



Paddocks and Perches

Official Newsletter of
Rare Breeds Trust of Australia
December 2019



Directors

Managing Director -

Anne Sim

PO Box 159, Abbotsford Vic 3067

Mobile 0408 324 346

Email: rarebreedstrust@gmail.com

Director - Secretary -

Pig Coordinator

Acting Horse coordinator

Katy Brown

PO Box 159, Abbotsford Vic 3067

Ph: 03 5484 8153

Email: rarepigs@bigpond.com

Director Treasurer and Member Liaison

Acting Cattle & Sheep coordinator

Judy Barnett

"Tilba Tilba", 162 Walker Road

Glenlyon Qld 4380

Ph 07 4685 6147

Mobile 0422 938 865

Email:ewe2@bigpond.com

www.blackbeautypigs.com

Director - Poultry Coordinator & Editor

Jill Weaver

10 Fernybridge Rd., Sprent, Tas. 7315

Phone 03 6429 3230

Email: jill.weaver@bigpond.com

Director -

Cathy Newton

Email: bncgnewton@gmail.com

Mobile 0497 846 017

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia

ABN 96 098 118 300

ACN 98 118 300

PO Box 159

Abbotsford, Victoria. Australia 3067

Website rarebreedstrust.com.au

https://www.facebook.com/groups/

53617001689

Letter to the Editor

Hello and welcome to your new role in compiling our regular newsletter.

Firstly I would like to sincerely thank and congratulate Anne Sim for all her hard work in constantly producing all the previous newsletters; they were great newsletters. All Anne's newsletters were so interesting and well presented that they were very keenly appreciated and read.

I believe it is the only one produced in Australia on a regular basis that covers all the domestic livestock.

I am looking forward to receiving your first newsletter.

Good luck from one of the original members of many years, Tas Doombusch

From The editor

The RBTA held its Annual General Meeting on November 13th 2019. Anne Sim and myself were re-elected to the board. (Members are elected in an off-set three-year rotation.) A new board member was formally elected also. We are very pleased indeed to have Cathy Newton on our team. Cathy comes with excellent 'computer' skills and has already done wonders to our web page. Please have a look at the work Cathy has done.

I hope everyone finds something of interest to read in this edition and don't forget, if you have something to share or would like to contribute to our newsletter send it to me by email and I will include it in one of our editions.

On behalf of the RBTA I wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas break and a prosperous and happy New Year.



Just adorable. I wanted to lift it up off the paper and put it in my back paddock!

American Mammoth foal. Southern's Sky's Willo
Photo taken by P. Emmett

Front cover:

Johanna Nordstrom poultry judge with Tasman Doombusch's silver pencilled Aust. Cochin pet hen.

Introducing our new Board Member; Cathy Newton



I was born in Brisbane, Queensland developing a love of farming through spending a lot of time with family in dairy farming, in the Mount Larcom area. I have loved and bred animals all my life although it wasn't until 1986 that my husband and I began breeding poultry. We soon found purebred poultry to be an absorbing and interesting hobby, breeding Light Sussex, Australorps, Barnevelders and other crested breeds.

Later in life we broadened our interests and became involved in poultry clubs and shows in Queensland and through those connections I have held a number of related administrative positions. During the last decade I have explored the use of digital communication to further poultry interests in a number of ways including social media. I became an open panel judge of soft feather fowl and a provisional judge of waterfowl, and hard feather in recent years and have been privileged to judge at shows in Queensland, New South Wales and in the Northern Territory.

Since our involvement in exhibition poultry, we have bred Sebastopol Geese, a variety of ducks including Australian Calls, Indian Runners and Mallards and of course retain a core flock of purebred chickens such as Sussex, Wyandottes and Australian Game. We have kept imported breeds such as Creveceour and Dutch Bantams, although currently keep more rare varieties than rare breeds.

I am a strong believer in the promotion of all types of poultry keeping but especially the purebreds that require our conservation efforts. We can make a difference!



Pictured to the left is one of Tas Doorbusch's line of white Australian Cochin.

Beneath is one of Tas's female white cochin.



Making My First Australian Cochins by Tas Doombusch

PART 1

About half a lifetime ago in the 1980's when I was already known as a breeder of rare poultry such as the Transylvanian Naked Neck and Sicilian Buttercup, and when I had already made silver duck wing Leghorn Fowl, a fancier offered me his attempt at re-creating a non-existent breed in Western Australia; the Cochin!

Being a keen geneticist I accepted his offer and purchased these very non-descript black birds. Of the four females and two males half of them had such awful inherited faults that I immediately culled them. The rest were my humble beginnings!

From this remaining trio of medium sized black birds all with dark legs and beaks I bred quite a few chickens. Just as well I did as nearly all of them grew up to be real wasters with black legs and feet and some had missing outside toenails or almost no footings. Many others had **split wings (i.)**, **enamel in their earlobes (ii.)** along with **gypsy faces (iii.)**. After some time I did breed some reasonably decent looking birds without faults beside small size and dark legs and beaks. By strict culling and inbreeding I managed to produce some with better footings and a fair size.

