

*The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc.)*

# **‘The Orpington Outlook’**



## **Summer 2026**

*Established in 1985 the Orpington Club of Australia is dedicated  
to promote and protect this stately breed.  
‘We do best what we do together’*



## Letter from the Editor

Hi Orpington Club members, and welcome to your first Newsletter for 2026, the Summer edition. I hope you all had a successful hatching season. I am regretting my late start as my oldest birds still aren't developed enough to grade effectively, so I have way too many birds still in my pens, and the recent hot weather has amplified the problem. Many of our Orpington friends have had it way worse though, with extreme heat for days and days at a time, as well as devastating fires. We have all been thinking of you and your Orps during these trying times. Please keep going, the Orpington world needs you!

Being the Summer edition of the newsletter, there were no show results sent through to share with you. Instead, this edition is packed with a variety of interesting articles that I'm sure you'll enjoy reading. Ross and Kate start us off with their reports for the quarter, followed by our list of Office Bearers with email addresses added for the President, Secretary and State Representatives. Our 'Blast from the Past' on page 6 is Karen Bussian's lovely pullet from 2017. It's not too late to enter our Prize Draw of some beautiful Orpingtons from our top breeders, see pages 7-8 for details. On page 9 you'll find the first of a new feature called 'Future Feathers', where we look at new colour projects being undertaken by Orpington breeders. The Event Calendar for 2026 is on page 10, followed by another new feature called 'Handy Gadgets for Chicken Tenders' on page 11. Karen Bussian shares her knowledge on White Tipping on feathers on page 12, and there's an article on Coccidiosis on page 14, as it's that time of the year again when it's at its worst. On page 18 you'll see why you can never trust an AI Overview on the internet, and on page 19 William Cook explains why he didn't see eye to eye with the original Orpington Club in the UK. On page 21 there's an article on breeding Lavender Orpingtons, and a lengthy quote from THE Charles Darwin on page 23. The results of Martin's Orpington Census can be found on page 25 and bringing up the rear are the Orpington Club's Membership Form and Contact Details.

We'd all love your input to the "Orpington Outlook" newsletters, so if you have any information or pictures you'd be willing to share with members they will be gratefully received. Thank you to those members who contributed to this *Summer 2026* edition.

So grab a cuppa, find a quiet place and enjoy the read!

*Vicki Lindsay*



# President's Report

Summer 2026



Welcome to another Orpington Newsletter. And an even bigger welcome to our new Orpington Club members. The Orpington Club's charter is to **Promote, Protect** and **Preserve** the Orpington Breed.

**Protecting** the ideals of the breed as set out by the originator William Cook is an ongoing challenge.

**Preserving** the attributes of the breed through careful breeding and selection is what our club is about. This, through helping members to hands on knowledge of breeding techniques is an integral part of the club's purpose.

**Promoting** the breed and what it has to offer in the 21st century is a 'moving ball' that we as a club are constantly having to change with.

**So that is what the Club is about, but more importantly what is the Orpington Club of Australia?**

The Orpington Club of Australia has always been an inclusive group of men, women and children who are passionate about Orpington fowls, and who enjoy sharing their birds, knowledge and experiences with likeminded people. As such I would like to warmly welcome all our new members and I would like to extend the invitation to reach out to your State Representatives, our Secretary Kate Goulding or myself if we can ever be of assistance with your Orpington pursuits. Their contact details are included in this newsletter.

One new initiative the club executive has passed is the appointment of Mr Grahame Sharpe to officiate at this year's National Show. In addition to this, to assist Mr Sharpe the Orpington Club is going to offer the winner of the NSW Young Judges Competition the opportunity to come to Dubbo as the under-judge to assist Mr Sharpe in his assessment of the National classes. We hope that in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, this can be an ongoing arrangement that will have lasting benefits for the development of future Orpington judges.

So to all members, I hope 2026 brings you much happiness with your Orpingtons, whether it be in the garden or in the show pen. With Orpingtons in your life you are guaranteed much pleasure and enjoyment!

