator presently and can't wait to see the results of this trio.



Figure 4. My Brahma Trio

I had absolutely no idea how interesting and challenging breeding for colour would be and have really enjoyed learning about this aspect of Brahma breeding. I have found the club site an invaluable source of information and have learned so much since I joined. It's great to find so many people who love and enjoy chickens as much as I do.

During my quest to find some Brahmas I became aware of the Cochin breed, being drawn again by the gentleness of their nature. I recently bought a blue Cochin Rooster and 3 Blue splash pullets. I presently have 2 dozen Cochin eggs in the incubator as well. I also have 7 chicks from the Blue Cochin over the Blue Partridge Brahma girls that should be interesting to watch develop re colour.

Strangely though, since I've ventured into this colour breeding arena I seem to eat fewer eggs. I look at an egg now and wonder if it may be 'THE' egg that contains the correct gene combo and DNA to produce 'THE' best bird of the eggs collected... Am I losing it? ... Will this pass? I sure hope so! Are those men in white coats knocking on my door?



Figure 5. Blue splash pullets with blue Cochin rooster

I also have Wyandottes that reside in the paddock pen. These chickens are really good layers and keep neighbours and friends in good egg supply. I have a broody hen on one doz. eggs there at the moment. These lovely birds also share the very lay back nature of the Brahma and Cochin as you probably all know.



Figure 6. Chickens' view of the world

The roosts we have for our chickens are not state of the art by any means but they are homey, comfortable, clean and spacious. We are avid re-cyclers so most of the materials we used for the roosts are from re-cycled materials. We erected them ourselves and they have a sort of 'hippy abode' feel to them. They are modest pens but those lucky chooks have an incredible river front view and a lovely breeze off the river in summer. That I would be so lucky as to sit and chill on a hill with a million dollar view, free board and lodging, popping out an egg a day to justify my existence... who said chickens were dumb?



Figure 7. My new 'you beaut' double decker brooder

I consider myself a novice where breeding colour in Brahmas is concerned which would be clearly obvious by the questions I ask. I really appreciate all of the advice and information so generously given and look forward to learning as much as I can from you all in the future.

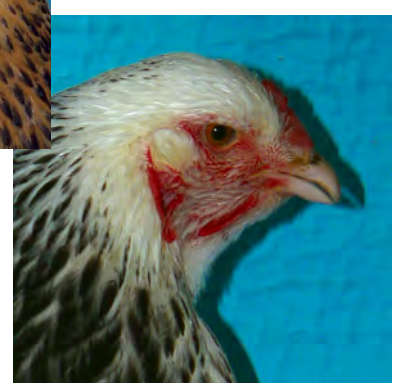
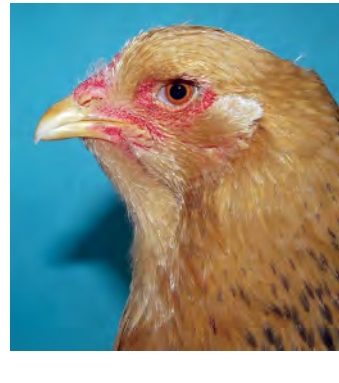
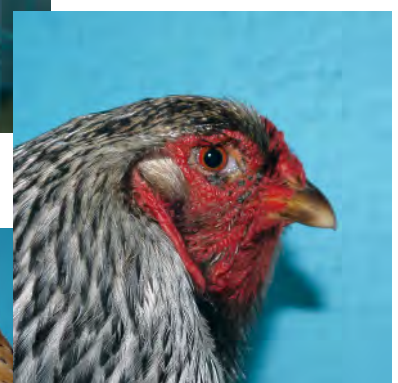
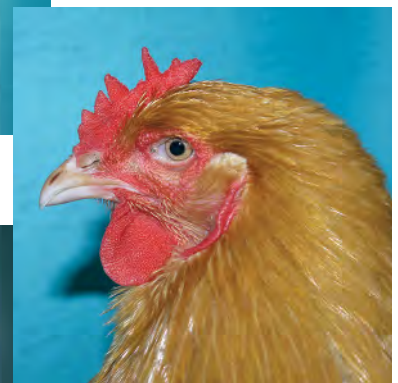
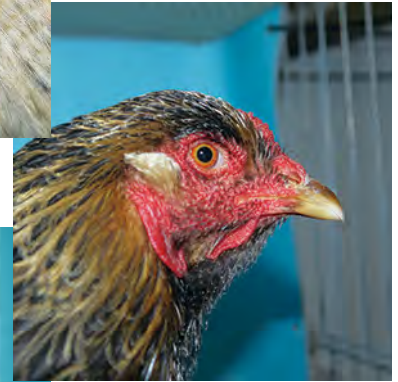
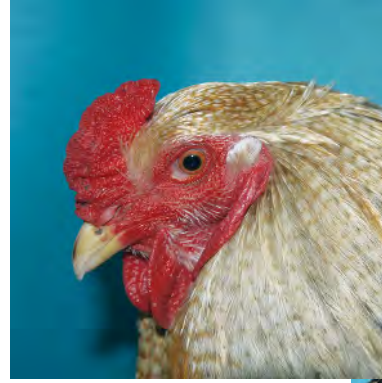
In conclusion my husband just built me a lovely new brooder for the newbies. I hope to continue to fill this brooder with ever improving specimens of these lovely breeds and maybe one day reach a point where I really feel "I might just know what I'm doing". I doubt that I will ever breed a perfect poultry specimen of any particular breed, and in fact that was never my intention when I started. I now however find the desire to continually improve has grabbed me and I'm sure I'll have a lot of fun in striving to improve my modest little flock.

