

The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)

Summer Newsletter 2011

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Martin Doulton, Colin Tiyce.

Northern Committee-

Simon Beven, Dennis Stannard,
Rob. Callinan, Dallas Smith

W.A. Representatives- Stan & Dianne Bell



Black and Buff Orpingtons (Standard and Bantam) featuring on
" Champion's Row" at The National Championship Show 2010 at Stoneleigh U.K.
(Picture courtesy The Buff Orpington Club (U.K.)

Views and opinions expressed in this publication are the work of the Authors, and
not necessarily those of The Committee or Editorial staff.

A Word From The President



Robert Callinan

Presidents Report December 2011

Hello Orpington Fanciers across the world.

This coming year will be a double event year for most Australian Orpington Fanciers. The Canberra Show will be an event not to be missed but we also have our two other spectacular events to showcase our fowls. The Southern Feature will be something to see with the Southern Breeders keen to stamp their mark in the Orpington scene. I know from past experience that the Northern Breeders will be 'in there' at their feature with their best fowls shining, so all in all we are in for a treat. The 2013 show will be a showdown of the states for sure. State of Origin, watch out.

I delight in this time of year; I sit on the grass of an evening with my chickens running in the yard trying to decide which fowls will make the show ring and I am always surprised at the late bloomers. Nearly every year for the last (too many to state publicly) I have made this same remark, so take a tip from me, don't discard your fowls too early if they don't have an obvious fault.

The big shows are on in the UK at this time (late November early December) so news will soon filter through and we can delight in seeing the fowls that win. It is always a treat to get correspondence from the UK chaps and see the wonderful fowls they produce.

To our new members, I will hopefully meet you at one of the shows and welcome to the Orpington Club. I am sure you will get a great deal of friendship and pleasure from your association with us.

Until we meet,

Good Luck with your breeding

Robert Callinan.

From The Secretary's Desk

Greetings again to all lovers of England's finest fowl, the wonderful Orpington.. Once again, we are hurtling towards the end of the year at a frenetic pace, so now would be a good time to think about the happenings of 2011, and where we are heading in the upcoming year. But before I do that, it is very pleasing to report the continued upswing in new Members, and on behalf of our Club, I would like to extend a cordial welcome to our most recent recruits, namely Brandon Trow, Talina Whittington, David Schaeffer, Steven Wyndham and Michelle Vincent. Great to have you among our happy group.

I suppose that any review of the happenings over the year would be dominated by our tremendous National Orpington Show at Queanbeyan in July. The wonderful entry of 373 Orpingtons far exceeded our wildest expectations, but it was not just the numbers that were so impressive, it was the fact that several of our veteran exhibitors expressed their view that the quality of birds, overall, was the highest seen in the last twenty years. Certainly it was evident that the birds on display were a far better lot than those seen out at our first National Show at Albury. At that Show, I am sure there were many birds that were entered merely to break the former record entry, and many of them were not worthy of the title "Orpington". Not so this time though, for on display were undoubtedly the best lot of our mainstream varieties (the Standard Blacks and Buffs) to have graced our Shows since the halcyon days of the late 1980's. It was an opportunity to pause in reflection, and think of how proud our Club "Pioneers" (Jim, Charlie and Rob) would have been to see their aspirations be realised in such a manner.

Standard Blues, Whites and Cuckoos in numbers rarely seen before in this Country, and interest in the several "Non-Standard" varieties at an all-time high. Not to mention the superb sight of 100 plus Bantams, with competition red-hot and honours evenly spread. And of course, we remember the wonderful way we were hosted by the Canberra-Queanbeyan Poultry Club, and the great little "get-together" enjoyed by over 40 people at a local club on the Saturday night.

In This Newsletter-

* I must thank Martin Doulton for supplying the Orpington results from the Victorian Rare Breeds Show. Of course, both Martin and Judy Witney are heavily involved with running this quality event, and once again it is encouraging to see that our Orpingtons have left their mark on this Show, continuing a great run for the Breed. We are so fortunate to have a solid core of wonderfully enthusiastic Orpingtonians residing in "The Garden State", and they are really pushing our Breed at every opportunity. However gang, I notice a couple of exhibitors in the results who are not Members of our Club, so I will be looking forward to some of you getting after these people and sign them up!

* Whilst on the subject of Victoria, I have chosen to print a couple of very interesting contributions that I feel will be enjoyed by our readers. One is called "Building A Better Buff Orpington", written by Sue Barker and detailing a hitherto "top secret" project, a v-e-r-y intriguing expose uncovered in the course of our National Social evening. The other article is written by Martin Doulton, Eve Marso and Sue again, telling the story of "Atlas", the jaw-dropping Standard White cock which created such a stir at the National. Thanks folks!

- I am so grateful to both our sister Clubs in the U.K. (The Orpington Club and The Buff Orpington Club). Their Year Books are a great help to me in garnishing material for our Newsletters, and I thank both Clubs for giving us permission to use it.