All the best for 2026,

*Ross Gibson*

**President**

**Orpington Club of Australia**

# Secretary's Report

Dear fellow Orpies,

Hope you are having a good start to 2026, although many of you have had some horribly hot weather and fires to contend with. I hope you all got some good chickens out. I had a very small hatching season this last season due to work and farm commitments but hopefully there will be a couple of good ones for Dubbo.

Welcome to our new members who will be reading their first Orpington Outlook! Welcome aboard and I hope you enjoy our Club. If you have any questions reach out to your state representative, or Club Executive. We have had a few new members join since our last newsletter.

Very soon we will be drawing our competition – good luck to everyone entered! It's a great opportunity for some good bloodlines from some top breeders.

It won't be long and the Poultry Club shows will be happening, best of luck with your entries, it's always good to have some Orpingtons out there, being seen. If you have any important dates to add to the calendar, reach out.

Planning has started for this year's National Show in Dubbo on the 20th June. A must on my calendar! I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Thanks to Vicki for her work in putting the Outlook together. If you have any stories, tips & tricks or useful information to add to the Outlook, I'm sure Vicki would appreciate hearing from you.

Cheers

*Kate*

Secretary

# Elected Office Bearers and Direct Appointees

*2025/2026*

Role	Name
Patron	Dallas Smith
President & EPA NSW Delegate	Ross Gibson <a href="mailto:ross@rumenworksnutrition.com.au">ross@rumenworksnutrition.com.au</a>
Vice President 1	Karen Bussian
Vice President 2	Justin Henry
Secretary /Treasurer	Kate Goulding <a href="mailto:australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com">australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com</a>
Promotions Officer/Editor	Vicki Lindsay <a href="mailto:orpingtonswithbling@yahoo.com">orpingtonswithbling@yahoo.com</a>
National Show Secretary	Michela Serone
Public Officer (NSW) and EPA NSW Delegate	Kate Goulding
International Correspondent	Philip Smedley
Facebook Group Admin	Steve Parker, Karen Bussian, Martin Doulton, Vicki Lindsay, Ross Gibson.
Website Manager	Karen Bussian
WA State Rep	Philip Smedley <a href="mailto:philipsmedley54@gmail.com">philipsmedley54@gmail.com</a>
SA State Rep	Trevor Dent <a href="mailto:tddent@internode.on.net">tddent@internode.on.net</a>
Vic State Rep	Sonya Ford <a href="mailto:sonyaf1940@gmail.com">sonyaf1940@gmail.com</a>
TAS State Rep	Ainslee Simpson <a href="mailto:hardkingainslee@gmail.com">hardkingainslee@gmail.com</a>
NSW State Rep	Maree Crowe <a href="mailto:mareecrowe210@gmail.com">mareecrowe210@gmail.com</a>
QLD State Rep	Rod Lucht <a href="mailto:rod.lucht@outlook.com.au">rod.lucht@outlook.com.au</a>
APS3 Standards Group	Club Executive plus Dallas Smith
Executive- Bank Signatories BSB 062-549 Acc #0090 1366	Ross Gibson, Narelle Hobson, Kate Goulding

# ***Blast from the Past***



## **Champion Orpington in Show.**

Large black pullet owned by Karen Bussian  
National Orpington Show - Harden, NSW

**2017**

# WIN WIN WIN

## Orpingtons in 2026!

The Orpington Club of Australia is proud to announce the following promotion to all Orpington enthusiasts:

Go into the draw to win a pair of Orpington fowls (male and female) from the following top breeders! That's right, all you have to do is subscribe to the *Orpington Club of Australia* for 2 years and you will go into the draw to win your choice of the following birds:

**Pair of Standard White Orpingtons** *Mr Martin Boulton*

**Pair of Standard Buff Orpingtons** *Mr Angus Barlow*

**Pair of Standard Spangled Orpingtons** *Mrs Vicki Lindsay*

**Pair of Standard Black Orpingtons** *Miss Rose Gibson*

**Pair of Standard Splash Orpingtons** *Mr Ross & Miss Rose Gibson*

**Pair of Bantam Black Orpingtons** *Mr Martin Boulton (Waninga)*

**Pair of Bantam Buff or Chocolate Orpingtons** *Mrs Sonya Ford*

Simply send your 2 Year subscription of \$50 to the Club Secretary on [australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com](mailto:australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com) and your name will go into the draw.



