

# The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)

## **WINTER NEWSLETTER 2012**

Canberra National Show Edition

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Life Members– Rob Lavender, Rob Callinan

Club Management Committee–  
Judy Witney, Rob Callinan, Dallas Smith

**Southern Committee– Sue Barker, Martin Doulton, Jenny Stewart,  
Colin Tiyce, Judy Witney**

**Northern Committee– Robert Callinan, Simon Beven, Dennis Stannard, Dallas Smith  
W.A Reps.– Stan and Dianne Bell**

**Honouring Australia’s  
National Poultry Show  
Canberra June 8-9-10**



**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 Word From The President

### President's Report May 2012



**Robert Callinan**

Well, it's time at last to train the chosen ones and start the preening and cleaning. The year has crawled on by and we now have a chance to enjoy a few shows and meet again. I am impressed with the quality of our club website. What a beauty! I was proud to send an email to our overseas friends, asking them to look at our site and enjoy the gallery of last year's winners. When I looked back over the gallery shots from the last five years, it was plainly evident that the quality of our winning birds is on the improve. I think it is due to the wonderful photos we see from Europe and the UK, showing us just where

we have to improve, and the wonderful newsletter we all receive keeping us in touch with the latest trends and all poultry matters. There's no need to mention who I would like to thank here is there? The new members this year have joined a club that is going places and I am sure they will enjoy the shows and friendship of the fellow members. I look forward to meeting them at Canberra or the Northern Orpington Feature.

See You There! -

Robert Callinan

( Proud President of The Orpington Club of Australia)

## From The Secretary's Desk

Hello again to all Orpingtonians-

By the time you get this issue of the Newsletter, excitement will be nearing fever pitch with Canberra's National Poultry Show just a few days away. I am sure we will be staging a great display of Orps, just as we did at the last National Canberra Show in 2008. Most of our prominent Orpington breeders will be flying their colours at this great event, and the quality should be red hot, for it appears that we have generally experienced a good breeding and rearing season.

We can consider ourselves very fortunate to have our breed judged by Orpington experts who were indeed, among the select list nominated by our Club.

It could be that we have established a bit of "clout" within the Canberra Organising Committee, for I know of some other National Breed bodies who did not get the judge of their choice. The Standard Orpingtons at Canberra will be in the hands of Graeme Findlay, regarded in many quarters as Australia's best Orpington breeder of the modern era. Graeme judged our Second National Orpington Show in 2007 and left an indelible impression on all who watched his work.

Another nominee was Club Member Bruce Hodgson from Queensland, and he was invited to judge the Orpington Bantams. Unfortunately, Bruce had to decline the offer due to other commitments, so the Committee replaced him with another of our

( From the Secretary– cont.)

nominees in Ken Bergin. Ken's appointment has been greeted with a great deal of enthusiasm as he is a long –time admirer of the breed. He has judged our Orpington Show on two prior occasions, and I know he will enjoy judging our booming Bantam section.

Another highly anticipated segment at Canberra will be the auction on the Sunday morning. On page 22 of this issue, I have listed the names of those breeders who I know will definitely be having birds in the Auction, and as can be seen ,these folk are good breeders who are bound to have excellent quality birds on offer. Apologies to Martin Doulton for publishing some pictures of his Auction birds, but they were on his website and I would have done the same for others if I had access to their pictures. Let us hope that we can pick up some new Members from this Auction, and add them to our ever– burgeoning list of Orpington aficionados.

#### Flashback-

This issue features a couple of items I lifted from the old “*Poultry*” newspaper. The articles were written by two of my ‘tutors’ from the early days, in Geoff Harrigan and Athol Giles. Their advice has never left me, and I sincerely hope that our Members will also learn from these Masters of The Game. I must apologise for the standard of the prints in Geoff's article, but they give a good idea of the birds of yore. The pullet in the picture remains in my memory as clear as if it was yesterday. A blown up copy of this picture used to be on display at our Club Shows, but it obviously got misplaced some time after 1994.

#### The Standards-

I guess the heavy emphasis in this issue concerns the Orpington Standard. Very timely too, as I am led to believe that the new “*Australian Poultry Standards*” will be on sale very soon. I am not telling tales out of school, but the Orpington Standard in the new Edition is virtually identical to our submission to the Organising Committee. The exception is in regard to the Bantam weights. Between the time that we sent through our Club submissions for consideration, and the time before the new Draft was compiled by the Organising Committee, the revised Edition of The British Poultry Standards raised the recommended Bantam weights for Orpingtons. We believed that the new recommended British Bantam weights were too high, so we struck an ideal recommended weight for Australian Orpington Bantams to be midway between the weight for Australorps , and that newly approved for the Bantams in Britain. The weights of our Club Champion Bantams from the last few years, prove that we can work within the new limits.

#### Colour Standards-

With the recent world– wide trend towards producing new Orpington varieties, it is felt timely to issue background and guidelines on these newer colours, to assist breeders and judges at our major shows. Already we have several Non– Standard varieties worthy of the Orpington name, and the planned importation of several more next year will mean that we need to get some focus onto what will undoubtedly become a vital segment of our Shows. Accordingly, the information included in an article herein, will be issued to all future Club Show judges, including Canberra and both the Southern and Northern Features.

#### Easier To Understand?

Page 11 of this issue shows what I believe to be a much better way to comprehend our written Standards. I discovered this technique way back in my dog judging days and I found it of great assistance. I would appreciate some feedback on this– no need to

From The Secretary ( cont.)

comment on the bird– just let me know if you feel the segment has been of help.

Featured in this issue is an article on Cuckoo Orpingtons, written by E. Campbell way back in 1922. The Cuckoos have always had a considerable following in Western Australia, but have traditionally “ struggled” for acceptance in the East. That was until Sue Barker ( a.k.a. The Cuckoo Breeder,) came on the scene, bred large numbers and unselfishly spread the Cuckoos right around the Country through good promotion. Now we are beginning to see very good numbers at our Major Shows, largely due to Sue’s enthusiasm. I thought Members might be interested to go back to the early days to find out more about this highly decorative and attractive variety.

Appropriately, (with the heavy attention to the various Orpington colours being the main focus of this issue), I believe that now is the right time to feature a small article about one of Britain’s most prominent breeders of coloured Orpingtons. I refer to Sandy Hildred, a lady who has been involved, for several years, on a crusade to gain more acceptance of the Non– Standard Orpington varieties. I have had this article “ up my sleeve” for some Months, waiting for the right time to feature it. With Sandy’s permission, I have extracted some of the material from her excellent web site– just Google “ orpingtonsgalore” and it will come up on your screen. Many thanks Sandy.

Once again, I must thank our dear friends at The Orpington Club (U.K), The Buff Orpington Club ( U.K.) and Bent Nielsen at The Danish Orpington Club for the wonderful assistance they give us in allowing the Club to use their material. And of course, it would be recalcitrant of me not to acknowledge the continued support from Will Burdett. President Bluey and myself are in regular contact with Will, and he remains an inspiration to us both. Thanks Will on behalf of our Club and its Members .

### Most Important -Page 8

Some time ago I expressed the need to update our Constitution, as it has not been altered much since the late 80’s. We have always run our Club by these Rules and also those of the NSW Controlling body ( E.P.A.). Accordingly, I will furnish a Motion at the A.G.M based on the topics appearing on page 8.

One of the topics needing discussion will be centred on my perceived notion of a need to appoint a Show Secretary for ALL of our Club Shows including the Canberra National. I believe that a Show Secretary should assume control of ALL the elements of the Show, and that would include, the entire pre-planning, being on the scene right from the start of the show, and everything that happens right through to the end. After 50 years of running Shows for all sorts of poultry Clubs, I am growing tired of the tedium of it all, the result being that, in all honesty, I could not tell anyone anything about the birds at any given show, apart from an odd one that may be in close proximity to “ a penning problem”. I think it is now time to step back a bit and enjoy some “ quality time” at our Shows. We now have excellent people ready to allow me to step down , knowing that the Club is in good hands.

Finally- may I please remind all intending exhibitors at the Northern Feature to ENTER EARLY– pens for large fowl are limited , so tarry at your peril! -

Best Wishes To All– Dallas

### Notice Of Motion

I, Dallas Smith, being a Financial Member of The Orpington Club of Australia, hereby give Notice that I will present the following Notice of Motion to the AGM of the Club at Canberra June 9th 2012– Alterations to current Constitution are under lined.

