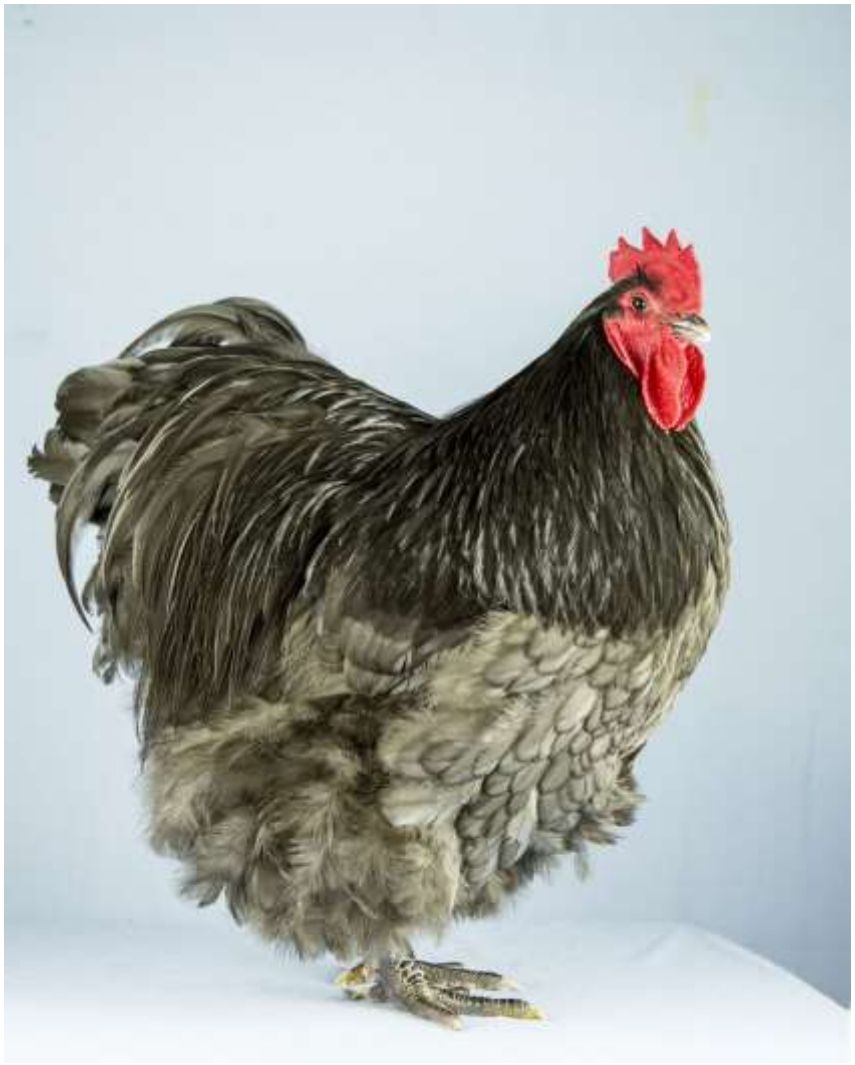
The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)

'The Orpington Outlook'

October 2015 'Spring has Sprung' Edition



Champion Orpington 2015 Royal Melbourne Poultry Show -Large Blue Cockerel- Breeder & Owner Waninga Orpingtons

Established in 1985 the Orpington Club of Australia is dedicated to promote and protect this stately breed.
'We do best what we do together'

From the Presidents Shed.

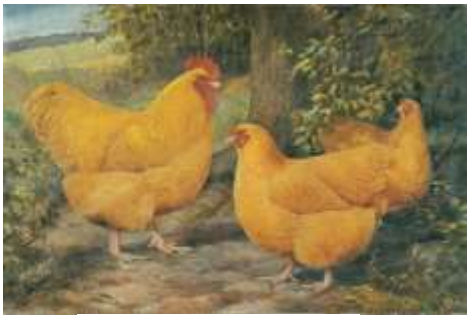
Hello to all you good Orpington Club members, I hope you are well and that you have plenty of vigorous chicks running around or you are anticipating a good hatch. Winter has been a bit meaner here in Crookwell, with all the good stuff like snow, sleet and hail. I'm only just starting to get eggs now, so will be having a later than normal hatch.