In this issue, we feature a page of photos from recent Shows where Buffs have featured. It is certainly easy to see how these wonderful looking birds catch the eye of the British judges. Our cover shows Orpingtons in "Champion Row" at the National Show- a great way to showcase the Breed.

Page 11 features an article written by David Pownall, where he puts forward some strong opinions on Orpingtons. Very good advice it is too, and not surprising really, because although David is still a young man, he commands an exalted place in the British Show world with his outstanding team of Orpingtons of several varieties.

- Some idea of his stock can be seen with the inclusion of photos of some of his winners , but over the last couple of years we have featured lots of his other birds and Members would have seen the work of a Master Orpington breeder.
- Two other matters are featured in this issue. I have chosen to reprint a copy of the Club's original Constitution, not just as a matter of interest, but with the thought that we will probably need to update it somewhat. Times have changed a bit since the inception of the Club, but we should not lose sight of what our Founding Fathers laid down when the Club was formed. I would ask Members to give some thought as to what might need to be changed/ updated, or whether some additional points should be covered. Please let me know in writing, and I will post your comments in our next Newsletter in time for discussion at our next A.G.M (at Canberra National Show in June 2012)
- The second inclusion concerns something that the Club will certainly need to think about, and that is as the result of an upswing in the interest in producing new Orpington Colours. Furthermore, there are at least two "new" varieties of Standard Orpingtons registered for the planned importation project. At the moment , our Club recognises only the five varieties– Black, Blue, Buff, White and Cuckoo—the ones stipulated in " *The Australian Poultry Standards*". To provide classes for all these new varieties at our Club Shows, we must have some sort of protocol in place, whereby we can provide the breeders with a blueprint to breed to, and to give our Judges something to work with. So far, we have been lucky, by sourcing Standards from the original Cook writings, but before too long we are going to have to provide Standards for colours that Cook never dreamed about. Some will be relatively easy, for they can be adapted from existing regular colour patterns. For example, one of the varieties scheduled for importation is the Gold Laced Orpington, and of course , it should logically follow the pattern and Standard requirement of the Gold Laced Wyandotte. Here in this Country, we should regard ourselves as the Australian "Guardians of the Breed", and we should take a responsible stand against the wanton proliferation of "new" colours simply because they happen to turn up in haphazard, mongrelised cross breeding. We need to put a Standards Committee in place right now, to ensure that any future Classification status for Orpingtons is handled in a responsible way. My personal point of view is that, in this case we should follow the lead of the leading Orpington Countries in the World (Britain, Denmark, Germany, Holland), and recognise ONLY the varieties catered for in their Schedules. Development colours apart from those could perhaps be catered for at our Shows, but only in "display" classes. These can be a lot of fun, but we should remember that "A.O.C" effectively means "Any Other Recognised Colour" and NOT "Any Old Colour"!! If I may add a further personal opinion, I believe that the only "genuine" Orpingtons are those varieties originated by William Cook or members of his family. That means, Blacks, Buffs, Whites, Cuckoos, Blues, Spangles, Jubilees, Reds and possibly Partridge. Of course the Splashed would have been a by- product of mating Blues together , and doubtless they would have been produced by Cook as well. We have all seen the gorgeous colours now being seen overseas, and one can only applaud the marvellous skill of the developers of varieties such as Lavender, Silver and Gold Laced, Gold Crele, Buff Columbian and Ermine etc, etc, the list appears boundless. But are they "true" Orpingtons? It seems to me that they could be more accurately called "NEW ORPS." or even "EURORPS" as they have been developed exclusively in Western Europe. Certainly, some of them are magnificent looking fowls and they have a place in the world of poultry somewhere. I wonder what the purists would say if someone overseas embarked on a project to make Spangled Australorps, or say Crele Australian Langshans, or maybe even Buff Laced Australian Game? How about a Columbian Australian Pit Game? Can you imagine the howls of protest? Those mainstream breeds mentioned are all Australian breeds, and it is my belief that we should retain some sort of intellectual ownership of their name. Similarly, should it not be the same with the original Cook- type Orpingtons? After all they are a British breed named after their place of origin by their creator. So, it can be seen that we, as a Club, need to get our thinking caps on. Whether we actually see the proposed importation of new colours come to fruition or not, it is not beyond the realm of reason that some of the Non- Standard varieties could eventually be produced here. Why not? The Europeans had to have a starting point to produce all these marvellous new varieties. With lots of determination, those colours could be produced here. Then the old argument will start again. What Standard should we promote and how do we go about getting it recognised? Remember, it will probably be 12-15 years before we see the Third Edition of " *The Australian Poultry Standards*".

The American Solution.