WHITE SPORTS ARRIVE

After several years of perseverance suddenly, from these black parents some full whites appeared. Now this was quite exciting for me to have a colour other than black. However I thought that they looked quite ugly with their awful dark legs, (Cochins have yellow legs) but these looked like white Langshans.

OUTCROSSES INTRODUCED

As more size was urgently needed with no other yellow legged feather footed breeds available (no Brahas here yet) I chose to introduce buff Orpington for both colour and size. I did succeed in both, increasing their size and obtained some most interesting new colours. However I should have known that even when good looking birds are bred together from totally different genetics all sorts of unwanted and unexpected awful faults also appear. A lot of these Orpington crosses once again had dark gypsy faces, enamel in their earlobes, side sprigs on their combs and as expected dark legs with very scant feathering, some having none at all. Many were however, quite large. Some more years of breeding was needed to eliminate these faults. Now in an effort to introduce both the yellow legs and heavy weights I used barred Plymouth Rock. This introduced the cuckoo colour with the legs somewhat willow in colour. Once again lots of bare legged birds appeared and had to be culled; as all Cochins must have profuse footings including the middle toe.

So by the 1990's I had a very mixed lot of hybrids in several colours but my whites still had those unwanted dark legs.

BREEDING FOR TYPE, SIZE AND FOOTINGS

Over the years I kept in mind the bird size required as being the first and foremost importance. I also bred for good egg production and always set eggs that were of show quality. Next was good type with the right heads and birds free of any faults such as missing outside toenails, split wings or bent keels, etc. A lingering problem in my coloured Cochins was the regular appearance of either gypsy faces or enamel earlobes. All these faults had to be continually eliminated. In 1995 I had penned up my best looking buffs for breeding, however every day there was one undersized egg being laid. I reasoned that the best way to discover what hen was the culprit was to remove one hen each day and yes you guessed it; my biggest and best looking hen was the culprit so sadly she was culled.

Australian Cochins continued

Now to improve footings, type and to shorten their length of leg and to increase the necessary amount of fluffiness. I introduced salmon Faverolles. I did succeed in improving their type but all their associated ornaments not wanted in my Cochins came along with the breed in all resulting progeny. The buff hens produced some really beautiful F1 prize-winning buff Faverolles. However their footings did improve and legs were shorter, also being a hybrid their size had also increased. It was a real challenge to breed out all the unwanted extra ornaments. Once I had managed to completely eliminate all signs of face muffs they never reappeared. Their five toes, however were very stubbornly inherited and even if a hen only had the slightest sign of a second rear toenail many of her offspring would have even more extra toe development. So by the mid 1990's I had a good flock of my Cochins in an assortment of colours. They were at last looking reasonable and I had requests from some breeders. I sent a good consignment to Queensland where the breeder there is still going on with them. I also sent some lovely whites to Victoria to a breeder that was playing with buffs. Remember this was all before any import had occurred.

MY LUCKY BREAK WITH MY WHITES

Also in the early 1990's a keen poultry fancier and friend of mine had purchased a setting of white Wyandotte eggs. From these he hatched a pair which did have good type and bright yellow legs, but also; unwanted in Wyandottes single combs. He exhibited them as Orpingtons but were passed because of incorrectly coloured legs. I saw them at the show and we did a deal as they were ideal for introducing just what my Cochins were lacking. White birds with yellow legs! I paired the cock to my biggest white hen and the hen to my cock. Most of the resulting progeny were once again nice and big and very robust.

I was very pleased with these youngsters but once again, most had very sparse footings and nothing at all on their toes. Many still had no foot feathering at all but as expected all had quite reasonable combs.

BREEDING FOR HEAVY SIZE, FREEDOM FROM FAULTS AND GOOD FOOTINGS

By the late 1990's I had a very mixed coloured flock containing most colours from black, ermine, gold-laced, buff and whites. With limited breeding space available I bred my buffs with my whites to find that all the progeny were white. By this time I had managed to eliminate those with poor footings and still bred for big size and good egg production.

GOOD MEAT BIRDS

When my breeding roosters were not needed any more, as their sons were superior I gave them to a friend to eat. My friend's wife commented "Rob, where are you getting these turkey carcasses from?"

MY W.A. COCHIN IN 2000

With constantly selecting and breeding from my biggest cochins I had a really good selection of colours however as my cuckoo were still too tall, inherited from the Plymouth Rock infusion, I decided to quit this line. I also let the blacks go. I was pleased however with my beautifully feathered whites. These Cochins had wonderfully placid temperaments, good size, nice bright yellow legs and good footings.

- i) *Split wing*—is a wing that does not grow the middle or axil feather, therefore the wing appears 'split'.
- ii) *Gypsy face*— usually refers to the colouring of the facial features, being a dark red to black.
- iii) *Enamel earlobes*—refers to the whitish appearance or white colouring in the lobes.

Part 2 of this article will be in the next edition.

Managing Directors Annual Report 2019



This has been a year of ups and downs. Looking back I see it as a year of consolidation and now we are looking to the future.

