

GIPPSLAND RIVIERA POULTRY & GAME CLUB



Incorporation Number A0049411U

Secretary

Val Bragg 51 576349

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CLUB NEWS: -

Firstly, Happy New Year to everyone. May all your New Year Resolutions be fulfilled and your wishes granted.

November Auction This was the last auction for the club for 2012. Thanks to the wonderful team of members who helped to make the day run so smoothly. Prices of birds sold were quite good ; a White peacock made \$215 and there was 99 buyers registered, most of whom bought birds. A good auction like this gives the club a real boost.

Christmas Breakup Party For the first time that I can recall, this annual event was held in the evening and it was well supported by many members who joined together to enjoy one another's company, and celebrate the successful year with this wonderful club. There were lucky door prizes and the food was **absolutely delicious** with a lot going back for seconds. Many thanks to all those who contributed towards the food and making the evening such a memorable one.

February 10 Auction This will be upon us before you know it. This auction is always **BIG** with lots and lots of birds for sale and almost as many buyers looking to buy them!. Your Club really needs as many helpers as it can muster, so if you can spare a couple of hours to help at this auction, it will be very much appreciated. **"Many Hands Make Light Work."**

First Bird Day for the Year is scheduled for March 17 so bring some of your birds along for our guest judge to run his expert eye over, who will also be available after judging, to answer any questions you may like to ask. It is a wonderful opportunity to learn a little more about various breeds and in particular your own selected breed of poultry. Also this year

the Club has a new award to present at Bird Days. It will be awarding a Sash to **Best Novice Exhibitor.**

Newsletters This year there will be four newsletters printed. Feb/March/April - 1st issue

May/June/July

Aug/Sept/Oct

Nov/Dec/Jan

Each issue will be posted or emailed on the last day of the month in the quarter. ie Feb/March/April issue will be posted on 30th April. (All things going well that is!) So if you Have any Articles, photos, jokes, recipes, requests etc. could you please have them to me by at least a couple of days before the posting date. Photos, recipes or stories from members, jokes. Juniors could send drawings or maybe a funny story about their favourite chooks for example.

BREAKING NEWS!

Peter Wylie, Club Vice President, Club Show Manager and Poultry Judge extraordinaire, is also a dab hand at exhibiting flowers at the Agricultural Shows as well as his poultry. At Sale Show this year, Peter won Best Rhododendron, Best 3 cut Geraniums, 2nd in both the 3 Native Flowers and 6 Cut Flowers.

BUT.....

One week later Pete learned he has won

CHAMPION BLOOM IN SHOW!!!!!!

The organisers had made an error and had to inform the lady, who had been awarded this prestigious prize, of the error that had occurred. The Champion Sash and prize money was recovered and re-awarded to Peter Wylie who was extremely pleased to learn of his win.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Meet your Club's Committee.

These members put an huge amount of time and energy into ensuring your Club runs smoothly and is an enjoyable experience for everyone. As members of this Club you are extremely fortunate to have at your fingertips such experienced, knowledgeable people who are willing to pass on their knowledge and expertise.

I asked them to tell us a bit about themselves

PRESIDENT - SONYA FORD

Sonya was born in Ipswich, Queensland and spent her first 24 years on properties in South West Queensland. In 1990 she moved to the Maffra area and lives on a dairy farm at Nambrok with her husband Steve and son Thomas and her eldest son Lachlan, lives and works in northern Queensland on a station.

Sonya trained as a nurse in Sydney and is currently working as a theatre nurse at Sale Hospital which, with the family dairy farm, her poultry and the horses, her life is very busy and full.

Apart from her poultry, Sonya and her family are also very successful riders and compete at Polocross and Campdrafting. Steve, Sonya and Thomas are well known and respected breeders and trainers of horses for these equestrian sports.

Sonya and her son Thomas, who was a very successful Junior exhibitor, have been members of the club for a number of years and Sonya has held the position of Vice President for the club.



How many years involved in Poultry - Eight or nine years.

How did you first get started - Brian Morgan gave a trio of Old English Game, Black/Red Light Leg, to Thomas to show as a Junior and this started us off. I bought some Australorp Pullets from a person in Sydney, which turned out to be Orpingtons and that is how I got started in breeding and showing Orpingtons.

What breeds do you keep - Langshans, Orpingtons, Old English Game.