Just over 12 Months ago, I had the great privilege to be one of the State Representatives for the revision of the current Australian Standards, and during the course of the weekend I expressed to one of the leading figures, my concerns about how to address the problem mentioned above. I suggested to him that the problem could be alleviated if we followed the format appearing in the American Standards. Here I was putting forward an overall view about all breeds, and not necessarily singling out The Orpington Club of Australia's particular situation.

Briefly, the American authorities issue a general Standard for each individual Breed, setting out requirements for all aspects such as type, weights and breed characteristics. Where the breed has long established varieties, the different colours have a nominated colour standard. Where The American Standard of Perfection differs from ours is that, at the front of the book, a very comprehensive Colour Standard is stipulated, which can be applied for all breeds. It implies that the " Buff" colour requirement, for example, is the same for Orpingtons as it is for Leghorns. Similarly, it implies that, say, a Millefleurs Belgian should be marked exactly the same as a Millefleurs Pekin. And so on.

A system such as this would remove a lot of the confusion that exists in the Show world today. However, we are not going to see this in the short term future, but my confidante at the Standards Meeting assured me that it should be on the agenda for the next time the Standards are revised. In the meantime, our Club needs to address the problem for our own Shows in upcoming years.

In matters of a kindred interest, I have included an article lifted from a U.K. Poultry Year Book– it appears overleaf. I believe some similar pro- active protocol should be put in place by our Club to set us up properly for the future.

From The Secretary (cont.)

As stated, the following article has been lifted from the Year Book of The Poultry Club of Great Britain. Several references, of a non– applicable nature, have been edited out. It is reproduced as background on what in recent times has become the subject of considerable discussion.

REGISTRATION OF NEW VARIETIES

The following has been accepted as the standard procedure for the inclusion of new varieties in the Poultry Club Standards of Perfection.

A breeder, who is in the process of making a new variety must apply to the Poultry Club for registration of it's proposed name. Before any application for admission to the Standards are considered by the Poultry Club, they must first be submitted to the relevant Breed Club for their recommendation.

In the case of a new variety of an existing breed, catered for by an active Breed Club, the application must be submitted to that Breed Club.

The Breed Club has to give careful consideration to the suggested Standard. It then has to be submitted to all Members of the Club, so that comments can be made in a written form, and the opportunity given to all Members to pass comment, not just a small gathering of their Annual General Meeting.

If this procedure has been adopted and every Member has received notification of the intention, and the details of the Standard, then the crucial point is that voting has to take place as to whether that

Standard should be adopted. When the Breed Club has voted for the Standard, confirmation with details of voting and suggested Standard must be submitted to the Poultry Club which will then consider the Application. Any variety for which Standardisation is required must–

- (a) Satisfy the Poultry Club as to it's purity and ability to reproduce it's like in type and colour.
- (b) Have had specimens of the proposed new Variety exhibited in non– standardised classes at a Show or Shows approved for that purpose.
- (c) Both males and females of at least two generations must be submitted for examination if required.
- (d) In the case of a new Variety, they must conform to the character of the Breed of which they are a variety.
- (e) The request for admission must be accompanied by the proposed Standard, together with it's particulars of origin and breeding, set out in a signed statement of the breeder. This statement must contain a declaration of the percentage of birds breeding true to type and colour.

If after compliance with these conditions, and subject to acceptance of the precise wording of the proposed Standard, the Poultry Club is satisfied that the variety has reached a pure– bred condition, a majority vote of the Members present shall admit the variety to The Standard.

NOTE– The foregoing portrays some stringent rules on what is a highly contentious procedure. It should be remembered that it was put in place by The Poultry Club of Great Britain, a body which is obviously acutely aware of it's place in the world of Exhibition Poultry. So many of the poultry exhibiting Countries look to the U.K. for leadership on these matters as well they might, for Britain has led the world in all aspects of livestock—keeping, particularly in poultry, where so many of our major breeds have been either developed by, or improved by, the British fancier.

Interestingly, these Rules are not that much different to those promoted by the old “ All Feathered Advisory Council”, now defunct, but an organisation which did a lot for the Fancy in N.S.W. One aspect required by the A.F.C.A.C was the need for applicants to provide photographic evidence illustrating the progress of the development of the breed in question, year by year. Somewhat like a “ photographic pedigree”. Another requirement was that a group of birds submitted as a new Variety had to be examined by a group of breed experts appointed by the appropriate Club. I firmly believe that our Club needs to put in place a Standards Committee which would be empowered to make decisions on matters such as this. After all, with the Second Edition of the “ *Australian Poultry Standards*” now imminent (and designed to be our “ Bible” for the next 12-15 years), we need to be able to supply a colour requirement Standard for our Club judges to work with to cater for an ever– increasing interest in “ new” varieties of Orpingtons.

Wishing all our Members the best for the coming Festive Season and the New Year,

Dallas.

Orpingtons Prove To Be A Force To Reckon With At Rare Breed Classic.