And hooray! I've had a question for my Q and A "bit". Our member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has asked is there a picture or illustration of a perfect Orpington. This is a darn good question, given that there is no easy answer. To arrive at this conclusion, I have looked at Orpingtons from four different perspectives to try and be as comprehensive as possible in my answer. If it appears a bit long-winded, please bear with me as newer members may not be aware of some of the aspects I have focussed upon.

Black (and by extension Blues and Splashes) versus Buff: Blacks and Buffs have always had different type, given that they were created from completely different genetic bases by William Cook. Indeed, when the Buffs were introduced (some years after the Blacks) there was an outcry in British fancier circles for this very reason. Buffs survived their introduction as Orpingtons simply because so many had been distributed, but the controversy went on for quite some time. Remember, this was a time, the 1890's, when a successful breeder could make a good living from their fowls, thus the importance given to the controversy, when potential livelihoods were at stake. Essentially, however, while a lot of key attributes of both colours have become similar over a long period of time, I think it true to say (at least for Australia) that Buffs still remain longer in the leg and less profusely feathered than their Black brethren. From the foregoing, you can see the difficulty in narrowing a focus upon an image which incorporates the differences in both colours. Despite this, I will concede that some European breeders seem to have achieved a more complete "marriage" type wise of the two colours.

Aspiration versus Reality: Or to be more accurate, painting versus photography. While there are many outstanding photographs of Orpingtons available on the "Net", I feel some of the old paintings could still teach us a lot about type. No matter how good the fowl is a photographer can only obtain an image of what is in front of them (assuming no "airbrushing" is taking place!). Conversely, a skilled artist has the freedom to depict a bird to perfection in all its points. To elaborate upon this, take the well-known Ludlow picture of a pair of Buffs as a case in point. This was painted in the very early 1900's and is still my favourite "go-to" picture for Orpington type. I know this is a long time in the past, and the breed has gone through various phases since then, yet the standard really hasn't changed to any significant degree and the birds still represent very good type.

Ludlow's Buff Orpington


Schilling's Buff Orpington

Anyway, I then looked in the NSW State Library archives for a photo of a Buff Orpington from that time period. I found one, and he was terrible! The photo was taken in 1905 of a Buff cockerel imported for the Government Poultry Research Station at Seven Hills NSW. The bird had a poor head, very long legs and a cut-away front. More a Buff Langshan than Orpington! Viewing this I could see that Ludlow's painting was something to aspire to and not the reality, at least for the time. I have discussed this with our Orp guru, Dallas Smith, and his opinion veers towards paintings by the American artist A.O.Schilling. Once again, these are excellent because they are something to aspire to.
He did, in addition, mention that probably for type the line drawing contained in his book "The Complete Orpington" was an excellent representation.
Don't get me wrong, the quality of photography and indeed of some birds is superb and has inspired me too, yet I think the artist's depictions still have a place in the Orpington world.

Orpingtons overseas: Orpingtons in different countries will of necessity represent not only their available genetics and management, but equally so the different climates and soil types which will influence what grows there, and thereby what they eat. Another variable which will tell on the birds is simply how many people breed Orpingtons in that country. In respect to this, while quantity doesn't always equate to quality, I think Germany proves the axiom wrong. Having spoken with Bluey Callinan (our other Orp guru) and who has visited the vast European shows, I have it on good authority that there are thousands of Orp breeders in Europe, and in particular, Germany. One can only conclude that with such vast numbers of breeders (at least to us here in Oz) they have pushed the breed to the heights we see in the magnificent fowls and myriad colours they produce. Indeed, Dallas Smith believes that the best large Orpingtons in the world originate from Germany, while he feels that Denmark produces the best bantam Orps.
The point from the foregoing is that the birds will be different, even if the differences are slight, simply because of where they come from. Interestingly, at the last Canberra National, the Faverolles Club had a stand and on it was a poster showing Faverolles from other countries as well as Australia. All were recognisably Faverolles, but each countries' birds had differences, some slight, some more so.

Judges and Breeders: We all have our own ideas on what constitutes a good Orp. While clearly there is broad agreement on the essentials, we all place emphasis on point/s or an aspect to a greater or lesser degree than perhaps a fellow breeder might. And so we have poultry shows to ascertain whose interpretation of the standard appeals to the judge/s. Likewise, judges will interpret the standard in their own way. The point being made of course is that a depiction of an ideal Orpington can and will change with the individual concerned.
So there we have it dear member. There is no one perfect picture or painting of an Orpington, though clearly many come close. And maybe that's as it should be, as we all strive in our own way to produce the perfect Orpington.
If you are still awake after this, can I wish you all many vigorous chicks and future champions fill your yards. Cheers till next time,

Simon
Proud Prez of the happiest chook club on earth

Round the Traps from the Secretary.