What is your favourite breed - Old English Game. They are nice and feisty. Then Orpingtons

What is your best success with poultry - Champion Bird in Show at the National Orpington Show 2011 with a Blue Cockerel. I was so thrilled to win this award. It was so unexpected. Another memorable moment was the first Langshan Club of Victoria show. I was away playing polocross and a friend had taken my birds to the show for me. I was standing there, holding my polocross racket watching the game and my phone rang. I was told I had just won Champion Large Fowl and Reserve Bird in Show with a black pullet. I was very excited to learn of my success.

What would you like to achieve Take Orpingtons off the Rare Breeds list. Through the Importation Program, to share Orpingtons with other breeders to improve the breed in Australia.

Favourite Food Roasts, especially chicken.

Food you dislike the most I don't have any dislikes. I enjoy most foods.

My Ideal day I would love to have the luxury of time to spend it with my chooks. I have such a busy life, it would be so relaxing and enjoyable to just be around them for a day.

What is the Hardest Thing you have had to do Stay married! Its hard work (but worth it!)

Favourite place for a holiday - Queensland

My advice to Juniors - Buy from reputable show breeders and master that breed before you go on to another one and stay small, don't get too many to start.

**VICE PRESIDENT
& SHOW MANAGER**

PETER WYLIE



Peter wears two hats for the Club. He lives at Myrtlebank. He is a Life Member of the Club and very well known in the Poultry Fancy, is a well respected poultry judge and is a wealth of knowledge. Peter has held the positions of Club President and Club Secretary at different times and is the Show Manager, a position he has held for a number of years

How many years involved in poultry – Since 1979 with purebreds but I had Bantam Crossbeds prior to that.

How did you get started. - As a kid on a farm. I went to an Agricultural Show one day and an exhibitor there took me to his place and showed me all the purebred. That got me started. I began with Anconas.

What breeds have you kept in the past - Most breeds at one time or another.

What do you keep now. Anconas Red, Black and working on Blue (all large fowl), Brahmas, Speckled Sussex, Cayuga Ducks.

What is your favourite breed - Chooks in general. I like all breeds.

What is your best win at a show -1987 Champion Bird with a Standard Andalusian female at the Gippsland Poultry Club Annual Show at Lang Lang.

What would you like to achieve - Judge at every Royal Show in Australia.

Favourite food - Lasagne.

Food I Really Don't Like! - Fried Tomatoes.

Favourite Footy Team - I'm a sad Hawthorn supporter.

I can't live without - My poultry friends.

Hardest thing I've had to do - Remove a belligerent, troublesome person from a Club event.

My ideal day would be spent - Being Chief Steward at Canberra National Poultry Show or a show with more than 5000 birds.

Challenges facing Poultry Clubs - Getting members to become more involved at Committee level.

My advice to Juniors - Source birds from reputable breeders and exhibitors.

SECRETARY – VAL BRAGG



Val is a Life Member of the Club and lives on a 40 acre farm at Fernbank. Val was the President of the Club for a few years. For most of her life Val has been dedicated to the Poultry Fancy and is a fully qualified Waterfowl, Softfeather & Hardfeather judge. Val is President of the Rare & New Breeds Club of Vic.

How many years involved in poultry - 30

How did you get started – My son found an injured Silver Spangled Hamburg in a toilet block at a local park in Bairnsdale. I went to the library to look up what sort it was then found the local poultry club to see if I could get some more. I bought 12 fertile eggs of a young man called Peter Wylie. Eleven eggs hatched but at 6 weeks old a ferret got in and ate them all.

What breeds have you kept in the past - Most waterfowl, all hardfeather, most softfeather breeds.

What breeds do you keep now - **Large fowl:** Blue & Black Australorps, Black, Blue & Buff

Orpingtons, Welsummers, Barnevelders, Coronation Sussex, Buff Sussex, Anconas (Reds & Blacks), Plymouth Rocks, Modern Game, Australian Game. **Bantam Fowl:** Blues, Blacks & Whites in Australorps, Blues, Blacks & Buffs Orpingtons, Light Sussex, Langshans, Pitgame, Duckwing O.E.G., Modern Game, Australian Game. **Waterfowl:** Muscovies, White Indian Runners, White Campbells, Pekins, Normal, White & Silver Mallards, Call Ducks, Welsh Harlequins, Elizabeths and Australian Settler Geese.