**First prize** will be your pick from the fowls listed above.

**Second prize** will be your pick from the list minus the winning lot.

**Third prize** will be your choice from the list minus the winning lots already claimed.

**Club Bank Account details BSB 062549 Acc 00901366**

When making the direct deposit, be sure to write *competition entry* and *your name* as the reference.

**Competition ends on  
28th of February 2026  
so be quick!**

If you are already a financial member then you may enter the competition, but your entry fee will only be one year's old subscription (\$20). Juniors pay the same as adults to enter.

### **Terms and Conditions**

It will be the prize winner's responsibility to collect birds within 6 weeks from the end of the competition. If not collected within this time birds will be forfeited.

*The Orpington Club of Australia* reserve the right to cancel the competition in the event that the minimum of 15 entries is not received by the Secretary by the closing date, and money will be returned to entrants.



# Future Feathers



'Future Feathers' is a new feature for our newsletter, designed to showcase the latest Orpington Colour Projects that are not yet recognised in the Australian Poultry Standards. If you're working on something new, please send a photo of your current progress and a description of your strategy to the Editor to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

## Chocolate Partridge Orpingtons

Sue from *The Cuckoo Poultry Stud of Australia* hatched her first Chocolate Partridge Orpington in 2005. This was achieved by initially mating a Partridge rooster to Chocolate hens. Within a couple of years of selective breeding Sue had Chocolate Partridge Orpingtons breeding true.



# Event Calendar 2026

Date	Event	Location
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Sydney Royal Easter Show	Sydney Olympic park
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Gibson Family Testimonial Show (inc into the Lismore Poultry Club Show)	Lismore Showgrounds NSW
20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> June	National Orpington Show	Dubbo Showgrounds NSW
4 <sup>th</sup> July	Victorian Orpington Feature Show	Ballarat Vic
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Queensland Orpington Feature Show (inc into the Rosewood Poultry Club Show)	Rosewood Qld
8 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> August	'Ekka' Brisbane Royal Show	Brisbane Showgrounds Qld
5 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> September	Adelaide Royal Show	Adelaide Showgrounds SA
24 <sup>th</sup> September-4 <sup>th</sup> October	Melbourne Royal Show	Melbourne Showgrounds Vic
26 <sup>th</sup> September-3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Perth Royal Show	Claremont Showgrounds WA





## Handy Gadgets for Chicken Tenders

**This page is to share ideas about items that make keeping Orpingtons a little easier. If you've discovered (or invented) a 'Handy Gadget' please send in a photo with an explanation about why you love it to the Newsletter Editor for sharing with fellow Orpingtonians.**

My all-time favourite gadget that I use on a daily basis is my garden cart. Very light and easy to move around, it makes many of my chook chores much easier. It travels almost as many kilometres around the chook yard as I do, helping me to move equipment, feed and Orpingtons without breaking my back. Easily cleaned and capable of withstanding the great outdoors 24/7, this gadget is a must-have. Originally purchased many years ago from my local Mitre 10 hardware store, this cart keeps soldiering on. I've recently upgraded the tyres as they were showing some wear and tear, but otherwise it's been maintenance free.

Often found in the company of my garden cart are my Nally Chicken Crates. These are a great fit for my cart and can stack two or three high thanks to their locking design. I recently discovered that both sizes can be purchased new through Miranda Plastics in Sydney, however they do have a minimum order requirement of \$300 before GST is added. Spare parts can also be purchased for Nally crates, so that broken lid can be replaced! The 80 litre size is great for young Orpingtons moving from the brooder to the growing pens, but for Standard Orp males reaching maturity the 124 litre size is a must. Miranda Plastics also stocks spacers and new plastic rivets so you can convert your 80L to a 124L!

For those interested this is their website: <https://mplastics.com.au>

*Vicki*



# WHITE TIPPING IN YOUNG CHICKENS

*Karen Bussian*

White tipping (also referred to as white tips, mottling, or white feathers in juvenile plumage) on black (& blue) chickens is a recognized occurrence in young chickens. While a 'Black Orpington' should ideally be solid black with a green sheen, small white tips can appear due to genetics or during the development of their juvenile feathers.



