



FCAQI NEWS

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www.qldpoultry.com

Feather Clubs Association of Queensland Newsletter—Summer Edition

Summer 2015



Here we are in the middle of the festive season. I hope everyone is enjoying time with family and friends and hopefully having a break. In the chook pens it's a different story, such a busy time. Lots of chickens, the earlier ones starting to show potential, moving and breaking up batches, never enough pens. Well that's how it is around our place and wouldn't have it any other way. I hope many of you have some potential champions running around in your yards too.

We have just come through a busy time at FCAQI and the calendar is being posted out as the orders are flooding in. I believe the calendar is a must for anyone showing in Queensland with all the show dates and events Club and Agricultural, plus the Club contacts and Judges Register. It also includes many of the Clubs ads for their shows and events. Great value at \$20 so get your order in if you already haven't. Many other things happening too but many hands make light work. We are very lucky to have this situation in this current committee.

On a club level many of us are starting to churn over ideas for our shows that are creeping up fast. Things like improvements or changes, judge choices and possible features. I wish your clubs all the success possible in the following year for your shows and events. The think the fancy as a whole is very healthy, exciting times ahead. Don't forget the National, it is on in under half a year and entries are about to open. Will be bigger and better than ever.

A big thanks must go to Jane Cockerton our new newsletter helper. You will find some great articles in this edition from her. Welcome Jane your enthusiasm and skills are very welcome.

As always a reminder that the FCAQI is here for all of us, the affiliated clubs and every fancier. All of us at FCAQI are open to any ideas and questions that any of you have so contact us any time.

Peter Reinke

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"To promote in every way the breeding and exhibition of poultry by whatever means deemed necessary by the Association.

To assist in the improvement and maintenance of the Australian Poultry Standards and to recognise that these are the official standards used in the adjudication of domestic land fowl, waterfowl, guinea fowl, turkeys and eggs at shows within Queensland.

To undertake activities that preserve and promote the history and appreciation of the standard breeding and exhibition of poultry and aviculture and other ornithological pursuits."

FCAQI Constitution

White Waterfowl Show Preparation

So we have all been there, we prepare our birds to the best of our ability, go to a show with high hopes and BAM!!!!!! there's one in the corner gleaming white in all its glory standing perfect and yours doesn't get a look in.

Nothing can replace good breeding, but the final touches can sometimes separate the placings particularly if the class is tight and many good birds are present.

The 2 photos you see are the same bird, one before selection around first moult as a juvenile and the other during showing season, what a difference preparation makes!!!!



So how do they do it?

That's a really good question, here are some tips and issues I have picked up along the way over the years of showing and also things that you might not have thought about.

Early Selection

Birds that are to be shown need to be selected as early as possible, checking and looking at your young stock early for defects is critical, generally if it has a defect that is major it is never going to place in a good class and is only worth keeping for project breeding. Birds that are considered to have potential at first grading will need to be put aside and treated differently.

Starting early with a select few birds means that you get to study them closely, points to check are temperament, natural stance, development of "type" and colour.

1. Temperament: Let's face it no judge likes to be bitten, scratched or covered in bedding from the show pen and although with some breeds are naturally flighty and nervous this can be greatly reduced down by general exposure to what will happen at a show i.e. small cages, people moving and showing sticks. As a rule I start Call Ducks around 12 weeks with exposure to smaller show pens and movement daily around these pens. Do remember to not over do this or the birds may become sour and not want to show.

2. Natural Stance: Some birds have just got it. If it will not show even with training than it will most likely not get a look in. Natural show offs are always a good start for show birds and are definitely easier to prepare for the upcoming show season. Birds which are not natural exhibitors and have also been trained will rarely do well in a good competition, these birds long term maybe better as breeding stock. Indian Runner Ducks would be the only exception to this rule where one day they will show fantastically and the next they sit in the back of the cage and sulk.