What is your favourite breed - Australian Game.

What I would like to achieve in poultry – Win Champion Bird in Show at the Victorian Rare Breeds Show. Judge at Canberra National Poultry Show.

I can't live without..... My gun and My Dogs

What is the Hardest thing you have had to do? Tell my 6 year old son his dad had been killed in a car accident.

My ideal day would be ...To spend the day with my grandkids and to have the luxury of being able to do something just for the fun of it!

Favourite Food - Fruit **Food I really dislike** - Avocado

Best Poultry Advice to Juniors - Buy the best birds that you can afford to start off with. Don't be tempted to by the cheapest as its not always the best.

COMMITTEE MEMBER - JOANNE HAGUE



Joanne and her husband Geoff have lived in the Maffra area for 17 years and have two “awesome” young children, Dimity and Max. The family live at Upper Maffra West where they run a small beef farm. Jo is a full time mum, wife, milks and works at a Boarding Kennels on a casual basis.

Years involved in Poultry I grew up with poultry and waterfowl. I started breeding and showing poultry about 3 years ago.

How did you get started I always admired the birds at the Agricultural shows and one day Dimity was given two birds to show. This started the family interest in breeding and showing poultry.

What Breeds do you keep Large Leghorns as layers, Bantam Langshans, Bantam Leghorns and OEG.

What is your favourite breed I don't have a favourite. I think they are all unique.

Best Win so far Reserve Champion Buff Leghorn Bantam at the Leghorn Show with a pullet I had bred myself.

What would you like to achieve Learn all I can about poultry and help in their future preservation

Favourite food Lollies!! **Food you hate** Brussel Sprouts and Parsnips. Mum still puts them on my plate.

Favourite movies John Wayne Westerns

Best place for a holiday Home. I just like being at home.

What can't you live without? Animals, my family and toilet rolls.

I Dislike Animal cruelty and Dishonesty.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS – JIM “FRED” AND EDNA “GRAN” MASON



Jim , (or “Fred” as he likes to be called) , and Edna, who everyone calls “Gran” joined the Gippsland Riviera Poultry & Game Club two years ago and have been tireless volunteers and members for the club.

Jim was born in Horsham “under a Cabbage Tree”he says, and Edna was born in Sale. They have lived in Maffra and the area all their lives. Jim has been involved with breeding Quarter Horses all his life and still owns a stallion.

At 16, Edna started work for the Baucher family business as a Machinist until she met and married “Fred” in 1956. They had a family of 6 children and after they had grown up, Edna went back to work for another 25 years. Edna's involvement with poultry is as Fred's” supporter, friend, and sounding board. “We do everything together and I wouldn't have it any other way”.

Jim – How many years involved in Poultry? - I have had backyard chooks all my life. Mainly Isa Browns for eggs

Jim - How did you get started ? - I met this lady called Debbie Sigmund, who sold me a trio of Langshan Bantams a couple of years ago and that got me started. Since then I have bought some large Langshans and now I have Rhode Island Red Bantams.

Jim - What is your favourite breed? Speckled Sussex. I tried to breed them once but it didn't work out.

Jim - What is your best win so far? Reserve Champion Softfeather Bantam at Sale Ag. Show this year.

What is your Favourite Food? **Jim said:** Forquarter of Lamb cooked on the bone, preferably in a Camp Oven.

Edna's choice: - Pork and crackling but I m a bit of a fuss-pot with food.

What food do you dislike – Jim likes all food.. **Edna said quite strongly - Vegetables!** Cabbage, Brussel Sprouts, Broccoli. I was made to eat them as a little girl, even after they had gone cold and I grew to hate all vegetables. Peas and Beans I will tolerate.

Jim - Do you follow Footy? No. It doesn't interest me but my Grandson is the coach of Maffra Football team and his brother plays for Maffra. One is a very good tennis player and the other a good cricketer.

Edna - Do you follow a sport? Not really but I like to watch the tennis or swimming and occasionally the cricket.

Jim – What do you do to spoil yourself? Buy and icecream. I will eat two icecreams while everyone else is eating one!

Edna – Shopping! What else!. I love to go shopping, but not groceries. I love going to Melbourne to the shops.

I can't live without.....Jim says: My wife.

Edna says: Jim. We do everything together. We are best mates.

