

AUTUMN 2025 EDITION

# Poultry NSW



A NSW Exhibition Poultry  
Association initiative

[exhibitionpoultrynsw.org](http://exhibitionpoultrynsw.org)



# EPA NEWS

Welcome to the first issue of Poultry NSW—a NSW EPA initiative aimed at connecting and showcasing breeders, exhibitors, judges, and shows across the state. This issue focuses on celebrating the agricultural shows taking place across NSW at this time of year.

**Sydney Royal Easter Show** The EPA committee will once again be present at the 2025 Sydney Royal Easter Show. The 2025 feature breed is Geese, leading to an unprecedented number of entries—sure to be a spectacular sight for all. Best of luck to all exhibitors, and we hope to see you at the show!

**Bird Flu** The NSW Exhibition Poultry Association continues to work closely with the NSW Department of Primary Industries to support the prevention and response efforts for avian influenza. Through ongoing communication, biosecurity guidance, and adherence to industry protocols, the Association ensures that exhibition poultry events operate safely while prioritising the health of all poultry. By staying informed and proactive, we contribute to protecting both the poultry fancy and the broader industry from potential risks.

**President** – Danny Benn 0401 753 445

**Secretary** – Heidi Fagan 0410 441 226

**Treasurer** – Heidi Fagan

**Vice President** – Sam Pulis

**Vice President** – Jamie Nordstrom

**Judges Registrar** – Guy Wailes

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**Cover Photo** Champion Bird in Show, NSW State Poultry Championship 2024

Bantam Australorp Pullet

P & L Tisdell

Photo – Cathy Newton Photography

**Right** Pulis boys enjoying a seat after a long day at Crookwell Agricultural Show

Photo – Danny Benn

**Right** Reserve Champion Waterfowl Lithgow Show Australian Call

Johanna Martin

Photo – Emily McKay

**Right** Champion Junior, Batlow Agricultural Show

Cayuga Duck

Nate Mooney

Photo – Nate Mooney





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## Junior Spotlight

# Louis Kerbert

My name is Louis, and I am from Mid NSW. I breed and show Pekin ducks and various Wyandotte bantams.

I am excited to begin some more project breeding with the Wyandottes in the up coming breeding season

**Photos:** 2024 NSW State Poultry Championships



I always enjoy showing and catching up with everyone at shows, but my favourite moment was youth stewarding and participating in young judging at the NSW State Poultry Championship Show. It was an incredible experience, allowing me to talk to and learn from experienced poultry enthusiasts.

We came home with Reserve Champion Heavy Waterfowl with a Pekin duck that has never failed to impress me!

I have had the privilege of learning from many people throughout my journey. Along the way, I have met several influential individuals who have encouraged me and shared their knowledge, particularly in the Bellingen District Poultry Club when I was starting out. More recently, I am especially grateful to those who have generously given me the opportunity to steward and assist at shows—it has been an incredible experience.

I would recommend attending plenty of shows, choosing a breed you love, and talking to experienced breeders who have been involved in the fancy for a long time. This hobby is all about the experience and learning from others who share the same passion. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, and be patient—good things take time to develop and grow.

**Photos:** 2024 NSW State Poultry Championships



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# JUDGES REPORT

# Andrew Lockley

**EPA Registered Judge**

I had the pleasure of judging the Holbrook Agricultural Show Poultry Section on 16 March 2024.

The competition was well supported, with strong entry numbers and a good representation of breeds across Hard Feather, Soft Feather, Waterfowl, and Field and Forest. It was particularly pleasing to see a large number of Hard Feather bantams.

My Champion Bird of Show was an exceptional Large Langshan pullet belonging to Bruce Boardman. The bird was in peak condition, displaying the correct shape and type required for the breed. She was a natural specimen in the show pen, presenting herself beautifully. This outstanding fowl had very strong head points, displayed correct feathering down to the tip of the outside toe, and was a rich, even black in colour.

My Reserve Bird of Show was a Bantam Australian Game pullet exhibited by Jackie Williams. She was in top condition, displaying excellent type with strong wing elasticity, as expected in a quality fowl.

A few other birds of merit worth mentioning included a Furness Pit Game female, which won Hard Feather Large. She was not quite at full condition but was very close. Another standout was a Japanese Bantam of exceptional type, which was awarded Champion Soft Feather Bantam—another fantastic little fowl.

It is also worth noting the presence of Toulouse Geese and some impressive Turkeys in both Bronze and Bourbon Red. All were excellent examples of their respective breeds.

The day was well attended and exceptionally well run!