3. "Type": This will depend on the breed standards, each breed is best studied and then compared to your show flock, remember no bird will be perfect but a good representation of the breed is a great start, major faults are to be avoided at all costs. Things to consider for type are bill length, bill shape, head shape, eye position, top line of body, underline of body, length of body, depth of body, leg size, leg shape, leg positioning.

4. Colour: Wow.....white.....how many colours of white, well if you compare my flock of white calls I see a huge variation in white right from almost a soft yellow post moult through to a white grey in late summer pre-moult.

The question has to be asked is the bird genetically white to start with, if so this is a good start, if a young birds post moult by a few weeks is still "yellow" in its feathers I would be concerned and this would not be the bird for showing at this present time, it is to be noted that dam bred birds show more yellowing in their feathers than pen reared birds, this could be due to the amount of oils in their feathers or exposure to algae.

Once young birds have moulted into adult feathers then the real work begins.

Months Before Show Season Starts

This is where the hard work starts, especially with white birds.

So you have selected your show team, they are all correct and true as best as you can get them, almost fully moulted into adult or new feathers and the final flight feathers are coming through. Show season is about 3 months away, so what next.

Normal Pens for show birds:

These need to be large enough to accommodate birds, allow them to bathe and flap and do normal duck behavior, but they shouldn't be allowed to get dirty to any degree. I have found sand really good for this, nice washed river sand about 150mm to 200mm thick, this seem to keep them happy and allow water to drain away quickly preventing pooling and areas of dirt. These pens need to be cleaned regularly walls included and sand topped up or replaced as required.



It is also important to consider each birds needs and prevent wing feathers being caught on wire cages, on occasions I have used shade mesh at lower levels to prevent this from happening.

Water tubs need to be provided and water changed regularly, not daily as this encourages too much bathing and flight feathers become ragged by the end of the season.



Show Pens:

Training needs to continue, for the birds welfare it is better that they don't panic when someone walks past or goes to handle them. A good set of off the floor mesh bottomed pens is an absolute asset to any white waterfowl exhibitor. From experience I have found sunken bowls best as it minimizes the chance of birds turning over the bowl and becoming trapped underneath, which on a hot day can kill.



Diet:

All birds are different but a diet of duck ration is a start, I like to add greens regularly as this is missing as they do not have access to pasture, mine love lettuce, peas and sprouted grass. Treats in the form of meal worms can help with training and are very useful to settle a bird come show morning if they are familiar with them, they are also a nice high protein snack.

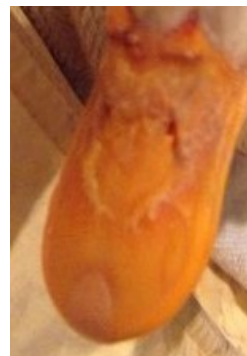
2-4 Weeks Before Showing

This is the latest stage of preparation other than the actual few days before the show. Birds need to be placed on wire off the floor cages with a wash tub. I have found smaller pens are great for this and ducks in groups of 2 or 3 is best.

All birds to be show need to be examined for parasites such as lice or mites and this is a good chance to do a worming session as well. At this stage any peeling bill tissue can be carefully removed using your finger nail.

The pens are scrubbed before birds are placed inside, all bedding is removed so there is only a thick wire mesh floor and a wash tub for birds to bathe. I have found it best for the wash tub to be recessed into the floor as this prevent leg strains when getting in and out as well as tipping the tub over.

Pens are hosed daily and the birds are given time to clean their own feathers.



1 Week Before Showing

Best to pick a good warm day for this exercise, birds are checked over again for suitability to show. The flights of the wing and the tail feathers may still have some residual dirt close to the shaft, this can be removed using a stain remover product such as sard or vanish, I personally like the sard stick form as I can place it where the stain is and use either my fingers or a toothbrush gently to remove the last of the in ground dirt. It is important not to go too hard as the feather structure can be damaged by this process.

Next the legs are checked and any dirt on the feet and shanks can be removed, I prefer orange power stain remover for this but any good stain remover spray will work well, again use a toothbrush to remove.

Finally the nails on the feet are trimmed and filled to a correct length, these can get quite long when kept in sand or on mesh floors.