What is the hardest thing you have had to do ? (Jim) Put my old dog down. He and I were very close.

Jim and Edna - Where do you both like to go for Holiday - Narooma of course!!

AROUND THE SHOWS

MAFFRA AGRICULTURAL SHOW

held 27th October, 2012

Judge: Mr. Kevin Collins of Churchill.

BIRD IN SHOW - Col Kincaid's Modern Game Black /Red Male which was also **Champion Hardfeather Bantam**

RESERVE BIRD IN SHOW - Brian Morgan's Langshan Black Male which was also **Champion Softfeather Large Champion Softfeather Bantam** - Sonya Ford's Langshan Black female

Champion Hardfeather Large - Val Bragg

Champion Waterfowl - Joyce Anderson's Call Duck

JUNIOR BIRD IN SHOW - Carlee Hildebrand with her Rhode Island Red Bantam female.

SALE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Held 3rd November, 2012

Judge: Mr. George Norman of Benalla.

BIRD IN SHOW - Val Bragg's Black Australorp Bantam male which was also **Champion Softfeather Bantam**

RESERVE BIRD IN SHOW - Wayne Peachey's Modern Game Black Red which was also **Champion Hardfeather Bantam**

JUNIOR BIRD IN SHOW and **RESERVE JUNIOR BIRD** was won by Lucy McParland with her Australorp Bantams.

Reserve Champion Softfeather Bantam - Jim Mason's Langshan black female

Reserve Champion Hardfeather Bantam - Lindsay Fulford. **Champion and Reserve Champion Softfeather Heavy** was won by Vicki Jerrett with her Orpington males.

Champion Softfeather Light - Sonya Ford's Silver Spangled Hamburg female

Reserve Champion Softfeather Light - Val Bragg's Welsummer male.

Champion Hardfeather Heavy - Val Bragg's Australian Game female

Reserve Champion HFH - Lindsay Fulford

Champion Hardfeather Light - W. Peachey's OEG Pile male
No Reserve as only one entry

Champion and Reserve Champion Waterfowl was won by Val Bragg with her Mallard and Muscovy ducks.

Club members who were successful in other competitions at the Sale Show

Peter Wylie won or placed in the following classes :-

- 1st Rhododendron
- 1st - 1 dozen eggs class
- 1st - 3 cut geraniums
- 2nd - 3 Native flowers
- 2nd - 6 cut flowers

BAIRNSDALE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Held 10th November 2012

Judge: Michael Jones of Wonthaggi

Val Bragg was again successful winning **BIRD IN SHOW**, this time with a White Campbell drake and her success continued with Reserve Champ Softfeather Light, (Australorp Pullet), Champion SFB (Australorp Black Cock); Reserve HFL (Aust. Game Pullet); Reserve HFB (Aust. Game Pullet). Vicki Jerrett's big blue Orpington ckl was Champ SFLarge and Joyce Anderson won Reserve SFB with a black Langshan Pt. Wendy Bentick was another successful exhibitor winning Champion HFL, Champion HFB and Reserve Champion WF. Max Hague stepped up to receive his **JUNIOR BIRD IN SHOW** with an OEG Black Red L/L male and sister Dimity won **RESERVE JUNIOR BIRD** with a Black Langshan Ckl. Well done to all.

DANDENONG AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Held 10th November 2012

Judge: Neville Chiselett

The only club members to exhibit were Deb and Lou Sigmund and the pair had a good day. Champion SFLight (Deb's White Silkie hen); SFBantam (Lou's Wyandotte Bantam Columbian Cock); **BIRD IN SHOW** was the Silkie and **RESERVE BIRD IN SHOW** was awarded to Lou's Wyandotte Columbian Bantam. Hardfeather Bantam was won by John Betts of Noble Park with a Blue Indian Game female and SF Heavy, a Barnevelder Cockerel was exhibited by Len Horton of Langwarren.

