



The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)

‘The Orpington Outlook’



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

Hi all,
Got plenty of chicks on the ground? I hope so!

Like a lot of regions in Australia our weather in Crookwell has been up and down like a fiddlers elbow, and getting chicks on the ground has been like pulling teeth, nonetheless, I've managed to get SOME out !

Do try and get as many chicks as your facilities will handle. Good numbers will enable your flock to express its full genetic potential both good and bad, and it's up to you to cull the not so good from the good (but not too soon !).



I've been musing on our 3P's plan to progress the club. I can only commend our members for their ideas and enthusiasm to help move our great club forward. The measures put in place go a long way to address the nub of the matter, that is getting new members and keeping them.

In my marketing days we always aimed to identify as far as possible our target market, and in our particular field of interest that market is potentially broad. Looking at our Facebook page I note that there are "tyrekickers", pet owners, mildly interested individuals, enthusiastic newbies and full on breeders, these latter being club members whose names I recognise.

The enthusiastic newbies are as close as I can imagine to being a "target market" and we must do all we can to ensure their Orpington experience is pleasurable and productive. I think the 3P's plan goes a long way to ensuring this outcome.

Being a technological "dinosaur", I also noted the immediacy of replies and broad range of queries canvassed on the Facebook page. I suppose in time to come, if not already, this will have implications for our Outlook newsletter. Don't get me wrong, I think there will always be a place for the considered comments to be found in our newsletter, as opposed to "off the cuff" comments. I am at the same time a realist, and today's society demands quick, immediate responses, modern communications technology making this expectation possible. At base, our newsletter is one means of communication, the facebook page another. My hope is that the two can continue to thrive in tandem, one complimenting the other.

From the foregoing I make no point, rather I just thought I would share my thoughts on this vital subject with you. Don't forget, you too are afforded the same opportunity too via our newsletter, and bear in mind these are only my thoughts.

Take care of your growing champions, and until next time,
my best wishes to you all,

Simon

From the Secretary's desk.

As this edition is the show season review for 2017 its probably only fair to say that 2017 was the Year of the Black Orpington! Pretty much every major show that featured a strong Orpington entry was won by a Black Orpington.

And they were outstanding!

One bird that has a strong claim to Orpington of the Year title is Karen Bussians Large Black pullet that won the Qld Feature, the National Orpington Show and the Rosewood Feature the latter as the Clive Claus Memorial Show the old master would have been wrapped to see her success which was followed up a week later with a big win at the EKKa with a Large Black Cockerel. Trevor Dents Large Black Ckl was outstanding too as it romped through the Champion Orpington plaudits at the Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide Royal Shows. Over in the West one can't go past Cliff Weichelts Large Black Cockerel which after winning the lead up shows went Champion Bird in Show at the Perth Royal -a fitting end to the season.

Bantam Blacks were not to be outdone either with Jordan Mckeown and Brandon Bakers respective wins as best in-section in both Qld and WA respectively were equally as outstanding as their larger cousins. Maryanne Lunds Black bantam girl at the National was only a whisker away from taking the main prize of her Qld compatriot. (Brenda) Oakey and (Al) Williams Black bantams section wins at Canberra and Melbourne Royals were well deserved too.

In these open shows such was the quality of these Blacks that they often took out Champion Soft feather awards too!

So where does it leave the rest of the colours! With a bit of biase but I think Sonya Fords Large Blue girls and Waninga Orpingtons Large Blue boys weren't half bad. Sonyas Large Buff Ckl was probably one of the best Buffs- Large or bantam- I have had the pleasure of seeing in Oz and Ross Gibsons judging comments from the Vic Feature show which are included in this edition reinforce my opinion of this bird.

The good thing about the end of the show season is that it's often the starting point for the next one! Those of us with colours other than black clearly have to get our derrieres into gear and get these colours up to the standard of the Blacks! Breeding with quality fowls and feeding them well is all part of the challenge but we need to accept it and take it to them.