Well that is my 'Chicken story'.
That's all folks



Figure 8. Good night folks

A selection of head shots from our 2013 Showbirds



The Brahma & Cochin Club of Australia

2013 Show Champions

Brahma

Champion of Show	Bryan Jon Meade & Lucas Barker	Standard Partridge Hen
Reserve Champion	Natasha Mahr	Standard Blue Laced Gold Pullet
Champion Standard	Bryan Jon Meade & Lucas Barker	Standard Partridge Hen
Champion Bantam	Neal & Linda Lynch	Bantam Light Cock
Best Hen or Pullet	Bryan Jon Meade & Lucas Barker	Standard Partridge Hen
Best Standard Light	Bryan Jon Meade	Hen
Best Standard Dark	Bryan Jon Meade	Hen
Best Standard Partridge	Bryan Jon Meade & Lucas Barker	Hen
Best Standard Columbian AC	Natasha Mahr	Buff Columbian Hen
Best Standard Self Colour AC	Maggie Zerboski	White Pullet
Best Standard Barred AC	Rialeigh Mathe	Golden Crele Pullet
Best Standard AOC	Franz Mahr	Gold Laced Pullet
Best Bantam Light	Neal & Linda Lynch	Cock
Best Bantam Dark	Don Jones	Cock
Best Bantam Partridge	No Birds Benched	
Best Bantam Columbian AC	Cindy Pretty	Blue Light Hen
Best Bantam Self Colour AC	No Birds Benched	
Best Bantam AOC	Don Jones	Silver Wheaten Pullet
Best Bantam Barred AC	No Birds Benched	
Best Standard Work In Progress	Natasha Mahr	Blue Laced Gold Pullet
Best Bantam Work In Progress	Luke Price	Pile Cockerel

Cochin

Champion Cochin	Emily Lynch	Buff Hen
Reserve Champion Cochin	Emily Lynch	Black Hen
Best Buff Cochin	Emily Lynch	Buff Hen
Best AOC Cochin	Emily Lynch	Black Hen
Best Work in Progress Cochin	Emily Patterson	Splash Hen

Recognition Awards

Best Hen / Pullet	Bryan Jon Meade & Lucas Barker
Lance Hicks Memorial Award	Luke Price
Judges Medallion	Kevin Collins
Breeder of the Year	Mellissa Mathe
Champion Junior Exhibitor	Emily Lynch
Andrew Rathbone award for Best Standard Light	Bryan Jon Meade
Don Jones award for Best Bantam Dark	Don Jones

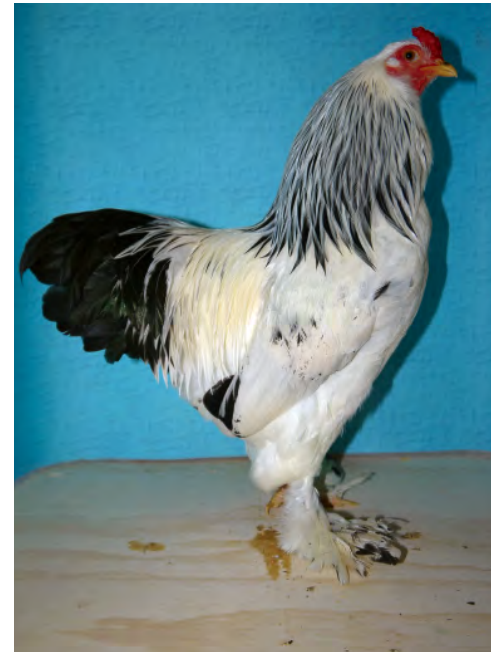
Brahma



Champion of Show, Champion Standard, Best Hen and Best Standard Partridge Brahma



Reserve Champion of Show and Best Standard Work in Progress Brahma.



Champion Bantam and Best Bantam Light Brahma



Best Standard Dark Brahma



Best Standard Columbian AC Brahma



Best Standard Light Brahma



Best Standard Barred AC Brahma



Best Standard AOC Brahma



Best Standard Self Colour AC Brahma



Best Bantam Dark Brahma



Best Bantam Columbian AC Brahma



Best Bantam AOC Brahma



*Dark Brahma Hen Late 1800's
by Kurt Zander.*



*Best Bantam Work in Progress
Brahma*



*Dark Brahma Male Late 1800's
by Kurt Zander.*

Cochin



Champion Cochin and Best Buff Cochin



Reserve Champion Cochin and Best AOC Cochin



Best Work in Progress Cochin



Buff Cochin Male at 2013 Show



Black Cochin Male at 2013 Show

Cochin Type

By Luke Price



Type (or breed type) refers to the general shape and conformation of a bird and is primarily what separates one breed from another. Type is bred and retained through careful selection of breeding pens...generally by breeding your 'best with your best'. Unlike some colour genes and comb types in poultry, the genetics of body shape is more complex and less understood. The feathering, muscling and skeletal structure is controlled by numerous genes and the interaction of gene combinations to create small or large differences in a particular attribute.

Breed standards are open to interpretation; some parts more than others. Most breed standards were written a long time ago, usually to help guide the breed's development as it was being improved and refined. Many

breed standards were influenced by trends which in some cases led to major changes in type and even breed utility. Even so, regardless of the breed history, we are left with an Australian standard of perfection that describes the 'type' of fowl we should strive to produce.

The first step towards becoming a breeder of top fowl is to know the standard of perfection and become familiar with its correct interpretation. By thoroughly studying the general characteristics of the breed, as outlined in the standard of perfection and represented (by interpretation) in the standard's illustrations (see J. W. Ludlow print above), you can develop an understanding of breed type. One of the best things you can do to help you with your poultry breeding endeavours is to develop a mental image of the perfect male and female of your chosen breed(s).

