

Dubbo Poultry Club Inc.

Newsletter

November 2005

The Dubbo Poultry Club has had periodic newsletters in the past. This is what I hope will be the first newsletter of a series that will be produced every two months and distributed at club meetings.

A new look committee

The 2005 AGM held in September saw some changes to the DPC committee.

Phil Birchall stood down as president after filling the position for the past few years. Ryan Harris was elected as

A very successful club show

The 2005 DPC club show in July was another outstanding success with 770 birds entered while over 100 entries had to be refused once the pens had filled.

Judges Wayne Rigby, Peter Cliff, Paul Johns and Tony Mills found some top quality birds although some appeared to have lost their bloom, possibly as a result of having

New judging appointments

Congratulations to Keith Stewart and Ryan Harris.

Keith recently received confirmation of his EPA

2005 show results

While not all DPC members breed poultry for the purpose of doing the show circuit there

The ultimate success of any newsletter lies with the membership. It is up to you to let me know what you would like to see in your newsletter in the way of news, views, show results as well as general

new president while vice-president Bob Stanley will also take on the role as chief steward.

The rest of the committee remains unchanged with Keith Stewart continuing as secretary

been over-shown in the lead-up to Dubbo.

Top birds on the day included a large Australian Langshan pullet shown by J. & J. Rogers and a White Wyandotte bantam pullet shown by J. & G. Wright. Norm Spratt took out the hardfeather double with a large OEG Golden Duckwing cockerel and an Australian Pit Game bantam cock. The

accreditation to judge both softfeather and hardfeather.

Ryan has also been accepted on the judging panel of the The

information on various breeds (and breeders) and husbandry.

David Geering

and Greg Cusack as treasurer (for the ninth consecutive year).

David Geering continues in the honorary position of publicity officer.

Champion Waterfowl was K. & S. Turner's Indian Runner duck. Champion Rare Breed was Andrew Rathbone's very nice large Light Brahma cockerel.

In all, the standard of birds was high with DPC club members, while missing out on the majors, still taking out a fair share of Best in Breed awards.

Plymouth Rock Club of Australia, a notable achievement.

Special mention must be made of Sean Ryan who took out Bird of Show at the Orpington National Show held in Albury

in June with a large buff pullet. This bird had to first win her class comprising 48 birds. As a bonus this pullet made an appearance on the back page of the August edition of *Australasian Poultry*.

In a similar vein, Ryan Harris won Best other than Barred at the national Plymouth Rock show with a partridge bantam cockerel, another notable result.

On the local show circuit local exhibitors were prominent among the various Best of Breed awards.

Taking this one step further was Sandra Ferguson with successes with her Muscovies. Sarah had a number of Best

Waterfowl results as well as a Bird in Show award at Gulgong.

Ernie and Wendy Coffee also had considerable success with their Silkies culminating in Reserve Champion Large Softfeather at both Forbes and Molong.

Keith Stewart continued his run of success with his Modern Game bantams taking out several Reserve Hardfeather Bantam awards during the year.

Those breeding the rare breeds often find themselves showing only against themselves. With this in mind, David Geering decided to take his Barnevelders to the

competition, packing them off to the Camden club show in May. In a large field of 48 large and 12 bantam Barnies, David's large pullet took out the Best of Breed award.

David's Barnevelder pullet also took out Best Softfeather Large at the Wellington Ag Show in April. While only a small show it was refreshing to see a judge put up a rare breed for a major award.

Dubbo exhibitors attending various shows not only did us proud as representatives of DPC, they contributed much to the ultimate success of our club show as members of other clubs patronised our show.

Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is one of the most common diseases in poultry. Typical symptoms include droopiness, paleness of the comb, diarrhoea and occasionally blood in the droppings. Untreated, the death rate may be high.

Coccidiosis is caused by a single-celled protozoa that lives in the gut wall and is spread when birds eat faecal material from an infected bird.

While birds of almost any age can be affected it is not

common in chickens under three weeks of age as it takes time for the parasite load to build up. Chickens appear most susceptible soon after leaving the brooder.

The infectious oocysts (egg-like bodies) are extremely hard to eradicate and may survive for more than a year.

While hard to control by sanitation alone, sound husbandry practices such as keeping the litter dry, providing good ventilation,

sunshine (a lack of vitamins A and K will result in a more severe outbreak) and minimising overcrowding will aid in prevention.

While most commercial chicken feed have a coccidiostat added, heavy parasite loads can still build up in the gut if conditions favour an outbreak making medication necessary. This should start immediately.

Once treated, birds develop immunity.

The final word

By now, I'm sure most breeders will have completed, or nearly completed, their hatch.

I hope the season is developing as you would like and that you have good strong

healthy chickens on the ground.

I also hope that mishaps are kept to a minimum. I recently lost 13 growing chickens when a freak storm reduced pens to kindling. One heavy

pen, that remained relatively intact, was flung 30 metres, over a fence!

Note that **the next DPC meeting** will be at 7.30PM on Friday 03 February 2006.