By the time you read this article most serious breeders will have hatched all they need to and are now doing what they need to prepare the birds to be the best examples of the breed they can be. With every breeder around the country backing the 2018 National Orpington Show at Dubbo on Sat 30th June as the one show to get to I am sure our two outstanding judges in Grahame and Brendan Sharpe are looking forward to having their work cut out in finding the best Orpington at the show. Through preparing a world class show team I for one am looking forward to giving them a headache in finding it

Cheers for now

Martin

Best contact is via email secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com

Membership

As of 1st May 2017 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 2017 automatically expire in the following year (to 30 April 2019)

Membership fees are \$20 for adults and \$10 for juniors which will 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 Doultton 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



(Just in time for Christmas for that Orpington lover)



Orpington Club mugs \$10 ea + post

- * Black
- * Buff
- * Blue
- * Mottle
- * White
- * Jubilee
- * Red

Now Available

Orpington Club of Australia Wall Calendars

July 2017—June 2018

28 x 43 cm

\$20 each + \$5 for post in Aus.

International post also available



Orpington Club Pens \$3



ORPINGTONS – THE PAST, THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE

By Dallas J Smith

Dallas Smith is well known for the high standard achieved in the numerous poultry publications he has been associated with, like *Simply Wyandottes*. The release of *Orpingtons* will not disappoint. Although written for devotees of this breed, much in the text will interest breeders of other fowl who are struggling with the intricacies of colour.

Orpingtons details the development of the breed and the numerous stakeholders involved. New insights are presented as the author has thoroughly researched the breed's origination. A subsequent section builds on this historical background, examining each colour variety closely and unravelling its particular story and the individuals involved.

One of the valuable features of the book is that it presents a global perspective of Orpingtons with input and photos on the various colour varieties from master breeders from the UK, USA, Denmark, South Africa, Australia and more.

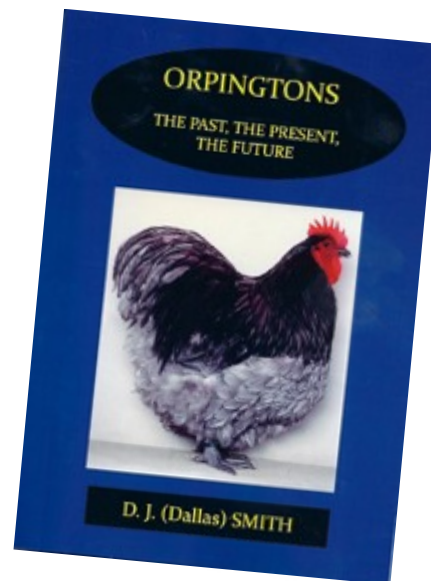
Several parts of the book deserve highlighting. The first is the section titled 'What the Standards do not say'. Several pages are devoted to discussion on points of the standard, enabling a clearer understanding to be achieved. The second

section forms part of the colour discussion that accompanies each of the 16 recognised varieties and contains valuable advice on achieving the correct shade or pattern. For example, the examination of both white and blue plumage were valuable as was coverage on some less common Orpington colours.

Separate chapters detailing colour requirements, the breed standards, judging and care and management offer constructive information and advice.

The illustrations in *Orpingtons* are a key feature with some 200 coloured and black and white photos plus a number of prints. Examining and comparing the photos enables the small differences that exist between examples in different countries to be appreciated and adds to the understanding that each country interprets breed standards a little differently. Be prepared for some great photos of Orpington varieties that are not seen in Australia.

This book is a good investment for collectors and a top read for admirers of the breed that haven't read the antiquarian books by William Cook or Lewis Wright. An excellent mix of history and practical information that will guide breeders to greater success.



Softcover, B5 size, 156pp, colour and b&w illustrations. Introductory offer \$45 Aust plus p&hp. Release date is 10 June at the National Poultry Show in Sydney where pre-paid copies can be collected. Enquiries ph: 02-4953-2149, or email: dallas.j.smith@bigpond.com. Bank transfer details available through phone or email, or payment via cash/cheque/money order/PayPal, payable to DJ Smith, 35 Appletree Rd, Holmesville 2286. ❖

INTRODUCTORY OFFER

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Judges Report Southern Orpington Feature Show

Oakleigh Victoria 2017

Firstly I would like to thank the Oakley Poultry Club for asking me to officiate at this show, the organisation of the show and the hospitality left nothing to be desired.