## Causes of White Tipping

**Juvenile Plumage & Maturation:** It is common for black chicks (including Orpingtons and their close relatives, Australorps) to have small white tips on their wings, chests, or heads when their first feathers come in. These typically moult out and are replaced by solid black feathers by the time the bird reaches maturity.

**Genetic ‘Split’ Genes:** If a black bird carries a recessive gene for mottling or has been crossed with another color, it may display white-tipped feathers.

**Environmental Stress:** Sometimes, nutritional deficiencies or high stress, including weather extremes, during feather growth can cause "white tips" or discoloration in black feathers.

---

**Adults:** If a mature black Orpington still has significant white tips, it is considered a fault in exhibition-quality birds.

**‘Sooting’ vs. White:** Some black Orpingtons may show "bronzing" or brown/white in their feathers, sometimes caused by sun exposure or poor genetics.

## Troubleshooting White Tips

- Wait for the Molt - most white feathers will disappear after the bird's first major molt at around 12–15 months.

# Coccidiosis in Poultry

Coccidiosis is the most widely known protozoal disease of poultry and is the most likely cause of death in growing birds. Usually striking chicks 3 to 6 weeks of age, birds nearing maturity can also be affected. Caused by 9 different species of protozoa known as **coccidia** in the genus ***Eimeria***, coccidiosis can be found wherever there are chickens. Even in the healthiest flock, coccidia are present in the intestines of most chickens over 3 weeks of age. Birds develop immunity through gradual exposure, and by maturity most birds are immune to the coccidia in their immediate environment.



## ***Eimeria* Life Cycle**

An infected chicken poops out egg cysts, called oocysts, which are a fertilised parasite egg within a cyst. Oocysts develop, or sporulate, in a day or two in temperatures ranging between 21°C and 32°C. Sporulated oocysts can remain in the environment for many months unless destroyed by freezing temperatures or hot dry conditions over 54°C. When a chicken ingests a sporulated oocyst (frequently by pecking at the ground) the cyst is crushed by the gizzard releasing 4 internal cysts. These cysts release *zoites* during the digestion process which then invade the chicken's intestinal lining. The zoites proliferate via asexual reproduction to ultimately produce hundreds of thousands of fertilized eggs, which are then pooped out as oocysts, completing the cycle. This entire cycle takes only a few days, therefore coccidiosis is a self-limiting disease. How seriously a bird is infected depends on the number of infective oocysts it ingests. In a highly contaminated environment, a bird may consume as many as 1 million sporulated oocysts, causing extensive and possibly irreparable damage to its intestinal wall. Damaged intestines have reduced ability to absorb nutrients affecting the growth rate of young birds or laying ability of hens.

## **Signs of Coccidiosis**

One of the first signs of coccidiosis in chickens is a drop in food consumption. Other signs include slow growth, runny, off-colour droppings that are sometimes tinged with blood, and dehydration due to diarrhoea. Birds will often stand in a hunched posture with ruffled feathers. In hens reaching the age of lay, a sign can be slow or no egg production.

## Controlling Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is ever-present in the environment of chickens, therefore controlling coccidia is the key to maintaining good health in your flock. Recommended measures include good management, the use of anticoccidial drugs, and vaccination.

### Good management

Good management begins with good nutrition. Nutritional deficiencies can predispose chicks to coccidiosis, so provide a good quality chick starter feed. A well-managed flock develops resistance to coccidiosis through gradual exposure, otherwise known as trickle infection. It's important to limit the number of infective oocysts the chickens are exposed to while they develop immunity. Control infective oocysts by keeping feed and water dishes free of droppings and making sure that the chicks never run out of feed, so they aren't tempted to peck through the bedding. Bedding must be kept dry as coccidia thrive in a damp environment. Make sure the area around the drinker does not become too moist. Watching for early signs in a few chickens can prevent a serious infection of the entire flock if you act quickly.