Report From Martin Doulton

Orpington breeders were out in force at the 2011 Victorian New and Rare Breeds Society show held on Saturday 20th August 2011 at a new venue courtesy of Warragul Poultry Club. While this year we missed out on some of the northern raiders getting to the show the locals from the east more than made up for their absence. We also missed Club stalwart Bill Patterson and a flooded in Mick Dubbeld this time around, large Buff stalwart Jenny Stewart only came for a look and with Martin and Judy heavily involved in the show their entries were low/non existent respectively. It was up to Orpington Club members Val Bragg, Sonya Ford, Rob McLaren and Eve Marso together with the redoubtable Sue of the Cuckoo Poultry Stud (of Australia) and new exhibitor Jackie Congdon to fly the flag. Also Ron Leary was back after a couple of poor health issues had prevented him attending the National in Queanbeyan and he had some very nice Qld blood Large Blues on parade. All in, all Orpingtons were the second largest breed on show only 1 behind the Polish. The wide range of colour on show in both Large and Bantam also proved to be a talking point and a number of enquiries for breeding stock were heard. Renowned Australorp breeder Kevin Collins judged the Large Birds and our own Robert Hunt assessed the Bantams. Quality was high right from the first class and Kevin picked Rob McLaren's Large Blk Ckl which Rob later mentioned he had bred from some of Bill Patterson's starter stock. This bird went onto be Ch Large Orpington and also win Ch Large Soft Feather Heavy. Reserve Ch Large Orpington was a nice Blue Ckl from Val Bragg. Rob judged the bantams and after the Show Manager had sorted out a penning issue the Bird in question went onto win Ch Bantam Orpington and Reserve Soft Feather Heavy Bantam (to the eventual Best Bird in Show a really well put together Columbian Wyandotte Bantam) Large Black Ckl (2) 1 and BOB and Ch Large Orpington Rob McLaren 2 Waninga Orpingtons Black Pullet (4) 1 Rob McLaren 2. Jackie Congdon Blue Ck (1) Ron Leary Blue Hen (1) Ron Leary Blue Ckl (3) 1 and BOB and Res Ch Orpington Val Bragg 2. Ron Leary Blue Pullet (5) 1 Val Bragg 2 Sonya Ford Buff Ckl(1) Eve Marso Buff Pullet (2) 1 and BOB Val Bragg 2 Jackie.Congdon White Hen (4) 1,2,3 Eve Marso Cuckoo Ckl (2) 1,2 Cuckoo Poultry Stud Cuckoo Pullet(2) 1,2 Cuckoo Poultry Stud Splash Ckl (3) 1,2 Sonya Ford Splash Pullet (2) 1,2 Sonya Ford Crele Ckl (2) 1,2 Cuckoo Poultry Stud Crele Pullet (2) 1,2 Cuckoo Poultry Stud Bantam Black Ck (3) 1 and BOB. Rob McLaren Black Ckl (1) 1. Ron Leary Blue Hen (1) 1 and BOB and Ch Bantam Orpington Ron Leary Blue Ckl (2)1. Rob McLaren Blue Pullet (3) 1 Ron Leary Buff Ck (1) 1 and BOB Val Bragg Buff Pullet (1) 1 Val Bragg White Ckl (1) Ron Leary



Rob McLaren's Black cockerel
was Champion Large Fowl



Champion Bantam was Ron
Leary's Blue hen



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grateful thanks to Jenny Stewart

FEATURING BUFFS FROM THE U.K.

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Four top pictures courtesy The Buff Orpington Club, bottom two courtesy Grant Breerton



**FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW
2010— David Pownall's
Standard cockerel**



**CLUB SHOW CHAMPION 2010
Richard Betts'
Standard pullet.**



**THE BUFF ORPINGTON CLUB SHOW
2010—Champion Bantam
Fiona Stobinski's pullet**



**NORTHERN REGIONAL SHOW 2011
Champion Buff Orpington Standard
Paul and Tina Jones' cockerel**



**HOW'S THIS FOR A SIGHT?
Paul and Tina Jones' males winning at
Ribbles Valley Show 2011.**



**ROB ALLEN'S STANDARD MALE
Best In Show
Royal Berkshire Show (U.K.)**

Building a better Buff Orpington

By Sue @ The Cuckoo Poultry Stud, and Beven's Orpingtons

This outlines the beginning of a journey by another breeder of Orpingtons to 'build a better Buff'. Over the years, the large Buff Orpingtons in Australia have tended towards two types. The full feathered well rumped type (froofy) and the 'road runner' type birds that appear narrower due to the closer feathering.

Some prefer this narrower type but more recently the 'froofy' birds are becoming favoured, as they more closely resemble the other colours in the breed.