This Spring has Sprung (2015 October) Edition hopefully contains something for everyone!

We have results and pics of the winning birds from major shows supported by the Club in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. There is a timely article on Chook health namely the scourge that a number of members have experienced in recent years -namely Lymphoid Leukosis.

We have the first Presidents Q&A which just demonstrates the quality of experience and knowledge that we are privileged as a Club to have access too. .

One trend that's been prevalent in recent years is the demise of the Cuckoo Orpington. In order to enthuse members to consider taking up this lovely colour – which is in real danger of falling off the map- we have part 1 of an article from Sue the Cuckoo Orpington Breeder.

As you may recall from the last edition we had a bit of a quandary as to how the Club can continue to build on members having access to the National Club? So after a straw poll via email, member's responses came down quite clearly on the Club supporting the 2016 National Poultry Show in Sydney as our National show experience for 2016! However it has been agreed that the Club Trophies will not be awarded at this event and that a standalone National Orpington Show will be conducted in 2017. So pencil in 9-12 June 2016 as an event not be missed. The Club will also continue to support shows in each State where Orpington members can get together and fly the flag locally. What we do need however is members from each State especially in Tasmania, WA and SA to confirm which show they would like the Club to support!

The Club Facebook page continues to be a key place to learn about Orpington's, buy/sell Orpingtons and generally connect with other likeminded passionate folk. It's also exciting to hear that the successful import from the UK of Large Buff and Bantam Chocolate Orpingtons has occurred. What that means for local genes and exhibition outcomes is still to be seen and is something that will be a topic for the next Outlook I am sure.

Cheers for now

Martin D
Best contact is via Email secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com

Lymphoid Leukosis – Avian (The Wasting Disease)

by Sue @ the Cuckoo Orpington Stud

Written after research and consultation with a retired Avian Scientist and comparisons with other breeders who have also experienced this problem after acquiring new birds.
This is here only as a reference as the incidence of people selling chicks/birds hatched from pullet eggs is on the rise =
no apologies given if any wording in this article offends anyone.

Lymphoid Leukosis is becoming a common cause of death in birds as so many now use pullet eggs and then sell or give away the chicks without advising the new owner that the mother is a pullet.

If you hatch a chick from a juvenile female =
I wont say hen as they are **not** until they have experienced their 1st moult - and if that line has L.L. in it (and to give credit =
not everyone knows that their bird is an L.L. carrier) there is a very high risk of the pullet passing on the L.L. to most if not all of the offspring.

Then the new owner gets to know this/these new bird/s and starts to love them, then they get 'sick' - meaning they actually arrived sick but only displayed the disease later due to the slow progression = a VERY upset person

The incidence of passing L.L. on after the 1st moult reduces by about 95% and reduces to almost zero after the 2nd moult
meaning some hens will continue to pass L.L. via the egg

Now = not many breeders will admit they have L.L. in their lines (**IF** they even know) OR that the mother bird is a pullet = so it is very sad that it is a russian roulette when you get a new young bird.

A suggestion to all = only get birds from people that use hens as breeders = that have gone thru their 1st but preferably their 2nd moult.
If you are unsure = go elsewhere. And only use hens to breed from.

The need to reduce L.L. ought to be a high priority but until people stop breeding from pullets and have patience for the bird to moult this is going to continue.

Lymphoid Leukosis - The Disease -

Avian Lymphoid Leukosis is a neoplastic disease of chickens caused by a virus of the Leukosis/Sarcoma group and is characterised by tumour formation of the Bursa of Fabricius with Metastasis to other tissues and all abdominal organs.

some Symptoms of Lymphoid Leukosis :-

Emaciation - loss of weight - depression like behaviour - persistent low mortality in flock -

enlargement of liver, bursa, abdomen - many affected birds are

Asymptomatic

Manifestations :-

Lymphoid Leukosis, Myeloid Leukosis (Granuloblastosis, Myeloblastosis), Erythroid Leukosis [Erythrolastosis], Hemangioendothelioma (tumours comprised of blood vessels) and Osteopetrosis (Bone Leucosis).