WONTHAGGI AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Held 12 January 2013

Judge: Brian Morgan

Wonthaggi Ag. Show is always a great day out especially for the poultry pavilion which is very well run by Michael and Coral Jones. The weather was mild and there was no need for the newly installed ceiling fans to be turned on. These are an excellent addition to the poultry pavilion to help keep the fowls cool on those hot January days. Brian had over 150 birds to judge as well as a good number in the egg classes. Champion Softfeather Large went to Deb Sigmunds Silkie Hen, Champion Softfeather Bantam was won by Mr. Souter's Partridge Wyandotte female, Champion Hardfeather Large went to Wendy Bentick with her Indian Game female. Hardfeather Bantam was Deb Sigmunds Black Red LL OEG male. Waterfowl was Wendy Bentick's Buff Orpington. Junior Champion and Reserve Junior Champion was Branson Amato from Dunbalk with a Langshan Bantam Pullet and Langshan Bantam Blue Cockerel. Bird in Show was the HF Bantam Champion and Reserve Bird in Show was the SF Large Champion both exhibited and owned by Deb Sigmund.

CHICKEN-AND-EGG BEHAVIOR

Have you ever looked into a pen to see one or two hens lined up in front of a nesting box waiting, waiting, so patiently for the hen in the box to hurry up and lay her egg? Some hens won't wait. In fact most of them won't. They have a job to do and their bodies are telling them to get on with it so they will hop in beside the nesting hen or on top of her, to make her move over, and they will both sit their happily laying their eggs. So it is not necessary to provide a nest box for each hen – they probably won't use them all. Listed below are some interesting facts about our little feathered friends and their habits.

1. *Some hens like to lay their eggs in private and others will join their sisters in the nest box. Often two or three hens will crowd into one box while another nest box remains empty.*
2. Sometimes a hen will sit on previously laid eggs and add her egg to the clutch. Another might prefer to sit in another area and deposit one egg by itself.
3. *Often a hen will sing "the egg song" before or after she lays an egg. Some will sing during the process of laying. It is a cheerful song that seems to be a proud announcement.*
4. Chickens learn by example, so a fake or real egg left in a designated nest box may encourage hens to lay there instead of on the floor or outdoors.
5. *Unconfined hens may lay eggs anywhere outdoors if they don't want to return to the nest box. Sometimes a free-ranging hen will go missing and reappear weeks later with a parade of chicks.*
6. Some hens become habitual egg-eaters that break eggs open and eat them. An egg-eater should be culled from the flock if you wish to have eggs for the kitchen. Not only will that hen continue to eat eggs, but others will learn from watching and you may end up with several egg-eaters.
7. *Holes in eggs and cracked eggs do not necessarily mean there is an egg-eater in the flock. A hen can accidentally crack an egg in the nest when she sits down or adjusts the nest to lay her own egg. Sometimes curiosity or boredom leads a hen to peck at an egg without the intention of eating it.*
8. Fowls can be fed their own or other eggs which have been cooked. Eggs provide protein and the calcium in the shell is beneficial for laying hens. A potato masher can be used to break boiled eggs into pieces of egg and shell.

BREED PROFILE -

BUFF COCHINS

The following information was discovered in a book over 100 years old. Thankyou Jim and Edna Mason for sending this interesting old article in for the newsletter.

"There are several varieties in colour buff. Lemon and cinnamon being the result of peculiar crosses and breeding. The Buff is the true type of the coloured sorts and for utility we think the best. The cock should be upright and strong in his carriage, breast broad, not full, but forming a nearly straight line between the crop and thighs; back short and wide; tail only slightly raised; legs strong and with great thighs and saddles. The head is small for so long a bird, the beak yellow stout, short-curved and strong at the base, comb single, not large, and with rather small, florid, thin and fine. The ear lobes well developed, long, thin and entirely without white. The eye of the cock should be of an ochre yellow colour, and in the hen a darker hue. The hackle of the cock should be full spreading over the the thighs, and of a light bay colour and free from markings of any kind. The hackle of the hen is a clean distinct buff, a slight pencilling is admirable – a dark coloured one not. The saddle of both cock and hen should be free from markings.

A black tail in the cock is admirable, and if the porincipal feathers are bronzed so much the better. The breast of both cock and hen should be clear buff becoming lighter toward the tip with a wavy appearance in the sun and both primary and secondary quill feathers should be buff without other colour. The legs should be heavily feathered, covered the outside toe and partly the one behind. Vulture hocks as shown in the black bred variety is not admissible, as they not only show mixed blood but are unsightly.



THE HEAT AND YOUR POULTRY

We are well into the hot weather now and our birds will be feeling the heat just like we humans do. Fortunately we can go and get a cool drink whenever we are thirsty or find a shady spot to get away from the heat. **But**. What if we were locked in a pen or cage and totally reliant on others?

