



# The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)

## ‘The Orpington Outlook’

February 2015 Late Summer Edition



One of the Calendar Girls Vicki Jerret's bantam hen with her clutch of Large Blue and Splash Chicks

**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 all,

I hope you've all had a great Christmas and more importantly a safe one. I also hope you've all had a great season with your current crop of youngsters and that some are starting to show promise. I was very fortunate in that I had one of the best breeding seasons in years. Everything I did was the same, but what I think gave me an edge was the excellent seasonal conditions we experienced in the Crookwell district, particularly plenty of green grass long after it should have turned brown as in previous seasons.

Anyway, the cattle and sheep are fat as are the poultry (as am I after the Christmas tucker !). My own batch of young Orps are shaping nicely, with a FEW looking rather good. I emphasize 'a few' to highlight the subject of culling. If you are new to Orpingtons don't be too hasty to cull youngsters as Orpingtons require a substantial period of time to mature being such a large-bodied fowl. So if you are new to Orps, try and grow them out to see what eventuates. I won't say the ugly ducklings always turn out well, but it can happen occasionally. Of course, anything with physical deformity or glaring fault should be disposed of, and when you do make the decision to cull as the birds reach maturity be ruthless. This is the way forward in terms of improving your stock, and as many an older fancier has told me 'the bad un's eat as much as the good un's'.

On a completely different tack, this little anecdote may interest you. Before I wrote this I had been looking at some of the marvellous German Orpingtons on one of their websites, and it put me in mind of something I read years ago. In the late 1940's Germany was still occupied by substantial Allied forces after WW2, with hunger and unemployment rife in most areas. An American general came up with the idea of really promoting poultry keeping as a way of providing at least some food for the table and to alleviate boredom (and thereby possible dissension) by encouraging improvement of the fowls via the show bench. Of course, Germany had had poultry shows pre-war too, but apparently this General really pushed the concept and opened up poultry breeding to many who had not had fowls before.

So it was that so many became involved with pure-bred poultry over a period of time that the end result was the outstanding birds we see today, the sheer number of breeders sending the quality of the birds to the top. I don't know if the aforementioned is true or not, but it certainly sounds feasible and could be an explanation as to why the Germans have such outstanding birds. Imagine thousands of Aussie Orp breeders !

Oh well, I can but dream. Anyway, my best wishes to all members for the New Year.

Cheerio,

Simon Beven

Proud President of the Best Club in the World.

For all information about the Orpington Club  
of Australia go to;  
[www.orpingtonaustralia.com](http://www.orpingtonaustralia.com)

## From the Secretary's Desk

Sometimes one can never be sure about the much vaunted value of social media eg Facebook, twitter, instagram and others. But since the Orpington Club Facebook page was launched late last year – and which now has 187 ‘members’ including 26 new ‘members’ in the last week of January alone- we have had a the biggest influx of new members since probably since the Club was formed in 1985! In a separate section of this Outlook we will welcome 21 – yes that’s right twenty one- new members to the Club. The other FB group that many of us are also members of is the ‘Orpingtons of Oz’ which is up to 535 members with 62 new friends joining since the last Outlook report.

Of our new members I would just like to make a special welcome to Thomas Hill our only junior member in the past 4 years and a big welcome back to Sean Ryan who in 2005 took our Bird of Show with a magnificent Large Buff Pullet (see the Club gallery on the website)



In this issue of the Orpington Outlook, the articles are quite varied which probably reflects the wide span of interest that our members have in the Breed. We have a great story on being a first time chicken Mum, an article from the USA on how to produce better eggs and affirmation that our Australian birds match it with the best in the world in Calendar Girls. We are also very pleased to have a report and pics from our good friends in the UK Orpington Club with a great report on their recent National Show

Also included is more information from our hosts Dubbo PC about where to stay etc. for our 2015 National Orpington Show which I think looking through the records is our 25<sup>th</sup> National Show. Even more cause to celebrate in typical Orpington Club style! So looking ahead the next Outlook in late April will cover the National Show schedule and Prizes. While the Club will provide sashes and basic prize money we are always looking for donations and support

for Classes and specials. Cut off date for all donations to be included in the 2015 show schedule is 12th of April 2015.