3. The Financial Year of the Club shall be from Ist July to the 30th of June the following year.
- 4 Seven financial Members present will constitute a quorum for a General Meeting.
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 set annually at the AGM) provided that for juveniles under 16 the subscription be 50% of the Annual Subscription and each member of a partnership or syndicate shall pay the full Annual Subscription rate. The Committee is empowered to strike off Members names when 2 full years in arrears.
6. 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 commencement of each AGM, but will be eligible for re– election.
- 9 Any Office Bearer absenting themselves 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, Show Secretary, 1 Auditor, and Public Officer, Management Committee.
11. The Management Committee to comprise the President, The Secretary and one other.
- 12 The Management 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 provided to the Secretary, either in writing or electronically at least 21 days before the date of the said Meeting.
- 15 Only Financial Members will be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. All decisions will be approved on simple majority unless otherwise stated in these General Rules.
17. The current version of “The Australian Poultry Standards” is considered to be the Club’s standard for judging purposes. Where a variety is not covered in the A.P.S, The Secretary will obtain a suitable Standard from other sources.
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 Management Committee who have the executive powers to hear and determine the appeal and then report their findings back to the next General Meeting.

Notice of Motion (cont.)

- 19 At all Club Shows the following to apply. Only those colours standardised in the Australian Standards are eligible for Major Awards. Special Awards may be made to any other variety sanctioned by the Club. Separate Variety Classes will be provided where there are four or more entries of a distinct variety.

( Signed ) Dallas Smith

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<b>FEEDING STANDARD ORPINGTONS</b>
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Editor's Note;

I extracted the following from an old "Poultry" newspaper. In response to a reader's query, the reply was furnished by the late and great Athol Giles, probably the most respected authority in the history of the Australian Poultry Fancy. I am sure Athol's gems of wisdom will be greatly appreciated by all who never had the good fortune to meet him.

Question-

*I breed and exhibit Standard Black Orpingtons and feed them growing mash all the year round, as I was told this was best for exhibition birds. My problem is that they do not moult out properly. They appear to have moulted and look very well, but underneath there is a lot of dead feathers. Also, I have been told that boiled or soaked wheat is good for promoting growth of chickens. If this is correct, how old should the chickens be before feeding the wheat; should it be boiled or soaked in water; what time of day is it best to feed it to the chickens?*

Athol's Reply-

"The mash feeding of your Black Orpingtons is all right if the mash is fed wet. It should be mixed to a nice crumbly condition— not cloggy in texture.

The best mixture is a plain one, consisting of bran, pollard, lucerne meal, or better still, a short-cut lucerne chaff. This chaff should be scalded some hours before use. Good quality oaten or wheaten chaff can be done the same way. If the birds have grassy runs they will not require any further green feed or roughage.

Forget about scientific breeding formulas, because no one can lay down the law absolutely on this subject. Such a lot of things have to be considered— soil, climate, amount of room, type of birds being fed. Study your birds, their whims and fancies and you will succeed. Fowl are carnivorous and the amount and kind of food must be as varied as their instincts. Discard scientific mashes, give them the food they will eat with relish; this is the secret of a balanced ration. So called balanced rations are really only an apology for the real thing. Another thing to remember is that the breed you are fostering are gross feeders; indeed they must be so if their good points are to be developed to perfection.

After they start moulting, feed well, but do not over feed. Always have the birds in contact with the ground— this is most essential to obtain a good moult.

With females, if you can induce them to set, so much the better. Put them in a roomy, comfortable nest on dummy eggs for about a month; then take them off and feed well. In a short time, there will be feathers all over the floor. When the birds are moulting, use plenty of sulphur in the wet mash— a teaspoonful to each bird twice a week is not too much. Sulphur is good for feathering and it also brings out the gloss.

Boiled wheat is an excellent food for all classes of growing stock, and can be used from a month old up to maturity. If you can get a bullock's heart, or a rabbit and boil it with the

Athol Giles on Feeding (cont.)

wheat, so much the better. There is no better feed for Orpingtons than this.

### Some Tips On Conditioning.

When conditioning birds for show, boil the wheat till it is well swelled up, not sticky or cloggy. Then mix a little molasses or treacle with it— a little at a time until the birds get used to it. This treatment will make them shine with extra brilliance and give the feather the finished look of a well— conditioned fowl. Common sense, close observation and a knowledge of the birds instincts will do more to ensuring a healthy , contented lot of birds than will scientific feeding.

We generally feed the boiled wheat in the early afternoon, then top the birds up with a little cracked maize later on in the evening. It is not essential, however, for the boiled wheat be given in the early afternoon. It can be given at any time.

One of the main things with growing birds is to keep them alert and eager for their meals. Growing good fowls is intensely satisfying, so give them good food, and don't be deceived into sacrificing vital quality to mere cheapness. Nature will not be driven; but if you try, she hits back, perhaps slowly, but very hard. - Athol Giles

Editor's Note— The article below is reproduced from a classic early work on Orpingtons, written shortly after the Cuckoo Orpington was introduced to the public. Readers should note that the new " Australian Poultry Standards" state that the appearance of "black spots on the white legs" is permissible.

### Cuckoo Orpingtons

From " The Orpington and Its Varieties" E. Campbell— 1922

*One of the newest of the Orpington family is the Cuckoo— introduced by William Cook early in 1907. Though classes have been provided for them, their originator's aim is not so much an exhibition specimen, as a bird possessing great utility quality, combining a very big deep body on low legs, with absolutely first class laying propensities. For any breed to make headway, the latter qualities are naturally most essential, and these having been attained, popularity will soon assist them to go ahead in the exhibition pen. As proof of this, 17 birds were staged at the 1908 Dairy Show. Since then, alas! We have been through the throes of The Great War, and interest in this variety has not revived, and none have been exhibited since shows have started again. Perhaps as time goes on we shall see some on the show bench.*

*In appearance, the Cuckoos are, at first sight, similar to a Barred Plymouth Rock, without the objectionable long yellow legs, which have been replaced by a short, perfectly pure white pair. The skin and flesh are snow white, another great advantage in their favour, and the back is very short and broad, whilst their general shape is of the blocky type that has made the Orpington family so conspicuous over the other varieties of poultry. For hardiness perhaps, they are unequalled, and being splendid layers of a somewhat unusually large brown egg; they will undoubtedly recommend themselves to both fanciers and utility poultry keepers. Double mating is not at all necessary, so that anyone contemplating giving the Cuckoos a trial can, by purchasing just a trio of them, work up a very nice foundation stock for further development. They will thrive and do splendidly in any nook or corner, whether on a cold clay soil or on ashes, so that amateurs need not hesitate in taking them up; and just one trio does not take up a lot of room. One will often find that " something new" in the chicken world is taken up at the start merely for curiosity, and just for the sake of being in fashion; but as soon as the " something new" is proved a poor layer, delicate or hard to breed true, they are quickly disposed of and soon forgotten.*

*The originator of the Cuckoo Orpington has carefully considered these defects, and has, in introducing the Cuckoos, aimed at a bird that, once tried, will be always retained.*

From The Past- ( But Still Makes A Lot Of Sense!)

Introduction-

Geoff Harrigan, of Queanbeyan, NSW, was one of our premier breeders of Standard Black Orpingtons over a great many years. His birds were shown fearlessly all over the State, and he was about the only one who could “ mix it” with the giants of the day— R.R. Brown and Bonaventure Poultry Farm. Many of our newer Orpington breeders would never have heard of him, nor of the wonderfully successful methods employed by him in producing superior Black Orpingtons. Long standing Members will recall that we printed this article several years ago, but we feel that it is well worth repeating here. It was written for “ *Poultry*” newspaper in 1959, in reply to a reader’s request. I knew Geoff personally when I was much younger, and for as long as there are Black Orpingtons exhibited in NSW, he will be remembered as one of the Masters. I am sure Geoff’s great regard for his breed will be appreciated by all. - Dallas

“In Praise Of Black Orpingtons”

I can honestly say that my 38 years of breeding black Orpingtons have been most pleasant ones. I have found these handsome fowls most easy to rear and care for, easily kept in bounds and as a show or table fowl, unbeatable. I am quite certain that should the novice give them a trial he will never forsake the grand black Orpington for any other breed. I have tried others from time to time but have never relinquished my deep affection for black Orpingtons, nor have I ever been without a small stud at any time since I first commenced breeding them.

**HOW TO BEGIN.**

To the beginner I suggest he first of all secure a pen, or at least a trio, of good sound stock, preferably from the same breeders yards or strain.

Try to select fowls of medium size, as large specimens in this breed are not too easily bred from, which is very often the cause of inexperienced fanciers giving black Orpingtons up for another smaller or lighter breed.

However, the breeders should have a fair amount of size and be of good type, which, of course carries with it the correct colour, viz., beetle-green sheen on a good black ground

**FULL FRONTS.**

I always see to it that my breeders have good fronts on both male and female side of the pen. Good low-fronted females and a broad, deep fronted male are most essential to any degree of success being obtained on the show bench. I very much dislike black Orpingtons with a shallow or cut-away front. Head points of specimens seen on the show bench today have been greatly improved. However, the breeders should have a fair amount of size and be of good type, which, of course carries with it the correct colour, viz., beetle-green sheen on a good black ground. One seldom sees, nowadays, birds with slipped wings, which were prevalent some years ago. Providing a beginner uses birds especially on the female side of the mating, with tight wing fold, he will not have much trouble getting sound-winged young stock.