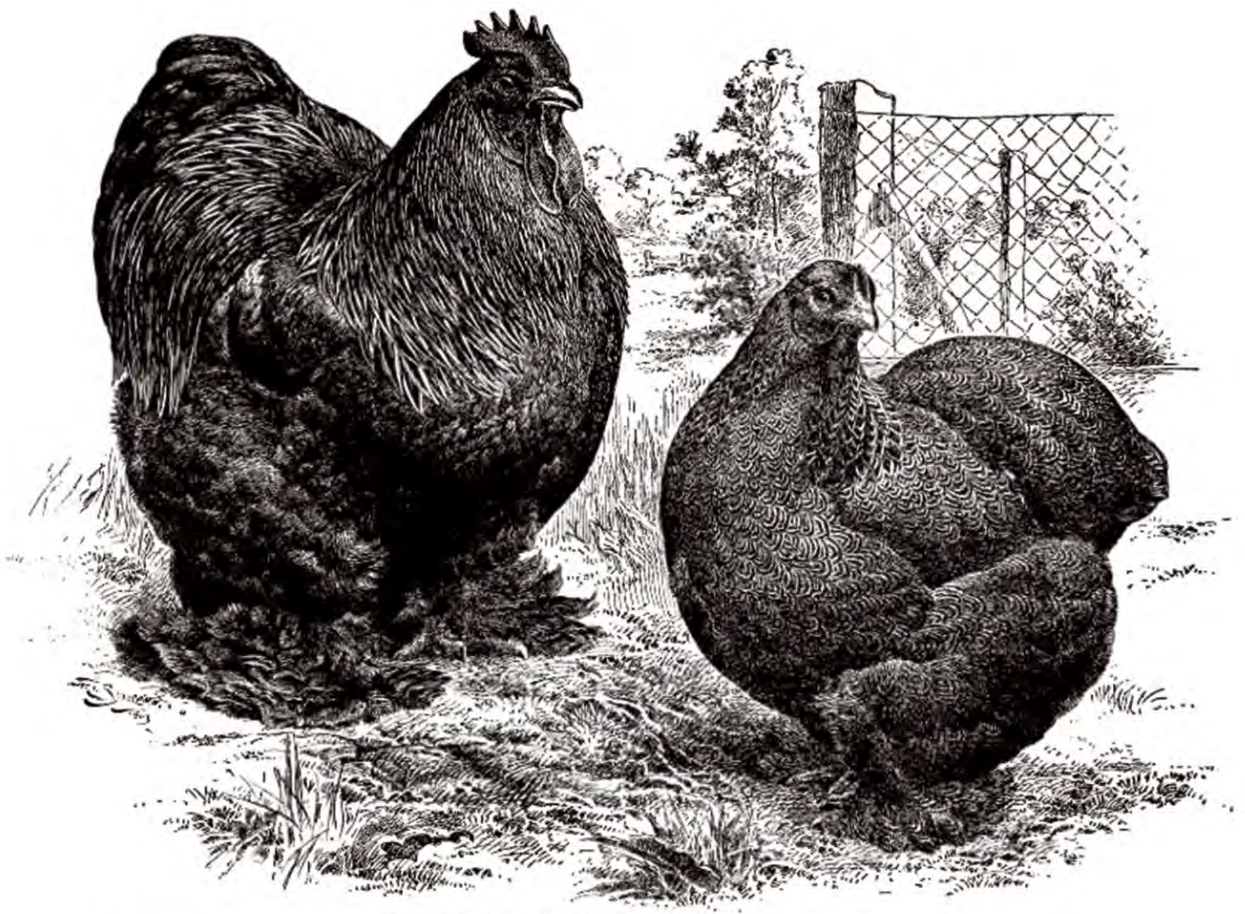
I have provided a selection of drawings of Cochin showing various interpretations of the breed standard through time and drawings of real life birds. I have purposely kept this article brief, preferring to let the images and drawings do the talking. I hope that by familiarising yourself with the Cochin type represented in the drawings it will help you to develop mental images of the perfect male and female Cochins. Once you have these mental images, hold on to them and use them for comparison when assessing type of Cochins. Placing a picture of perfect/ideal Cochins on a wall at home is a great way to help develop those mental images.

The 2nd edition Australian Poultry Standards can be purchased from the following website [2nd Edition Australian Poultry Standards](#).

The 1st edition Australian Poultry Standards for the Cochin breed can be found on our club's website [Cochin Standards Australia](#).



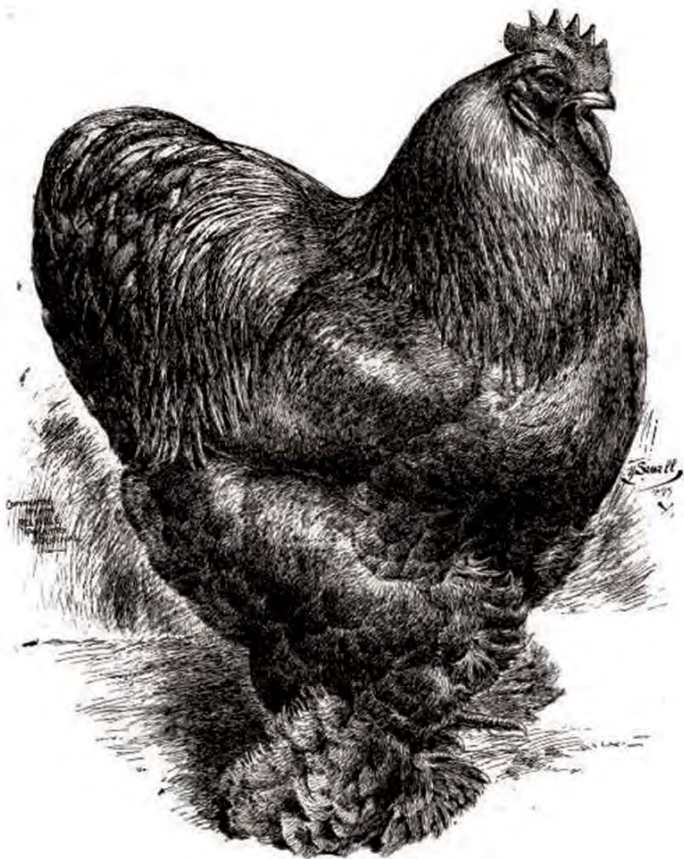
Ideal Buff Cochin - 1895 by Sewell



PRESENT-DAY PARTRIDGE COCHINS—By Sewell.