In the last few years a number of breeders have commented that we, the Australian Breeders, ought to start seriously working at improving the Buff to world class standards. But only one had seriously considered actually doing so =

Over the years, Simon from Beven's Orpingtons had randomly thought about the best way to improve the type of the Buff, this being the colour Beven's is renowned for.

At the 2010 National Orpington Show, I loaned a large, pretty, somewhat overly feathered Black hen, of impeccable lineage, to Beven's. The bird was used as hybrid vigour in the Beven Blacks and the Cuckoo. An idea formed that perhaps by using this bird it could help up the type of the Buff. So a pen was set.

Noting however, that Beven's Orpingtons is keeping the original type/line of Buffs as a separate entity to this Buff/Black programme. Continuing with the original Buff type is important to Beven's.

So there will eventually be two distinct lines of Buff run on by Simon.

Chicks hatched in a variety of colours. Most were Buff with black smut in the tails, some Buff with what appeared to be dark flecking across the wings, some Black. A number had dark or smudged colour legs, some pale grey legs. The best were grown out.

Unknown to Beven's, I had also been thinking along these lines and had also set a Buff/Black pen. With similar hatch results. Two nice looking, smutty, flecked chicks were growing out.

A phone conversation one evening revealed that we both had had the same thoughts. It was decided that the chicks growing out at The Stud would go to Beven's Orpingtons in the hopes that they continued to grow out to a satisfactory quality to be used in the programme.

The chicks were handed over at the 2011 National Orpington Show.

Ironically at the dinner after the show this Buff issue was brought up at one table by yet another Breeder, who was considering putting White or Black with their Buffs. Where-upon I 'outed' Beven's in their already established quest to improve the Buff. It was also stated that the chicks near the back entrance to the Poultry Pavilion were bred at The Stud and were going home with the Beven's birds. A discussion followed regards what to expect colour wise at the first cross. Which followed into another conversation with opinions as to how many generations it would take to breed out the smuttiness and wrong leg colour.

At this point Simon from Beven's returned to the table after a cheery conversation with Club hierarchy. Only to be informed he had been 'outed' regards his Buff. More than happily he joined in the conversation, giving more clarity to the programme/quest.

Specialising in Cuckoo and using Black to outcross to my regular Cuckoo, I was able to give an insight as to leg, eye and skin colour. We all hypothesised regards how long it would take to breed back to those lovely white legs and deep red eyes the Buff are known for.

Two esteemed members of that conversation, being our 2011 Judges, listened to all the ideas being thrown around, asked a few very small questions, and all the input regards breeding out dark legs in Cuckoo after out-crossing. Then with an uncanny ability to collate all this information, they came forth with a time line of 3 to 5 generations, only 2 to 3 more generations than the Cuckoo.

The 2011 breeding season at Beven's will be an interesting one with great hope for the improvement of type in the Australian Buff Orpingtons.

This was written in collaboration with Simon from Beven's Orpingtons - much thanks is given to Simon for allowing this article to be here.

The Story Of Atlas, a.k.a “ The Egg”

By Martin Doulton, with the help and support of Sue (The Cuckoo Breeder) and Eve Marso.
FORWARD– by Martin.

This is a three part story, with each of the three involved, and their connection, telling how a hatchling dubbed “egg”, became a cock– bird named “ Atlas”.

Three Orpington fanatics who frequently swap birds, favours and stories, now tell of how a white bird came to be who he is.

It also explains how luck played a part in making sure an ugly (and I mean ugly) duckling of a bird actually hatched and then grew into a beautiful swan.

By the accounts of Orpington breeders with vast experience, they say this bird is arguably one of the best Large Whites seen for many years on the East Coast of Australia.

The scene is set at the 2011 National Orpington Show. A stunner of a bird, taking Dallas’ attention, drawing a big smile when sighted, along with a few comments to the positive. *“Pristine white and filling the show pen, a Large White cock bird that finally looked like an Orpington”*

“Atlas” - Best White In Show at The National Orpington Show 2011.

I have to say I can take no credit for breeding, hatching or growing him out. All I did was make sure he fulfilled the potential that Eve saw in him.



“ ATLAS”
 Champion White in Show at The
 National Orpington Show 2011

The Story Of “Egg”- Part 1 by Eve.

Sue Barker came to visit one day and brought me six eggs. It was late November 2009 and I didn’t really fancy having to incubate another lot, but not wanting to look a gift horse in the mouth, I retrieved my incubator from the back room, and installed the six “ White Orpington” eggs, instead of transforming them into an omelette.

Five eggs were clear, and one lonely white fluff– ball hatched.

As “ Egg” had no siblings, I raised him as a pet. Allowing him to follow me around the garden and feeding him by hand with whatever I could lay my hands on while working. Chopped up dog sausage, hard boiled egg, bread soaked in milk. These were among his staples together with tiny porridge oats and starter crumbles.