If the skin on the legs appears dry best to place some gentle hand cream to moisturize, I like paw paw cream but others have been known to use emu oil or Vaseline.

The birds will then have good access to clean water to bathe and re-oil their feathers, I do not believe in fully bathing a duck as it strips all the oils from the feathers and the can stand up and look odd or become damaged by the process.

Day Before the Show

If you are really lucky and live local and your birds are not in transit then the following can be done at home.



1. Check over birds for any injury or parasites (and believe me the come in quick at times)
2. Check flights for dirt – there should be none in deep but the wing tips might need a final spruce I use a dilute washing blue solution and dunk the birds in this solution the night before, it gives them that final white gleam in the morning, be careful not to make this too strong or you will have a blue bird.
3. Check legs and feet, apply cream of choice, do not go too wild more is less as this can get on the feathers and make the dirty
4. Place in show pen with plenty of clean dry shavings at show or back in off the floor pen that has been well scrubbed at home, at this stage I will only give then a drinker of water, they will then preen their feathers and they should be perfect by the morning.

Morning of the Show

Most of the hard work has been done at this stage, however I like to have a final spruce in the morning before the judge sees the birds.

I make sure that the pen is clean and free of wet bedding, I like to remove the water container and feeder as they do tend to make an awful wet mess before the judges come around, and there is nothing worse than a wet food cover duck to handle.

The bird is checked over any manure stains can be removed with a wash cloth or baby wipes, I like to apply a final coat of either baby oil or paw paw cream to the legs and bill it really makes them shine.

Then sit back and enjoy.

Written by Jane Cockerton

COOKING WITH CULLS

For those of you who choose to eat your non-show birds or raise bird purely for the table here's a recipe to spice up dinner time and make it more interesting.

Slow Cooker Chicken Satay



- 6 pieces of chicken cut into similar size pieces
- 1 large red capsicum cut into strips
- 1 large onion, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup (125ml) low salt chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 table spoon ground cumin
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 or 2 fresh red chilies
- 1 tablespoon corn flour
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 3 spring onion, chopped
- handful chopped fresh coriander
- 3/4 cup (90g) chopped roasted peanuts

Preparation: 20min › Cook: 5hours

Add chicken pieces, capsicum and onion to slow cooker.

Mix chicken stock, 2 tablespoons of soy sauce, cumin, garlic, chilies pour this over the ingredients in the slow cooker.

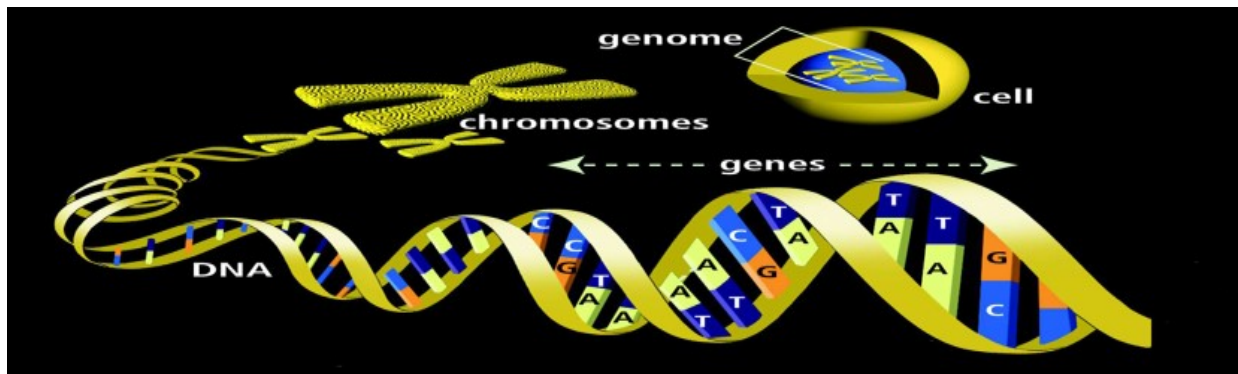
Cook on low for a minimum of 4 hours

Remove a cup of liquid from the slow cooker, add corn flour, peanut butter, lime juice and 1 tablespoon of soy sauce. Mix ingredients well and add to slow cooker stirring in carefully.