### Anticoccidial Drugs

Several drugs are available to prevent or cure coccidiosis. Drugs used for prevention are called *coccidiostats*, those used for curing are called *coccidiocides*. Often the same drug is used at a lower dose as a coccidiostat and a higher dose or for a longer period as a coccidiocide.

Coccidiostats work by allowing a trickle infection to occur, allowing chicks time to develop immunity as they grow. Coccidiocides kill coccidia and are usually used to treat an infection in progress.

**Amprolium** is commonly used in Australia for both prevention and treatment of coccidiosis, often under the names Amprolium 200 or Cocciprol. Readily available as a soluble powder which is added to drinking water, amprolium works by blocking thiamine uptake, reducing the ability of coccidia to multiply as rapidly as they otherwise would. It also limits the absorption of thiamin by the chickens, so a vitamin supplement following treatment can be beneficial.



**Sulpha drugs** (sulfonamides) are available in both powder and liquid form to be added to drinking water to treat chickens infected with coccidia. They inhibit coccidia from replicating by preventing the absorption of folic acid. In Australia, sulfa drugs like Inca Sulfa 3 and Elliotts Sulpha D are available for treating bacterial/protozoal issues (enteritis, coccidiosis, respiratory disease) in chickens up to 14 weeks old. Sulfa residues can be transferred to meat or eggs so should not be used on layers or meat birds. There has been widespread development of resistance in various species of coccidia to sulfas.



**Baycox Poultry Coccidiocide Solution** is an effective treatment for coccidiosis in poultry. With *Toltrazuril* as the active ingredient, Baycox eliminates all intracellular stages of the coccidia pathogen in the gut, while allowing the birds to build long-lasting natural immunity to coccidia. Although highly effective, Baycox is not available in a pack size to suit most show poultry breeders, and the 1Litre bottle for over \$350 is not cost effective. Toltrazuril is also available in Australia as *Coxistop*.



## Vaccination

The immature digestive systems of newly hatched chicks are not yet favourable for the replication of coccidia. Early exposure to coccidia therefore provides chicks with an opportunity to develop an immune response. Vaccines work by introducing a low dose of live coccidia early enough to stimulate an immune response before chicks become exposed to coccidia in sufficient numbers to cause infection. The vaccine is given via an eye drop or spray. Once vaccinated, chicks must not be given anticoccidial medication as the drug would kill coccidia introduced by the vaccine, thus preventing the chicks from developing the natural immunity.



*Vicki Lindsay*

**Reference:** Damerow, G. 2015. *The Chicken Health Handbook: A Complete Guide to Maximising Flock Health and Dealing with Disease*. Storey Publishing.

# Never trust an AI overview!!!

I recently Googled 'Spangled Orpingtons' and AI (artificial intelligence) came up with the following ridiculous, but hilarious advice:

*"The Spangled Orpington's unique coat pattern requires special attention when it comes to grooming. Their beautiful spangles and feathers can easily become matted and tangled if not properly cared for. To prevent this, make sure to brush their coat at least twice a week, using a slicker brush or a pin brush specifically designed for chickens.*

*When brushing your Spangled Orpington's coat, focus on the areas where the spangles meet the main feathers, as these tend to be the most prone to matting. Use gentle strokes and work from the ends of the feathers up towards the body to avoid causing any breakage or stress to the bird."*

**PS: Please don't follow this crazy advice!**

*Vicki*



# Cook's Book

William Cook, the originator of the Orpington chickens, wrote '*Fowl for the Times: History and Development of the Orpington Fowl*' in 1896. This text is within the Public Domain, which means it is now free from copyright laws and can be reproduced.

The short chapter below gives us insight into the opposition Cook encountered from the original Orpington Club in the UK when introducing new colours beyond black.

## THE ORPINGTON CLUB.

---

**Inception—Prosperity—Divisions in the Ranks—Acrimonious officials—The future of the Club.**

SOON after the Orpingtons were first introduced, a few ardent admirers of the breed banded themselves together and formed what has been known as the "Orpington Club."

This Club has doubtless done much to bring the breed more prominently before the public, providing specials at shows, and if the Club had been worked as it should have been, its sphere of usefulness might have been greatly enlarged and much good would have been the result.