The down side has been the resignation of two Board Members, Janet Lane and Sue Curliss. Both of them did a wonderful job getting the web-site species information completed.

On the up side we had Jill Weaver join us. She is a poultry expert and has taken over the production of the magazine. I have done this for the last 10 years so it was time for a change.

Using Tidyhq as the platform for all our activities is wonderful. No losing files, minutes always there with attachments, current members always available and financial information readily available. We have had to be flexible as using this has changed the way we run things. We have had to get over 'we used to do things differently'.

Again this year we ran a photo competition to promote International Heritage Breeds Week in May. This year we had a slightly different format, to emphasize the species. In the past the winners have been horses, so this year the winner was Michelle Gollin with a Dutch Bantam pullet whose photo is on this page. Many thanks to our judge Duncan Frost for a great job.

We have been trying to get all the Trust's archives consolidated, and the first pallet load recently arrived at my house. I will be sorting, scanning and documenting what is there. We have more to arrive and moves have been made to collect it from three more locations. Now that we are a cloud based organization there will be very little of this in the future.

We are currently running our Second National Poultry Survey which was undertaken by Cathy Newton, a well known poultry person. I have been very grateful for her contribution and knowledge which was beyond any of the current board members abilities. We look forward to seeing the results soon.



We have been donated an original painting of a Dorset Horn Ram by Heritage Livestock Canada (HLC). The painting is an original oil by HLC past Chair, the late Dr. John Mills from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The ram was a splendid example of the late Karl Bowen's 'Bowen Pride' registered flock. Karl was a longtime Dorset Horn breeder and HLC member in Aylmer, Ontario. It is an oil on canvas Size 350 x 270. On his death this and other paintings were left to HLC. This was a lovely gesture and Judy Barnet has taken on the task to auction it on Ebay.

Looking forward our next big task is to establish a semen bank. I want to get this correct from the start, so there is a lot of work in setting up the documentation. At this stage a guess is \$50,000 will be needed. Note, this figure is strictly a guess and may be much more. As we just cannot get DGR endorsement (tax break for donors) we will have to work much harder to raise the funds. There are many ways of doing this and the more I find out the more I feel that we can do it. If any of you have a few dollars you are wondering what to do with it, we will accept it now and put towards this project.

I feel for all those who have rare breed animals and are struggling with drought, lack of water, high feed prices and low commodity prices. We have had a couple of cases this year when animals on our rarity list have been facing the bullet. Thank you to all those who have come forward and helped with re-homing. Without you we may have lost some breeds.

I also wish to thank all those who have helped me this year. Katy Brown as Secretary and pig and horse coordinator, Judy Barnet as Treasurer, sheep and cattle coordinator, and Jill Weaver for her knowledge of poultry who has only recently come on the Board..

I am looking forward to another year of great achievements. I hope that you can all help to make that happen.

Anne
Managing Director

Globalisation of Endangered Breeds of Livestock

Lawrence Alderson, founder president of Rare Breeds International, founder and former chairman of RBST

My thoughts and reminiscences were alerted recently by a report of cooperation on an equine project between Australia and USA, and it prompted me to review the development of rare breeds conservation. There was little warning in the mid-twentieth century of the impending emergence of a movement that would bring local native breeds into the public arena. The need to protect heritage breeds had been understood and realised when Winston Churchill exported White Park cattle to Canada in 1940 as part of Operation Fish. In Ireland a 'reserve' for Kerry cattle was established in 1925, and two herds of Texas Longhorn cattle in Oklahoma and Nebraska were protected in 1927. But they were spasmodic and fragmentary events. Otherwise the world's multi-purpose and locally-adapted domestic animal genetic resources were drifting along complacently unaware of the onslaught that would engulf them. The livestock world was about to experience the impact of specialist breeds intensively selected for a major production trait. Holsteinisation and similar trends in other species – speed in horses, lean meat in pigs, size in beef cattle – would redesign the livestock world in the second half of the twentieth century. Previously popular breeds would be marginalised and reduced to endangered status.

The danger was not realised until the 1960s, and even then progress was impeded by the reluctance of governmental organisations to recognise the threat. However, following the ground-breaking work of the committee chaired by Bill Stanley OBE in 1973 to create RBST, the first NGO seeking to prevent the extinction of native endangered breeds, the movement rapidly acquired an international flavour. Similar NGOs were established in other countries around the world. Many were in Europe but the first was AMBC in USA in 1977. Even before AMBC was created projects to transfer genetic material between countries and continents already had been launched. As one of its first projects RBST commissioned Jack Howlett, an authority on pig breeds and director of the British Livestock Company, to select breeding animals in Australia to replenish depleted bloodlines in Britain. In 1976 he organised the purchase and export of Tamworth (Jasper, Glen, Royal Standard) and Berkshire (Ambassador) boars which established new sire lines in Britain under supervision by the National Pig Breeders Association.

