

January 2015



Rabbittopia

*The Australian National Rabbit
Council Inc. Rabbit Magazine*

ANRCI Rabbit Extravaganza 2015

Hosted in conjunction with the
Rabbit Breeders Association of Tasmania inc.

May 2nd & 3rd 2015

The 2015 extravaganza will be hosted in Tassie! Main show, specialty shows, pet events, Rabbit Revelry Dinner...

May 2nd & 3rd 2015. Royal Hobart Showgrounds. Hobart, Tasmania.

Main Show judge will be from the UK, David Gallagher

Specialty shows include: Young Stock, Rare Breeds, Fancy, Lop, Fur and Rex

Craft displays, Vet displays, Trade displays, Pet Display

www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com
rbatconventionenquiries@gmail.com

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ANRCI Committee

Mark Page - WA

Chairperson

Breed Standards Sub Committee

Jenny Buckingham - WA

Secretary & Treasurer

Website & Newsletter

Debbie Pulford - Tas -

Stud Register - Stud Prefixes

Judging Sub Committee

Christina Cooper—Tas

Ring Registrar

Jamesy Wilson—Vic

Club Rep Sub Committee

Jenny Goldsack—Vic

ANRCI Youth Program

Resource Group

Nikki White—ACT

Membership Registrar

Karen Pearn—NSW

Club Rep Sub Committee

Belinda Heath—NSW

Fundraising & Raffle

Fran Boston—NSW

Hopping & Agility

Giselle Pitzner—SA

ANRCI Youth Program

Presidents Report

Welcome to all for 2015!! But what a year we had in 2014!!

With our first ever National Convention (Extravaganza) under ANRCI and NCRC. Lots of learning by all those that attended, with some very good quality rabbits all vying for the top awards. Some people travelled a long way to support our Convention and we thank you for your support—and hope that you will support the 2015 Convention in Tasmania in May. So get your entries in!

With increases in memberships and Club affiliates we welcome you all!

With some great fundraising ideas helping to put funds and products back into the Fancy. So Thank You to all those that sold and bought raffle tickets and bought the great Breed Posters we had for sale.

A big Thank You to our 2014 Committee for all their help and efforts. And our new 2015 Committee (which is almost a full Committee for the first time since we began) has hit the ground running with lots of projects started.

Mark Page

Stud Prefix Database

ANRCI maintains a National Stud Prefix database which is available for anyone to check online. It can be found at:

http://australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com/Stud_Prefix_Database.php

This database is updated whenever we receive updates from Clubs. Prefixes stay on here and we don't usually remove them as if that name has been used as a studname at any time in the past it could be confusing if someone started using the same name!

So please try and remember to check the database before you approve a stud name.. And try not to allow anything too similar to something already there!

From The Editor:

I am sorry that there has not been many newsletters in recent times... this year we plan to remedy that.

I am hoping to do a newsletter every two months—so the next one should be out in March.

I would love original articles to include and so if you have the urge to put your thoughts or ideas or knowledge down on paper then please do!!

Enjoy!!

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www.glasbergen.com



"I like a lot of clutter on my desk. It gives me a place to bury my frustration and resentment!"

RBAT & ANRCI National Rabbit Extravaganza

Preparations for the 2015 Rabbit Extravaganza are steaming ahead!! The RBAT Committee is working hard to make this an unforgettable event!!!

The Shows and Judges have been finalised—and what a great line up!!

Five * All Breed Show David Gallagher (UK)

Two* Fancy Jo Lacey (Vic)

Two* Lop Allan Harvey (NSW)

Two* Fur Joan Eastley (Tas)

Two* Rex Debbie Pulford (Tas)

Three* YSS John Porritt (Vic)

Three* Rare Breeds Jenny Buckingham (WA)

Enter your Bunnies now and be eligible for the Early Bird Prize!!!!

Enter your rabbits by 15 February!
Go in draw for a ticket to the Dinner Dance!

Entry forms and schedules on ANRCI FB page and on the website.

Other Important Information:

- ◆ Sponsorship Available for all Shows! Get in quick to secure your favourite Breeds
- ◆ There will be a Rabbit Auction. More details shortly
- ◆ Dinner Dance on Saturday night. Tickets available shortly
- ◆ Displays by North Hobart Veterinary Hospital and other local businesses
- ◆ Contact Dogtainers Hobart for special deals out of Tasmania.