If you choose to keep chooks it is your responsibility as their caretakers, to ensure they are looked after properly.

Listed below some ideas to help you keep your special birds comfortable and cool for these hot months.

1. *Poultry do not like to drink warm water (do you?) and will sometimes rather go without.* - Freeze some of those plastic drink bottles of water and put them in their drink containers. This will keep the water cool for a few hours at least. On really hot days you may need to do this a couple of times.

Keep your drinkers and water containers in the shade.

2. *During the hot months it is important to give poultry fresh water daily.* Studies show that heat makes the water go stale and sour very quickly and bacteria starts to grow. Green slimy water should be thought of as "bacteria soup" and is a sure way to be asking for trouble with sickness and diseases. Bacteria in water can have a serious impact on your fowls, if the flock is a breeding flock, the disease can be passed to the eggs, resulting in diseased chicks

3. In the evening, put a sprinkler on for an hour or so under the trees or shrubs where the fowls usually go to during the day. This makes the earth damp and cool and they will love to sit in this earth during the hot day to get cool. They love to scratch out little hollows in the earth and sit in them to cool down.

4. Hang some old sheets, hessian bags, shade cloth etc. on the external walls of their pens and hose this material down. The air that flows through the wet materials is cooled by the water. It acts like a coolgardie safe.

5. Put a sprinkler on the roof. This works very well to cool the pen below.

6. Fill buckets and deep bowls with water. Placed strategically around the pens it can cool down the environment and provide refreshment for the birds.

7. In extreme heat you can lightly spray the birds directly with water. (I have done this on one very very hot day and the girls just stood there under the mist spray, fluffing their feathers and it certainly helped make them more comfortable). Or fill a spray bottle with cool water and use that if water is a premium.

NB. IF YOU ARE SHORT ON WATER SUPPLY OR DON'T WANT TO RUN UP A HUGE WATER BILL. FILL BUCKETS OF WATER IN THE EVENINGS (THEY WILL KEEP FAIRLY COOL OVER NIGHT) AND USE THIS WATER FOR NO, 3 AND 4 ABOVE.

8. If you have an enclosed shed. Buy a fan. Any form of air movement will assist your poultry.

9. A supplementary vitamin pack mixed with the flock's water can do much to alleviate the fowls stress and keep up their vitality.

10. If you find a fowl that has collapsed with heat stress, dip it in a bucket of cold water.

11. Your chicken coop litter can act as an insulator and may trap heat. During the hot months reduce the depth of the litter to around 5cm off the floor.

12. If you are able to, let your fowls out and they will find themselves the coolest spot (usually under some shrubs or trees) but remember to put bowls of water here and there for them. *They will not walk too far for water in the heat.*

FACTS ABOUT HEAT AND POULTRY

- If your fowls aren't given a chance to cool down, their biological system grinds to a halt.
- Breeds without combs are more susceptible to heat stress.
- Poultry are non-sweating creatures. Ie. They do not have sweat glands.
- As the temperature increases, so does the stress on your fowls. At 27°C the bird will pant, Hold its wings away from its body and respiration is increased. As the temperature rises the bird becomes visibly distressed and may lie on the floor with one wing raised in an attempt to cool itself. Water consumption is increased by 35%.

So It Is Vital you supply enough cool water for your birds.

It is almost impossible to over-emphasize the importance of water to poultry. A fowl is 70% water; a loss of only 10% of that water will result in the bird's death. A single day without water will stop a layer from laying.

How long can a fowl go without water?

Studies show that as a general rule of thumb – 24 hours – will be ok

48 hours – may survive (with physical damage) but youngsters will die.

72 hours - **Dead unless you are incredibly lucky.**

Sadly, this summer has seen the loss of many birds due to the extreme temperatures being experienced. Shepparton, Wangaratta, Finley, areas have all had heavy losses. Michael Holmes registered 50°C in Wangaratta and lost many birds. Another breeder in Finley lost his entire flock of Minorcas.

If anyone has any other good ideas for keeping poultry cool please let me know so I can include it next time or just share your ideas with other members.

KIDS CORNER



Some chooks live in very fancy houses, Small ones, Large ones, some very pretty ones.....



AND THE STRANGE ONES!!