An old clipping taken from “ *Poultry*” newspaper shows Geoff Harrigan’s Champion Black pullet, awarded Champion Heavy Breed at Sydney Royal Show 1959.

**PLAIN FEEDING.**

I have tried various methods of feeding and believe that an ordinary plain ration of mash and chick mixture combine admirably.

Excellent results have been obtained by starting the chicks off on their first feed with chick mixture of good sound, clean crushed wheat and maize for the first 24 hours, and from then on mash consisting of bran and pollard mixed with milk three times a day and the chick mixture in the evening. After week-old they are encouraged to eat finely chopped barley grass which is very plentiful early in the season in this district and is one of the best greens available. A very plain feeding formula has always been followed and has given every satisfaction with regard to size and wealth of feather. I have had cockerels six months of age weighing 10 pound live weight.

**BREED TRUE TO TYPE.**

Often it is possible to choose almost 50% of the progeny of a good mating as been fit for show. Of course, there will always be one or two outstanding from the rest of a clutch. I have had three full sisters chosen from seven pullets and won 1st, 2nd and 3rd in a class of eleven at prominent poultry club show, so it can be seen that the Orpington breeds very true to type if well-mated and proper care and attention given the young stock.

**GOOD PRODUCTION.**

Over the years I have had very good egg production from black Orpingtons and I have relied solely on them for household requirements, without having to keep a pen of layers as I have known some fanciers of other heavy breeds to

do. They are excellent layers of tinted or brownish-shelled eggs, and excessive broodiness has never been a trouble. In fact, for the hatching of early chickens I have always had to rely on a few crossbreeds kept especially for the purpose. One can never say that a black Orpington pullet or hen will lay for a few weeks and then go broody; they quite often lay for months before brooding even if at all. I have many specimens lay for 12 months without showing any signs of broodiness.

**APPEARANCE ATTRACTS.**

I have particularly noticed that nearly 25% of the grand champions at shows come from the black Orpington classes. Evidently the massive appearance, beautiful green sheen and soft flow of feather make it a very hard fowl to beat when it comes to the final selection for grand champion award.



This Black cockerel was another big winner for Geoff Harrigan in 1934( "*Poultry Newspaper*")

**RHODODENDRONS, AZALEAS AND POULTRY.-** by Sue@ The Cuckoo Stud  
I thought that it might be a good idea to remind everyone that the rhododendron and azalea season is nearly upon us. Everyone needs to know that these plants are toxic to poultry, and sadly, tempting as well. It is advised that, if you have these on your property, to ensure that your birds do not eat any flowers or leaves. I found this out the hard way in 2008– a number of my birds were poisoned after eating the flowers and leaves. So, be aware that these plants CAN KILL your birds– apparently they are mildly toxic to horses as well. Take care in your garden– Sue.

**THE ORPINGTON STANDARD.**

With our breed being of British origin, our Standards are closely akin to those from the British Standards with some small, but vital modifications. Foremost amongst these is the difference in Bantam weights from those of the 7th Edition of The British Standards. It should be noted that our Bantam weights are now standardised higher than those in the first Australian Standards, but not as high as those now adopted in Britain.

**The Orpington Club of Australia Official Standard**

(Submission to "*The Australian Poultry Standards*" 2011)

**MALE CHARACTERISTICS-**

- TYPE-**     **Body**— Deep, broad and cobby.  
**Back**— Nicely curved with a somewhat short concave outline.  
**Saddle**— Wide and slightly rising, with full hackle.  
**Breast**— Broad, deep and well rounded, not flat.  
**Wings**— Small, nicely formed and carried closely to the body, the ends almost hidden by the saddle hackle.  
**Tail**— Rather short and compact, flowing and high, but not a squirrel tail.
- HEAD**     **Head**— Small and neat, fairly full over the eyes.  
**Beak**— Strong and nicely curved.  
**Eyes**— Large and bold.  
**Comb**— (Single) Small, set firmly on head, evenly serrated and free from side sprigs.  
                   (Rose) Low and firm on head. The top, free from hollow centre, oval, the surface covered with small rounded points, tapering to a well defined point at the rear. The entire comb curving to conform to the shape of the skull.  
**Face**— Smooth.  
**Wattles**— Of medium length, rather oblong and nicely rounded at the bottom.  
**Earlobes**— Small and elongated.
- NECK**     Of medium length, curved, compact and with full hackle.
- PLUMAGE**— Fairly profuse but close, not soft loose or fluffy as in the Cochin, or close and hard as in the Game.
- LEGS AND**— **Legs**— short and strong, the thighs almost hidden by the by the body
- FEET**     feathers, set well apart.  
**Toes**— Four, straight and well spread.
- HANDLING-** Firm.

**FEMALE CHARACTERISTICS-**

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male. Her cushion should be wide but almost flat, and slightly rising to the tail, sufficient to give the back a graceful appearance with an outline approaching concave.

**WEIGHTS-**

**FOWLS-**

Male— 4.55- 6.35 kg ( 10-14lb)  
 Female— 3.40- 4.80 kg ( 7 -1/2 to 10 -1/2 lb)

**BANTAMS**

Male - 1.41 kg-1.58 kg ( 3lb-2 ozs- 3lb 8 ozs)  
 Female-1.19kg—1.36 kg ( 2lb 10 ozs— 3lb)

**DISQUALIFICATIONS & SERIOUS DEFECTS.**

The General Disqualifications and Defects applicable to all breeds in "*The Australian Poultry Standards*" 2011.

Serious Defects for Orpingtons are-  
 Yellow skin, or yellow on the shanks of feet of any variety.  
 Any yellow or sappiness in the White.

**SCALE OF POINTS**

Type, Size, Carriage	40
Condition	5
Head and Eyes	15
Colour and Plumage	30
Legs Feet and Skin	10
Total	= 100

## Visualisation of the Orpington Male Standard

**HEAD-**  
Small and neat, fairly full over the eyes.  
**BEAK-**  
Strong and nicely curved.  
**EYES-**  
Large and bold.  
**FACE-** Smooth.

**EARLOBES-**  
Small and elongated.

**WATTLES-** Of medium length, rather oblong and nicely rounded at the bottom.

**BREAST-** Broad, deep and well rounded, not flat.

**BODY-** Deep, broad and cobby.

**LEGS-** Short and strong, the thighs almost hidden by the body feathers - set well apart.

**TOES-** Four, straight and well spread

**COMB**  
**(Single)**  
Small, firmly set on head, evenly serrated and free from side sprigs.

**NECK-**  
Of medium length, curved, compact and with full hackle.

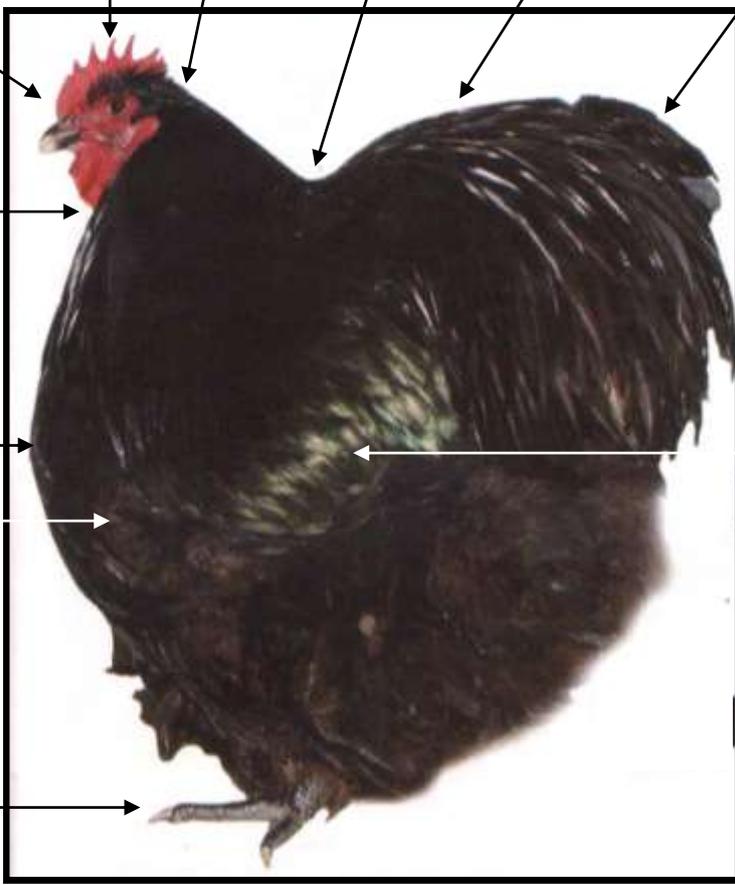
**BACK-**  
Nicely curved with a somewhat short, concave outline

**SADDLE-**  
Wide and slightly rising, with full hackle.

**TAIL-**  
Rather short and compact, flowing and high, but by no means a squirrel tail.

**WINGS-**  
Small, nicely formed and carried close to the body, the ends almost hidden by the saddle hackle.

**HANDLING-**  
Firm.



**PLUMAGE-**  
Fairly profuse but close, not soft, loose and fluffy as in the Cochin, or close and hard, as in the Game.

PICTURED IS DAVID POWNALL'S STANDARD BLACK COCKEREL  
Courtesy The Orpington Club ( U.K.)