**Photos** Liz Sohler, Holbrook Show Society Annual Show





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# Meet the Breeder

# Rachel

# Condon

Hi I am Rachel, I am the Secretary of the Dubbo Poultry Club & Assistant Secretary of the Australian National Pekin Club

For the past eight years, I have been dedicated to breeding and exhibiting Pekins, a breed I admire for its extravagant physique. The challenge of refining and perfecting them. While the birds themselves are a key focus, it's the social aspect of showing that truly makes the experience special. My show season typically begins with the Sydney Royal in April and runs through to July—a time when I am most active in the exhibition circuit. These months are filled with travel, camaraderie, and the rewarding opportunity to showcase the hard work put in during the off-season.

The coming months will be spent preparing my birds, attending shows, and engaging with fellow enthusiasts. Poultry showing is an ongoing learning experience—no matter how long you've been involved, there is always something new to learn. And, of course, presentation dinners are a highlight, where we celebrate our achievements and enjoy a well-earned moment of fun!

## A Note for Women in Poultry

For any women considering taking the plunge into poultry breeding and showing—just go for it! Listen to those who believe in and invest in you, but most importantly, trust yourself. You will always be your birds' harshest critic, so know the standard and progress at your own pace.

See you all in the show season ahead!





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# Back in Time Lance & Ann Ruting

The late Lance and Ann Ruting of Merrylands, NSW, were highly respected breeders and exhibitors of both soft-feather and waterfowl breeds.

Their expertise extended to Silkies, Polish, and Rhode Islands, Plymouth Rocks in soft-feather, as well as Campbells, Appleyards, Rouen, and Indian Runners in waterfowl.

However, Lance is best known for his development of the Elizabeth Duck, a dual-purpose breed suited to the yard, table, and exhibition pen. Through careful crossing of Rouen Clair, Campbells, and Mallards, he refined the ideal specimen.

Nearly 30 years on, the Ruting legacy continues to influence the poultry fancy. Their unwavering commitment and dedication are evident in the many passionate breeders who carry forward their work with the Elizabeth Duck.

Having received multiple boxes of ribbons belonging to Lance and Ann Ruting, we feel privileged to walk in their footsteps. Exploring the shows they travelled to, the prizes they won, and the history they made is both an honour and a pleasure.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
ROYAL EASTER SHOW

SPECIAL

1981

SECTION 7	AWARDED TO LANCE and ANN RUTING
POULTRY	EXHIBITED BY
CLASS No. _____	BEST WATERFOWL
CATG. No. 2548	
WATERFOWLS	

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
ROYAL EASTER SHOW

FIRST PRIZE

1981

SECTION 7	AWARDED TO Lance & Ann Ruting
Poultry	EXHIBITED BY
CLASS No. 488	
CATG. No. 2548	Mallard, white
Drake	

## Waterfowl of Australia ONE



FEATURING  
THE ELIZABETH DUCK

ROYAL EASTER SHOW 1979

CHAMPION

MALLARD - MALE - WHITE

VICTORIAN WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION 1987

RESERVE CHAMPION

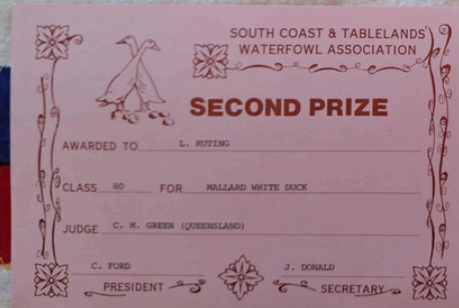
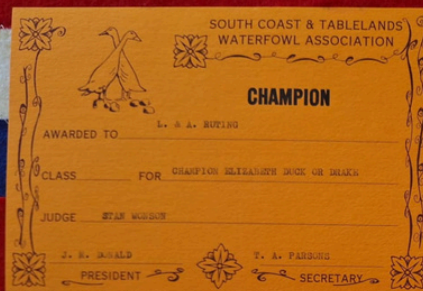
ORNAMENTAL DUCK OR DRAKE

ROYAL EASTER SHOW 1984

CHAMPION DUCK

FEMALE MALLARD COLOUR

ROYAL EASTER SHOW 1979





# Did You Know?

# Yellow, YELLOW Or Yellow

For those who breed fowl requiring yellow legs there is always a frustration toward encouraging yellow legs. Genetics, environment and diet all contribute to the strength of leg colour, diet being the easiest element to manipulate.

