

President's Report - Exhibition Poultry Association of New South Wales

17th of August 2024

Dear Members,

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve as the President of the Exhibition Poultry Association (EPA) of New South Wales over the past year. The last 12 months have presented us with numerous trials and tribulations, but I am incredibly proud of how our team has risen to the occasion. I cannot express enough gratitude to the current committee for their unwavering dedication, hard work, and countless hours of effort that have been poured into making our association stronger and more vibrant than ever.

One individual who truly stands out in her contributions is our hardworking Secretary, Heidi. Over the past 18 months, Heidi has been the backbone of the EPA, not only securing essential insurance contingencies for all associations across New South Wales but also providing consistent support that has been vital to our operations. Heidi, your commitment and dedication are deeply appreciated, and we owe you an immense debt of gratitude.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire team for their collaborative efforts in liaising with the Fairfield Club, as well as for their dedication to the disassembly and reassembly of the cages for the State Show. These cages were on the brink of being scrapped, and it is thanks to your hard work that they have been preserved. A special thank you must go to Sam Pulis, Kim George, Gordon and Kay Cooper, Gerald Farrugia, Dylan Summerell, and of course, Heidi Fagan and her family. Heidi's company and her family generously funded the complete assembly of the bases, wheels, and all the physical labour over many weekends. Team, those cages stand today because of your unwavering commitment!

As we continue to support our wonderful team, I am particularly focused on working closely with Heidi to secure ongoing support that will allow us to further the cause of poultry exhibition into the future. Heidi has been diligently working with a qualified solicitor to establish the necessary legal frameworks (regarding bird flu) and create support documents that will assist clubs moving forward. The EPA team also held an online meeting with delegates and clubs to establish the requirements for applying these documents into the future. The attendance of this meeting was very healthy!

I am thrilled to report that our State Show was a resounding success! The event drew large crowds and garnered support from clubs not only from New South Wales but from across Australia. Many attendees have already inquired about when the next show will be held, which is a testament to the impact and success of this event. The show featured several educational talks and even hosted a judges' competition for both juniors and open-age participants.

The auction was another highlight, with quality birds being supported from all over Australia. Entries were received from every state except the Northern Territory, which is an extraordinary achievement that reflects the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the entire EPA committee for their incredible commitment, strength, and forward-thinking. Together, we have created an event that will be remembered for years to come. Additionally, within the last 12 months, the EPA has welcomed the addition of three new clubs. We embrace these new members with open arms and look forward to supporting them as they grow and thrive.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of past president Bruce Raines. Bruce was truly an asset to the poultry community and a true down to earth person. We owe many thanks to both Bruce and Lonny for the long-standing dedication to the EPA of NSW. Further discussion will take place to honour Bruces legacy into the future. Rest in peace Bruce.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the clubs, volunteers, and committee members who have worked tirelessly to keep community projects and clubs running smoothly. Without your hard work and dedication, none of this would be possible.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the EPA team will continue to progress and grow, just as it has over the past 12 months. I am excited to see what the future holds for us and am eager to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate team.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Danny Benn

President
Exhibition Poultry Association of New South Wales Inc.