## **OFFICIAL COLOUR STANDARDS OF THE ORPINGTON CLUB OF AUSTRALIA**

**( Submission to “ *The Australian Poultry Standards 2011* )**

### **THE BLUE-**

**Male; Plumage–** Hackles, saddle, wing bow, back and tail; dark slate blue. Remainder; medium slate blue, each feather to show lacing of darker shade as on the back.

**Female: Plumage–** Medium slate blue, laced with darker shade throughout except for head and neck hackle, dark slate blue.

### **In Both Sexes:**

**Beak–** black. **Eyes:** black or very dark brown, black preferred. **Comb, Face, Wattles and Earlobes:** bright red. **A dark shaft to the feather is desirable.** **Shanks or feet;** black or blue. **Toe-nails:** white.

### **THE BLACK-**

**Male and Female; Plumage** black with a green sheen.

### **In Both Sexes:**

**Beak–** black. **Eyes—**black or very dark brown, black preferred. **Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes:** bright red. **Shanks and Feet:** black or blue. **Toe–** nails: white. **Soles of feet; white–** **a small amount of black permissible.**

### **THE BUFF-**

**Male and Female: Plumage–** a medium shade of buff, perfectly even throughout. Quite sound to the roots of the feathers. Free from black, white or bronze feathers, and free from mealiness, shafting or lacing. Normal lustre of the male’s hackles, saddle and wing bow should not be misinterpreted as a darker shade of buff.

### **In Both Sexes-**

**Beak–** white or horn. **Eyes** red or orange. **Comb, Face Wattles and Ear–** lobes– bright red. **Legs, feet and toe-nails–** white. **Skin–** white.

### **The CUCKOO-**

**Male and Female: Plumage–** Slate, feathers in all sections, crossed throughout their entire length by irregular light and dark bars that stop short of positive black and white, the tip of each feather– dark, free from shafting, brownish tinge or metallic sheen. Excellence to be determined by distinct contrasts, with an overall blending of all sections. The male may be one or two shades lighter than the female.

**Beak, and Skin:** white. **Eyes, Comb, Face and Ear–** lobes: bright red.

**Shanks and Feet; white** **with some black mottling permissible.**

### **THE WHITE-**

**Male and Female– Plumage–** White

**Beak, Legs, Feet, and Skin–** white. **Eyes, Comb, Wattles and Ear-lobes–** bright red.

### **Secretary’s Note-**

No other colours are currently Standardised in the British Standards, although there is a current move afoot to have the Jubilee and Spangled added to the list, based on their prior inclusion up to the 1920’s. The proposed Standards for these two varieties will be drawn from the originals provided by their creator, William Cook. It would seem natural that our Club will follow suit as numbers increase. Due to heightened interest in newer Orpington varieties occurring right throughout the World (including Australia), a protocol needs to be adapted, so that our Judges will have a template to follow. The imminent Importation Syndicates will mean that in the near future we will have Gold Laced Orpingtons in Australia, and even now there are colours appearing that will need to be catered for. Such as Creles ( Legbar-type), Lavenders, Ermines, Reds etc.

Colour Standards ( cont.)

Current Club Policy is such that all Orpingtons will be judged to the new colour apportionment in the Scale of Points. If a new variety is one that has already been colour-standardised by the European Orpington Clubs, we will base ours on theirs as a guide. Any other new colours will follow logically follow the Standards adopted for other breeds with a wide range of Standardised colours. It will be the Secretary's responsibility to source an appropriate Standard prior to each National Show.

### **Colour Requirements For Non- Standard Varieties.**

Earlier in this issue, I alluded to the continuing debate about exactly what Colour Standard should be applied to the ever-expanding list of Orpington varieties now coming into vogue. In recent times we have seen the re-birth of several of the " old" Orpington varieties such as the Spangled, the Red, the debut of the Crele, and of course, the recognition of the Splashed as a nominated variety at our National Shows. It seems that experiments to create Lavender Orpingtons are just about ready to hit the scene too.

The proposed importation of fertile eggs next year will herald the arrival of the old Jubilee Orpingtons as well as the newer Gold Laced and Chocolate varieties. This will give us a wonderful spectrum of colours to work with, and quite frankly, it should be enough. Surely that is sufficient to satisfy the creative minds of any serious fancier, and , furthermore, we should not lose sight of the fact that even our traditional colours could benefit by having more Orpington aficionados working to further improve our beloved breed. Now, I know that what I have just stated will not deter those Orpington fanciers who strive to produce any old colour fowl , put it onto a big bulky body and then try to pass it off as an Orpington.

However, we as a National body have an obligation to ensure that the situation does not get to the ludicrous situation that is starting to appear in some of the other breeds. Taking a look at the Any Other Variety classes in some of these breeds at the larger shows, I must say, leaves me somewhat perplexed as to just what the fowl is supposed to represent. Respectfully, I say that in most cases, the owner does not know either! Where should we draw the line?

I suppose putting our regular Newsletter together gives me a few privileges, but that privilege has always been available for all of our other Members too, and those who have grasped the opportunity to comment could be counted on something less than two hands. So, I guess I can repeat what I have often stated through our Newsletter, and seen below.

Firstly- I feel that the only GENUINE Orpingtons are those developed by William Cook and his extended family. That means Blacks, Buffs, Whites, Cuckoos, Jubilees, Reds, Partridge, Spangled( Mottled), Ermine plus Blues and by inference- Splashed. All the other varieties have virtually come out of Europe, and although many of them are magnificent fowls, they have no connection to Cook and his family apart from the supposition that some of them would have " original" Orpingtons somewhere in their DNA. Now I know that the lines can not be drawn hard and fast ,for I concede that those lines can become a little blurred, even back in Cook's day. I have always believed that what separates one breed from another is a logical point of difference between types. But even in Cook's day, the same paradoxes arose. The Jubilee is almost identical to the Speckled Sussex, with shape being the only real difference. The Sussex is the older breed. The White Orpington has the same combination ( white plumage, white legs, single comb and red eyes) as the White Sussex. Only the shape is different and

again, the White Sussex is the older breed! The Ermine has the same colour combination as the Light Sussex, and once again the Light Sussex is the older breed. In our own Country, I can remember the proprietor of our largest stud telling me that, in the old days, he bred Jubilee Orpingtons and Speckled Sussex from the one pen. The bigger, fluffier ones were exhibited as “Jubilee Orpingtons”, and the longer, flat-backed ones as Speckled Sussex!

Which all leads me to suggest that we, as a Club, need to be very careful about what we accept as a legitimate Orpington colour. On the Continent these days, we see all sorts of permutations appearing in all sorts of breeds— the combinations are endless, with the appellations bordering on the ridiculous. I, for one, do not want to see the same thing happening here. It seems to me that we have an intermingling between the breeders of some of the “new to Australia” breeds (in other words those recreated here) and some of our more adventurous Orpington breeders. All it takes is for someone from the other breed (s) to be a rampant experimentalist with a vivid imagination, and a modicum of genetic knowledge, to spread their “wisdom” into our Orpington world, and eventually cause mayhem.

#### **Putting Forward A Personal View-**

Having enjoyed the privilege of being involved in the revision of “The Australian Poultry Standards”, I can state that the new Edition will include a comprehensive description for every colour of fowl known to have a respectable following in this Country. I therefore firmly believe that we should not recognise any “new varieties” of Orpingtons unless a full colour description can be found in that veritable tome.

Accordingly, the only “Non-Standard” colours that should be granted sanction to compete in our Any Other Colour Classes, should be confined strictly to those whose colour is stipulated under some other breed in our new Standards. There will be exceptions—for example Self-Reds and Ermines are recognised as distinct colours by the governing bodies in Europe, and we should follow their lead after clarifying a few points.

This, as it stands, would limit the Any Other Colour Classes to the old “Cook” colours— Spangled, Jubilee, Self-Reds, Ermines/ Columbians, Partridge, plus the new arrivals of the Lavender, the Gold Laced and the Chocolates.

#### **Guidelines For Exhibitors And Judges.**

Before I elaborate on some of these colours, I should stress to all concerned, that under the revised “Australian Poultry Standards”, all Orpingtons will have an allocation of 30 points for “Colour and Plumage”, a more level playing field for all. Let us take a look at them.

#### **The Partridge-**

To the best of my knowledge, we do not have them here, so it will suffice to say that, should anyone feel the need to create them, they will need to use the Australian Standard for Partridge Wyandottes as a template.