Continue cooking for an additional 30 mins.

Serve on a bed of rice or noodles garnished with spring onion, fresh coriander and roasted peanuts

Basic Genetics and Inheritance Explained Part 1



For all of you that have read the title, sighed and decided this subject is too heavy, think again.

Genetics the code of life and the one thing that influences the next generation and that if you are careful with a good basic knowledge you can really make great changes in a small amount of time.

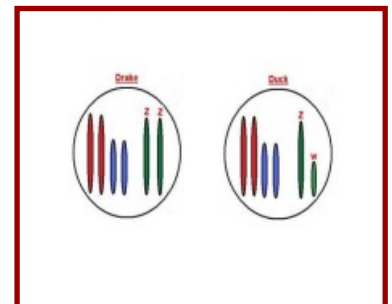
So let's start with definitions:

So what is a gene - This is simply a location on the DNA that produces a protein responsible for function within an animal, for example colour or size. There are many different genes within waterfowl that combine together to influence characteristics that are visual, these are called polygenes. Within a population there are many different variations of genes these are called alleles and these can mutate to produce different characteristics, thus leading to different breeds upon selection of characteristics.

Chromosomes? These are the long strands of genes all joined together, in mallard derived ducks, pigeons and turkeys there are 40 pairs whereas in chickens there are 38 pairs per bird. So during splitting of cells for production of egg and sperm 1 of these pairs will enter each cell, this gives a large amount of combinations of DNA for inheritance.

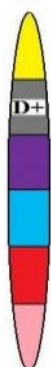
Phenotype? At some time you would have heard the phrase "phenotypical features" or "phenotypical bird", this comes from the characteristics shown by the duck or chicken outwards and is a combination of genetic factors and environment. For example some specimens may be under size, this could be genetic (genotype) or it could be diet or a combination of both.

Genotype? This is the characteristics directly influenced by genetic code i.e. colour



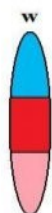
This duck (Z/w) has only one copy of the "not brown dilution" gene D+/- so is hemizygous for the trait. She can only pass "not brown" onto her sons because the gene is on her Z chromosome. All w chromosomes will go to her daughters so she passes nothing to them @ this locus.

Z



The small "w" chromosome doesn't have the locus for another gene or form of the gene for this trait. Hence, the mother passes no sex-linked trait onto her daughters on the small "w" chromosome.

w



Sex Linked Inheritance? There are 2 types of chromosome in birds Z and w. Males have only one type of sex determining chromosome Z, so all male birds are all ZZ, females however have 2 types, Z and w. So a female will determine the sex of the offspring and thus sometimes the colour as well, so if at any time the mother passes on a w gene the offspring it will be female.

Colour is also sex linked in some situations for example in ducks the "not brown" gene D+ can only occur on the longer chromosome Z (see diagram), thus a female duck carrying a D+ gene will only be able to pass this onto her male offspring.

Mutation? This is a fault or a change in one of the genes, this will change the genotype and may lead to change in phenotype, for example dwarfism and feather type. This is ultimately how all the breeds seen today were created.

Dominant Gene? This is particularly important in colour and it the gene that will be expressed over other genes particularly if they are recessive. All letters for dominant genes are upper case.

Recessive Gene? This is a gene which will not be expressed unless both sets of the chromosome have a copy, recessive genes can often remain hidden for many generations leading to the occasional "sport" or "defect" bird. All letters given to recessive genes are generally lower case.

Co-dominant Gene? This is a gene or set of genes that are expressed at the same time and typically the animal will show both expressions of the gene for example Plymouth Rock chickens, where both black and white are shown on each feather but not grey.