The network of rare breeds NGOs expanded with speed and each was guided by a similar philosophy embodied in common objectives, but national organisations inevitably develop their own style and detailed *modus operandi*. Michael Rosenberg in Britain, Jy Chiperzak in Canada, Keith Ramsay in South Africa, Cary Fowler in USA, Michael Willis in New Zealand, Fiona Chambers in Australia, Laurent Avon in France and Juanvi Delgado in Spain, among several others, made huge individual contributions in a national context. There was an obvious need for an overarching body to facilitate exchange between them of both genetic material and knowledge of conservation techniques and procedures. Yet it was sixteen years since the foundation of RBST before a conference at the University of Warwick in 1989 initiated the creation of Rare Breeds International (RBI). It was a genuinely global organisation with four trustees and an executive council led by a president from, in turn, England (Alderson), Canada (Crawford), New Zealand (Blair), Greece (Georgoudis), South Africa (Ramsay) and Spain (Delgado). Major conferences in England, Hungary, Spain, Canada, Nepal, Brazil, South Africa, Vietnam and Turkey enabled delegates to hear presentations by world leaders in their chosen field of expertise and thereby consider how best to apply such knowledge in their national programmes. The same concept now has been expanded further by tele-conference and skype 'meetings' embraced by RBI and rare breeds organisations especially in Canada, USA, Australia and NZ. In 2018 Anne Sim, MD of Rare Breeds Trust Australia, cooperated with Pam Heath, Office Manager of Heritage Livestock Canada, to hold a tele-conference between officers of their respective organisations, and The Livestock Conservancy (originally AMBC) organised tele-conferences with several other national NGOs.

Globalisation of endangered breeds of livestock, continued:-

Global cooperation is a key factor in ensuring the ongoing support for endangered native breeds and current structures and procedures are encouraging. Recent international meetings in 2016 in Canada and USA have served to reinforce the global value of the movement. It was seen in action from a British perspective when four-day genetics seminars organised by the University of Liverpool attracted delegates from as far as North America, and each year the reconstruction of the iconic dyke on North Ronaldsay inspires volunteers who arrive from other parts of the world to assist an urgent project. North Ronaldsay sheep illustrate the importance of team work not only on an international scale but also in national efforts. When RBST decided to create a reserve population it augmented its own resources, led by Ken Briggs and his working party, by drawing in support from Baxter Cooper (Fauna Preservation Society), Deryk Frazer (Director, Nature Conservancy), Bill Carstairs (Orkney veterinary surgeon), Howard Payton (photographer), Ian Gill (University of Liverpool) and Peter Titley (Orkney Sheep Foundation).

Exchange of genetic material between countries and continents has proved a vital factor in the survival of some national populations. Rare breed pigs were exported from Australia to England in the 1970s (Tamworth and Berkshire) and 1990s (Large Black, Wessex Saddleback, Tamworth and Berkshire). Red Poll semen has been exported to England from USA (Pinpur Intercontinental) and Australia (Yongerellen Power Mover and Eurimbla Gladstone), and to South Africa from England (Underhills Horatio). White Park cattle in particular have involved national NGOs in various methods of genetic exchange; exports from England have included bulls to Canada and Germany and embryos to New Zealand. Semen has been exported from England to USA, Canada and Germany, and from USA to Australia. Most of these projects were facilitated, and some were organised, by national NGOs or by RBI. The account in a recent issue (Vol. 34, No. 1) of *Genesis* (Heritage Livestock Canada) of the generous and essential cooperation between breeders of Suffolk Punch heavy horses in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and England shows the spirit of cooperation continues and provides a blueprint and the incentive for similar action with other critically threatened breeds.

The seed sown more than fifty years ago has taken root. It has grown and branched out into a powerful international movement. I know from my ongoing involvement that the early visionaries who fostered the concept feel a glow of pride that our concept was justified, and current practitioners who exhibit ongoing dedication to the conservation of endangered farm animal genetic resources are maintaining the proud tradition.



White Park calves . This breed was exported to Canada in 1940 by Winston Churchill who is pictured in the background.

Fairfield Family Farm

We are a family of four with two primary school aged children. We bought forty two hectares of lush pasture in Klama on the NSW south coast several years ago. The property had been run as a dairy in recent times and we wanted to stock it with cattle that would give us some flexibility into the future and that were special. We hunted around and discovered the Pinzgauer breed—a breed of Austrian origin.

We bought stock from several studs in Victoria. They have met all our expectations so far:

- ⇒ Very good mothers with excellent milk (as they are a dual purpose breed).
- ⇒ Tender beef
- ⇒ A delight to work with as they are very docile.
- ⇒ Very long productive lives as they are very robust and healthy.
- ⇒ Very feed efficient and performing very well under Australian conditions.
- ⇒ Beautiful to look at.



In Austria the breed is considered a national heritage, but is of course competing with the very high yield milking strains, so has attained rare breed status even there.

They are being preserved by many farmers in the mountains because they have very sound legs and can climb high alps in the summer (which high performance dairy cattle can't cope with), and then are happy in the stables in winter. They milk very well on the alps in the summer and their products get turned into specialised cheeses. The breed has been run in two strains, one for dairy and one for beef production. Pinzgauer beef is often marketed directly from the farm, which I suppose is easier when—for most farms the nearest abattoir is never further than twenty minutes away from the farm gate.