#### **The Chocolate-**

To this point, I have not been able to source a Standard for this colour from any breed. However, they are getting quite a following in Orpingtons and Wyandottes in the U.K. so someone will need to come up with a plausible description post haste. In the meantime, the best description I could put forward would be that they be the one colour in all sections i.e a shade approaching that seen in the Old Jamaica or Club chocolate, but not so dark as to appear black.

**The Ermine-**

These are interesting for there has always been conjecture about the name “ Ermine”. This term is used in a couple of other breeds, but personally, I believe it should not be used to denote the Orpington variety for the following reasons. Looking at the pictures of them exhibited at the Euro Orpington Show, the males have striped saddle hackles, much the same as in the Columbian Wyandotte. Furthermore, they are also depicted with striped saddle hackles in Will Burdett’s wonderful book “ *The Orpington Fowl*” written in association with Dr. Joseph Batty. Other breeds with striped neck hackles but with clear saddles ( such as the Sussex and Brahma) are referred to as “Light Brahmas” and “ Light Sussex”, so it stands to reason that the Orpington version would also be known as Light Orpingtons if plain saddles were desired. However, looking at the picture on the front of Will’s book, and also the Japanese artist’s impression inside ( where they are incidentally described as “ Ermine”), there can be no doubt that this variety looks better with the striped saddles, as seen on the Columbian Wyandotte. Therefore, I suggest that they should, in future be referred to as Columbian Orpingtons, with the buff version to be known as Buff Columbian Orpingtons. This then, opens up a can of worms in relation to what colour the under colour should be. It is a well known breeding fact that the requirement for dark under colour in the Columbian Wyandotte has an effect on saddle striping in the male. But dear reader, this is where we run into a dilemma. The BRITISH Standard for Columbian Wyandottes has always demanded clear saddles in Columbian males, the same as in the Light Sussex, thereby negating the need for slate in the under colour.

So– we need to decide if we want striped saddles with slate of some degree in the under colour, or whether we want clear saddles with pure white in the whole feather. I feel we need a decided point of difference between our Orpingtons and the Light Sussex apart from the obvious differences in shape. After all, the presence of slate in the under colour also has an effect on the striping of the neck hackle in the Columbian Wyandotte, and that breed’s Standard calls for very precisely marked flights as well. By comparison, take a look at the Standard for Light Sussex wing markings and you will see what I am getting at.

**My Suggestion (For What It’s Worth)-** Striped saddles, precise flight markings and light slate in the under colour. And the same to apply to the Buff variety.

**The Lavender-**

These are currently being “ made” in Australia, and when they are “got right” they will be a very attractive addition to our Orpington family. It could be assumed that anyone who judges our top Orpington Shows ( our National Show, Canberra and the Royals) should be familiar with the lovely Lavender colour as seen in our best Belgian and Pekin Bantams. The Colour Standards for those breeds should be equally applied to Orpingtons, and the faults currently seen in those breeds will need close scrutiny. These faults would include any type of lacing, and the “straw” colouring that seems to manifest itself upon the hackles of the males. As in all other Orpington varieties, our revised Standard now allocates 30 points out of 100 to ‘ colour and plumage’.

**The Crele-** ( also known overseas as “Legbar– Type”)

This is currently being promoted throughout Europe, and as their terminology implies, the colour is basically the same as the Legbar fowl, which unfortunately in Australia is a very rare breed. As a result, not too many people would have any knowledge of them.

The nearest parallel is found in the Golden Crele Wyandotte and its equivalent found in the Old English Game. The Colour Standard for Crele Wyandottes, appearing in the “Australian Poultry Standards” gives a comprehensive description of what is required to attain what can be a most striking pattern. This colour has been rather quaintly described as putting a barred cuckoo overlay on a Partridge background. However, it should be pointed out that this description applies more accurately to the Partridge of the O.E.G. and not to that of the Wyandotte.

### The RED

These have always been the subject of fascination to Orpington breeders both here and overseas. Mainly due to the lack of common agreement on what their plumage should be. The cover of Will’s book shows them with obviously darker tails, whilst the stylized drawings of the Japanese artist shows them as a “Self Red” with a unique attractiveness. Again we see the ubiquitous comparison to the Red Sussex fowl, for in that breed the hackles, tail and flights signify the presence of black— all on a big, bulky body. Similarly, the Rhode Island Red ( with its black markings) was already in England( admittedly accompanied by yellow legs) before the Red Orpington was developed. Why anyone from that time would want another large Heavy Breed with black markings on a red body is beyond me, so I respectfully suggest that we should be breeding for “Self Red” Orpingtons, without black markings( again as a point of difference). The variety is very rare all over the World, but in Northern Europe they are beginning to gain strong support. Germany has Standard Reds of very acceptable type and colour as can be seen on the German Orpington website. Simply Google “De Orpington”.

The Red should be a “ rich, mahogany red throughout” with natural lustre on the male plumage. My contacts in Europe tell me that up to 10% of black in tail and flights is “ permissible” by their Standards. Eyes are red and legs/feet are white.

### THE JUBILEE—

One of the original Cook Orpingtons but not as yet Standardised in Britain. The following is the original Standard, set in 1910 and ratified in the Standards of 1926-

#### In The Cock-

Plumage— N.B— The term “ mahogany “ in this Standard, to be taken as “ bright mahogany; not dark nor maroon in shade.”

Neck Hackle— Mahogany with black stripe and tip, the shaft mahogany of same shade as feather. Saddle Hackle— To match neck hackle. Back— To follow neck and saddle.

Breast; Mahogany with black spangle and white tip, the three colours well broken and showing in equal proportions, avoiding a ticked effect on one hand, and a blotchy effect on the other. Wing Bow- To follow hackle. Wing Bar— Black. Secondaries; Mahogany , black and white. Flights ditto, but more white. Sickles: White, or black and white, or mahogany black or white. True Tail Feathers— Ditto. Coverts— Black, edged with mahogany and with white tips. Thigh and Fluff— To follow breast.

#### In The Hen-

Head and Neck— To match the cock, allowing for difference of sex.

Body, Breast and Back— Mahogany, with black spangles and white tips, the shaft mahogany and of same shade as the feather. The three colours well broken, and showing in equal proportions, avoiding a ticked effect on the one hand, and a blotchy effect on the other, the effect to be uniform throughout the bird. Wings— as body. Flights—As in the cock. Tail- To follow the cock. Thighs and Fluff- To follow breast.

Eyes; Red. Shanks/ Toes-White.

Comment- Although this Standard is now over 100 years old, it is unbelievably liberal in its interpretation. Whilst it was probably set up to describe the plumage of a meat bird, it should not be acceptable to the modern breeder requiring more detail.

**THE SPANGLED—**

Known in some Countries as the “ Mottled”.

These are also awaiting re- admission to the British Standards, and until that occurs we will recognise the original “ Cook” Standard which is as follows-

**IN BOTH SEXES-**

**Beak— Black, or black and white. Eyes— Red to reddish brown.**

**Comb, Face, Earlobes and Wattles— Bright red.**

**Shanks and Feet— Black and white, mottled as evenly as possible. Toe- Nails- White**

**Skin and Flesh— White.**

**In The Cock-**

**Neck Hackles— Black with white tip. Saddle Hackles— Ditto.**

**Back—Black, slightly tipped with white.**

**Breast- Black with white tips, the two colours showing in equal proportion, avoiding a ticked effect on one hand, and a blotchy effect on the other.**

**Wing Bow— Same as back. Wing Bar-Black.**

**Secondaries— Black and White. Flights— Ditto, but more white.**

**Sickles— Black with white tips. Coverts— Ditto. True Tail Feathers— Black and white.**

**Thighs and Fluff— Black with white tips.**

**In The Hen-**

**Head and Neck— Black with white tips.**

**Body and Breast- Same as the cock, the effect to be uniform throughout the bird.**

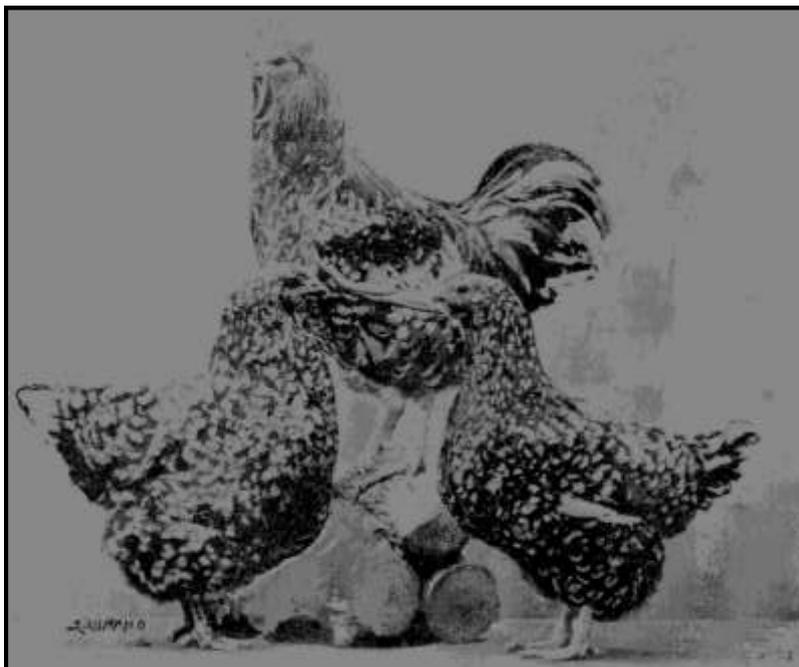
**Wings— As for the body, with flights as in the cock.**

**Tail— As in the cock.**

**Thighs and Fluff- As in the cock.**

**Comment- As in the Jubilee, this Standard is rather vague and lacking specifics.**

It does , however, not imply that the marking should be as precise as that of the Ancona nor the Mottled Pekin. A closer parallel may be found in some of the Houdans and the Mottled Japanese being shown today.