Genetics Tables? Gene tables are a way of looking at the relevant documented genetics on each chromosome and then comparing results from the breeding of birds. The example in the table on the left is a simplified version of what can happen. If both parents have genes Aa, then offspring will have the following combination of genes 25% AA, 25% aa, 50% Aa. This is what ultimately leads to variation within a flock when 2 birds are mated together. This table can be used and expanded if required for feather colouring in birds.

A Simple Genetic Cross

	A	a
A	AA	Aa
a	Aa	aa



MICRONISED STOCKFEEDS



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Show Reports and Results



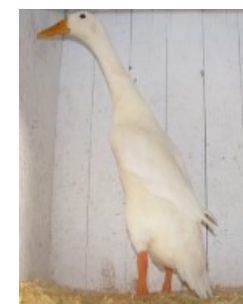
Darling Downs Poultry & Pigeon Breeders Assoc. Annual Show 7th June

No records set but a very good day. Numbers were down in comparison to other years due to the clashes with a number of other local shows and the Queens Birthday long weekend in Queensland. Only once in seven years does our show day coincide with the long weekend.

763 entries comprising of 149 Large Soft Feather; 191 Soft Feather Bantams, 73 Large Hard feather, 150 Hard Feather Bantams, 86 Waterfowl, 28 Pairs & 86 Pigeons.

Les Mc Coy did all the Hard Feather, Hec & Dean Mc Kenzies split the Soft Feather Bantam, then Dean gave Linda Jones a hand with the Large Soft Feather, Jim Innes the Waterfowl & Bob Kennedy the Pigeons. The judges had their skates on and were able to finish up by lunch time. This gave us the opportunity to present the trophies and finish up the show earlier than normal. This was a novelty for me as secretary as I am normally last to leave and don't get home till after dark.

As always there is the band of hard workers, who quietly go about their duties at the show, and help clean up afterwards, they never want recognition. As secretary I am very thankful for these people, young or old, if they do a lot or help where they can, it is greatly appreciated.



GRAND CHAMPION PIGEON of SHOW RESERVE CHAMPION PIGEON of SHOW

Third Best Pigeon of Show
Fourth Best Pigeon of Show
Champion Show Homer
Champion Flown Homer
Champion Fancy or Utility

P & J Murphy	British Show Racer
C Zwoener	Show Pen Homer
W Thorne	German Beauty
P & J Murphy	Flown Homer
P & J Murphy	British Show Racer
P & J Murphy	
P & J Murphy	LFCL Tumbler

GRAND CHAMPION FOWL of SHOW RESERVE CHAMPION FOWL of SHOW CHAMPION SOFTFEATHER FOWL of SHOW CHAMPION HARDFEATHER FOWL of SHOW

Champion Large Soft Feather
Reserve Champion Large Soft Feather
Champion Soft Feather Bantam
Reserve Champion Soft Feather Bantam
True Bantam
Soft feather Bantam other than True
Champion Large Hard Feather
Reserve Champion Large Hard Feather
Champion Hard Feather Bantam
Reserve Champion Hard Feather Bantam
Champion Rare Breed of Fowl

Katie Grant - Brown Red OEG Ckl (junior exhibitor)
Sellin Family - Black Pekin Plt
Sellin Family - Black Pekin Plt
Katie Grant - Brown Red OEG Ckl (junior exhibitor)
P Holton - Black Langshan ckl
L moore -Silkie Hen
Sellin Family - Black Pekin Plt
S Jannusch-Black Langshan ckl
Sellin Family - Black Pekin Plt
S Jannusch- Black Langshan ckl
T & D Hartwig - OEG Mealy Grey Plt
B Robinson- Pit Plt
Katie Grant - Brown Red OEG Ckl (junior exhibitor)
G Linderman - Pile OEG hen
B Westhead Large Polish Hen

CHAMPION WATERFOWL OF SHOW Reserve Champion Waterfowl of Show Bantam Waterfowl

A Jannusch - Indian Runner - white
A Jannusch - Indian Runner fawn & white
Patterson Family - Natural Mallard

Goombungee-Haden Agricultural, Horticultural & Pastoral Society Inc 101st Annual Show 2015

For those who don't know where Goombungee is, it is a small rural town situated on the Darling Downs, 110 km north-west of central Brisbane and 35 km north-west of Toowoomba Queensland. The very first show was a ploughing competition back in 1907. The Lau family donated the land for the current site. Goombungee-Haden is one of a very few show societies that owns their own grounds, most are council controlled.