The breed has been exported worldwide. (Canada, Australia, South Africa, Slovakia, Denmark, Germany, Italy) for over one hundred years and in those countries the emphasis has always been on beef breeding. In Austria, for example the number of purebreds kept for beef production has quadrupled in the last decade and the animals are of superb quality.

There is genetic exchange across the world going on via frozen semen. Austrian breeders have used an Australian bull in the past decade and we were able to import semen from two of the best current beef bulls in Austria last year. We are hoping to have some calves of those new lines on the ground soon and also to breed a bull good enough to return the favour sometime in the next few years.

We have fallen in love with the breed and were made welcome by the Australian Pinzgauer Breeders' association (APBA) and offered a position on the council. There is great enthusiasm and passion for the preservation of this breed which is just wonderful. An internationally approved herd book is maintained by the APBA.

The APBA is part of the network of international Pinzgauer Breeder Associations, with headquarters in Austria. The staff in Austria facilitate worldwide connections between breeders and thus help coordinate the maintenance of genetic diversity of the breed across the world. Every third year they organise a 'tour' for twelve days for all affiliated Pinzgauer breeders in a country with Pinzgauers, a great get-together for the worldwide Pinzgauer family. In 2020 the next tour is scheduled to come to Australia and we are very excited to be able to receive the tour down under on our little farm!

For anyone further interested they can find out more information at the APBA website—www.pinzgauer.org.au or the 'APBA' facebook group.

Dairy/Milking Shorthorn: conservation of an endangered heritage breed of cattle.

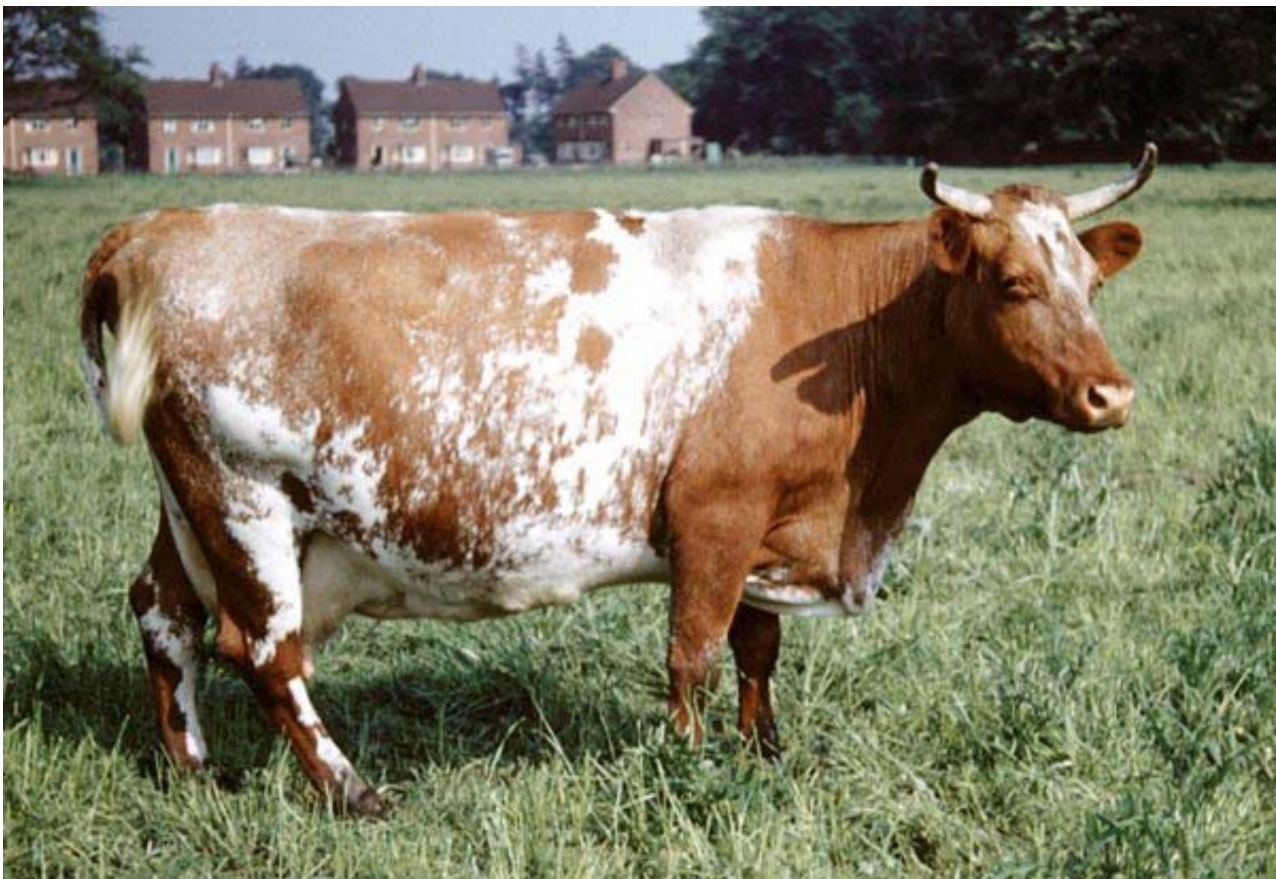
Below is a table of data taken from a large article sent to the RBTA by G.L.H. Alderson. I also have some lovely pics that were sent with the article. The whole article can be found on our web site, just follow the instructions below.