An early print depicting proto-type Spangled Orpingtons  
Cockerels and pullets are usually much darker, becoming “ gayer” as adults.

## What The Standard Does Not Explain-

Starting with the head, let us take a look at the specifics. “*fairly full over the eyes*” carries no implication of the Asiatic brow as seen on the Cochin or the Brahma. What we want is a nice, clean, smooth open face with a bright intelligent look about the eyes. The eye should fill the whole socket, with no inclination towards the sleepy looking, hooded examples seen more especially in the Standard Blacks. Otherwise, “*Eyes large and bold*” is a pretty good description.

The Beak should not only be “*strong and nicely curved*”, but also relatively short in length. Orpingtons with long beaks generally have longish heads too, contrary to the compact character of the fowl. Although Black and Blue Orpingtons are required to have a “*black*” beak, it is generally agreed that a small white tip on the end of the beak is permissible.

The Comb- The description of the Rose Combed version given on page 10 is very good, as it should be, for it is part of the new Australian Standard submitted by our Club. That given for the Single Comb Orpington is succinct and correct, but would be better with some extrapolation in a couple of areas. Let us here review the requirement for the head to be “*small*”. The inference here is that the whole head of the Orpington should be small in relation to the rest of its body. The true Orpington head is one of the major factors in identifying the differences between the Australorp and our breed. So, in addition to what is specified in the Standard, we need to look at what else is needed to help impart true Orpington “character” to the head points, commencing with the spikes of the comb. Many Orpingtons fail in this regard with the spikes being “overdone” by being too long. Some of our big fowl lose appeal in this way, particularly our Buffs. And you can add most of the bantams too. What we want to see is a nicely balanced comb with naturally clean cut serrations, and although not Standardised as such, I believe that five or six evenly graduated spikes look about right on an Orpington. And—equally importantly, the back of the comb must follow the line of the skull, finishing at a line drawn vertically from the rear part of the earlobe.

### The Wattles-

That word “*medium*” in Poultry Standards has always concerned me. Medium in relation to what? In this case I would think that the desired length of wattles in relation to the character of the bird might be explained by suggesting that the length of the wattles be approximately the same as the distance between the beak and the top of the skull.

### The Breast-

David Pownall’s cockerel on page 11 shows a wonderful, fully rounded front. The word “*deep*” in the Standard description means exactly that— the front should represent an unbroken curve that retains the line right to the junction of the thigh.

### The Back-

The main point to be made here is that all Orpingtons must have a clearly visible back, and not as we frequently see, with the neck hackle touching the saddle in the male, or in the case of the female, the cushion.

### The Saddle-

There has always been a degree of confusion about the Orpington topline. Hark back to the Standard for the back where it stipulates a “*short CONCAVE outline.*” However, when we look at the actual saddle it seems that it needs a very slight CONVEX rise to obtain the true sweep of the tail. Please allow me to stress the word “slight”, for in the cushion, ( the female counterpart) we often see huge unsightly “bumps” in the plumage at the base of the tail, particularly in some of the winning Standard Blacks and Buffs.

What The Standards Do Not Explain ( cont.)

I can find nothing in any Orpington Standard that I have ever read, that calls for anything like what we see. I am sure that this fault has crept in due to the use of males with exaggerated, poorly constructed saddles, upon females which lack the correct “rise” to the tail.

#### The Tail-

The description of the tail given in the Standards is pretty straight forward, but the use of the word “*high*”, leaves it open to conjecture. High in relation to what?

The conventional wisdom has always been that the highest part of the tail will be almost level with the eye. Let’s go to David Pownall’s cockerel shown on page 11 where it can be seen that this assertion is fairly close to the mark. This cockerel has beautiful furnishings around the tail/ saddle area, but perhaps I may be a little more specific. Take an imaginary line from the centre of his back to the highest point of his tail. That line will form an angle of about 40-45 degrees above the horizontal of the back, albeit dissecting the desired “slight” rise of the saddle. That, of course assumes that the bird is standing in a natural pose, and in this case he is. However, if that rationale is applied to some of the Continental Buffs with their exaggerated forward tilt, then the angle would be more like 80 degrees, totally wrong in my book. The ideal female tail will be carried a little lower than in the male, perhaps five degrees less.

The tail should be composed of stiff main tail feathers, with profuse side coverts. The base of the tail at the junction with the back should be approximately the same width as at the top of the shoulders, enabling the body to obtain the required “*broad, cobby*” look. The feathers around the tail should be fully webbed and structurally sound– not of the splayed, broken type that often ruins Buff males and Blue females in particular.

#### The Plumage-

This has been a sore point as long as I can remember. How many people in Australia know what the plumage of a Cochin is like, and who would draw the curious parallel between a big Soft Feather Fowl and that of a Game? Note the word “Cochin”- not “Pekin”. Surely there can be better examples for comparison. Orpingtons are not Australorps, so it is reasonable to state that they will be more profuse in feather. Certainly we can breed for a bulkier carcass with selective breeding, but most of the required curves of the Orpington will necessitate breeding for more luxurious plumage. The ideal Orpington will certainly carry more plumage than the Wyandotte, but where the critics of the breed score points, is concerning the actual structure of the additional plumage. Ideally, we want *fully-webbed* feathers in all sections, particularly around the thighs and stern, replacing the useless fluff that seems to permeate itself around those areas. We want the surplus feather around the thighs to be tidied up so the feet can be seen– I like to see SOME clearance under the bird.

Note the reference in the Standard to “*the thighs ALMOST hidden by the body feathers.*” Take another look at David’s Black cockerel– from the foremost part of his chest, to the point under his tail, the shape is suggestive of the bottom half of a cricket ball. In all likelihood, we will not be able to achieve all of that shape on the carcass of the fowl, so to get the true balance required, and achieve true symmetry, there must be a modicum of excess plumage around the rear and lower parts of the fowl. But– Let us ensure that the actual feather is of the highest quality attainable and with minimal fluff.

( Written with the utmost respect to those who made the original Standards)

Dallas Smith

by Dallas Smith

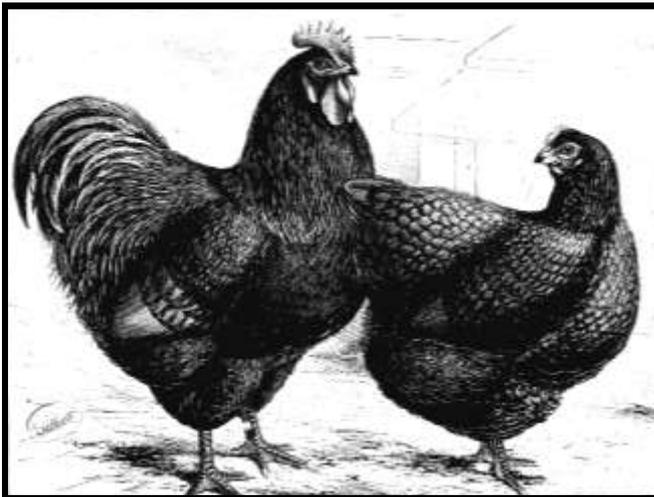
In the most recent issue of “*Australian Poultry*”, my eyes lit up when I came across an article written by the Editor, our good friend and Club Member, Megg Miller.

Megg recounted her experiences in finding a copy of the First British Poultry Standards, published in 1901. This was of great interest to me as, because for a long time I had been trying to find a copy of that Standard, hopefully to help fill in some of the things that had puzzled me regarding the Orpington’s development.

Most of the keen students of Orpington history will have had access to William Cook’s ideas on what he wanted his Orpingtons to be. Similarly, those history buffs will know that the breed changed dramatically when Joseph Partington introduced the Cochin blood to the original Cook Orpingtons. This infusion of the Asiatic blood was apparently masterminded by Partington to “glam” the breed up by adding the profuse Cochin feathering to the already substantial size and bearing of Cook’s Black Orpington. There can be little doubt that he succeeded in his quest, for the Black Orpington gained massive public acceptance from that point, and the loose “Cochiny” plumage became the fashion.