Mentioning the Show side of things this year (2015) the Club is keen to support opportunities for members and interested owners alike to get together and a 2015 Show Support section is now included and which will be updated with links on the Club website and FB pages .

One of the great things about social media is the questions raised on the groups. One thing that seems to be a big area of interest is trying to show what is the ideal shape of an Orpington – both for a Ck and Hen. So in the not too distant future we will be seeking pics and/or photos of the ideal Orpington shape. No issues on the colour we are just seeking the ideal shape. If anyone has a pic of a bird that they think encapsulates what an Orpington should look like please send them through to either Jenny Stewart or myself.

If you have any suggestions for future show support in your area, have some news on your birds or want to donate something for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Show just drop me a line.

Cheers for now

Martin D

Best contact is via Email [secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com](mailto:secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com)





# Calendar Girls!!!!

By Vicki Jerrett

Over the last six months I have joined some international Facebook groups for Orpington breeder and exhibitors. The American and European groups have huge memberships, and it is a great way to pick up knowledge, particularly in regard to colours. The range of Orpington colours and genetics in Australia is miniscule compared to Europe and America.

The American British Poultry Club decided to run a photo competition, with the intent of using 12 large photos for the months, and lots of smaller ones to use space around the dates. They very cleverly created a specific FB group just for the creation of the calendar.

Orpington Club of Aust members Cath Rayment, Emma McKee and I entered photos, not quite knowing how we would be accepted – considering we were on the other side of the planet.

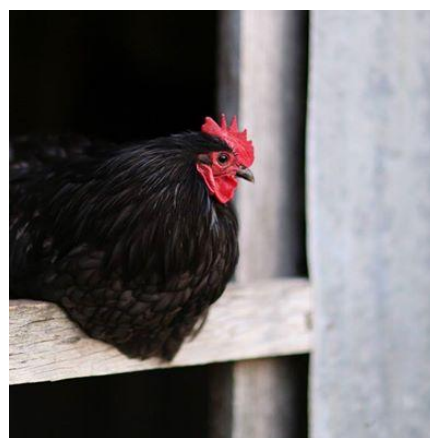
The judges narrowed the photos down to 37 and then numbered them. FB group members had four votes. The 12 pics with the most votes got on the 12 months.

The Americans were kind enough to accept some of our pics for the main pages, and lots of others were scattered through the calendar. It was a great way for us to show off our birds to the world! You can view the calendars here - view the calendars here -

<http://www.createphotocalendars.com/Store/American+British+Poultry+Club-5189524495>

**American British Poultry Club**

[www.createphotocalendars.com](http://www.createphotocalendars.com)



# 3 Tips To Help Your Hens Produce Quality Eggs

Reprinted from Exhibition Poultry Magazine December 2014

Dr. Mikelle Roeder, a flock nutrition expert for Purina Animal Nutrition, says a quality hen care plan should include a thought out management strategy and a complete nutrition program. Here are three of Dr. Roeder's tips for a successful laying season;

## **1. Provide at least 90 percent of the diet through a complete high-quality layer feed, starting at 18 weeks of age.**

"Laying eggs is a full-time job for our hens, so we need to provide them the nutrients they need to be most successful," says Roeder. "The number one tool we can give them is a complete and balanced diet when they begin to lay eggs around 18 weeks of age. Hens can produce more nutritious eggs when fed a premium feed, so feeding them well can result in better nutrition for both them and your family."

Complete layer feeds are formulated to include all of the nutrients hens require while laying eggs. The diet should include: calcium for strong shells; amino acids, vitamins and minerals for enhanced egg quality and hen health; and probiotics, prebiotics and yeast to promote the hen's digestive function.