Susceptibility starts in Ova but usually decreases with the age of the bird. Occasionally an older bird (1+ years) will fall to L.L. and should not be mistaken for Latent Mareks in the older bird.

Birds are most susceptible while still young (under 1yr of age).

Pullets are more susceptible than cockerels to all forms of L.L. except Osteopetrosis, to which the cockerel is much more susceptible.
Stresses caused from other diseases increases the severity of the Leukosis. As the 'virus' has a long incubation period signs are most often not noticeable until birds are 16 weeks or older. Making it important to delineate L.L. from Mareks

The disease produces progressive weakness, regression of comb, paleness, enlarged abdomen, emaciation and death.
Greenish diarrhoea develops in terminal stages.

Diagnosis based on flock history and tumours is usually confirmed by typical progression of the disease and differentiation from other diseases. There is no treatment.

Prevention is to obtain chicks from L.L. free sources, or chicks hatched from hen eggs not pullet eggs.
Raise the birds in isolation with adequate ventilation and bio-security, prevention of stress where possible and the control of other diseases.

Most exhibition breeders recommend not to use pullet eggs to help reduce the incidence of L.L.

The risk of L.L. is less than 5% in chicks hatched from hen eggs (after the birds have experienced the first moult)

note however that up to 5% of hens that carry L.L. will continue to pass it on via the egg = careful selective breeding, marking each hens offspring and growing out of all chicks to 11months old to determine if any hen/s does/do still pass on L.L. is essential to help eradicate the disease from your flock

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Breeding Cuckoo Orpingtons - a detailed guide

by Sue @ the Cuckoo Orpington Stud

This article is an original work and written from my own experience over the course of my life breeding Cuckoo Orpingtons and developing the Blue, Buff, Lavender etc versions in OZ. No disrespect is meant to the Breeders of other breeds that have Cuckoo.

It is no harder to breed Cuckoo Orpingtons than any of the other colours, you just need to know the basics of what to look for and what to use. Some decide that it is too hard as they do not take the time to find out how to breed with this pattern.

This is a sectional article and refers to the APS listed colour of Cuckoo Orpington, with reference to the Buff Cuckoo (known as Lemon cuckoo in the UK), Blue Cuckoo and Lavender Cuckoo further down.

It encapsulates the breeder bird selection and breeding process, including a brief explanation of single and double barring in male Cuckoos and what to look for when assessing growing chicks and culling accordingly.

Starting out =
You need to choose the birds you will use, whether you have bred them or purchased them

Birds should be chosen for =

A white beak. Eyes = red and full, rounded and bright (not droopy or sleepy eyes).
Comb, Wattles and Earlobes = red.
The comb needs to be neat and tidy sitting well on the head, 5 to 7 spikes preferred (both sexes) and little or no fishtail
The wattles compact and well shaped (not elongated giving the appearance of dragging the floor).
Ensure each bird has a nice full rounded (convex) chest, with depth and broadness obvious in both sexes (NO cut away fronts).
Good wing set (held well, not hanging limply). The hen must not have too large a rump/cushion (must not resemble a bump) although the cushion needs to be obvious, the rooster needs to display a broad (but not overly broad) rump with good hackles neatly covering the back of the wings. The male neck hackles must not touch the rump you must see the back.
Ensure there is a nice back-line with rise of tail in both sexes = a long and/or flat back with little or no rise of tail is to be avoided.
A bottom line side on that looks like a bowling ball is most desired while displaying a small amount of leg (not some great expanse of leg), the legs need to be compact (not stilts) and must be white skinned but can have a small amount of mottling (ensure you do not use birds that have dark or smutty skin) and with neat tidy white feet and toenails.

When breeding the Cuckoo pattern in the Orpington you need to know a few basics to help in the improvement with each generation.

Exhibition Quality birds of both sexes can be bred from the same pen = 1 pen
conditional that both single and double bar factor roosters are used, as both types of roosters are of importance to the Cuckoo pattern. If unable to keep more than one rooster make sure you have access to an opposing barred rooster.

If possible, I recommend that an 'Heir' and a 'Spare' be kept for both the single and double barring = that way if you lose a rooster you have a back up = far too many (that **can** keep more than one rooster) choose to only keep one and if they lose the bird are left without a good backup bird = often not waiting for a quality replacement instead sourcing a cull that will do more harm than good.