When he grew to an identifiable size as a cockerel he joined the rest of the gang and started to rule the roost. Regardless of the fact he was the ugliest teenage duckling I had ever laid eyes on. Tail feathers up in the air, hackles twisted in every direction, pinions had not come through until fairly late, non– existent cushion.

“ Egg”, as Sue had christened him, was a disaster. Windblown and dishevelled, I was going to cull him, but a gut feeling made me run him on. As if overnight, a magical change took place and

“ Atlas” was born. He wooed the girls, strutted his stuff in front of me, and he took my breath away.

When I decided to pair him off with two of my first place show winners, two white hens, I got about 35 offspring. I have run on two cockerels who are the spitting image of their father, and suddenly I was given the extra responsibility of running on some of the other offspring– stunning recessive Lemon Columbian, two Buff Columbian, and a Red/ Blue Columbian, all pullets. They were a surprise, but accidents do produce new recipes, and new colours, in poultry.

Following this cornucopia of type and colour I was running out of space, and offered Martin the honour of becoming the “ Atlas Custodian”. Dedicated as he is, Martin has done a magnificent job of shampooing, blow– drying, manicuring, pedicuring and botoxing Atlas for the 2011 National Orpington Show. Also a comment from the Judges that he was an outstanding bird.

The moral of this story is- *‘ Do not cull birds before they have reached a certain level of maturity. They can change overnight.’*

The Story of “Egg”- Part 2 by Sue.

By way of explanation–

In the April 2011 Orpington Club of Australia Newsletter, there was an article by Sue (The Cuckoo Breeder) documenting “ A White Odyssey– or more rightly, a Study in White”. The most pertinent bits of that earlier article, as relating to this story, are the description of her acquisition of West Australian Whites, and subsequent blending of these with some hens from Bluey Callinan’s lines, and then crossed to a Waninga (Martin -Ed) White cockerel. So now with Sue’s words–

I am now reasonably sure that, “Egg/Atlas” is the result of my mixing up a few eggs that I gave to Eve.

At the time I had the Waninga White boy mentioned in my “ Odyssey” in with the girls from the W.A. X Bluey’s Whites= I believe I accidentally put some of those in the carton and Egg/ Atlas is the result.

("Atlas—The Egg"—cont.)

I know I put ones from the pure W.A. pen in the carton for Eve. But we both had a laugh one day, not long afterwards, as both of us could not remember which pen some of the eggs had come from (on same day, each at our own properties of course and not a normal occurrence as eggs are normally marked clearly as to colour and pen).

In hindsight, and after checking my books regards who was with who, also after taking the 2011 National Show pictures and studying "Atlas", and comparing him to his brother here, also a White, who wowed all at the 2010 National Show= I am certain that Atlas is from that Waninga White, and the hens from the W.A. / Callinan cross. Atlas is an almost image copy of his 2010 Show's younger brother.

The Story of Atlas—Part 3. by Martin.

I have only ever known this bird as "Atlas". I first saw him at the 2010 Vic. Rare and New Breeds Show at Seymour. He presented as a really ugly, gawky teenager. I am sure he had cow hocks for legs. If he had been mine, I would have eaten him! Looking back now, I am glad he was not my bird at the time. When next I saw him it was January 2011. Eve had bred a large number of chicks and was running out of growing room. At the time I was looking for a new White cockerel to put across my hens for the 2011 breeding season. I asked if I might be able to have Atlas, and in return I gave Eve my stud White cockerel, the full brother to the 2010 Ch. Large White. I had kept a whole raft of 2010 bred White cockerels from him. I wasn't even sure I was going to keep the bird from Eve, as he hadn't looked that good the last time I had seen him in August 2010.

I collected Atlas in January 2011, and as I had finished breeding for the season, I decided to put him away in a cockerel pen. Once he was in this pen, two things caught my eye about him. He was heavy; all of Eve's birds are pretty solid thanks to her natural feeding programme. Also that he was white. No yellow whatsoever anywhere, and with what looked to be the beginnings of a really nice rump. So he got a reprieve from going off to market. Over the next month or two, I started to see him fill out, thanks to his solitary confinement and his high protein diet.

It wasn't till May 2011 that I let him out of his cockerel pen to wander the orchard. This was when the "wow" factor clicked in. Both Hilary and I were watching over the fence one afternoon, when this big white cock-bird started strutting his stuff, and it was at that moment we knew it was appropriate to call him by the name given to him by Eve, he was truly Atlas!

The rest, as they say, is history.

Atlas had revelled in his darkened bachelor pad, which was a pen run on grass, and moved every two or three days. He went through an almost perfect moult, with the new feathers growing in whiter than white. With a taste for Laucke Meat Bird feed and a special mash, this caused him to really fill out as the adult he had now become. The adult size and weight, combined with his excellent looks, meant he presented a picture of being a Black Orpington in white clothing!

About two weeks out from the "Big Show", he came into the stable and was washed for the first time. Just looking at him after having his wash and blow dry, he looked pretty damn smart!