The complete layer feed should comprise at least 90 percent of the hen's diet. The remaining 10 percent can come from supplemental feeds, such as scratch grains, good quality table scraps and oyster shells.

"We don't want to feed too much 'extra' feed, like scratch grains or table scraps, because it can dilute and unbalance the complete nutrition in the hen's pellets or crumbles, affecting her production and health," Roeder says.

## **2. Prevent shell cracks by gathering eggs 2-3 times per day.**

Once hens begin laying eggs, be sure to gather eggs at least in the morning and in the evening. This helps to keep the eggs cleaner and reduces chances for eggs to get cracked by hen traffic in the nests.

"Egg cracks can allow bacteria access to the interior of the egg," says Roeder, explaining that not all shell cracks are visible to the naked eye. "Microscopic cracks and large cracks can be a result of an inadequate diet and infrequent egg gathering. We've found that feeding a complete layer feed can improve shell strength, helping to address microscopic shell cracks and keeping bacteria from entering the egg." "Gather eggs 2-3 times per day," Roeder advises. "This helps prevent eggs from getting stepped on and thereby cracked or broken, which can lead to egg eating. Egg eating generally occurs when a hen finds a broken egg, tastes it, likes it and begins searching for other broken eggs, then learns to break them herself. Address egg eating by feeding our hens for strong shells and gathering eggs frequently."

## **3. Provide light for at least 17 hours per day.**

Light is a critical ingredient in egg laying. One primary reason hens may stop laying eggs is decreasing day length. "Hens need a minimum of 17 hours of daylight to sustain strong production," Roeder says. "Without supplemental light, they will naturally stop laying eggs

when daylight drops below 12 hours per day due to a hormonal response in the hen that is triggered by light.”

To address this problematic hormonal response and promote long-term egg production, provide one incandescent 40-watt or LED 9 to 13-watt bulb (brighter light is neither necessary nor advantageous) per 100 square feet of coop space. Use an automatic timer to keep light and dark hours consistent so hens stay on a laying and sleeping schedule. “As with nutrition and management, consistency is key when providing light to our hens,” Roeder says. “Just a day or two of change in any of these factors can hinder egg production.”

To learn more flock nutrition and management tips, visit [www.purinamils.com/chicken-feed](http://www.purinamils.com/chicken-feed) or like Purina Poultry on Facebook.

### Dates for your Diaries . (Or Where the Club is supporting Shows in 2015)

June 13 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> National Orpington Show	Dubbo NSW
July 10-11	Royal Melbourne Poultry Show	Melbourne VIC
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rosewood PC Annual Show	Rosewood QLD
August 7-16 <sup>th</sup>	EKKA Show	Brisbane QLD
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lithgow & District PC- Orpington Feature Breed	Lithgow NSW
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tasmanian Rare Breeds Show	Hobart TAS
September 4-13 <sup>th</sup>	Royal Adelaide Show	Adelaide SA
Nov	The Buff Orpington Club (UK)	UK
Dec	The Orpington Club of GB	UK



For Sale: Orpington Club of Australia mugs featuring Black, Buff and white Orpingtons.  
\$10 each + post with all proceeds going to the Orpington Club.  
Contact: Jenny Stewart  
[goldfeatherpoultry@bigpond.com](mailto:goldfeatherpoultry@bigpond.com)  
to place your order.  
Limited numbers available



P.O. Box 2725, Dubbo, NSW, 2830  
 e-mail: [dubbopoultry@hotmail.com](mailto:dubbopoultry@hotmail.com)  
 website: [www.dubbopoultryclub.org.au](http://www.dubbopoultryclub.org.au)

Thanks to Bob Stanley and Peter Sheridan of the Dubbo Club for providing a list of accommodation recommended on the basis of easy access & distance to the Dubbo Showground, which is the venue for our 25<sup>th</sup> National Show on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup>. We are also planning a Club Dinner on the Saturday night more details to follow in the next edition.