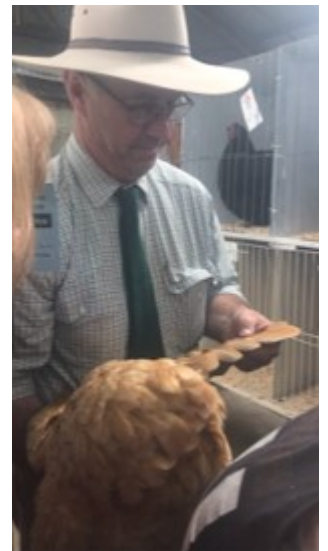
This is a difficult report to write as there were a couple of outstanding birds in what was generally a disappointing line up of fowls. No bantams shown.

My Orpington of Show was a magnificent Buff Cockerel show by Sonya Ford. Hopefully there was a good picture taken of this fowl as he was by far the best Buff I have ever seen in Australia, in 40 years of association with show poultry. His type was good for any Orpington never mind a buff. What was so good about this bird was that he typified that great show fowls can also be good utility fowls. This bloke could strut around the farm with 20 pullets, keep them happy and then wash up and win any show on Sunday. The only thing that stopped this fowl going up for inter breed honours was that his colour could have been better (a little tri coloured) and he had 3 true tail feathers that were not straight. Watch this as it is very heritable trait. Well done Mrs Ford, that is one great fowl.



The unlucky bird of the day was a Buff Cock Bird, grand old chap, great scale, weight, beautiful colour and so active for his age. Very valuable breeding fowl, only problem with him is that he is not in my breeding pen. The buff females were not in the same league as these two males. Having said that they were a fair line up and the Victorians are definitely on the right track with the large Buff Orpingtons

I also got to handle two of the new imports which have created so much talk. On the positive side they have grand top lines and possibly better fuller fronts superior in general to our buffs. Both these traits I see will improve the more utility buffs we have in Australia. Having said this I have one great concern with both the import birds I handled, that being that they lacked activity. Both handled more like soft Pekins than our typical robust Australian buffs. I have heard a lot of unhappy talk about the import fowls generally, and my advice would be to use this blood very carefully to bring in a couple of traits such as backs and fronts and then breed the blood back out again.



There was only one white male on display. Shame really as he was a good bird, good bone plenty of scale and weight. Well put down by the owner Martin Doulton, well done.

The hardest part of this report is to write about the blacks and blues which were very disappointing. The two hens on display were good weighty cobby types but both had flat backs and neither showed any shank. The other concerning factor here was the eye placement of these birds. Having said this, mated to the right males both hens would make fair stock birds. The cockerels of which there were two, were very poor, the better of the two was again flat in the back and had a rye tail. In the pullets they really lacked the cobbiness of the hens, and all were far too loose and baggy underneath.



A couple of blues hens with reasonable colour and lacing. The males all had a tendency to rye tail, and colour was not right. I am afraid there is far too much use of Splash males which is undoing the lacing in this variety. The blue pullets were a bigger class with one blue pullet put down well. The second pullet in the class was a fair pullet but lacked show presentation.

The best Black and Blue I judged was in fact the in the junior classes. A solid black hen with the correct top line and some real guts should breed well for the young exhibitor. The blue cockerel who was infact best junior was easily the best blue for the day with good type and colour. Just need a bit more of him. Well done, both these birds were way in front of the birds in the open section.

On my way from Victoria I flew back home via Brisbane and was fortunate enough to see the Orpingtons prior to judging at the Brisbane Royal. No buffs that I saw but the blacks and blues there were vastly superior to the Victorian birds. This should auger well for the National Show moving to the central location of Dubbo.

I enjoyed the weekend with the small but devoted band of Victorian breeders, on what could only be described as a cool Melbourne morning.