A Down-to-Date Pair of Partridge Cochins. Bred by George W. Mitchell, Who Has Done Much to Further the Interests of this Variety.

Caption reads: Present-Day Partridge Cochins – By Sewell 1895. A Down-to-Date Pair of Partridge Cochins. Bred by George W. Mitchell, Who Has Done Much to Further the Interests of this Variety.



COCHIN MALE SHAPE—By Sewell.

An Ideal Cochin. Drawn by Franklane L. Sewell for the Reliable Poultry Journal, under the Suggestions of Prominent Judges and Breeders—The Outcome of Criticism Upon the Cochin Male Shape Shown on the Opposite Page.



COCHIN FEMALE SHAPE—By Sewell.

An Ideal Cochin. Drawn by Franklane L. Sewell, for the Reliable Poultry Journal under the Suggestions of Prominent Judges and Breeders—The Outcome of Criticism Upon the Cochin Female Shape, Shown on the Opposite Page.

Ideal Cochin male and female shape - drawn by Franklane L. Sewell for the reliable poultry journal under the suggestions of prominent judges and breeders. The outcome of criticisms made on initial drawings by Sewell, 1895.

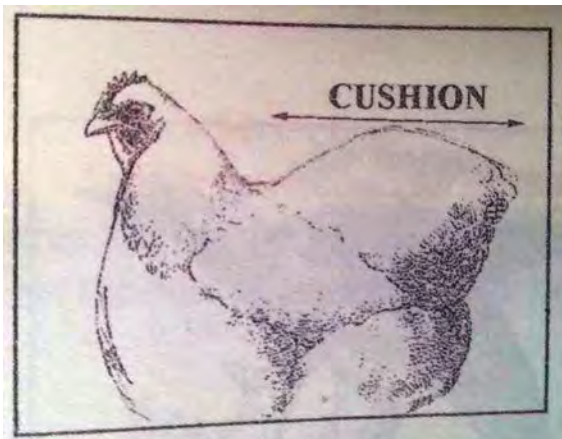


Plate 10 Partridge Cochins

Ideal Partridge Cochin Pair - drawn by J. W. Ludlow (Batty 2002)



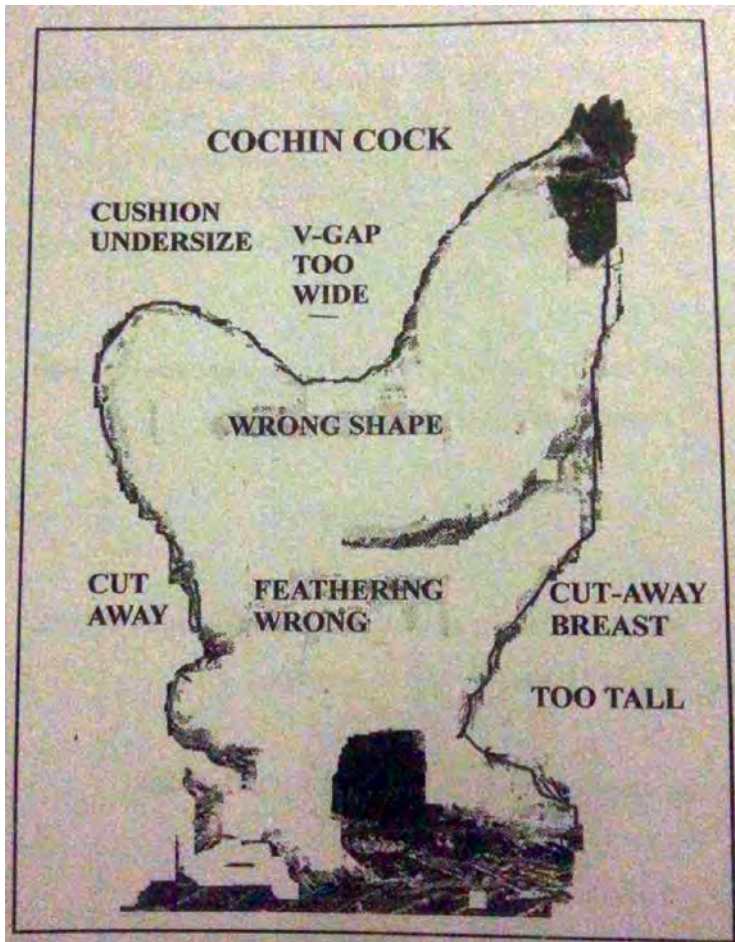
Black, Partridge and Buff Cochin (American Poultry Journal Publishing Company, 1908).



Cushion is an essential part of cochin type and is formed by thick feathering and fluff situated between the back and the primary tail feathers. Cushion starts in the middle of the back and rises in a mound, and then curves down to the tail (which should sit lower than the top of the curve of the cushion) to form the look of a cushion. On the female, the cushion should be exceedingly broad (wide), full and convex, rising from as far forward as possible and almost burying the tail. The male in this same saddle (cushion) area should be very broad and large with a gradual and decided rise towards the tail forming a harmonious line with it. The tail on both sexes should be small, soft, with as little hard quill as possible and carried low or nearly flat.