2015 Extravaganza Rabbit Revelry

Tickets out now
\$50 for 3 course dinner
& DJ
Children under 12 \$20

Details at:
www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com
or rbatconventionenquiries@gmail.com

ANRCI Club Representatives Group

This is a Discussion Group set up by ANRCI for the Club Representatives from ANRCI Affiliated Clubs. Jamesy Wilson is the moderator with assistance from Karen Pearn. Club reps to date are Louise Frey (CNRC), Christine Dean (HRC), Bec Drinkwater (STRCI), Nadine Davis (WARCI), Sarah Van Steenis (RBAT), June Abbott (SCRC)

Jamesy is the beauty of this duo and I am the brains, or is it the other way round you decide. This is a non-judgmental forum where Club Reps can bring anything club related to the floor to discuss in an informal manner and get input from other club reps who most probably are experiencing or have experienced a similar situation. It is also a platform where clubs can share positive ideas they have for events they will be holding throughout the year and hopefully everyone can gain something from that for their own club. No question will ever be too silly, nor will any problem be too big. Jamesy and I do not profess to know all the answers that is why we have mentors that we can go back to if we are unsure about something and trust me when I say we will not

make something up just to please anyone, we will always ensure that our senior or for want of a better word our more experienced Committee members have been informed of anything that we ourselves are unsure of how to handle.

One of the topics we are discussing at the moment is the ANRCI Youth Program, and already there are some interesting questions coming out of that. Bec has shared with us a Rabbit Wellness day their club is holding later in the year which sounds like a great day for all ages, I still have images of rabbits doing yoga when I hear “wellness” but it is actually all about vetting in, rabbit ailments, preparing your rabbits for a show, nail clipping, etc. and much much more.

We really want this group to be kept as light hearted as possible and allow all members to voice their opinion without judgment.

We are looking forward to our little group growing throughout the year and really hope that Jamesy and I can offer you some help or advice, please feel free to ask anything.

Karen Pearn

ANRCI Raffle News

2014 Raffle Results

1st Prize—\$1000

Brendan Cooper (Tas)

Winning ticket sold by Christina Cooper

2nd Prize—\$500

Jo Sutton (WA)

3rd Prize—\$200

Debbie Johnstone (NSW)

Congratulations to all our winners! Hope you enjoy spending your money!

THANK YOU to everyone that sold tickets for us and thank you to those who bought tickets.

For selling the winning ticket Christina will get a ticket to the Dinner Dance at the Convention.

This year we are going one step further and increasing the prize money to \$1500 for First Prize. Second and Third Prizes will stay the same.

We are also going to start the raffle earlier this year so Clubs have more time to sell tickets.

Remember that all Clubs get 20% of the value of ticket sales returned to them.

My Agility Experience

Last newsletter my friend Kit wrote about his companion Fran and all my cousins and family united by our companions in a Rabbit club. Continuing the story.... My name is Thor; known by our human companions as a Dwarf Lop here I am hopping through our ring obstacle at our favourite activity other than the beach and local Hopping competitions." The Rabbit Agility Course".



Agility is a great fun activity and good exercise for me and all my friends and relatives even the special "Show Bunnies" who are always worried about their appearance and especially their feet ...this is a fun inside event so no dirty ,wet grass .. And of course its great exercise for our companions, they get to meet Everybunny that comes along . My handler and I are a team. . We go through the course together I may have to stop to get her to catch up and often I get a little pat on the nose or I may even decide that I would rather have a cuddle!. Our course is surrounded by a fence so that we can do this great activity

leash free ,some of us like to wear our harnesses as we are used to them. The course is set up so we can stay safe and concentrate on our obstacles.

We have different rules for agility than our hopping competitions. We don't put a time limit on ourselves as that's likely to upset our handlers as we don't wear watches and bunny time is so much different from our companions and we don't like being rushed!. Some of my cousins are a bit slow and heavy my friend Charlie is a NZ White he does the jumps and obstacles at his own pace and as he has lots of practice , he has been hopping over things in training since he came to our herd. But Charlie is way too heavy for competitive hopping as the jumps are way too difficult he would probably land in the middle of the water jump and he would not like that and he could hurt himself trying to go higher and faster than he should! as most hopping events are timed and do have weight restrictions so that is why he loves agility. We start on a start box and if there are 10 obstacles you go over or under or thru you get 10 points if you miss one or knock a pole off you lose a point so if you just walk the course and miss the obstacles least you got a walk ,but zero balance! I learnt in a very short time to get round the course!



This is my mate Charlie.

I can hop 35-45cm on the hopping course so this is just for fun! This is Jasper



My Agility Experience (cont)

My handler says that all rabbits can do agility but heights and lengths of jumps have to be modified to suit all our body builds and fitness levels. Any of us from Netherlands to Flemish! The main thing is if we have been lying around eating too much and are overweight, and have not been out and about or we have been living the lazy life at the bottom of the garden or even hutch raised, as with my mate Charlie he spent his life till he was 2 at a local farm doing his job of looking after the ladies and helping his herd producing food for our companions. (A very noble profession and all are very special rabbits, they are born big and even get 10 times bigger than me!) Being heavy and slow doesn't mean Charlie shouldn't do agility or won't enjoy agility like me! But check with your human companion at your local rabbit club they will check you over and help you develop a fitness plan so you can start and not get hurt, I recommend start slow and go low... walk on the beach in the park with your harness and leash even in your lounge room if you live looking after your companion as a house rabbit! We have different obstacles at different locations we even had a cross country agility course on our harnesses so even outside you can have agility.