Ross Gibson





Royal Adelaide Show 2017 Results

- Adelaide Show Photos courtesy of Melissa Hall from Ambleside Poultry Photography

STANDARD CLASSES

Champion Standard Orpington - T.J.&D.M. Dent's Black Cockerel

Reserve Champion Standard Orpington – T.J.&D.M.Dent's Black Pullet

Black Cock (3) 1st,2nd T.J.&D.M.Dent, 3rd K.&K. Hancock

Black Hen (3) 1st T.J.&D.M.Dent , 2nd Sonya Ford, 3rd A.J.&A.T.Lock

Black Ckl (6) 1st,2nd T.J.&D.M.Dent, 3rd Sonya Ford

Black Plt (10) 1st,2nd,3rd T.J.&D.M. Dent, 4th Sonya Ford

Buff Hen (1) T.W.Bowden

Buff Ckl (7) 1st Sonya Ford,2nd J.Mathie, 3rd MP Poultry Stud

Buff Plt 8) 1st ,2nd Faehrmann Family, 3rd Sonya Ford

Blue Cock (1) 1st T.J.&D.M.Dent

Blue Hen (2) 1st T.J.&D.M.Dent, 2nd A.J.&A.T.Lock

Blue Plt (2) 1st,2nd Sonya Ford

BANTAM CLASSES

Champion Orpington Bantam - I.Dawes Buff Cockerel

Reserve Orpington Bantam – Oakey B & Williams A's AOC Pullet

Buff Ckl (2) 1st I.Dawe, 2nd MP Poultry Stud

Buff Pullet (3) 1st,2nd I.Dawe, 3rd MP Poultry Stud

Black Ckl 6) 1st,3rd Oakey B & Williams A, 2nd Kimberley Kearney

Black Plt (4) 1st,2nd Oakey B & Williams A, 3rd Kimberley Kearney

AOC Ckl (2) 1st, 2nd Oakey B & Williams A

AOC Pullet (5) 1st,3rd Oakey B& Williams A, 2nd A & S Burgess



Something to crow about ?

- ♦ Have your Orpingtons done well at a Poultry Show or Agricultural Show?
- ♦ Send us the details & a photo of their success to be featured in the next Orpington Outlook.
- ♦ goldfeatherpoultry@bigpond.com

Whats happening in the West.

Greetings fellow orpington breeders. I think you will all agree with me that this year has been a wonderful show season for Orpingtons all over Aus, taking out some big prizes in many different shows.

For the first time in many years we are seeing a great jump in quality and numbers at many of our shows. This really makes me excited for the future of Orps in our state.

The club was generously sponsored 3 shows in the state and the Orpingtons did not disappoint.

Bullsbrook Poultry Club Show July 2017

SF Judge* Gary Phillips



Champion Bantam
Black cockerel by Brandon
Baker



Champion Standard
Black cockerel by
Cliff Weichelt

Both these birds went on to take out Champion Softfeather Heavybreed standard and bantam. The stunning little black bantam by Brandon Baker went on to take Reserve Bird of show

Midland Club Show August 2017

Sf Judge* Trevor Dent



Trevor & Cliff



Champion standard
Black cockerel by Cliff
Weichelt



Champion Bantam
chocolate cockerel by
Wicus Du Plessis

Standard cockerel went on and took Champion soft feather breed.

Perth Royal Sept 2017



Champion Standard Orpington/
Champion Softfeather Heavy
Breed -black cockerel by Cliff
Weichelt



Champion bantam- black
cockerel by Brandon Baker



Reserve Champion
bantam- blue pullet by
Brandon Baker.

Both these very well presented birds took Champion and Reserve Champion Soft feather heavy breed in show.

This bird went on to take Champion Bird of Show and for the first time in 30 odd years has a Orpington won Bird Of Show at the Perth Royal.

What a great sight to see 3x Orpingtons in the champion row at a royal show. Was a wonderful showcase for the breed.

Thank you and congratulations to all our exhibitors in the state.

Now to go breed next years champions so we may see our favourite breed at the top where we know they belong.

Happy Orping

Cliff Weichelt

WA State Representative



Royal Canberra Poultry Show

Judges: Dr Brendan Sharpe (standard)
Graeme Smith (bantam)

♦ Photos courtesy of Cathy Newton



Reserve Champion Standard Softfeather -
TJ & DM Dent

Champion Standard Orpington
Champion Standard Black Orpington



Best Orpington Blue Standard
Wananga Orpingtons



Best Orpington Buff Standard
S. Ford



Best Standard AORC Orpington
Wananga Orpingtons



Best Bantam Orpington
Best Bantam Black Orpington
Oakey & Williams



Best Bantam Blue Orpington
Oakey & Williams



Best Bantam Buff Orpington
Hutton Kids



Best Bantam Cuckoo Orpington
G. Fowler

Are You Prepared for the Summer Ahead?