At this point I have to say = always grow out your cockerels to about 11 or 12mths old (the ones not culled for faulty pattern or defects = refer to the APS for defects) = that way you are certain to be able to choose quality of both single and double barred males for future breeding and as the spare (if/as needed).

Mating Cuckoo to Cuckoo will produce quality well patterned birds, as well as a number of 'clunkers' = meaning careful selection/culling is essential.

My rule of thumb is that the progeny should be infused with Black every 4th generation = to keep the depth of colour up.

The first rule of breeding Cuckoo Orpingtons is you must never breed from males with any sign of rust (bronzing, yellow or orange) in the top colour or in the hackles of either the neck or rump and you need to check wing feathers for these colours as it can also display on the wings. Please note here that a rooster can carry the bronzing etc without displaying it hence the need for growing out and careful selection for each generation.
Even in Black based birds some Cuckoo males hackles can be too light (giving a silver/white appearance = these are NOT Silver Cuckoo < this colour does not exist in OZ). Also, females can carry crowded barring on the shoulders and wing coverts.
So careful selection of pattern in breeders ensures the next generation will be better to the pattern.

The second rule is you should not breed from females that are too light in basic ground colour (white barring too broad).

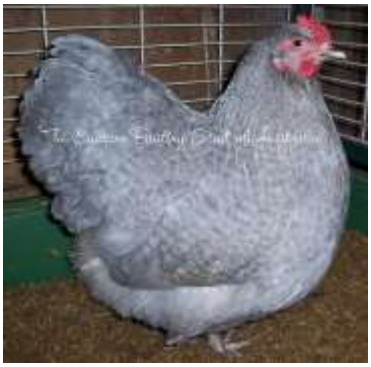
Roosters =
A double bar factor male (wider pale barring) will produce all Cuckoo both sexes (with a high percentage of correct shank/foot colouring) when mated to either a Cuckoo or Black hen.

A single bar factor male (narrower darker barring) will produce Cuckoo in both sexes mated Cuckoo/Cuckoo, but mated Cuckoo/Black will produce Cuckoo males and Black carrying Cuckoo females (out-crosses for Black infusion).

Do not make the mistake of breeding Cuckoo Orpingtons as per Pekin Cuckoo breeding as the Pekin method does not work for Orpingtons = Pekins have feathered legs and feet and as such there in no colour requirement for same, allowing a Black cross at each or every 2nd generation = causing dark legs/feet in many instances.

However the Orpingtons having clean legs and feet and also strict colour requirements in this regard means it is essential that you breed your Cuckoo Orpingtons using careful selection of the breeders each generation.

It is suggested that you never use Cuckoo pullets as the true pattern does not show itself until after the first moult.
Also as pullet eggs are smaller = giving smaller chicks/adult birds.


Lavender Cuckoo Pullet

Orpingtons = the leg and foot colour requirement means less crossing to Black and the use of double bar factor males over Black (or Black carrying Cuckoo) hens when crossing to help keep the legs/feet correct.

BUT = single bar factor Cuckoo males over Black hens gives all males Cuckoo, all females Black < 90% of these females carry the Cuckoo gene = these are future crosses for the next Black infusion = you do need to breed ahead to keep legs/feet correct.

note the use of Black or Black carrying Cuckoo must be confined to hens only

When choosing hens from a single bar Cuckoo rooster and a Black hen = ensure that you choose/keep only those that display mottling on the legs (not solid black) and either red or light brown eyes = look for legs that look a pale black with black mottling = these carry the Cuckoo gene, remember the eye colour also helps in selection.

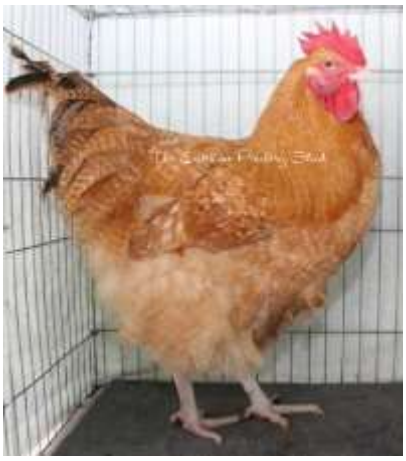
The mating sequence I suggest to keep the depth of feather ground colour in your Cuckoo and to also help keep the leg/foot, skin, eyes and beak colour correct is =

1st cross = Cuckoo to Cuckoo
2nd cross = Cuckoo to Cuckoo
3rd cross = Cuckoo to Cuckoo
4th cross (A) = Cuckoo (double bar factor) rooster over Black hen for 100% Cuckoo
4th cross (B) = Cuckoo (single bar factor) rooster over Black hen (or preferably Black carrying Cuckoo hen) for out-crosses for future infusion of Black

5th cross = Cuckoo to Cuckoo
and so on until you reach 8th cross when black is infused again

When discussing Buff Cuckoo (known as Lemon in the UK) and Blue Cuckoo = replace Black with Buff or Blue accordingly where necessary in all of above.