1. **Camping in Showground** – there is enough facilities for “as many who wish to camp” (no need to book ahead). Facilities include:
  - Power to all sites
  - Amenities blocks
  - Cost - \$20 per night per site/van
  - Payment to be made with show entries

	Name	Address	Contact	Stars
1	Best Western Blue Diamond Motor Inn	113-115 Wingewarra St	(02) 6882 0666	3.5
2	Dubbo RSL Club Motel	Cnr Brisbane & Wingewarra St	(02) 6884 9099	4
3	Quest Dubbo Serviced Apartments	22 Bultje St	(02) 5809 8600	4.5
4	Dubbo Palms Motel	35-39 Cobra St	(02) 6881 8155	3.5
5	Aberdeen Motor Inn	25 Cobra St (opp. McDonalds)	(02) 6884 2554	?
6	No. 95 Accommodation	95 Cobra St	(02) 6882 7888	4
7	Comfort Inn Dubbo City	57 Cobra St	(02) 6882 7033	?
8	Econo Lodge Fountain View Motel	113-115 Cobra St	(02) 6882 0026	?
9	Australian Heritage Motor Inn	Cnr. Cobra & Brisbane st	(02) 6884 1188	4
10	Comfort Inn Blue Lagoon	79-85 Cobra St	(02) 6882 4444	3.5
11	Cascades Motor Inn	147 Mitchell Highway (Cobra St.)	(02) 6882 3888	3.5
12	Blue Gum Motor Inn	109 Cobra St Cnr Cobra & Gipps St	(02) 6882 0900	3.5
13	Matilda Motor Inn	231 Darling St	(02) 6882 3944	3
14	Country Apartments	230 Brisbane St	(02) 6885 1141	4
15	Country Liesure Motor Inn	86 Cobra St	(02) 6882 3988	?
16	Golden West Motor Inn	87 Cobra St	(02) 6882 2822	?
17	Dubbo Midstate Caravan Pk	21 Bourke St	(02) 6882 1155	3.5
18	Green Gables Motel	134 Bourke St	(02) 6882 5588	4



## Hatching eggs – the first time

By Martine Shrives

You'd think that putting a half a dozen eggs under a broody hen and raising some chicks would be pretty easy, given that it's been going on for thousands of years, but while the first time has been extraordinarily exciting, it was also a little terrifying. I had accepted Martin's generous offer of a few eggs for our broody hen, Bess, but had no idea what I needed to organise.



I began what would become a desperate nightly mission to google everything about hatching eggs and raising chicks. It must seem ridiculous to the experienced breeders who constitute the majority of the Orpington Club and who raise many chicks each year, that someone could feel so anxious about 6 little eggs, but having had no experience, and not wanting Martin to think that I was high maintenance and regret the offer, I could only rely on the conflicting advice of hundreds of sites on the internet.

I needed to move Bess to her own space. What would make the best nest? I googled and saw that many people used cat carriers. Some sites recommended using two clods of earth, back to back, for a grass nest that would ensure correct humidity. Was this really a concern? Plenty of cat carrier people were successfully hatching chickens without worrying about humidity. I ended up using the lid from the worm farm and pine shavings.



We moved Bess to her new home at night and hung towels to keep it dark. Bess remained broody, just as indicated on all the internet sites

When I brought home the eggs I noticed that they didn't smell like my hens' eggs. Could Bess catch a disease that she had never been exposed to? No help from google. I slipped them under her and hoped it would be ok.

Bess never left the nest of her own volition. I read with horror the awful stories of hens nearly dying and being in poor condition after sitting for three weeks and was determined that Bess would not suffer. I booted her out once every day and hand fed her scrambled eggs, crushed nuts, cat food, silver beet, green beans and mince.

It occurred to me that I had never seen her turn the eggs. I spent an evening googling this. I wondered if my chicks were sticking to the shells. The next time she was off the eggs I marked them all and was incredibly relieved to see the marks in new positions the following day.

Finally, after nights filled with googling topics like “keeping a broody hen cool” and “will ants be attracted to hatching eggs?” four of the six eggs hatched; two white and two buff Orpingtons.