R.W Gibson

Last year I was introduced to Facebook and some of the poultry sites and forums, and I was aghast at the losses that people incurred during last summer's heatwaves. I believe many of these losses were the result of a lack of planning and implementation of management strategies to combat the prevailing heatwave conditions. I would therefore like to pen a few points which may prove useful in combating the challenges facing us this summer.

I would suggest that some good preventative management can stop a lot of heartache and grief later in the season.

What are Most Poultry Deaths Caused From?

- ◆ Fowls Grossly overstocked, i.e. too many fowls in the one pen.
- ◆ Tin Sheds which provide little if any relief from temperature extremes
- ◆ Fowls too Fat
- ◆ Dirty Water
- ◆ Lack of Cool Water
- ◆ Fowls which have been breed which just can't shed excessive body heat.
- ◆ Stock run Inappropriately
- ◆ Stock left to their Own Devices

Most poultry deaths in Summer are preventable. When it comes to heat management of poultry one of the best stock hands I know is a lady by the name of Tracey Bird Gardiner. She breeds possibly the best large Silver laced Wyandottes in the country in a town called Narromine in Central Western NSW. The average temperature for January/February for 2017 was over 40 degrees with a high of 46.1°C. The challenges she faces every year to get her large soft feather fowls through the summer I would argue make the rest of our challenges small scale. The point here with some preventative steps we can reduce our summer loses.



Housing and Stocking Rates

Fowls Over Stocked

I like to run my hens in groups of no more than 15, ensuring they have at least 3m² per bird. Currently your breed is going backwards because too many older hens are not getting through the summer to make the breeding season next year. Your old hens are the foundation of your stud, look after them as you would the Crown Jewels. They should get the premier pens in the yard.

Housing of male birds, I believe is where most people get into trouble. This partly comes from often having to many breeds or colours. You cannot expect cockerels to live in a cockerel box through summer. The same box, pen or cage may be ok for 9 months of the year but through the summer they are just a death trap.

Adult cock birds need to the same amount of space at least 3m²

Tin Sheds and Inappropriate Housing

Several years ago when I was away mustering I had to spend a week in January camping in a tin shed. The worst week of my life. The shed would be comparable to most poultry sheds I have seen. From this time on I have taken a few with poultry housing that if it is not good enough for me to be comfortable in then the fowls probably won't be comfortable either. Uncomfortable fowls lead to stressed fowls which contributes to higher mortalities.

The other thing that I think leads to problems in the summer is concrete floors. They look neat and tidy but they prevent fowls from being able to have a really good dust bath. Which is so important to allow the fowl to actually drop their body temperate.

So, what can we do?

Insulation is a must, either installed in the shed when you build it, or through insulation paint which you can buy which has sun repelling properties. I know painting the outside of her sheds with one of these paints has been a critical management tool Tracey Bird Gardiner has employed.

Ensure the outside runs are covered with a heavy grade shade cloth or better still shaded by trees and shrubs. Plants such as sugar cane and Potato vine can provide perfect foliage to take the edge off the summer heat. This outside coverage is critical as the reflection of radiant heat from the ground in the afternoon which can be nearly as hot as the heat from the sun.

Ensure there is enough shaded worked up soil for all fowls in the pen to lay in cool moist earth. In heat wave conditions, I believe half an hour wetting these areas in the evening or morning can help save more birds than anything else. It costs little, doesn't take much water but it provides the birds with some genuine relief.

Some people use misters, but too many times have I seen systems like this fail, with power outages, water shortages and the like. It is amazing how automated systems pack it in when the chips are down, particularly poorly designed ones. I am not a fan of misters.

Fowls Too Fat.

Yes, hens particularly older fowls like many of us Australians are too fat. And I think with many newer Orpington keepers your fowls are in fact pets not livestock. The point here is cut out the treats like cheese and corn, put your hens on a good layer pellet ad. lib. in November and you should have no need to worry. Give the Xmas scraps to the growers and all should be well.

Water Quality

One of the hardest challenges is to keep water cool and clean.