Lavender Cuckoo is helped with both the APS listed colour of Cuckoo and Lavender as both are infused with Black to maintain depth of ground colour = giving the Black component from both quadrants.


Buff Cuckoo Cockerel

note that all Buff, Blue, Lavender offspring carry the Cuckoo gene and not recommended to be bred into their name colours if you want to keep those colours pure to name.

The use of White as an out-cross can be useful as the hens from this mating can be mated back to a dark ground based single bar factor rooster = this out-cross is recommended to be used only every 8th generation. Almost all (both sexes) from this mating will be White, some will be Cuckoo (predominantly males). Be sure to only choose those hens that display some Black flecking (random black feathers amongst the white) or hints of barring.
Any males that display Cuckoo are white based and not recommended for breeding Cuckoo as they will cause the next and each subsequent generation to be paler (eventually displaying as White only), but carrying the Cuckoo gene that can crop up at any time without warning.

note that it is rare that any Cuckoo offspring from a Cuckoo/White mating have the pattern extending the required entire length of the feather, as such, selected birds require mating to a well patterned Cuckoo with careful selection of offspring for pattern.

I use the Olympic years as reference for the various Cuckoo colours infusions.

A detailed explanation of single and double bar factor breeding outcomes and a brief outline of the genetics is on the attached page **

Assessing and culling Cuckoo chicks at the Stud =
At hatching = check the beak and leg colour = if wrong = last breath
When the wing feathers grow in = if pattern is incorrect = last breath
(unless it is the only chick of that sex hatched that year and otherwise a good bird = when of age it is test mated to a well patterned bird = if any of the offspring show the same problem = it, and those offspring = last breath)
When the body feathers have grown in = if predominantly incorrect = last breath
All chicks are checked for defects as per the APS from hatching and as they grow = if any serious defects = last breath

Each pullet and cockerel is assessed as it grows according to my guidelines elsewhere on this site.
Those that are acceptable still at 11mths old are either chosen as Exhibition birds, future breeders or offered for re-housing

2015 Adelaide Royal Orpington Classes (SA) Major Winners

Champion Large	Black Hen	Trevor Dent
Reserve Champion Large	Black Ckl	Trevor Dent

Champion Bantam	Buff Ckl	Adrian Burgess
Reserve Champion Bantam	Black Pullet	Adrian Burgess

Standard Large Section		Exhibitor
Champion Black	Hen	Trevor Dent
Reserve Champion Black	Ckl	Trevor Dent
1st Blue Ckl	-	Belancoe Poultry
1st Blue Pullet	-	AS & AT Lock
1st Buff Hen	-	I Arthur
1st Buff Ckl	-	B Frick
1st Buff Pullet	-	K Hebberman

2015 Royal Melbourne Poultry Show (VIC) Major Results List
Judge Adrian Burgess

Champion Large	Blue Ckl	Waninga Orpingtons
Reserve Champion Large	Buff Ck	Gold Feather Poultry

Champion Bantam	Buff Pullet	Chris White
Reserve Champion Bantam	Buff Pullet	Chris White

Standard Large Section		**Exhibitor**
Champion Black	Hen	Trevor Dent
Reserve Champion Black	Plt	Sonya Ford
Champion Blue	Ckl	Waninga Orpingtons
Reserve Champion Blue	Ckl	Sonya Ford
Champion Buff	Ck	Gold Feather Poultry
Reserve Champion Buff	Ck	Gold Feather Poultry
Champion White	Ckl	Waninga Orpingtons
Reserve Champion White	Pullet	Sonya Ford

Standard Bantam Section		**Exhibitor**
Champion Black	Hen	Waninga Orpingtons
Reserve Champion Black	Ckl	Waninga Orpingtons
Champion Buff	Pullet	Chris White
Reserve Champion Buff	Pullet	Chris White