A great deal of dissension having crept in, the officials of the Club have had oftentimes great difficulty in so arranging matters that individual members might be pleased and induced to continue patrons of the breed and the organization.

The Orpingtons have, however, left the Club all behind, as the tendency of the executive has been

all too cramped and conservative to allow of the Club making much real progress.
















The tendency has been to adhere solely to the Black variety, and, of course, this policy is altogether opposed to the comprehensive scheme I have set forth in this book. I have however always striven to work amicably, even with the most unreasonable of those who have seemed to make their connection with the Club a point of vantage from which they might attack almost unceasingly the development of the Orpington breeds.

It has been said that no breed is likely to spread much unless it has a club to watch its interests, and also make a good appearance in the show pen.

The White Orpingtons have spread, however, without either of these aids, except, perhaps, the determined opposition which some of the Club members have offered them, which has served, happily, to bring them under the public notice more prominently, and so helped to established their popularity.

The Buffs are spreading faster than ever, so that if the Orpington Club continue to stand aloof from these other good and genuine breeds, the Club must suffer, as the birds themselves will run right over Club, officials and all, and, in the hands of the public, will leave them all behind.

# Lavender Breeding Chart

<i>Parent 1</i>		<i>Parent 2</i>		<i>Offspring</i>
Lavender 	+	Lavender 	=	100% Lavender 
Lavender 	+	Black 	=	100% Black/Split 
Black/Split 	+	Lavender 	=	50% Black/Split, 50% Lavender 
Black/Split 	+	Black 	=	50% Black/Split, 50% Black 
Black/Split 	+	Black/Split 	=	50% Black/Split, 25% Lavender & 25% Black 

# Interesting Facts about Lavender

- Lavender (also known as self-blue) is an autosomal recessive gene that, when present in two copies, creates a uniform, even dilution of all pigments (both black eumelanin and red/brown phaeomelanin) across the entire feather. This results in a uniform pale bluish-grey colour that is consistent from feather to feather.
- Lavender differs from blue because blue results from an incompletely dominant gene that only partially dilutes black pigment. This usually results in a two-toned appearance, with feathers having a darker edge (lacing).
- Lavender breeds true whereas blue does not.
- Over time, the Lavender colour can become diluted and adding genetically black birds helps to improve feather quality and colour.

Feature	Blue	Lavender
Genetics	Incompletely dominant gene	Autosomal recessive gene
Appearance	Often two-toned with darker lacing	Uniform even dilution of pale bluish-grey
Dilution effect	Primarily dilutes black pigment, has little effect on red pigment	Dilutes both black and red pigment evenly
Breeding	Does not breed true	Breeds true

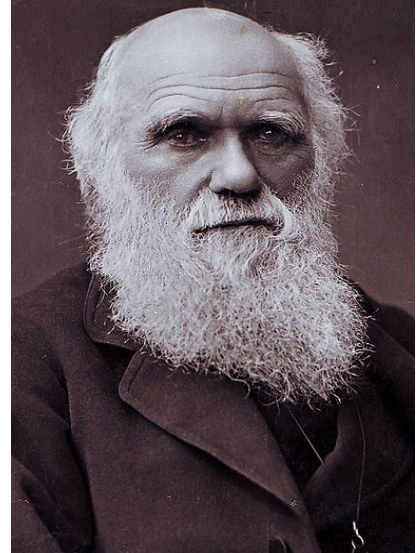


# How Poultry Breeders influence 'Natural' Selection

*Vicki Lindsay*

**In one of the most important contributions to scientific knowledge, Charles Darwin, in his book 'On the Origin of Species' (1859) put forth the theory that species evolve over time through the process of natural selection.**

**William Cook, founder of the Orpington fowl, quoted Charles Darwin in his book, 'Fowls for the Times' (1896), to support his creation of a new breed of fowl. In this quote Darwin credits ancient poultry keepers with contributing to the evolution of poultry.**



Charles Darwin

**Darwin's quote is reproduced below.**

"Not only careful breeding, but actual selection was practised during ancient periods, and by barely civilised races of men.