All I can suggest here is to make sure waters are cleaned every couple of days, they are kept in the shade and keep water in larger volume containers, to help keep it cooler. This is where I don't like automatic water systems in heat wave situations. Unless the piping has been properly laid under the ground often the water delivered to the fowls can be warm by the time they get it. So, if you have automatic waters which 10 months of the year are brilliant, it may help to throw some home-made drum waters in the yards.

Stock Management

Anything which can stress the fowl can contribute to weakening the fowl and making it less able to cope with heat stress. We need to keep this in mind when running our stock.

Segregation

Older hens, they don't need to be mated through the summer, give them a spell from the boys in the hot months. They will be much happier.

Don't let light breed chickens run with heavy breed chickens, they have a totally different outlook on life and the heavy breeds will benefit particularly from running by themselves.

Run chickens in their respective age groups. Just like boarding school the Year 7 kids do it tough in the playground.

Most of us Orpington breeders seem to have bantam Orpingtons along with our bigger fowls, the same applies here, run them separately.

Parasite Management

In late November make sure your fowls have been treated for internal and external parasites.

Plan Your Holidays

Unfortunately, you can't have everything in life and basically going away for 2 weeks in heat wave conditions every summer and running poultry just don't go hand in hand. If you love your surf board more than the fowls, get rid of the fowls. You can't expect anyone else to look after the birds the way they need to be in these sorts of conditions. Speaking from experience we lost more fowls (6) in four days over Christmas last year than we did for the rest of the summer, when I for the sake of family harmony went to the coast for four days, over Christmas.

Conclusion

You may think much of what I have write is a little undoable, but unfortunately with our summers getting hotter we need to change with the times. Many of the disaster stories last year could have been averted and many good older fowls could still have been with us, if preventative measures had been put in place.

There is one question that I will leave you with.

“How many fowls can I house and segregate in the hottest two months of the year satisfactorily?”

If the number is 30, then this is the stocking rate you should then run for the rest of the year.

The easiest way to manage stocking rate is to reduce the number of breeders or colours you run. A real problem with modern day poultry keeps, but that is a debate for another day.



The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc)

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Home Phone 03 5964 8224

2018-2019 Membership year

APPLICATION/RENEWAL.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms.).....

Postal Address:State.....

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I Enclose

Adult Financial Membership \$20 p.a
(1st May to 30th April) \$.....

Junior (<16 years) Membership \$10 \$.....

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(please nominate your preference)

TOTAL \$.....

I keep the following Varieties:

LARGE		BANTAMS.	
BLACK		BLACK	
BUFF		BUFF	
BLUE		BLUE	
WHITE		WHITE	
CUCKOO		CUCKOO	
ANY OTHER VARIETY		ANY OTHER VARIETY	

STRIKE OUT WHICHEVER DOES NOT APPLY (/)

I OCCASIONALLY HAVE STOCK FOR SALE

YES/NO

I GIVE PERMISSION TO HAVE MY CONTACT DETAILS PROVIDED.

YES/NO

Please make remittance by money Order or Cheque payable to **The Orpington Club of Australia**
Direct deposit also available in Club Account BSB 062 549 Ac No 0090 1366



The Orpington Club of Australia

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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!

Dates for Your Diaries (or Calendars) 2018 Club Supported shows in your State

Date	Show	Venue/State	Date	Show	Venue/State
May 12	N-NSW Feature (Quirindi)	NSW	August 4	Vic Orpington Feature Show (OakleighPC)	VIC
June 8-10	S-NSW Feature (Royal Canberra Poultry Show)	ACT	September	Royal Adelaide Show	SA
June 9	QLD Feature 1 (Dalby Feather Club)	QLD	September	Royal Perth	WA
June 30	National Orpington Club Show	Dubbo NSW		International Orpington Shows	
July 7-8	Royal Melbourne Poultry Show	VIC	June	New Zealand Orpington Club National Show	NZ
July 8	Bulsbrook PC Show	WA	Nov	The Buff Orpington Club (UK)	UK
July 28	QLD Feature 2 (Rosewood PC)	QLD	Dec	The Orpington Club of GB	UK
August 4	Midland Poultry Club	WA			