<https://rarebreedstrustofaustralia.tidyhq.com/public/storage/f/4c51456ce73b97903481731c2cf8fa2d/Dairy-Shorthorn-report-2018-RBI-Alderson.pdf>

Table II: Results of survey of national populations 2017

Information on herds, breeding animals, registrations and genetic material in cryogenic stores

Country	Herds	Cows	Bulls	Reg. all	Reg. M	Reg. F	Semen	Embryos	Notes
UK	5	342	33				yes	yes	Plus 4 small herds
USA		632		186	28	158	yes	yes	3-yr rolling average
Australia		340		101	24	77	yes		3-yr rolling average
South Africa	1								
Canada									No reliable information
Eire									No reliable information
Brazil							yes		
NZ		3841							Status not verified




Dairy Shorthorn cow, Winmarleigh

2019 Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry Survey

Prepared by Cathy Newton

A few months ago I was contacted by the RBTA and asked to run their online poultry survey. I set about constructing the survey using the Australian Poultry Standards as the basis for the breeds to be listed. Melissa Gollin, who ran the 2017 survey, was consulted and her feedback influenced the following changes that were made. The requirement to give a postcode to indicate location was removed as many poultry breeders will not participate if their location data is collected; an optional residential State was offered; and standard and bantam were split in the data. The survey ran for a month to match the previous collection. Many poultry clubs and contacts were emailed details of the survey, asking them to forward it along. It was advertised widely on Facebook and other online locations. A paper copy, or the opportunity to submit email data was offered to anybody who enquired about those

Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry Categories



- Red - Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable and at Risk - Top Priority Breeds
- Amber - Recovery Status, Recent Increases - Watch and Support
- Green - Survey Numbers >500 over a number of surveys

options, but nobody took up those opportunities. The survey was run online as that was the most efficient and affordable way to collect information. There is no reason to believe that this bias to online participants is correlated to any bias in breeds. The breed data collected should be a fair sample of the wider population.

	Critical	Endangered	Vulnerable	At Risk
Poultry	<100 Breeding Birds	<200 Breeding Birds	<300 Breeding Birds	<500 Breeding Birds
Waterfowl	<100 Breeding Birds	<200 Breeding Birds	<300 Breeding Birds	<500 Breeding Birds

We recognise that the poultry community would like to see colour varieties represented in the survey. We considered this for the 2019 data collection, however it would have become too large and unwieldy. It was decided that we consider sectional surveys at a future time in order to cover any pertinent colour variety information in surveys of a manageable size. The survey stated that birds entered must be of breeding age and be a standard breed. No quality information can be deduced from this anonymous survey.

In the past this has been called a census but it is more accurately described as a survey. A census implies that every possible poultry owner is included, but the reality is that is not achievable. This survey endeavoured to reach as many poultry keepers as possible given our resources and gives us a good idea of what breeds may be at risk in this country.

Poultry is eligible to be included on the RBTA Poultry Red List if their status is regarded as being Critical, Endangered, Vulnerable or At Risk. Special priority is now also given to those breeds that have been on the Red List but have shown recent increase in numbers. These breeds are given an Amber status to reflect the need to watch and maintain support as there can be reasons for transient alterations in numbers.

Results

2012 respondents completed the 2019 Survey and 77,420 birds were accounted for in the responses from participants across Australia. The survey attracted approximately two and a half times as many respondents as the 2017 data collection. The respondents were spread across the wider poultry community including both the exhibition community and the rare breed community. Respondents also came from all States and Territories of Australia. This large sample has given us reasonably reliable data from which to draw some conclusions.

Poultry Survey continued

Poultry numbers had generally increased. Twenty poultry breeds moved from the Red List to the Amber List (Recovering) as a result of returning more than 500 adult breeders in the survey. There may be a number of reasons for this and their new status in the Amber List recognises that they need to be watched into the future.

Of the twenty-one poultry breeds remaining on the RBTA Red List, three are critically endangered. These are the Sultan, the Yokohama and the Old English Pheasant Fowl. The Sultan and Yokohama have never been seen in big numbers in Australia to my knowledge but they do exist and are held in the hands of a few breeders. The Old English Pheasant Fowl is an Avgen import that has only been here a short time. Some of the imported breeds have taken off and become popular quickly but the Old English Pheasant Fowl has not done that at this stage.

What cannot be seen in the list below is the split between bantam and large as the RBTA List deals with breeds as a whole. We did split the data in the survey and the results tells us that a number of large or bantam may be at risk. Examples are: Large Modern Game (98 in the hands of 12 breeders); Bantam Minorca (81 in the hands of 10 breeders); Bantam Malay (113 in the hands of 12 breeders) Legbar Bantams (16 in the hands of three breeders); Faverolles Bantams (116 in the hands of 13 breeders); Dorking Bantams (45 in the hands of five breeders) Croad Langshan Bantams (13 in the hands of 2 breeders); Bantam Barnevelders (78 in the hands of 8 breeders); Araucana (224 in the hands of 42 breeders) and Andalusian Bantams (70 in the hands of six breeders). Some of these breeds are no longer on the Red or the Amber lists however are at risk in terms of their variety rather than their breed.