In the case of the fowl, the Romans, at the commencement of the Christian era, kept six or seven breeds. Columella particularly recommends as the best, those sorts that have five toes and white ears. In the fifteenth century, several breeds were known and described in Europe; and in China at nearly the same period seven kinds were named.

A more striking case is that at present in one of the Philippine Islands, the semi-barbarous inhabitants have distinct names for no less than nine sub-breeds of the game fowl. Azara, who wrote towards the close of the last century, states that in the interior parts of South America, where I should not have expected that the least care would have been taken of poultry, a black-skinned and black-boned breed is kept from being considered fertile and its flesh good for sick persons. Now everyone who has kept poultry knows how impossible it is to keep several breeds distinct unless the utmost care be taken in separating the sexes. Will it then be pretended that those persons, who in ancient times, and in semi-civilized countries, took pains to keep the breeds distinct, and who, therefore, valued them, would not occasionally have destroyed inferior birds, and occasionally have preserved their best birds? This is all that is

required. It is not pretended that anyone in ancient times intended to form a new breed, or to modify an old breed according to some ideal standard of excellence. He who cared for poultry would merely wish to obtain, and afterwards to rear the best birds which he could; but this occasional preservation of the best birds would, in the course of time, modify the breed, as surely, but by no means as rapidly as does methodical selection at the present day.

If one person out of a hundred, or out of a thousand, attended to the breeding of his birds this would be sufficient, for the birds thus tended would soon become superior to others, and would form a new strain; and this strain would slowly have its characteristic differences augmented, and at last be converted into a new sub-breed or breed. But breeds would often be for a time neglected, and would deteriorate; they would, however, partially retain their character, and afterwards might again come into fashion, and be raised to a standard of perfection, higher than their former standard, as has actually occurred quite recently with Polish fowls. If, however, a breed were utterly neglected, it would become extinct, as has recently happened with one of the Polish sub-breeds.

Whenever in the course of past centuries a bird appeared with some slight abnormal structure, such as with a lark-like crest on its head, it would probably often have been preserved from that love of novelty which leads some persons in England to keep rumpless fowls, and others in India to keep frizzled fowls. And after a time any such abnormal appearance would be carefully preserved from being esteemed a sign of the purity and excellence of the breed. From this principle the Romans, eighteen centuries ago, valued the fifth toe and the white ear-lobe in their fowls. Thus, from the occasional appearance of abnormal characters, though, at first, only slight in degree; from the effects of the use and disuse of parts, possibly from the direct effects of changed climate and food; correlation of growth; from occasional reversions to old and long lost characters; from the crossing of breeds, when more than one has been formed; but, above all, from unconscious selection carried on during many generations, there is no insuperable difficulty to the best of my judgment, in believing that all the breeds have descended from some one parent source."

# Orpington Australia Census Results 2025



## What makes Orpingtonians tick? A survey informing the future!

What are Orpingtonians thinking? That's one of the questions that the Club was looking to answer when it put out an online survey through its Facebook group during November 2025.

From 5.3K of Facebook followers 48 group members replied. Pretty low turnout wasn't it! Why was that? That's a question we need to ask. Was it the explanation of the survey or the questions asked or is it just an inherent distrust of online surveys?

### (Question 1) What State of Australia are you from?

The survey responses mostly came from NSW and VIC which mirrors the Clubs membership database.

### (Question 2) What colour Orpingtons do you keep?

We learnt that the most popular colours in Large birds are still in Black (35), Blue (27), Buff (23), Splash (19) and White (12). In Bantam it was Chocolate (12) and Black (10) which is also reflective of the number of birds being shown atm. The most interesting thing from this question is that from the 48 total responders highlighted they were breeding some **18 colours** of Orpingtons!

### (Question 3) Do you expect your flock size to change in the next year or two?

98% of breeders responding said they expected to keep their flock size the same over the next two years.

**(Question 4) Why do people keep Orpingtons?**

68% said for exhibition purposes, 23 % said for looking good and only 6% said for meat and eggs. Probably reflective of the content posted on the group?

**(Question 5) The Club would love to hear any comments and observations you might have about the Orpington Poultry Breed in Australia.**

Probably the most important question for the Club. The responses were gold dust and very much a reflection of the culture of the Club and the breed characteristics.