After the Show Atlas came back looking better than ever, in fact, the week after he was still in tip top condition. So off he went to the breeding pen as planned, and we will now see what he hatches.

CONCLUSION-

Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction.

Who would have thought an unwanted egg that nearly became an omelette?

Was the only one of a gifted six to hatch.

Was not culled early as it may have, if it had been anywhere else but Eve's.

Would then grow through an amazingly ugly, gangly teen period.

Then to go on to become a National Champion, and "arguably, one of the best White Orpingtons ever seen on the East Coast of Australia"

Sue says (as always having the final words)= this says a lot about sharing, caring and allowing your birds to grow out past the gangly, teenage stage, feeding them well, and watching them become what we "Orp. Tragic" all know they are= wonderful and graceful birds.



Another view of "Atlas"
The "ugly duckling who grew
into a swan"

EDITOR'S NOTE– The following is a copy of the General Rules of The Orpington Club of Australia, endorsed by the Club in 1985 and reprinted here without comment. Brackets signify changes that were later implemented to reflect on-going trends.

1. The Club shall be called “The Orpington Club Of Australia”
2. The objects shall be– to advance and encourage the breeding, improvement and honourable exhibition of this special breed of poultry.
3. The working year of the Club shall be from 1st July to the last day of June the following year.
4. Seven financial Members will consist a quorum for General Meetings.
5. Any person of good character may become a Member of The Club if properly proposed by a Financial Member, and accepted by the Members present at a General Meeting, and upon the payment of an Annual subscription of (\$5) provided that for juveniles under 16 the subscription be (\$2.50), and each member of a partnership or syndicate shall pay (\$5).
6. All Members on register are to receive notice of an Annual Meeting, and at the same time, to be advised of their current financial position with The Club.
7. The Committee is empowered to strike off Member's names on register when two (2) full years in arrears. Any Member so removed who wishes to rejoin at a later date, must first pay two years arrears subscription, plus the current subscription. This also applies to resignations from unfinancial Members.
8. All Office Bearers shall retire at the end of each year, but will be eligible for re- election.
9. Any Office Bearer absenting himself from three (3) consecutive Meetings without apologies, the position will be deemed vacant.
10. The following Office Bearers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting—President, 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary/ Treasurer, Minute Secretary, 2 Auditors, Show Secretary, Show Manager and Publicity Officer.
11. The Committee is to comprise all of the above mentioned Office Bearers plus floor Members to make a total of 14.
12. The Committee shall have full power to call Meetings of The Club as often as they may be required; to fix the place of a Meeting; to introduce any new feature of interest compatible with the objects of The Club generally. The elected Committee will meet as often as required.
13. At the Annual General Meeting, it shall be competent for any two Members (one as mover and the other as seconder), to propose alterations to The Rules, but notice of such intention must be given to the Secretary, in writing at least 21 days before the date of the said Meeting.
14. If the Management Committee decide a certain action should be taken, or a new rule provided, it should come into force when it has been brought back to the General Meeting and approved.
15. Only Financial Members will be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.
16. The Secretary's duties;
 - (a) The Secretary/ Treasurer shall perform all relevant, necessary work and shall keep all applicable records, books of accounts, and shall transact the banking business of The Club at a convenient branch of the bank.
 - (b) The Secretary/ Treasurer shall receive all monies and issue an official receipt for same.
 - (c) All accounts shall be submitted to the Meeting for Authorisation of payment.
 - (d) Cheques should be signed by the President, Secretary/ Treasurer or Vice President who shall be nominated by the Meeting. Any two of the afore- mentioned signatures to count.
 - (e) An audited Balance Sheet shall be presented by the Secretary/ Treasurer to the Annual Meeting, or at other times if so requested by the Meeting.
 - (f) A Secretary's Annual Report shall be presented to the Annual Meeting, which should provide a resume of happenings within the Club during the preceding twelve Months.
17. The (British Poultry Standards) to be the Club's standard for judging purposes.
18. Any Member found guilty of any practice considered unworthy of a Club Member, or against the best interests of The Club, may be suspended or disqualified by a 75% majority vote at any General Meeting where this matter is brought forward for decision. Any Member so affected is to be advised within 14 days by registered mail. An appeal may be lodged in writing with The Club's Secretary within 14 days of the receipt of such notice. This will be heard at the earliest opportunity by The Committee who will report their findings back to the next General Meeting.
19. The President shall not be entitled to a deliberative vote, but shall be entitled to a casting vote.
20. The Club to promote an Orpington Show annually.

Ace British Breeder, David Pownall gives the answers. (Courtesy The Orpington Club (U.K.)

What makes a perfect Orpington? Obviously, anybody interested in showing should have a copy of the Breed Standards, but few can discuss the finer points of birds being exhibited today. As pointed out to me recently, there is hardly any analysis around the cages at shows these days! Not good!