However, Partington’s intrusion into Cook’s masterpiece took place during the 1890’s, so it then becomes very interesting to note what the Standard of 1901 says.

“*Plumage:- Close.*” Note- no reference to the Cochin here— as in later Standards.



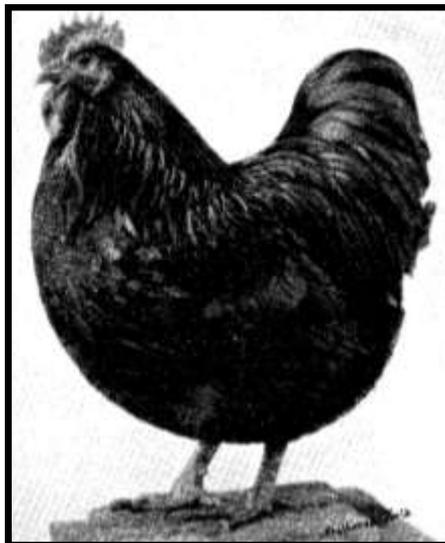
Let me now show a reproduction of a print from “Lewis Wright’s famous “*Illustrated Book of Poultry*” from the late 1800’s. Wright and Cook were contemporaries, so it is safe to suggest that the Ludlow’s depiction is pretty close to the type of Orpington being bred at the time. Also, if one has a copy of the Club’s book “*The Complete Orpington*”, it will be seen that the Blacks imported into Australia in 1900 bear a strong resemblance to those in Wright’s classic work.

Do these birds remind you of some of the winning Australorps we see in Australian Shows? They should, for our Aussie breed was developed initially from Cook’s original imports into our Country, And yes, I do know that the Australorps have some Chinese Langshan blood in them as well. But, now return to Megg’s 1901 Standard. These birds as shown have what I would term “close plumage”. Yet they still retain those essential points noted in our current Standards. Although I do not like the comb on the male, and I would prefer a much deeper front on both birds, it does not require much imagination to suggest that these birds are not too far off what is described in the current Standards. Obviously, the introduction of Joseph Partington’s Cochins would have lifted the tail somewhat, and probably shortened the length of the shanks. But for the life of me, I cannot understand how much fashion has changed the breed from Cook’s utilitarian type of Black Orpington to the almost- on- the -ground, “feather dusters” of today. Or as I call them, “carpet- sweepers”. True it is that, the great puff- balls we see often are magnificent creatures, but in all honesty, can anyone tell me why the Standard has not changed sufficiently to accommodate them? There is plenty of evidence to suggest that not all of the British breeders were happy about the

Are Standards Simply A Matter Of Interpretation? ( cont.)

changing face of the breed, as evidenced by the accompanying pictures taken from the *“Poultry Club Year Book 1932”*. Curiously, most of the revered poultry writers of the last Century, were adamant in their belief that the era 1900–to around 1925, was the apex of the poultry showing Fancy. Unfortunately, there would be no one left who could substantiate that theory, so we will have to rely on what was written and what was pictured!

Just keep in mind that the Standard itself, has not changed much since 1900, apart from the reference to Cochin plumage. The Black cockerel shown at right was owned by Miss Shanks, and was a big winner in 1915. He is shown here to portray his near– perfect underline. With due deference, and apologies to his owner, I would like to see his shanks a little shorter. Note the absence of useless fluff and the angle of his tail off the back. Beautiful head too.



By comparison, move onto the Black hen shown in the middle picture. She was a Champion in 1932 and again was shown by the redoubtable Miss Shanks. By this time, Miss Shanks was “ mixing it” with the big-time breeders such as the great Arthur Snellgrove.

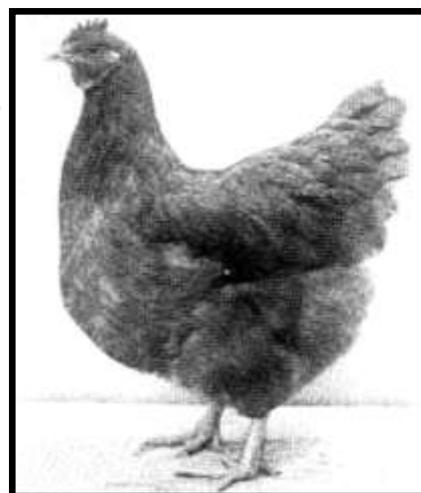
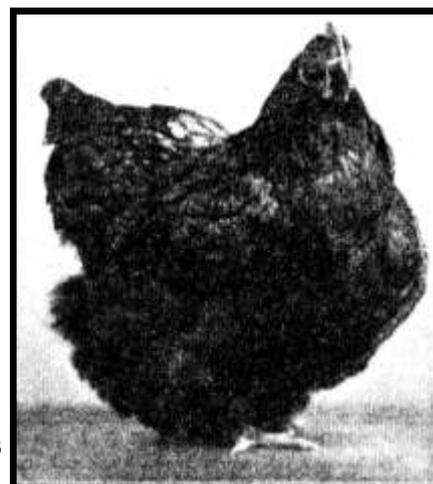
Regrettably due to Copyright restrictions I cannot show his birds, but they were very low to the ground, lots of fluff and mostly with the abhorrent “ bumpy” saddle and cushion. But, they were beautiful– looking birds and they found great favour with the judges of the day, despite there having been little change to the first Standard of 1901.

Looking at Miss Shanks’ hen, she appears to be on the way to what Snellgrove’s birds were, but Arthur’s birds had deeper fronts than the hen portrayed here.

As mentioned above, there existed an obvious disharmony amongst Orpington breeders, with critics of the winning birds of the time believing that the British Orpingtons had drifted too far away from that visualised by Cook. So much so that a breakaway Club was formed to maintain the original “ Cook” -type Orpington.

It became known as the “Old Type Orpington Club” and remained in existence for some time. The Buff pullet shown in the lower picture was a winner as an “ Old Type Orpington” in 1932– she bears a strong resemblance to the Australian Buffs that my Dad kept right up to the 1960’s.

So the question is- *‘Have the Standards changed all that much, or is it merely the judges interpretation?’* One thing is for sure, “fashion IS governed by the Judge’s decisions”. In other words, what wins today sets the benchmark for tomorrow.



## Birds For Canberra Auction

**NOTE-** This page is featured as a service to those members who have contacted me signalling their intention to Auction birds at the Canberra National Show **June10th.**

- text by the Editor.

**Miss Rose Gibson will have Std. Buff females and a couple of pairs of Std. Blacks for Auction. Several other Standard Blacks will be available for collection at Canberra. Give Rose a call on (02) 67248477- if she cannot take the call, ask for her Dad, Ross. He might be able to help you!**

**Judy Witney intends to Auction three Standard Buff Orpington cockerels and three Standard Buff Orpington pullets at the big show. We all remember Judy winning Reserve Champion Orpington overall at Canberra in 2008.**

**Jenny Stewart will be offering a Standard Buff pullet at the Canberra Auction. Anyone interested in Large Buffs should remember that Jenny had the Champion Buff at last year's National Orpington Show.**

**Sonya Ford has available for Auction, 1 Standard Black cockerel and 1 Standard Black pullet. These Victorian Blacks are from the bloodline that has performed so well at all of our Major Shows in recent times.**

**Sue Barker will be offering a group of well- related Buff Orpington Bantams including one cock, two cockerels and one pullet. Sue's instructions- must be sold!**

**Wendy and Ernie Coffee run one of Australia's most successful Orpington Bantam Studs.**

**They will be at the Canberra Auction, offering (all Bantams)-  
2x Black cockerels, 3xBlack pullets, 2x Blue cockerels, 1x Buff cockerel, 1x Buff pullet.**

**Martin Doulton, from Waninga Orpington Stud will offer at the Canberra Auction-  
1 Standard Black cockerel and 1 Standard Black pullet ( both from the Wilkinson line)  
1 Standard White hen ( 2010 bred)  
1 White cockerel and 1 White pullet—sired by the famous " Atlas"**



**This choice pair of  
Waniga Standard  
Whites are among those  
listed for  
Auction at the  
Canberra National Show.**