The old poultry pavilion was situated down by the creek, and every time there was substantial rain fall the pavilion would flood, so it was moved to higher ground, its current position.

The original shed held 156 birds, and then was extended to accommodate 252 in the 1960's.

When John Lau retired from showing in the 1993 he donated a number of his old show cages to the show society. But time and termites have taken their toll on these pens.

In 2002 I became the honorary steward with only 240 suitable pens. At my first show there were only 164 poultry entries, my objective was to increase the numbers each year and fill the shed.

With the support of the show society I have been able to replace a number of the damaged pens. It is a slow process but well worth the effort. In 2005 Pigeons were added to the show, as there were a number of locals that showed pigeon & poultry. At present there are 385 pens.

In 2013 I was overwhelmed with support with a record number of entries the show, I was able to accept 444 entries, and unfortunately I had to turn away almost 100. This was largest poultry section (385 entries) at an Agricultural show on the Darling Downs for the year. I was lucky enough to get a loan of pens from the Crows Nest Show Society and I quickly built a number of pens to accommodate this influx. It was a big day!

This year saw a total of 316 fowls comprising of 13 pairs; 20 waterfowl; 65 soft feather bantams; 60 large soft feather a record number of hard feather were shown, 27 large & 131 bantams, as well as 18 pigeons. Tony Wonka from Wivenhoe Pocket Qld was invited to judge. Tony took the time out from judging to talk to exhibitors especially the juniors. Barry Ross came up from New Farm Qld to judge the pigeons.

Rob Walpole just happened to be visiting family & friends in the area and volunteered to adjudicate the novice judges competition. Four novice judges took part, 13 year old twins Katie & Julie Grant, 16 year old Joseph & 13 year old Hannah Patterson. They were asked to judge 4 black Silkie pullets and 5 different coloured Old English Bantam Hens. They were asked to place them from 1st to 3rd and write comments on what they saw as good and bad points. After they were finished Rob judged the birds in front of them, pointing out the finer points and any faults. Rob was very impressed with the knowledge that these young up and coming judges have. As the points were tallied it became evident, these kids did know there birds, with only 10 points between them. The eventual winner was Joseph. All received a bag of feed for participating. It is not easy judging, especially at a young age. We need to encourage, nurture and encourage these up and coming judges.

You can't run a successful show on your own, and I am very grateful for the support I receive, from the show society, the generous sponsors and trophy donors, and from those exhibitors who come to prepare the pens prior to show day, and to those that assist with stewarding on the day.

Agricultural Shows

(Show Societies are not affiliated members but in accordance with the objectives in our Constitution, we are delighted publish results from Agricultural Show if there is space.)

—Goombungee-Haden Agricultural, Horticultural & Pastoral Society Inc 101st Annual Show 2015