Sketch of Cochin Hen (Batty 2002).

Identifying Deviations From Type



Sketch of Tall Cochin Cock With Faults (Batty 2002).



White Cochin Cock with many good points and in good health. Some faults:

- Cushion not full enough
- Breast cuts away, being too shallow
- Thigh and leg feathering too weak, with gap between the two areas (Batty 2002).



Cochin Cock – Too hard in the feather, lacking under fluff, and much too tall. Resembles a Brahma, except for the head. Breast cuts away and does not extend to near the floor, which is also an indication that the legs are too long (Batty 2002).



Partridge Cochin Hen with many faults (Batty 2002).



Partridge Cochin Hen. Winner of many prizes in its day but still lacking in areas. A fine hen, well marked, although tail should finish lower and be more of a cushion. (Batty 2002). Also lacking in an abundance of thigh and leg feather and foot feather could be better.



Above: Ideal Buff Cochin. A pair drawn by J. W. Ludlow at the height of their show days (Batty 2002).

Below: Ideal Buff Cochin.

Hopefully this brief article has helped improve your understanding of Cochin type. You should now be familiar with some graphical interpretations of the Cochin standard and identifying some of the more common deviations from type (faults). Be sure to take some time out to study the standard of perfection to help improve your understanding of breed type and characteristics. Additionally, if you can find an expert Cochin breeder or long time breeder of fowls and seek their guidance it will really help. Good luck forming those mental images.



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Creating the Speckled Brahma

By Bryan Jon Meade

After seeing large Speckled Sussex, Lance Hicks and I thought that colour would look great on Brahmas. The speckled gene (mottling) is recessive, so it is very important that records are kept, as the offspring from a first cross with a non speckled bird will not show any speckling. In around August 2004 we set out to create the Speckled Brahma. We used the biggest Speckled Sussex we could find and paired to a Red-buff coloured Brahma. From this mating we hatched males and females that ranged in colour from red and buff or red-buff Columbian with and without blue; all with no speckling. All off the offspring from this first mating were split for speckling and had pea split blade combs, white legs, and barely any foot feather. We brother-sister mated the offspring and hatched many eggs. A small handful of the offspring from these mating were Speckled and an even smaller number had yellow legs, pure pea combs, profusely feathered legs and a good head with dewlap and overhanging brow.



Blue Speckled Brahma hen -Reserve Champion of Show at the 2007 annual show. Note - the very pale blue and lack of red enhancers.

In the years following (particularly between 2006-2008), we set up many breeding pens with various combinations of speckled and split for speckled birds. We even crossed back to Speckled Sussex again in 2006 to improve colour.

Pen 16				
9-07	Set	29		
10-07	Fertile		19	
11-07	Hatched Pullets			7
11-07	Set	11		
12-07	Fertile		11	
13-07	Hatched			6
14-07	Set	3		
15-07	Fertile		3	
16-07	Hatched			-
17-07	Set	20		
18-07	Fertile		19	
19-07	Hatched			11
				24

We also used some of the split speckled birds hatched from the first (Speckled Sussex x Brahma) mating for a number of breeding seasons. Lance was never concerned with brother to sister matings in poultry and many times pointed out that rabbits and trout did not have that problem either. However, he was meticulous regarding records. See the photo (left) of records, from one of our many notebooks, showing hatching success from breeding Pen 16 in September/October 2007. Interestingly, we only selected 2 cockerels and 3 pullets to go on with from the 24 chicks hatched from this pen.

Lance was always ready to help anyone with his genetics knowledge. I will never forget the last four digits of his phone number 1130 because it was at that time of night (11.30 pm) that he would ring to discuss Brahmas. I would often say '...its 11.30 and I have to go to work tomorrow, 'good night' and then we would still be on the phone for another 30 minutes.



Above: Blue Speckled Brahma Cockerel and Pullet at the 2008 annual show.

In 2009, Lance entered a Speckled Brahma hen and won Best Standard Brahma AOC with, one of the largest classes, at the annual club show. A fitting reward for all his hard work! Interestingly, Lance and I also won the Reserve Champion Brahma of Show in 2007 with an exceptional type Blue Speckled Pullet (pictured above) that at the time of the show we had entered as

a Blue Salmon due to an administrative error. Unfortunately, it was hard to consistently produce birds with type and characteristics of this calibre; leg feathering in particular being hard to maintain. Progress also slowed as we had to reduce the numbers we were hatching in Speckled to increase our work with the Dark and Light Brahma that weren't progressing as well due to a lack of attention. Unfortunately, pen space is always limiting and with poultry breeding, the numbers of eggs hatched is pretty much directly proportional to the quality of fowls you will produce.



Above: Head of Speckled Brahma Hen 2011 annual show.

The Lance Hicks Memorial Award is to encourage breeders to be daring and produce new colours. Luke Price won this award at the 2013 annual show. At the moment Luke is working on Pile Brahmas in bantam and as with the speckled, TYPE is everything.

I still have two old speckled hens but with moving farms and no room they went to Brittany Mathe to work with, unfortunately with no breeding success. Then they spent another year down at Franz Mahr's place with his large Speckled Brahma cock, again still no breeding success, despite being well fed and looked after by both Brittany and Franz. Now they are back with me and I am using them with a large Speckled Sussex Brahma cross cock bird. BUT they are egg eaters, moody and are not playing their part...just two very difficult females.

Despite the gains we have made, we still have a long way to go with the Speckled Brahma in Australia including; improving consistency of profuse foot feather (particularly in females), eradicating white legs, split wings and continuing to improve type and Brahma characteristics.