They were unbelievably gorgeous and most incredibly, Beautiful Bess, the demanding princess of my small flock, had transformed into an attentive mother. I could barely tear myself away.

On the 22nd day Bess abandoned the remaining eggs. I was prepared. I candled, floated and finally opened the unhatched eggs. Bess knew what she was doing. Would they have fared better on a humid grass nest?

The hutch seemed really small once Bess was moving around. That night we moved the bed with Bess and the chicks to the much larger sand-based coop. They arose the next morning and headed straight for the food and water as if they’d been there for ever. The bloggers were right; it’s easy to move a hen with chicks. The babies did not eat lots of sand and die as some internet sites warned.

When the chicks were only three days old Bess wanted to take them outside. Was this ok? I googled and read that many poultry owners advise keeping chicks penned for several weeks to ensure that they eat only the correct food. I also read many reports of chicks coming down with cocci the first time they were put on grass but I thought of the gorgeous photo that Vicki posted of the chick asleep in the grass and didn’t want my chicks to miss that experience. I let Bess take them out and although they spent much of the day outside, they returned to their coop regularly to drink and eat. Between meals they dug holes, chased insects, sun baked and explored our suburban back yard and have been doing that every day since.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to watch my beautiful hen become a mother and to see her chicks developing. I needn’t have been so worried but at least I learnt a lot.



Best Orpington from the Poultry Club of  
Great Britain National Show 2014.  
Owned by David Pownall.





## UK CLUB SHOW CRITIQUE

I have been asked by Robert Callinan to provide you with something for your "Orp outlook", as Robert has been so generous with his articles and poems for our year book I feel obliged try to concoct something. Having provided you with an article previously on my main "hobby horse" on size and especially tail carriage I am at somewhat of a loss on what to write so I will give you a round up of my judging of the 2014 Club Show.

I have always regarded being invited to judge our Club Show as the ultimate honour, the chance comes round about every ten years, it's also very pleasing to be asked for the third time [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

Judges who are deemed to have made a mess of it are not readily invited to make the same perceived mistakes again. We have a judges panel of about ten or twelve, all have to be fully paid up members of the club, and are elected onto the panel by members at our AGM, (members can also decide to remove judges from the panel). Judges for the National show and Club Show are decided at the AGM every year, and this allows us to judge one of the big shows every five years or so.

The Club Show is now always held at the Federation Show at Stafford on the weekend before Christmas, this is always a good show with seven thousand entries and the pre Christmas atmosphere prevails and everyone is in a festive holiday mood. We used to alternate with the National Show run by the Poultry Club of Great Britain but we were finding it increasingly difficult to get the old birds through the moult and young birds mature enough to show, especially since the show has been moved to an earlier date of mid November.

Birds can be staged the night before but have to be penned by 9:30 when judging starts. My first class was the large trio class, these can be classed as exhibition or breeding, most breeds have classes but they are not very well supported nowadays, they are mainly entered by single breed single colour breeders. I had two trios forward the best were large blacks well matched but too small for my liking, the other entry was some Jubilees plenty of size, not a lot of type and mismatched females, we need to improve type with this colour.



Show Champion: S & G Hodges



Reserve champion: M. Rangeley

The next classes were the large blacks, only one cock, a good type tremendous size but the same problem as always with second year males, a lot of feather to come. The six hens were better though none of them really big enough but the winner was excellent type and colour, a low tail carriage prevented it going further. The cockerels were disappointing, I thought I had an obvious winner through the wires but this proved to be split winged, which hasn't been a problem with the large for many years, good birds in the top four places but nothing outstanding. The same could be said of the pullet class except the winner was quite a bit ahead of the rest for size and weight David Pownall was the breeder and admitted it was only medium sized for him.