I enjoy the large Orpington roaming around
They are most beautiful bird so quiet n friendly n are great birds to show one day i hope to have most of the colours n make them even more sexier
It's a lovely friendly club. The birds exhibited are exceptional. I'd love to see Orpingtons available more generally as they're hard to get.
I've only just started keeping chickens and have 2 orpingtons (amongst some other breeds) however I'm keen to add more but having a lot of trouble trying to locate breeders near me.
Beautiful docile birds.
Hard to source quality birds .... Especially with so many "backyard breeders" just selling anything that's not true to type. But Quodos to the club for doing a great job
I love my Orpingtons and have started showing the past couple of years, I picked up ILT from a show. I would like to see more education on highly transmissible diseases and help source vaccine.
I would breed Orpingtons but it has been too difficult on a suburban block. I keep them for eggs and because they look lovely. I'm hoping my Orp breeding mates will keep me supplied with backyard hens
I think that lots of chook keepers aren't aware how docile and friendly the Orpingtons are.
AOC = too encompassing! I also have (beyond the offered list) lrg Choc Partridge - lrg Choc Crele - lrg Choc Laced Choc - lrg Gold Partridge - lrg Gold & Silver Crele and developing lrg Choc Birchen
The Orpington Club of Australia has done what the founding members were after by improving the standard and securing a large genetic pool of Orpingtons, and gathering fanciers of the same breed.

I just overall really enjoy this breed, such a good breed of chicken compared to so many others I've had something to do with. Definitely the top chicken breed to go with
Orps are kind, gentle and easy on the eyes. Pleasure to have
Tasmania does not have many breeders who show, it would be good to encourage more people down here. We have 4 people who show actively across the state.
Orpington are my favorite poultry breed
Love em
From my discussions of people who are interested in getting into Orpingtons, the hardest thing to get into them is connecting with breeders willing to sell birds or fertile eggs.
They're a beautiful breed. We've owned plenty of different breeds in the past but now we own just purely orpingtons
I love the whites, but there's something special about the buffs. Also, the club seems to have far happier members. Helpful and positive, where others that I have interacted with are quite toxic.
Hard to source good breeding stock in WA
Great new colours being developed
Orpingtons are the most docile breed and we love preserving their Heritage qualities. They are quite rare and difficult to find quality stock to purchase.

## Conclusion.

- Did the survey tell the Club anything it didn't already know? Possibly. It highlighted the range of colours under development. It confirmed that standard colours are still popular. It confirmed that if you live anywhere outside of NSW and Vic it's hard to access birds.
- Will it inform the Club executive future focus? Probably.
- Will we do another survey next year? Possibly, especially if we can find out why the take-up was so poor.

Thanks to the 48 who completed the survey. Your responses were very much appreciated.

*Martin Boulton*

Survey instigator.

November 2025



# The Orpington Club of Australia (Inc 988361)

President – Ross Gibson  
 Secretary – Kate Goulding  
[australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com](mailto:australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com)

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Phone: .....

Email Address: .....

## 2025-2026 Membership year

Adult Financial Membership      \$30 p.a      \$.....  
 (1st May to 30th April)

Junior (<16 years) Membership      \$20      \$.....

**TOTAL**      \$.....

**I keep the following Varieties:**

LARGE		BANTAMS.	
BLACK		BLACK	
BUFF		BUFF	
BLUE		BLUE	
WHITE		WHITE	
CUCKOO		CUCKOO	
ANY OTHER VARIETY		ANY OTHER VARIETY	

Please complete this form and email it to:  
[australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com](mailto:australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com)

Please make payment by Direct Deposit to:

**The Orpington Club of Australia**  
 BSB 062 549 Account No. 0090 1366  
 (using your name as reference)



## Club Contact addresses

**Email:** [australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com](mailto:australianorpingtonclub@gmail.com)

**Website:** <http://theorpingtonclubofaustralia.net.au>

**Newsletter Editor:** [orpingtonswithbling@yahoo.com](mailto:orpingtonswithbling@yahoo.com)

The Views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee or editorial staff.