The first thing that I cull for in my young cockerels is the head. Birds with too few, and too many serrations are first to go, ideally we are looking for 4-5 spikes. Any side sprigs, or fish tails, go the same way, although these faults usually only occur in the Bantams. The comb must be small and firm, and follow the line of the skull.

I believe that all Orps. should be the same shape, only different colours. The large Buffs are the nearest thing we have to the written Standard, and I hope we can bring the other colours closer to this standard.

Underline is very important to me. Big deep fronts are a must. I hate cut-away, tall leggy Orpingtons. Balance is another thing. The tail line must peak at the bird's eye level. Too many Orpingtons keep their tails down, and there is no excuse for this. The Orpington should be an active fowl.

The tail itself must be short and wide, and always on the rise. Many of our Blacks, although the biggest in Europe, are let down by twisted and long tails which spoil the bird's profile. Size is a big issue in Orpingtons. For me, a large fowl heavy breed can not be too big.

Weights are given to avoid undersizing, and I strive for bigger birds each year. This does not mean a big coarse bird, but a big, typey specimen I find that if the bird is short and wide, he appears bigger than he actually is. I like birds to fill an imaginary circle.



David's Standard Buff cockerel
Buff Orpington Club
Champion 2008

In Bantams, size is a problem. The best type Bantams seem to be the bigger ones. I try and not to be drawn to the bigger ones for bulk alone, and look more for the finer points. I like to see a bantam that has a nice high wing carriage. The Danes say there should be a lot less feather above the wing level than below, and this saying is always in my mind when looking at the wing carriage. We must select mid-sized quality birds, but avoid trying to select for small size as an attribute. I think the danger is the return of Pekin style Orpingtons.

Colour in the Black, is as important as the blue to me. Birds have to carry a beetle-green sheen to look anything. Matt black birds look drab, and once you have this on both sides of your matings you are finished! Be careful to avoid purple barring, or plum coloured birds in the show pen, although some like the latter in the breeding pen.

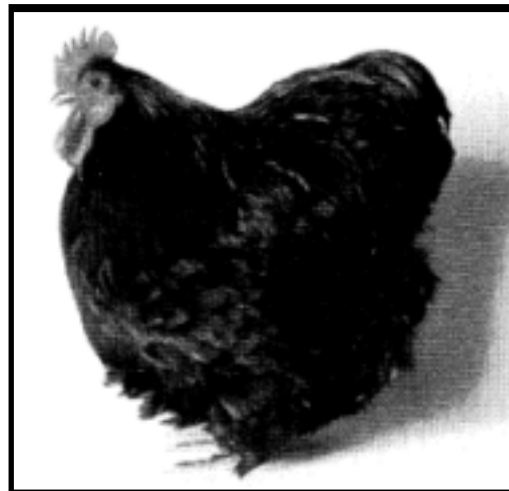
The Blue is a very difficult colour to perfect. The colour is based on the Andalusian blue. I study Andalusians at shows, and we have a long way to go to get them near where they should be. Currently, birds either have the correct ground colour (mid blue), but with very little faint lacing or thick lacing over a smutty dark ground

colour. Getting a thick lacing over a nice mid ground colour is very difficult. I have introduced a heavy laced strain over my Blues, but progress is very slow. We need more breeders, breeding numbers to keep up the work. Some say unless a bird has a dark eye you will never get the lacing correct!

Colour in Whites is more a case of management than breeding- keeping them out of direct sun, and out of any mud or damp litter is a must! Although black, or sandy smut has been a problem, leg colour is the current stigma. Many dark legged specimens can ruin a good bird. So let's get talking. Thanks for reading.



D.G.Pownall's
Standard White cockerel
2006



David Pownall's
Black Bantam cockerel
Champion Club Show 2006



David (left) cleans up at the
Orpington Club (U.K.) Show
Pictured here with Club Chairman
Brian Anderton.

PICTURE PARADE

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**Reserve Champion Black Bantam at
the National Orpington Show 2011
The Cuckoo Breeder's pullet**



**A New Colour Development.
The Cuckoo Breeder's Standard
Silver Crele cockerel**



**The Latest From The U.K.
Grant Brereton & Steve Dace's
Buff Laced Bantam**



**Val Braggs' Blue cockerel was
Reserve Champion Standard at the
Victorian Rare Breeds Show.**

Announcing!

The Orpington Club's Northern Feature Show 2012
Sunday June 24th– Castle Hill Showground (Sydney)
(in conjunction with NSW Wyandotte Fancier's Club Show)

Already \$500 in Special Awards with much more to come!

Judge– Mr. Peter Nordstrom
(well known and respected Orpington breeder
who has previously judged our Club Show)
Full details and Schedule will appear in the Autumn Newsletter.
Further enquiries to Dallas Smith (02) 49532149