## A Presidential Address

**I was driving down to Canberra for the National Poultry Show,  
 When I saw the Golden Arches' hunger pleasing glow.  
 I went on in and took a seat and then perused the crowd,  
 When a ruffled looking country lad gave his order; loud.  
 He had a feathers sticking on his shirt and almost everywhere,  
 With little bits of straw and grass scattered through his hair.  
 He said I've got a rare breed chook, I'm headed for the show,  
 A silky looking four legged bird, what type I do not know.  
 I wondered just how dumb I looked, I've heard them from the best,  
 A four legged silky chook will stand out from the rest.  
 He went on to tell a tale that I'll relate to you,  
 'Cause at this stage I was convinced it wasn't really true.  
 He reckoned that his silky hen one night in the drinking room,  
 Fell in love with his wife's new dog, a love so rare and true.  
 The love it was a two way thing , so in love they were,  
 Two little fluffy things; balls of fluff and fur.  
 They thought it was a great joke until the eggs appeared,  
 But when the chicken finally hatched it was just as they had feared.  
 A silky chick ,though very large from such little eggs,  
 Had plenty of fluff and a nice short back and four strong little legs.  
 He thought he had a winner, a valuable asset true,  
 He'd sell the bird to Kentucky Fried and see what they would do.  
 I tried to smile and humour him, I didn't know him well,  
 He might be mad or it might be true, you couldn't really tell.  
 So when he walked away I took a look and it was just as he had said,  
 A four legged chook with silky fluff, you could have struck me dead.  
 I couldn't wait to tell my wife and take a photo quick,  
 But the bloke took off in a cloud of dust, giving me the flick.  
 I tried to tell the missus but she said I had been drinking,  
 A chook with fur and four short legs, what could I have been thinking?  
 Finally Canberra showground on the right appeared,  
 We drove on in and parked the car and it was just as I had feared,  
 A crowd of people were laughing, while some just shrieked with fear.  
 The country bloke came out from the mob smiling from ear to ear,  
 "He's entered in the A .O .V out on Development Row,  
 I'm sure to take the winners prize that's one thing that I know."  
 With that the chook jumped up and from his grip was freed,  
 And it ran right through the crowd at ballistic speed.  
 I've never seen a turn of speed from any man or beast,  
 There's no one here could catch it for the next few miles at least.  
 With two wings flapping and running on all feet four,  
 It would have been a champion at the greyhound track for sure.  
 But as a table prospect, no need to dream or shout,  
 I don't think they'll ever catch it to try the damn thing out**

- Robert Callinan

**INTRODUCING SANDY HILDRETH-****“The Rebel Orpington Breeder”****Editor's Note-**

Sandy is one of the more “colourful” personalities on the British Orpington scene, known for her strong promotion of all the various colours. The following text is lifted from Sandy's excellent website ( [http:// www.orpingtonsgalore .com](http://www.orpingtonsgalore.com) ) and partly reproduced here with her permission.

*“I've been into chickens throughout my life. Starting by being born on a farm in Norwich, and there was of course, those there chickens, not anything special but the normal farmyard chickens.!!!! Then at the tender age of 8, I looked after my first pedigree chickens. They were the large lovely brown egg layers, the large Marans. I have had experience with a lot of different breeds of chickens over the years, from the true bantams such as Pekins, of which I have had 16 different colours, to the large soft breeds of the Cochins and Orpingtons.*

*Eventually I settled over the years, to one main breed, being my lovely friendly Orpingtons, which I have now had for the past 10 years. I show my birds mainly at the big shows which are of course the NATIONAL & the FEDERATION. I love these two big shows, as you meet your fellow exhibitors to chat to and catch up on any news, the atmosphere is tremendous.*

*My birds have won many firsts, gaining cards, rosettes, and trophies for Best of Breed and Best True Bantam. I am a member of The British Poultry Club, The Orpington Club, The Rare Breeds Club and of course DEFRA!!*

**SOME OF MY WINNERS**

( top left )  
Standard Jubilee Male



( top right )  
Standard “ Legbar-type ”  
Male



(lower left)  
Blue Bantam Female



(lower right)  
Splashed Bantam male

*“Now you have seen my pictures of my Orpingtons and maybe realise why I love the various colours. I went to an Art School in Harrow, Middlesex when I was a youngster, and perhaps this is why, not only do I love my chickens, but the variation in the colours of these magnificent birds. If you look at the picture of me, you will see that it is absolutely full of colour!!*

*There is no getting away from it - I am known in the Orpington Club as "THE REBEL ORPINGTON BREEDER" due to my love of the various colours.*

*I have introduced people to the Orpington Club, and now it has the highest number of members with different Non Standard Colours so there is no reason why the Club cannot grow and grow in strength as colour is what we need in today's way of life.”*

# Footscray & District Poultry Club Inc Annual Show Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012

## The Orpington Southern Feature Show

Poultry Pavilion, Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, Balliang – Bacchus Marsh Rd. Bacchus Marsh Victoria Melway Map 333 A3

Judge: James Bishop..... All Orpingtons, All other S/F, W/F and Specials

### ORPINGTON CLASSES

Standard Orpington	Cock	Hen	Cockerel	Pullet
Black	1224	1225	1226	1227
Blue	1228	1229	1230	1231
Buff	1232	1233	1234	1235
Cuckoo	1236	1237	1238	1239
White	1240	1241	1242	1243
Display Section [ <i>Non Standard Colours</i> ]	D1244	D1245	D1246	D1247
Bantam Orpington	Cock	Hen	Cockerel	Pullet
Black	3196	3197	3198	3199
Blue	3200	3201	3202	3203
Buff	3204	3205	3206	3207
Cuckoo	3208	3209	3210	3211
White	3212	3213	3214	3215
Display Section [ <i>Non Standard Colours</i> ]	D3216	D3217	D3218	D3219

• Juniors prefix with a "J"

• Display Classes prefix with "D" as above and provide info page on pen .

### SPECIAL ORPINGTON AWARDS

Best of each Colour, Black, Buff, Blue, Cuckoo and White in Show- Special Boxed Medallion kindly donated by Footscray Poultry Club.

Gr. Champ. Orpington \$50 + tricolour sash, Res. Gr. Champion- Sash

Champion Large Fowl- \$50, Champion Bantam \$50

Champion of each Classified colour – Lge. and Bantam \$20 + Rosette

Res. Champ. of each Classified colour- - Lge. And Bantam- Rosette

Champion A.O.C Orpington - Sash

Res. Champ. A.O.C Orpington - Sash

*Please enter early as being in conjunction with our Annual Show, pens may fill and in that situation entries would need to be refused.*

Entries close: Thursday 19th July 2012

Mail entries to: Show Secretary:

Alicia Taylor

31 Canterbury St., Deer Park Vic 3023

[Suggest that you ring or email to confirm entries received]

Phone: [03] 9266 0150 or [Mobile] 0406 120 662

Entry Fees: Open Section \$2.80. \* [\$2.40.] \* [Ten or more entries]

Entry Fees: Junior Section \$1.80. \* [\$1.40.] \* [Ten or more entries]

All Exhibitors except Interstate must be registered with VPFA

This Show Will Be Conducted under the Rules of The VPFA

Pen by 9.00am [pavilion Open 8.00am]

**NORTHERN FEATURE SCHEDULE**

*Castle Hill Showground (N-W- Sydney ) -Sunday June 24th*

*In conjunction with the Wyandotte Fanciers of NSW Annual Show*

**JUDGE– Mr Peter Nordstrom**

This Show will be conducted under the rules of the E.P.A and The Orpington Club.

As guests of The Wyandotte Club we will abide by their penning rules.

- 1 Birds may be penned on Saturday afternoon between 4 pm and 6 pm– **no later.** Alternatively , birds may be penned on Sunday morning between 7: 30 and 9 a.m.
2. Birds may be unpenned at the conclusion of the Awards Presentation. No birds to be removed without the presence of a nominated Steward.
3. The Club reserves the right to appoint a replacement / additional judge if necessary.
- 4 It is expected that all entries received will be accepted. However, the Club reserves the right to limit the number of birds entered in any one class after, advising exhibitors by phone. **Large fowl pens are limited– so enter early!** First in best dressed!
- 5 Entries must be made on the form enclosed with this newsletter. Classes as below. In A.O.R.C Classes, a separate class will be provided for any variety with more than 6 or more entries.
6. **Entries \$1.50 per bird. Entries close last mail Monday June 18th with The Secretary, 35 Appletree Rd Holmesville 2286– NO LATE ENTRIES PLEASE!**

**Awards List-**

Grand Champion Orpington, Champion Standard ,Champion Bantam .- **\$50 each**  
Champion **Standard Buff \$150 cash** donated by Simon Beven, and Judge Peter Nordstrom in memory of the late Charlie Bishop.

Champion **Standard Black- \$50 cash** donated by Judge Peter Nordstrom in memory of the late Jim Blatch.

Champion in all other Classified varieties- \$20 cash + rosette. ( White, Cuckoo, Blue, Splash, A.O.R.C (plus Black and Buff Bantams) and Non Classified varieties with over six entries.)

**STANDARD FOWL**

	Cock	Hen	Ckl	Pullet	Pair
White	1	2	3	4	A
Cuckoo	5	6	7	8	B
Blue	9	10	11	12	C
Buff	13	14	15	16	D
A.O.R.C	17	18	19	20	E
Black	21	22	23	24	F
Splash	25	26	27	28	G

**BANTAMS**

White	29	30	31	32	J
Cuckoo	33	34	35	36	K
Blue	37	38	39	40	L
Buff	41	42	43	44	M
A.O.R.C	45	46	47	48	N
Black	49	50	51	52	O
Splash	53	54	55	56	P