If you are interested in Speckled Brahmas there are a handful of breeders out there including; one of our committee members John Roger at Buckley, near Geelong, as well as Joy at Gormandale in Gippsland.



Left: Close ups of Speckled Brahma Hen 2011 annual show, showing excellent Brahma brow and dewlap (right) and feather colour pattern still in need of improvement (left)

Middle right: One of our 2008 Breeding Pens of Blue Speckled Brahma.

Middle left: Speckled Sussex Hen similar to what we started with.

© Owlmonkey (Ed. Image cropped) Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sussex_chicken#mediaviewer/File:Speckled_Sussex_Chicken.jpg



Left: Blue Speckled Brahma Hen 2010 annual show.



Far left: Some pages from one of our notebooks with breeding records.



*Above: One of our Speckled Brahma Pullets and a Blue Red Split Speckled Brahma Cockerel.
Below: Speckled Brahma Pullet. At Benalla Young Bird Show in 2007. Photos courtesy of Andy Vardy. Thanks Andy!*



For Adults Only - Contains Fowl Language.

By Lance Hicks - 1942 to 2010



One of the great things about needing two parents in order to produce offspring is the fun that you can have playing the 'blame and claim' game. When the child does something bad, one parent will say to the other "Look what child has done!" When the child does something good, one parent will say to their partner, "Look what child has done - obviously the youngster takes after me!" Ever since humans and other animals have been producing babies, great interest has been taken in the similarities between the generations, as the offspring usually resemble their parents more than other, unrelated members of the community. Why this is so, and the process by which it occurs, has been the subject of many theories. What we are considering here is something that we get at birth and keep for the rest of our lives - the inheritance of our various characteristics.

One theory was that it was passed by the blood - each individual having half the blood of each of its parents and therefore a quarter of the blood of each of its grandparents, and so on back to Adam and Eve. To make it sound flash and very scientific we will call it 'The theory of the infinite divisibility of blood? This view was popular for a very long time, and some people still hold to it. Another idea was 'The inheritance of acquired characteristics', which was that whatever happened to you physically during your life was passed on to your children. This did not last long as an explanation. It was

disproved by a Jewish scientist who cut the tails off mice, generation after generation, and noted that the young mice in the umpteenth generation were still being born the correct length of tail. I reckon that the chappie whose name was August Weismann, was a bit of a dill because he only had to look inside his jeans to realise that circumcision needs to be done at each generation (More about genes later on.)

In a modern context we know that the children of amputees are born with a full set of limbs. Another thought about heredity was given in the bible (Genesis, chapter 30 starting at verse 28.). Basically Jacob had the task of breeding speckled, spotted and striped sheep from a mob of white woolled ewes. His solution was to take new branches from poplar, almond and plane trees and peeling some of the bark off them to expose the white cambium layer, but leaving some of the darker coloured bark on the branched in the shape of speckles spots and stripes. He placed these specially prepared branches in front of the sheep while they were breeding. Don't believe me, read it for yourself, it is the gospel truth. Nowadays we refer to this as 'The theory of prenatal impressionism.' To me there is a delightful irony in the fact that it was a man of the cloth who disproved this and the other theories.

Back in the eighteen fifties at a monastery high in the Alps of what is now the Czech Republic, there wasn't a lot in the way of entertainment ('T.V, reception was poor and there was nothing much on the Internet!) The monks, of course, did not have wives and children to keep them busy. Brother Greg was an assistant teacher who sat for the exam to become a fully-fledged teacher. He failed. Abbot Napp sent him to Vienna for a crash course, studying full time. When the final exam came, he crashed - failed again. He never did become a teacher who was fully qualified. Abbot Napp was a kindly fellow, wise and observant. He knew that even those who were academic failures could still contribute something to the benefit of mankind. He noticed that the young Bro. Gregor Mendel was (like your humble scribe) very keen on his tucker. To make pea soup, which was very popular in that cold climate, you need to have plenty of garden peas. These were grown in the monastery garden and the abbot showed his young charge that some of the plants had many pods with lots of peas in each pod; while some had few pods with less peas in each. He told Greg that if he could work out how to grow only the varieties that produced plenty of peas, then there would be

lots more soup to go around. Here was a task that was worthy of the young priest. I suspect that the cunning old abbot knew that much is achieved when the needs of men and the will of God go hand in hand. The peas were a pretty mixed bunch; some had smooth skins and some had wrinkled skin; some had green colour on the unripe pod and others had yellow, some of the flowers were white, some were purple.

Crosspollination of peas had been done before and it had been noted that in each case nearly all of the offspring resembled one parent and not the other. The purple flowers dominated the white flowers. Interbreeding of these first cross purple flowers resulted in mostly purple flowered seedlings, but quite a number of white flowers. Winter nights at the monastery were long and dark so Greg used to get a hot Cup of soup and count the peas from the second cross and at the same time divide them into two heaps, one with the round smooth skinned peas and the other with the wrinkled ones. No one had bothered to count them before. Today a person doing this type of work would refer to himself as a Statistical Analyst. We just call them bean counters. Of the 7,324 seeds it turns out that 5,474 were smooth skinned and 1,850 had wrinkled skins. Gregor Mendel was keen on maths and he calculated the ratio to be nearly 3 smooth ones to every wrinkled one. Next he checked out the colour of the flowers in the second generation and again found the ratio of three purple ones to each white flower. Never in any of his experiments did he find a flower that was a blend of purple and white --- they were one colour or the other, so he concluded that mixing of the blood (or sap in this case) was not the cause. He double checked using the unripe pod colour and found that the green outnumbered the yellow by three to one in the second generation. Clearly the yellow in the pod was recessive. He reckoned that each of the plants had two distinct factors, sometimes similar, sometimes unlike but at all times separate and distinct. Further he thought that only one of the factors was passed down by each of the parent plants and that it was a toss of the coin as to which one. Nowadays we call this 'The law of independent segregation.'