Poultry breeder numbers were strong. Among the respondents we had an average of 88 breeders per poultry breed, with over 20 breeds having breeder numbers of more than a hundred.

The waterfowl did not perform as strongly as the poultry and may be in need of even more support. Just two breeds were moved from the Red List to the Amber List despite increased survey returns. These were the Australian Call and the Indian Runner. The Australian Call in particular has made strong growth from 402 in 2017 to 1366 in 2019. This increase is reflected in the numbers of Australian Calls seen at shows around the country. Indian Runners have always been a popular breed due to their strong egg laying capacity and also their potential as a show bird. They moved from 493 in 2017 to 1201 in 2019. In recent years Runners have been seen in a wider varieties of colours and this may have contributed to their growth as a breed.

There are twenty-nine waterfowl breeds remaining on the RBTA Red List. This includes nine on the Critically Endangered List, however one of them, the Pommern, may not be in Australia. It was included in the survey as it is in the Australian Poultry Standards. The remaining eight waterfowl breeds in the Critically Endangered List are: Abacot Ranger, African Goose, Bali, Pomeranian Geese, Brecon Buff, Magpie Duck, Rouen Clair, and the Watervale.

Geese performed poorly within the waterfowl section. Most of them fell in the lower parts of the Red List. This may be due to the difficulties of keeping geese in urban and even semi-rural areas these days. The strongest goose breed was the Chinese with 324.

Breeder numbers are big factor to consider in the status of breeds and across the entire waterfowl spectrum breeder numbers are consistently low compared to poultry with an average of 24 per breed compared to 88 in poultry. No waterfowl breeds had a hundred or more breeders. The number of waterfowl respondents represented around 13% of the total. This result shows that these species are at-risk to a greater degree.

Poultry Survey continued

Overall waterfowl should be a huge priority for conservation and it would be good to see efforts made to promote them in a variety of ways.

Turkeys and Guineafowl were two species where colour varieties were represented in the data. This was an experiment to see how that worked. We had mixed results as people entered numbers that didn't add up to their totals and we could see that accuracy of the data was in doubt. We chose to work with the given totals rather than the smaller broken up colour variety numbers.

In Turkeys we can still follow some trends in the data. The biggest numbers were in Bronze and in White, with solid numbers in Royal Palm, Naragansett, Slate and Bourbon Red. There were quite low numbers of Blacks, Blues and Buffs which all had numbers less than one hundred. We also noticed that in Turkeys, the numbers put them outside of the Red List, however a large percentage of the turkeys were owned by one breeder in South Australia who entered 2000 birds. Overall there were 60 turkey breeders with most having smaller numbers. Without the single bigger breeder, turkeys would return to the Red List.

Guinea fowl numbers were greatest in Pearl and Pied, closely followed by Lavender. Cinnamon were less common and five breeders claimed to have small numbers of white guinea fowl. As a species, Guinea fowl are not on the Rare Breeds List.

In summary, in this survey poultry appears to have strengthened but waterfowl has shown up as a big area of need. The next survey is expected to take place in 2021 and recommendations for improving the survey are already being recorded and noted for that event.

The Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry List - from 2019 survey data

<u>Poultry Critical</u>	<u>Poultry Endangered</u>	<u>Poultry Vulnerable</u>	<u>Poultry At Risk</u>	<u>Poultry in Recovery</u>
23 - Sultan	106 - Sicilian Buttercup	257 - New Hampshire	383 - Croad Langshan	670 - American Game
45 - Yokohama	122 - Redcaps	279 - Shamo	386 - Minorca	635 - Rosecomb
56 - Old English Pheasant Fowl	144 - Jungle Fowl		391 - Lakenvelder	858 - Vorwerk
	149 - Spanish		414 - Campine	562 - Legbar
	151 - Crevecoeur		417 - Scots Grey	934 - Australian Game
	162 - Asil		441 - Andalusian	994 - Australian Pit Game
	172 - La Fleche		446 - Sumatra	635 - Sebright
	182 - Houdan		491 - Frizzle	588 - Phoenix
				1149 - Indian Game
				1040 - Welsummer
				732 - Transylvanian Naked Neck
				914 - Ancona
				638 - Dutch Bantam
				1319 - Polish
				1041 - Modern Game
				655 - Malay
				551 - Cochin
				720 - Faverolles
				1366 - Australian Call
				1201 - Indian Runner
<u>Waterfowl Critical</u>	<u>Waterfowl Endangered</u>	<u>Waterfowl Vulnerable</u>	<u>Waterfowl At Risk</u>	
0 - Abacot Ranger	112 - Toulouse Geese	221 - Rouen Duck	308 - Campbell Duck	
0 - Pommern	116 - Welsh Harlequin Duck	245 - Orpington Duck	310 - Mallard Duck	
0 - African Geese	119 - Blue Swedish Duck	277 - Sebastopol Geese	314 - Saxony Duck	
2 - Bali Duck	121 - Roman Geese	287 - Australian Settler Geese	324 - Chinese Geese	
8 - Pomeranian Geese	123 - Embden Geese		368 - Pekin Duck	
13 - Brecon Buff Geese	125 - Elizabeth Duck		406 - Cayuga Duck	
31 - Magpie Duck	131 - Aylesbury Duck		441 - Silver Appleyard Duck	
34 - Rouen Clair	132 - Black East Indian Duck			
43 - Watervale	150 - Crested Duck			