Include natural sources of carotenoids in their diet:

- Corn – One of the best sources, especially yellow maize.
- Lucern – Fresh or pelletised lucern meal is rich in xanthophylls.
- Marigold Petals or Extract – Often used in commercial poultry feeds to enhance pigmentation.
- Leafy Greens – Kale, spinach, dandelion leaves, and mustard greens help intensify yellow coloration.
- Carrots & Pumpkin – Provide beta-carotene, which contributes to pigmentation.

## 2. Ensure Proper Fat Absorption

Carotenoids are fat-soluble, meaning they require dietary fat to be properly absorbed. Adding a small amount of healthy fat (e.g., sunflower seeds or a small amount of vegetable oil) can improve pigmentation.

## 3. Maintain Bird Health

- Prevent Bleaching – Laying hens naturally divert carotenoids to egg yolks, causing leg color to fade. To maintain vibrant legs in show birds, avoid excessive egg production before exhibition.
- Parasite Control – Internal parasites can affect nutrient absorption, reducing pigmentation. Regular deworming and health checks help maintain optimal color.

## 4. Time the Diet for Showing

For best results, start increasing xanthophyll-rich feed 6–8 weeks before a show. This allows the pigments to accumulate in the skin and intensify leg color.

By combining genetic selection with a well-balanced, carotenoid-rich diet, you can enhance and maintain deep, even yellow leg pigmentation in your birds.



# Product in Review

# Avitrol

# Bird Mite & Lice Spray



Avitrol Lice and Mite Spray is a great product for poultry exhibitors and bird enthusiasts alike. This topical spray works instantly, killing lice and mites on contact. Whether used as a treatment for an existing infestation or as a preventative measure before a show, Avitrol provides peace of mind by ensuring birds remain parasite-free and in top condition.

One of the standout features of this spray is its clear, non-staining formula. It contains no colorants, so it won't leave any colour marks or residue on feathers, making it ideal for show preparation. The atomisation ensures an even coverage without soaking the bird, allowing for quick drying and minimal handling time.

Beyond treating birds directly, Avitrol is also highly effective when used in the surrounding environment. Spraying areas where parasites are active, such as perches, nesting boxes, and pen floors, helps to break the lifecycle of mites and lice, providing long-lasting protection.

For exhibitors who prioritise the health and presentation of their birds, Avitrol Lice and Mite Spray is a must-have in your chook shed. Easy to use, fast-acting, and highly effective, this product is a game-changer for maintaining pristine, parasite-free fowl.

\*Not suitable for birds destined to be consumed by humans



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## Around the Shows



### Batlow Agricultural Show

**Judge** Wayne Armstrong

**Champion Bird in Show**  
Langshan Bantam Pullet  
Robin Hogan

**Reserve Champion Bird in Show**  
Silver Duckwing Modern Game Bantam  
Glen Benson

**Champion Hardfeather Large**  
Blue Pit Game Hen  
Robin Hogan

**Champion Soft Feather Large**  
Black Langshan Pullet  
Courtney Pit

**Photos** Brodie Petty

### Holbrook Agricultural Show

**Judge** Andrew Lockley

**Champion Bird in Show**  
Langshan Large Pullet  
Bruce Boardman

**Reserve Champion Bird in Show**  
Australian Game Bantam Pullet  
Jackie Williams

**Champion Soft Feather Large**  
White Silkie Cockerel  
Pink Ladies Poultry

**Champion Soft Feather Bantam**  
Mottled Pekin Cockerel  
Pink Ladies Poultry

**Photos** Brodie Petty



If you snap a shot and would like us to share it please send it through to us at either:

**Email:** [epansw@outlook.com](mailto:epansw@outlook.com)

**Facebook:** Exhibition Poultry Association of NSW Inc

\*Due to natural time and resource restrictions we unfortunately cannot showcase every photo that is taken



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## Around the Shows



### Mossvale Agricultural Show

Judge Michael Jeffree

#### Champion Bird in Show

Pit Game Large Pullet  
Sean Phillis

#### Champion Waterfowl

White Mallard Drake  
Michael Underwood

#### Champion Soft Feather Breed Pair

Black Belgian d'uccles  
Annette Herring

#### Champion Waterfowl Breed Pair

Saxony Ducks  
Natalie Hoskins

Photos Johanna Martin

### Wingham Show Society Annual Show

#### Champion Bird in Show

White Silkie Large Pullet  
Peter Gambrell

#### Champion Hard Feather

Pit Game Hen  
Mick Allan

#### Champion Waterfowl

Rouen Duck  
Craig Mears

#### Champion Junior Hard Feather

Pit Game Cockerel  
Seanna Squires

Photos Glen Squires



Thank you to those who contributed to making this issue possible, if you have information for future issues please contact us

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