The ring obstacle is the highest obstacle but if you don't want to try it you can sneak past.



See my friend Robo sneaking past the ring jump that's ok this was just practicing and we had more than one rabbit on the course for practice, the photo also shows our hedge. This can be adjusted to suit all size bunnies!

All rails can be knocked off in either direction and are replaced ready for the next competitor. This is Squiggly on the A frame another obstacle to master first time over is daunting but I love it!



and of course the tunnel !

I think Agility will become very popular in the Aussie Lagamorph life, as so much emphasis is now on getting fit and healthy so come on Everybunny and yes you Show bunnies it's not all about your head and ears its about your body, strong bones, healthy muscles and if we all are fit and strong that will pass on in future generations, like our wiry super fit wilderness cousins they have to be ever ready for flight so exercise is very important for their survival no flabby rabbits out there! And it's good for your companions too!



Watch This Space!!!

ANRCI began with a grand vision and lots of ideas! Some of these ideas have taken longer than we had hoped to reach fruition. This year is the first year we virtually have a full committee and so the load is spread amongst more people and so we hope we will be able to bring into action many of the things we had planned.

At the recent AGM we did a bit of rule tweaking. All these amendments will soon be changed in our Rule Book and these rules will be sent to Clubs and placed online for download.

Our young people are the future of the Fancy. We need their enthusiasm, their flexibility, their new ideas. So we need to encourage their participation, knowledge and skills. So 2015 is going to be the Year that ANRCI begins to shape the Fancy of the future. ANRCI is really excited about developing a complete Junior program which will help all Clubs to foster their Junior members.. This program will be developed with the assistance of a new Youth Program Sub Committee with lots of input by the Clubs via the new Club reps group.

We did announce some weeks ago that we were going to set up a Professional Standards and Practise Committee. The Rules and processes for this Committee were passed at the recent ANRCI AGM. We actually hope we will never need to use this Committee to investigate Clubs or members but it will now be available. We are in the process of inviting people to participate in this Committee and once we have finalised this process we will announce the members of the Committee, notify our Clubs formally and place the new Rules into our ANRCI Rule Book.

So look out for lots of new announcements in these areas—and get excited!!!

Positive Patter.....

I came across this the other day and thought it was such a lovely idea that we decided we would share it with all of you. Each newsletter we will highlight a different club that is displaying that extra something positive. All too often we get caught up in the negative, let's turn that around.

I always recall when I first started and I had no idea what a CC was, so I asked someone and got the reply "oh don't worry about them, they're nothing really". It took me a while but I finally got to the bottom of it and discovered their true meaning so was saddened in my state anyway that their value had been lost. I've always been on a push to bring back the value of a CC but usually falls on deaf ears in most clubs in NSW, so I think this is a lovely idea. Let's start celebrating everyone's achievements a bit more not just the BIS's.

CNRC Tamworth NSW

CNRC Wall Of Fame

Winners for 2014 for members

Fancy Section: Louise Frey - Frey's Hoppers with 82 CC's

Lop Section: Julie Parker - Radiant Rabbits with 39 CC's

Fur Section: Sue Cundy - Bellata Bunnies with 4 CC's

Rex Section: Belinda Green - Finesse with 185 CC's

These names will be going on our Wall of Fame shield that will be on display at all our events. Good luck to our members for 2015.

CNRC wanted a way to acknowledge their members who were doing well and getting CC's whether it was one CC or 100. The club was donated a shield which normally would be used as a memorial for a large show but they wanted to be able to keep the shield for their members only. They already had a CC tally on their members group so they decided to turn that tally into a wall of fame. It encourages members to try and get those CC's and to work harder. Plus it also shows the rest of the members, who is doing well and with what rabbits as they have the rabbits names and stud names up with how many each rabbit gets. It is a lot of work though as its not only CC's from their club it's any CC they win in that year. They also see it as another incentive to get their members to travel to other areas to get more CC's.

Spotlight on a Breed—The Mini Plush

The mini plush lops have been passed as a breed in Australia by Dereck Medlock the President of the BRC at The Inaugural ANRCI National Rabbit Convention in March 2014.

Australia being the first in the world to recognize this beautiful lop breed.

Mini plush lops have been a very long process of crossing the beautiful soft Rex coat with the stature and beauty of the very cute mini lop.

So they have the nature of a lops big personality combined with a velvet coat.