For more information about the 2019 Rare Breeds Trust of Australia Poultry Survey, please visit <http://rarebreedstrust.com.au/public/pages/poultry>

Just Genes AB Services—Up-coming Auction

For a couple of years now our former Cattle Director Janet Lane and our fearless leader Anne Sim have been working on a project – Setting up a semen bank in order to preserve semen from cattle breeds in danger of becoming extinct in Australia. There is a lot involved, a lot of research needed and a plan on how the semen would be distributed best in order to keep the breeds going with a big enough Gene Pool to ensure their future. It is also an expensive project – there is collection and transport of the semen to the storage facility. Once at the facility the storage of semen is not cheap and is an ongoing cost. This project was moving along at a respectable steady pace until all of a sudden an email arrived from Collette Cooper (Just Genes AB Services) advising us of an upcoming auction being held in 3 days by CSIRO. (Email newsletter subscribers can click the link below:

<https://blog.csiro.au/cattle-semen-auction-charity/>

The link is a bit big to reproduce here in full however here are some extracts from it to put you in the picture.

“The semen we’re auctioning was collected during the 80s and 90s from a range of beef breeds, mainly the tropical *Bos indicus* or *Bos indicus*-influenced breeds. We used it for research to improve the genetic quality of Australia’s cattle lines to cope with the harsh Aussie climate.”

There were nearly 5000 straws of semen on offer – being auctioned off to raise funds for Drought Angels, QCWA and Beyond Blue.

Some of the breeds going under the hammer were composite breeds so not of interest to the RBTA, but there were Afrikander, Boran and Tuli semen on offer plus Belmont Red which also composite in nature the breed has been established in Australia for over 50 years now.

A quick decision had to be made. We had limited funds as our only funds come from membership fees and donations from our members, for which we are very grateful. We requested support from our facebook members, for as little as \$4 they could buy a straw of semen (if we were successful in our bidding) We received donations from Carla Flint, Janet Lane and a very generous donation of \$200 from Adam Chun for Tuli Straws.

Bids were placed on Afrikander, Tuli, and Belmont Red Straws. No Boran Straws were in the catalogue. I was unable to attend the auction on the day due to my internet going down. To my disappointment we were only successful in buying 20 Belmont Red straws @4.00 each. I must have picked out the best of the Tuli Straws as they all went higher than our reserve, however some Tuli straws received no bids. Afrikanders all sold for a good price of between \$10 and \$14 per straw. Tuli’s sold to a top of \$22.00 each. Belmont Red’s to a top of \$20.00 per straw.

Not all semen sold at the auction – some Tuli and Belmont Red semen did not receive bids - and Director Katy Brown drew up a proposal to ask the CSIRO if they would donate the remaining semen (or sell at an agreed price if unable to donate) to the RBTA. We are still awaiting their response and will give an update in our next newsletter.

My plan was to write an article on the 3 Breeds – Tuli, Belmont Red and Afrikander for publication in this newsletter but due to the drought, fires and my fulltime work I was unable to get this finished in time. My former partner used to work with Afrikander Bullocks at the Warwick Bacon Company in the 1980s although I believe no herds exist in Australia now. I used to work in the Dairy industry from 2000 – 2014 and remember in those later years quite a few Tuli X Dairy calves coming through the saleyards in Warwick.

Judy Barnet



RBC Office: RR 1. NESBITT. MB. R0K 1P0.

Call: 204 573-8204 or

rbc@rarebreedscanada.org



Silver pencilled Cochin hen developed and owned by Tas Doornbusch

PUREBRED BIRDS FOR SALE

SHOW QUALITY

Belgian Bantams and Cochin fowl

Australian Saddleback Pigeons

All reasonably priced

Tas Doornbusch

830 Government Road,

Harvey, W.A. 6220

Ph 08—9729 1335

Founded as an incorporated society in 1988, we are devoted to the preservation of rare and endangered breeds of livestock.




To learn more, please visit our website
www.rarebreeds.co.nz



Dairy Shorthorn Association of Australia

PO Box 1050

Brighton, QLD. 4017

Phone 0407 659 501

www.dairyshorthorn.com

Dairy.shorthorn@yahoo.com.au

RBTA welcomes original articles for publication with proper attribution of any source. A right to edit for clarity, style or legal reasons reserved. Opinions or views expressed by contributors may not necessarily coincide with those of the Board. RBTA reserves the right to reuse any submissions in any format or medium