One night when he found the soup tureen empty he remembered that he was supposed to be finding the plants which had the most peas. He wondered if any of the factors were linked to high production so he divided the pods into those which had six to nine peas in them and those which had five or less. It often happened that the heavy bearers had the smooth, round seeds, i.e. the dominant factor. To check he again divided the pods into those that were green coloured and those which were yellow. He found that mostly the heavy bearers had yellow pods, i.e. the recessive factor. Clearly a desirable characteristic can be dominant or recessive, and to keep the soup simmering one should plant pea seeds from yellow pods and/or smooth skinned peas. In later experiments he managed to produce yellow pods full with many smooth round peas.

In 1865 Mendel went public with his findings and gave two lectures at the local natural history society. The next year he published them in the society's journal. Sadly it was not a best seller as the public was disinterested and the scientific world subjected his work to a 'file it and forget it' policy. To add to his woes his friend and mentor Abbot Napp died in 1868. The other monks applied the old army principle of 'if a fellow can't do anything useful, then promote him? Gregor Mendel became the abbot of the monastery. Although the administrative work left less time for research he continued study, mostly of bees and weather. With advancing age and a rich diet he became rather portly (just as your humble scribe has done). Finally he wrote that hill climbing had become "very difficult for me in a world where universal gravitation prevails." In 1884 he left this world.

Fast forward about twenty years from the death of Gregor Mendel and we find a keen chook breeder, William Bateson, much interested in the different comb shapes in fowls. He mated birds with rose combs, both male and female, to their opposite sex birds who had single i.e. blade combs and found that all the youngsters had rose combs which were indistinguishable from their rose combed parent. Next he crossed these youngsters, the first filial generation (usually just called the F1 generation) to each other.

The F2 chickens had both types of combs, in the proportions of three rose combs to each single comb. The single combs were no different to their grandparent's single comb despite having both parents with rose combs. Apparently Bateson was not aware of Mendel's work, and had independently rediscovered what we now call the 'Mendelian Ratio', in the second generation of crossing a simple dominant to a simple recessive characteristic. He named what Mendel called factors, as genes, coming from the word genesis, which means the start of i.e. creation. Thus it was a poultry man who named 'The Science of Genetics'. It should be noted that both men were not content to stop after stage one, the first cross; but went on to get knowledge of the hidden factors' effects in the second generation. Experimental breeders today should, if they are not satisfied with the results of the first year's breeding, persevere by intercrossing those birds and also by backcrossing them to their parents. We should remember the young man who ardently wooed a young woman until she finally allowed him to kiss her. What a pity that he stopped there. Had he continued to court her keenly she might, eventually, have permitted him to advance to stage two which, if memory serves me correctly, can be very enjoyable.

In 1904 William Bateson and Professor Punnet at Cambridge bred a Silkie rooster with a Brown Leghorn hen. The cockerels from this cross had light skin and the pullets had dark skin. This is called sex-linkage, but they were not the first to discover it. On the 10th January, 1855, an unknown fowl breeder reported in "The Poultry Chronicle" that he had crossed a golden pencilled Bolton Grey (an old name for Hamburgs) male with a silver pencilled hen of the same breed and produced "excellent golden pencilled pullets and silver cockerels with chestnut wing patches; and that these last will, with silver hens, produce excellent silver pullets." In 1909 William Bateson left Cambridge to become the director of the John Innes Horticultural Institute (A good chook breeder who went to seed). Professor Punnet recruited an enthusiastic young fellow called Michael Pease. Together they worked on the barring factor, as seen in Barred Plymouth Rocks. It also is sex-linked and they ultimately produced, by matings with Brown Leghorns, a commercial egglayer they called the Legbar. It was autosexing at hatching because the cockerels were much lighter in the down than the pullets who were dark but had a small round patch of white on the top of their heads. This was caused by the cockerels having a double dose of the barring gene and the pullets having only one. "Why," was the big question. It turned out that while the rose and the single combs were on ordinary run-of-the-mill chromosomes, which we call autosomal chromosomes, the sex-linked genes were on the sex chromosomes. (Chromosomes are really just the villages where the genes live.) The sex chromosomes are usually referred to as X and Y. Y is the Long John Silver of the chromosome world ---it is only an X with one leg missing. Like its human counterpart the Y is limited in what it can do. Basically, possession of a Y chromosome determines the sex of the individual ---male in humans and strangely, females in our birds. The barring factor, the silver ground colour gene and the other sex-linked genes can only exist on an X chromosome, so a hen or pullet has silver gold on its one and only X chromosome. A cockerel can have two gold or two silver genes and thus is pure for the ground colour; or it can have one of each and be impure. In this situation the silver dominates the gold, but often there is a tell-tale clue; as our friend of 150 years ago found with the chestnut wing patches on his impure silver pencilled Hamburg cockerels. Such a bird is not useless as his daughters will be, in roughly equal numbers, pure silver or pure gold ground, regardless of which colour hen he is bred to. There are many crosses with fowls that demonstrate visually the movement of sex-linked factors from one generation to the next, but I prefer that the products of a cross be useful; So here is my recipe for Black Forest Cake ...er... Black Forest Fowls.