Grand Champion Bird of Show – Jack Murphy
Clean Face-Pit Bantam Plt

Reserve Champion Bird of Show– Tavis Hartwig
Langshan plt

Champion Large Soft Feather - Tavis Hartwig
Langshan ckl

Reserve Champion Large Soft Feather
Grant Family Black Australorp

Large Hard Feather – Tavis Hartwig

Champion Bantam Soft Feather – Noel Ellis
Black Langshan plt

Reserve Champion Bantam Soft Feather- Tavis Hartwig
Black Australorp Plt

Champion Bantam Hard Feather – Jack Murphy
Pit Bantam Plt

Reserve Champion Bantam Hard Feather – R & J Peasley
Modern Game

Champion Waterfowl – Patterson Family
White Mallard Drake

Reserve Champion Waterfowl- Adam Jannusch
Indian Runner

Breeding Pair – B & A Scott
Pit Bantams

Pair of Females Noel Ellis
Langshan Bantams

Grand Champion Pigeon of Show – Warren
Thorne
German Beauty Homer

Reserve Champion Pigeon of Show – Warren
Thorne
British Show Racer



Grand Champion Bird of Show—Jack Murphy

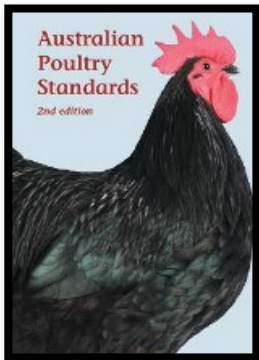


Reserve Champion Bird of Show—Travis Hartwig



Champion Waterfowl—Petterson Family

Back to Basic Information Day - Darling Downs Poultry & Pigeon Breeders Assoc.



In the past the Darling Downs Poultry & Pigeon Breeders Assoc. has held some successful “in house” back to basic information sessions, basic hygiene/health, bird handling, washing and show preparation.

There has been some considerable interest from members to take this a step further. There are some seminars going around that are heavily sponsored, but the members wanted information, not a sales pitch.

Our target group was to be beginners or people new to show poultry, but it was open anyone who was interested enough to expand their knowledge

I invited Bob Doneley BVSc. FANZCVS (Avian Medicine) CMAVA, Registered Specialist in Bird Medicine, Associate Professor, Avian and Exotic Pet Service; University of Queensland Veterinary Medical Centre to speak on feeding requirements, biosecurity, health and well-being as well as vaccinations. David Simons a well-respected poultry judge and exhibitor, was also asked to speak on handling of birds, preparation for show, and other handy hints.

Twenty eight people attended, of these ten were new to poultry, and one lady travelled almost three hours to attend, that's dedication. The numbers were good, but more would have been better. Only a few locals poultry enthusiasts that were not members attended, this was disappointing as we had hoped for more locals to attend as it would have been very beneficial to them.

Bob was allocated three hours to speak, with a break in between. For those that have not had any dealings with Bob, he loves to talk birds, for us this was great, add to this an enthusiastic crowd firing questions at him, he went well over time, almost four hours.

A couple of points that really stood out to; birds are really good at disguising that they are sick, by the time they look sick it is usually too late. When treating birds it has to be a holistic approach, meaning looking at treatment of the whole flock. Quarantine sick birds or new birds being introduced to your flock for at least 4 weeks, well away from the flock.

We could have kept him going for a lot longer, but he needed to get to a family get together. Julie Lack presented him with a thank you gift for speaking, it was a bit of a reunion as Julie and Bob studied teaching together many years ago.

David was up next. Where to start, the chicken or the egg? It all starts with selection of birds for the breeding pen, housing, proper rearing, vermin control, nutrition, separation of large birds from bantams, males from females. Preparation of the birds; whole bird washing; cleaning of heads & legs; pen training; transport and show day touch ups. It is a pleasure to listen to David is a very good speaker and fielded numerous questions.

A quote from David “Remember, time and effort spent before the show will be rewarded on show day. A good bird will be made even better by proper and careful preparation and appropriate transportation to the show. Judges can only judge what is before them, so show your birds to the Standard, presented well and in good order.”

David finished off preparing one leg of a hen and not the other to show the comparison between them. The afternoon was concluded by Lyn Moore giving and impromptu demonstration on Artificial Insemination.

Take every opportunity to expand your knowledge and meet other poultry enthusiasts. It doesn't matter if you are new to poultry or been have at it for years you can never stop learning.

by Wayne Patterson



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Visit us on the web at
www.qldpoultry.com



National Poultry Show



Experience it — be part of



**Entries open
December 2015**

Hosted by the RAS of NSW—Managed by the Poultry Committee
Event for all clubs and exhibitors
Exhibition Pavilion—Backyard Pavilion—Huge range of Displays
Book a stall and promote your club!



9-12 June - Sydney Showground - Sydney Olympic Park

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