S & G Hodge Bantam pullet

Next on to my colour, the blues, the males were again disappointing, plenty of potential but not enough maturity all of them with more growth and feather to come. In the females I found what I was looking for in an Orpington five very typey good

Coloured well laced birds, but the best was "BIG" heavy and strong boned with good colour and lacing, this was probably a second or third year bird and was a beauty, best large fowl. Only two white males and no females, very well presented but lacked type, I wish breeders we see for sale on the internet

The any other colours were led by spangles, these have the type but young ones lack the spangling and the older ones can soon become to "gay", you will have to keep a lot to get one to eventually win a major award, the Cuckoo's also have the type and markings but are not shown a lot, Jubilees lack type and are not improving. Speckled Sussex can improve the markings but profusion of feather is lacking and I am not sure how it can be introduced, the whites have the same problem (some Jubilee Orpingtons have won Speckled Sussex classes and vice-versa). Non standard classes had a poor showing, a couple of gold laced with no true Orpington type, the class was won by a big good type Splash, I'm not sure whether a Splash as a by-product of blue breeding should be shown at all.

Only two entries in the juvenile section ,won by a good big black hen that would have won in the open classes, followed by a really good blue bantam female that will win in many shows.

And now the bantams, two old cocks showing good all round type but don't have the "wow" factor due to their age, seven hens much the same good breeding birds but not championship row material, the second placed bird was a really good bird but at judging it appeared to be frizzle feathered may be it had been washed to late or dried to hard but it settled down and looked a champion the day after..

A good entry of eighteen cockerels, a lot of very good birds but nothing outstanding until the last few pens, four birds of outstanding quality all next to each other the winner of this class went on to be breed champion, all the right size, good tail and wing carriage, rich green sheen, and when weighed all less than the two kg suggested weight. The same with the eighteen pullets, all the best in the last four pens obviously all litter mates to the cockerels and a close call between the winner of this class and the champion.

Only three old blues, all have been very good birds but age taking the shine off them, both classes won by President Will Burdett.

The next two blue classes were the one that excited me most, six exceptional cockerels made it a difficult class to judge any one could have and probably will win major honours, the winner of this class was seriously considered for reserve champion, the same applies to the pullets so many good coloured well laced birds in one place was a pleasure to behold.

Downhill from here, whites once again beautifully presented but just lacking type, body is good but we need the loose feathering to improve. AOC bantams are not standardised and no non-standards were shown. After a few years of popularity the chocolates seem to have disappeared ,other colours you would expect to see are gold laced ,silver laced and cuckoo's ,if any of these colours are to be standardised they will need more support than they are getting now.

At this point I take up our best large and best bantam on to championship row were a championship judge decides if they are worthy of going further , this year they didn't although our buff colleagues did achieve Best Large Soft Feather with a cockerel. Hope I haven't bored you too much, have a good season down under.

All the best  
Andrew Richardson



S & G Hodge Bantam cockerel





## **The Orpington Club of Australia Office Bearers 2013-14**

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**President:** Simon Beven

**Secretary Treasurer:** Martin  
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**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

**2015 National Orpington Show Organisers:**

Jayne Stannard & Suzanne Knight

**State Representatives-** TBC

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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!



**A big welcome to our newest Members who have joined since the beginning of December 2014**

From **Western Australia**- Emily Marston, Rina Mann, Brandon Baker & Charmaine Zeigler

From **South Australia**- Bill Breen & Mariska Hawke

From **Queensland**- Lyn Neville

From **New South Wales** – Sean Ryan, Peter Nordstrom, Karen Fenwick & Tim Tydd

From **Victoria**- Sharon Gellatly, Emma and Aaron McKee, Glen Fowler, Angie Hill, Thomas Hill ( Jnr), Dean and Ruth Bowers, Leah Svehla and Georgia Ayres

**An easy way to pay Your MEMBERSHIPS**

The Orpington Club of Australia membership year now goes from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> the following year. New Memberships received between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 automatically expire in the following year (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 into passionate fellow Orpington Breeders.

Download a form from [www.orpingtonaustralia.com](http://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](mailto:secretary@orpingtonaustralia.com)