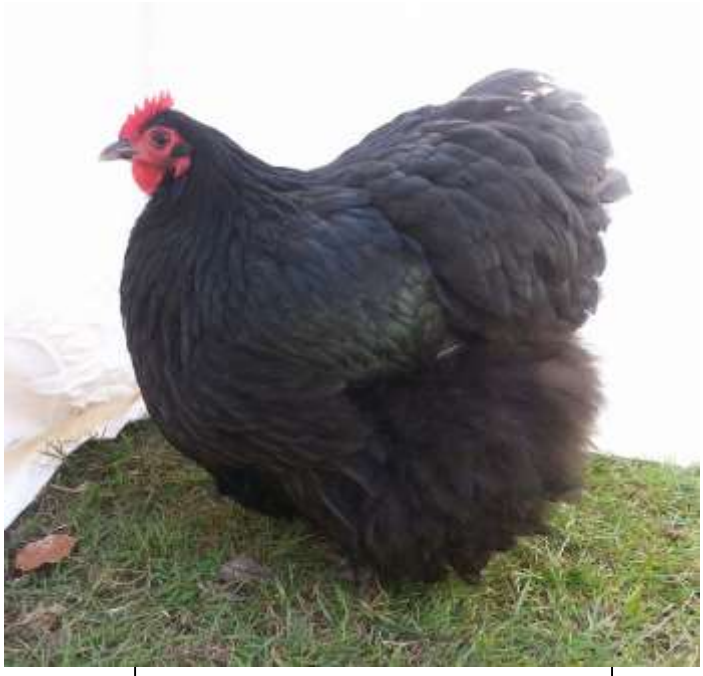
2015 Rosewood Show (QLD) Major Results List

Champion Large	Black Pullet	Celeste Wilson
Reserve Champion Large	Blue Hen	Karen Bussian

Champion Bantam	Black Ck	Karen Bussian

Standard Large Section		**Exhibitor**
Champion Black	Pullet	Celeste Wilson
Reserve Champion Black	Hen	Karen Bussian
Champion Blue	Hen	Karen Bussian
Champion Buff	Hen	Bruce Hodgson
Champion AORC	Splash Hen	Karen Bussian
1st AORC Ckl	White	Jordan Mckeown

Standard Bantam Section		**Exhibitor**
Champion Black	Ck	Karen Bussian



Celeste Wilsons Champion Orpington
(Large Black Pullet)
2015 Rosewood Poultry Club Show

A big WELCOME to our newest Members who have joined since the beginning of August 2015
(and are current till the 30 April 2016)

From **New South Wales**- Christine Jordison
From **Western Australia-** Cliff Weichelt
From **Victoria**- Ron and Marcus Walsh

As of 1st May 2015 All Memberships are now due! There is an easy way to pay Your MEMBERSHIPS

The Orpington Club of Australia membership year is from May 1st to April 30th the following year. New Memberships received between 1st January and 30th April 2015 automatically expire in the following year (to 30 April 2016)

$20 for adults and $10 for juniors get you at least 4 newsletters a year but more so the ability to connect with passionate fellow Orpington Breeders.

Download a form from www.orpingtonaustralia.com and either send your remittance to the Club Secretary Martin Doulton at;

965 Macclesfield Road, Yellingbo VIC 3139

Or pay by Direct deposit into the Clubs account BSB 062 549 Ac No 0090 1366 Ac Name Orpington Club of Australia then send Martin an email with updated membership details, date and deposit details secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com

The Orpington Club of Australia
Office Bearers 2015-16

Patron – Will Burdett (UK)

President: Simon Beven

Vice President:
Denis Stannard,

Secretary Treasurer: Martin 'Waninga' Doulton
Webmaster- Jenny Stewart:
Foreign Correspondent- Rob Callinan

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Jim Blatch (Dec), Charlie Bishop (Dec), Rob Lavender (Dec), Rob Callinan, Dallas Smith, Judy Witney, Robert Stanley

Southern Committee:
Judy Witney, Sonya Ford, Jenny Stewart, Sue Venator

Northern Committee:
Dallas Smith, Rob Callinan, Denis Stannard, Simon Beven

State Representatives- Tasmania- James Allchin West Australia- Vacant
South Australia- Vacant Queensland – Vacant.