Junior Members. What sort of houses do your chooks live in? Draw a picture of the type of chicken house design you would love to have. Maybe yours will have a verandah and swimming pool or special outside yards!!! I will put all your drawings in the next newsletter.

If you have any photos of your special chickens you would like me to print in the next newsletter, send those to me as well.

KIDS CORNER continued

THE HENS

By Elizabeth Madox Roberts

The night was coming very fast
It reached the gate as I ran past.

The pigeons had gone to the tower of the church
And all the hens were on their perch

Up in the barn and I thought I heard
A piece of a little purring word

I stopped inside, waiting, and staying,
To try to hear what the hens were saying.

They were asking something, that was plain,
Asking it over and over again.

One of them moved and turned around
Her feathers made a ruffled sound.

A ruffled sound like a bushful of birds
And she said her little asking words.

She pushed her head close into her wing.
But nothing answered anything.

This poem was written over 140 years ago and the book in which I found it, was given to me 58 years ago. As a little girl, I loved this poem.

CHICKEN FACTS

Fact 1 - In the United Kingdom, (which is England, Scotland, and Wales) 29 million eggs are eaten every day. WOW!!

Fact 2 - Chickens were domesticated over 10,000 years ago in the far east.

Fact 3 - There are more chickens than any other type of bird in the world. Over 50 billion chickens are reared annually for either their meat or eggs. This figure does not include the chickens that are reared for show birds.

Fact 4 - A mother hen turns the eggs she is sitting on about 50 times a day. This is so the yolk doesn't stick to the shell.

Fact 5 - Laid head to feet, all the chickens sold by KFC around the world in one day would circle the Equator 11 times. That's a LOT OF CHICKEN!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Silkie breed of chicken has black skin. Black skin is very rare.



There are two other breeds that also have black skin. The Sumatra, a very rare breed, has black bones as well as black skin.



The Bohulsan-Dals Svarthona which comes from Sweden has black skin like the Silkie. Many centuries ago chickens were taken by ship from Asia to Sweden and bred with the Swedish chooks and Scientists think this is how the chickens in Sweden got their black skin colour.



LAUGH A LITTLE

Do you have a sense of humour? Then read on!

WOMEN IN THREE PICTURES

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older,
Last summer felt hotter'
And winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to weddings,
Football games and lunches.
Now we go to funeral homes
And after-funeral brunches.

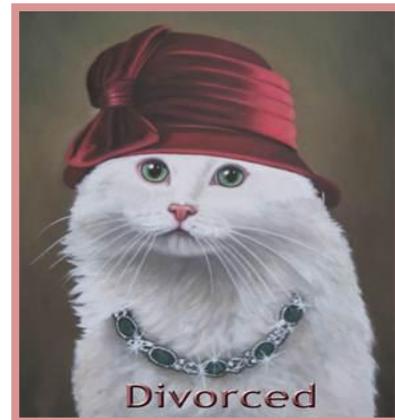
We used to have hangovers,
From parties that were gay.
Now we suffer body aches
And while the night away.

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for doggie bags,
Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get sore backsides
From riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs
And drink a little booze.
Now we stay home at night
And watch the evening news.

That, my friends is how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up...
Before you're too damned old!



(Sent in by an anonymous "Chookie Person")

Wait for it

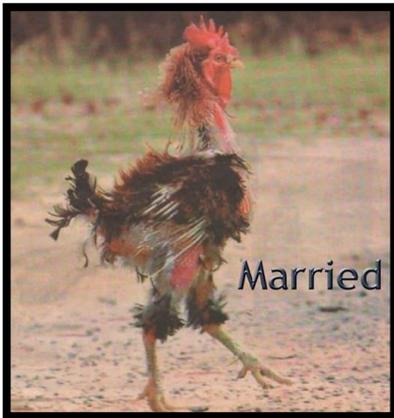
MEN IN THREE PICTURES



Some Xmas Breakup photos.



Three happy girls enjoying the night.
Kath Rayment, Anne Edwards and Val Bragg



Trying to
choose which
desserts to
have. Yum!!

Lindsay Anderson, Jo Hague and Steve Ford



Finished
the main
course.
Waiting
for
desserts.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009 an estimated 62.1 million metric tons of eggs were produced worldwide from a total laying flock of approximately 6.4 billion hens

Cheers
From Deb