Ingredients -One black Australorp male from a good egg-laying strain. One or more, according to taste, Barred Plymouth Rock females, Instructions -Mix well in a pen of suitable size. After a week or so collect and incubate the eggs. About half of the chickens which hatch will have black down with a white head spot, indicating one barring factor. When grown up these will be barred and cockerels; which are delicious when roasted with potatoes, carrots and onions. As a purist as well as a gourmet, I add green peas to the meal (in memory of Gregor Mendel.) The other chickens will have dark down and no head spots. They are pullets which will grow into black hens; whose eggs are very tasty, whether boiled, fried or poached. These hens will also have inherited, through their father, some of the good egg-laying capacity of their Australorp grandmother.

The black Australorp male who is their father can pass on characteristics, such as egg-laying ability, which he himself cannot express. Egg-laying is a sex-limited factor. An example in humans of one factor which is sex-limited is that I, as an adult male, grow whiskers, whereas the girls, as they mature into the full flowering of womanhood grow --- more interesting, at least to me.

When fowls have black patterning, such as the Silver Laced Wyandotte and the Dark Indian Game, it is still obvious whether their ground colour is silver or gold. With the all black Australorp it is not. Yet they have sex chromosomes, of which each of the X chromosomes is either a silver or gold and is passed, without its presence being apparent, from each generation to the next, according to the rules of sex-linked inheritance. Even the non-sex-linked characteristics on the autosomal chromosomes, are passed without becoming visible, from parent to offspring, in the self black chooks. Thus any all black fowl can be a black Columbian, i.e. with black neck and tail feathers on a black background; or a black laced back, with black lacing against a black background. In this world many things are not seen by the eyes of men, even married men. The astute breeder will cross a self black fowl with, say a buff bird to reveal what patterns and colours lie beneath those black feathers. To breed Australorp to Australorp for twenty or thirty years must be like treading water endlessly without ever swimming a single stroke.

Looking Back

Shows & Club Members (well the ones that I had photos of) by Luke Price.



Yass 2006



Yass 2008



Yass 2010



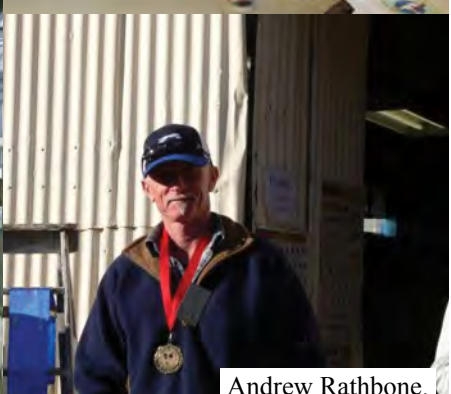
Queanbeyan 2011



Bryan Jon Meade.
Best Cochin!!!!
Yass 2006



Don Jones. Aulbury 2007



Andrew Rathbone.
Yass 2006



Cindy Pretty. Winning practically everything - Yass 2006



Belinda Dickson.
Yass 2006



Joanne Aggar.
Yass 2006



Robert Gollop, Bryan Meade, Justin Larsen. Yass 2006.
Dark Brahma collaborators!



Paul Rodgers, Lance Hicks, Don Jones. Yass 2008

Belinda Dickson, Bryan Meade, Cindy Pretty. Yass 2008

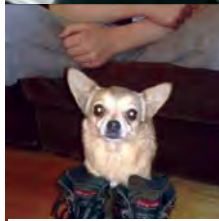


Andrew Skinner. Yass 2006



Luke Price judging Cochin with Bruce Pattinson. Yass 2010

Juniors. Yass 2008



Olympia. Yass 2009

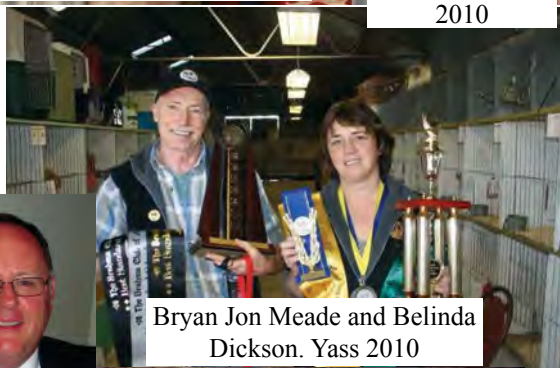


Kellie Wright. Yass 2008

Luke Price, Valda and Len Jackson and Joel Guisti. Queanbeyan 2010



Neal Lynch and Paul Rodgers. Yass 2010



Bryan Jon Meade and Belinda Dickson. Yass 2010



Lucas Barker. Yass 2010



Joel Guisti. Yass 2010



Linda and Neal Lynch



Co Pham



Rialeigh Mathe



Kylie Sparkes, Corrine Lynch, Mellissa Mathe and Emily Lynch (hiding). Queanbeyan 2013



Luke and Roger Price. Queanbeyan 2011



John Roger



Brittany Mathe



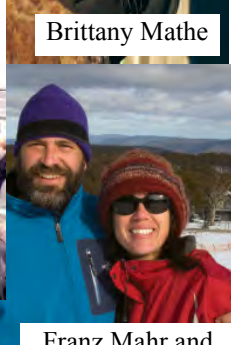
Emily Lynch (left) and Natasha Mahr (right). Queanbeyan 2013



Franz Mahr and John Roger. John's Maremma do a fantastic job of protecting his fowl.



Stuart and Janet Ferguson



Franz Mahr and Rae Kwong

Don Jones – Master Brahma Breeder

A Story of Don's Recent Endeavours

By Luke Price



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

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 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.

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.



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. Note the oversized comb which is due to being housed indoors. See "A Tip from Don" page 41.

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!

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

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



Membership Form

The Brahma and Cochin Club of Australia

The Secretary

secretary@brahmacochin.org

P.O. Box 64, Cann River, VIC, 3890

PHONE (03) 5158 6567

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.