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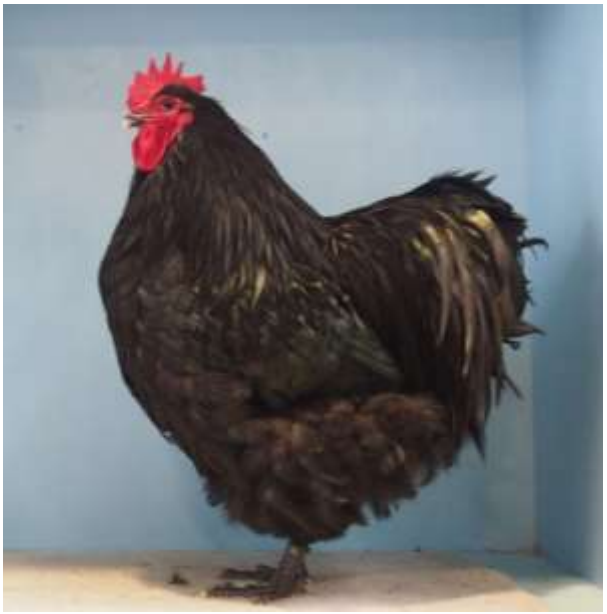
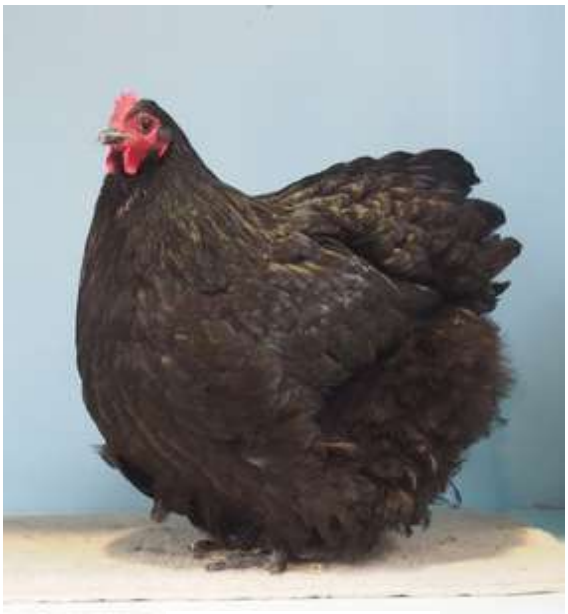
The Views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee or editorial staff!

Reserve large Orpington
Champion Large Buff

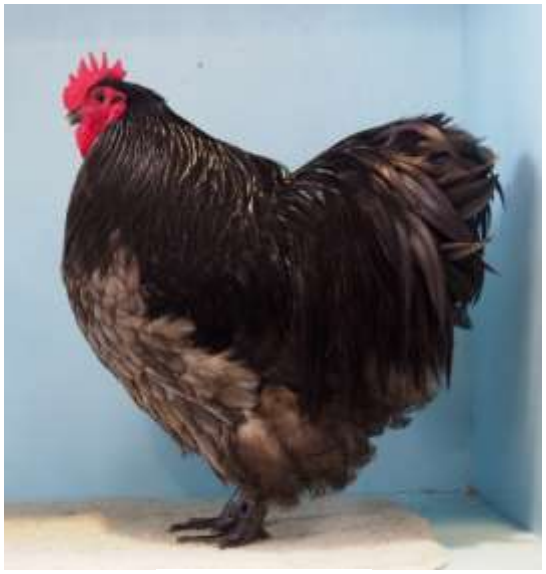
Champion Bantam Orpington
Champion Bantam Buff



Reserve Large Black



Champion Large Black



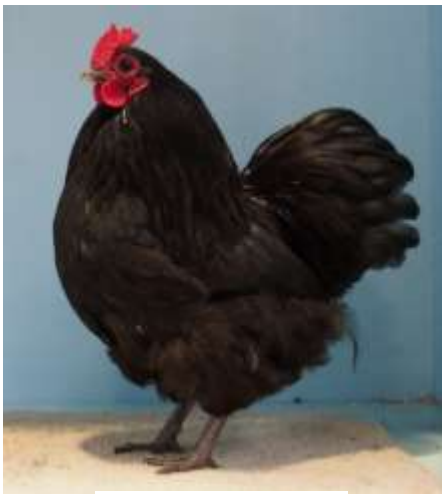
Reserve Large Blue

Reserve Large Buff

Champion Large White

Reserve Large White

Champion Bantam Black



Reserve Bantam Black