My friend Christine Toyer had started the first cross and I at JKHoppers Rabbitry was very lucky to have the chance to help develop the mini plush lop to the standard that they are today. JKHoppers Shilo pictured is the first ever in the world to receive CC's.

Julie Chard

| Ring Size K | points |
|----------------------|------------|
| Points | 100 |
| Type and Weight | 25 |
| Head ,Eyes and Crown | 30 |
| Ears and Coat | 30 |
| Colour and Pattern | 10 |
| Condition | 5 |

The Miniature Plush Lop is intended to be a Miniature Lop Rabbit with the fur quality of the Rex breeds. It should be judged as per a Miniature Lop with the exception of the coat. It is permitted a slightly higher weight limit to allow the correct impression of boldness.

Type-Bold Thickset and firm in flesh. The body should be short, cobby and well-muscled with little visible neck. The well-muscled rump is short and well rounded. The chest is broad and deep with curved sides where it meets the shoulders, which are broad and strong. Overall appearance to give a compact impression. The front legs are thick , short and straight. The hind legs are short, strong powerful and carried parallel to the body. The tail is straight, strong and well furred. A small dewlap is permissible but not desirable.

Adult Weight

| | Ideal | Maximum |
|-------|-------|---------|
| Kg | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| 1b/oz | 3.5 | 4.0 |

Head, Eyes, Ear and Crown-The head should be bold and broad with well developed cheeks and set well into the shoulders. The profile of the head is not as round as a Miniature Lop but has a good width between the eyes, full cheeks and broad muzzle. The basal ridge of the ears should appear prominent across the top of the ridge to form a crown, not as prominent however as in Miniature Lops. The eyes are bold, bright and large, and matching the correct colour for the variety.

Ears. – Should be broad, thick, well furred and rounded at the ends. They should be carried close to the cheeks giving a horse-shoe like outline when viewed from the front. The inside of the ears should not be visible when carried correctly.

Coat- Fur to be approximately 1.27cm(1/2inch) in length. Fine silky texture, free from harshness and woolliness, intensely dense, smooth and level over the whole body, of a lustrous sheen, firm and Plush like character, devoid of projecting guard hairs.

Colour and pattern.-Any colour and pattern accepted by ANRCI

Condition – The exhibit should be in a perfect state of health and bodily condition , free from soiling particularly on the feet, ears and genitals. The coat should reflect the overall good health of the exhibit, which should appear alert and vigorous.

FAULTS

TYPE: Body too long, head too narrow or not sufficiently well set into the shoulder, poor ear carriage, ears folded, lack of crown, large dewlap in does.

Rear feet not parallel to the body.

Light soiling of the feet, ears and genitals, bare pads, fur slightly soiled or matted, long toenails, lack of vitality.

COAT: White hairs in coloured exhibits, though not to be confused with ticking in on ticked varieties.

Lack on density, harsh, wavy, woolly or curly coats.

DISQUALIFICATIONS; Maloccluded or mutilated teeth, over the weight limit, deformities or mutations. Feet bowed or bent. White toenails or patches in coloured exhibits. White nose in butterfly pattern, any discernible illness or disease, blindness, incorrect eye colour, parasitic infection, much soiling, matted coat, sore pads, where skin on the feet is broken or scabbed. Any irregular preparation for exhibition including trimming and dyeing.



Rules Can be Your Friend

I am always amazed at the number of people who belong to an organisation and have absolutely no idea of the Rules of that organisation. Also many people seem to be afraid of having Rules or feel as though the Rules apply to everyone but themselves.

Any organisation has to have Rules in order for it run effectively and efficiently – and perhaps more importantly – fairly. Of course these rules have to be thoughtfully created, to cover any situation that may arise without being punitive or really onerous.

If there are clear and fair Rules that set up processes and guidelines for most situations then everyone knows where they stand within the Organisation. The Committee understands its roles and responsibilities for the running of the Organisation and there are clear guidelines on how to do the things that it needs to do. The individuals within that Committee have defined roles and responsibilities which ensures the organisations activities are carried out. And the members of that Organisation also have defined rights – and responsibilities - to the organisation to which they belong. Basically everyone knows where they stand!

Good Rules take time and care to create. They need to take into account any situations that might reasonably be expected to happen, but be flexible enough to deal with unusual or one-off situations. They must clearly lay out the processes that any organisation may need to carry out such as electing its committee, running its meetings and dealing with members. They must be a fine balance between giving the Committee enough power to run itself and the organisation, and yet not so much power that the members of the organisation relinquish any control at all.

Obviously the best time to make up the rules of a Club is when the Club is setting up. Most Fair Trading (or similar) bodies have draft Rules that you can use that have all the legal requirements in them. They are simple to modify to meet the Clubs particular needs. But any rules, no matter how well thought out, will probably need amendments over time to make them clearer, to fix oversights and to meet changing times. Rules were not made to be set in stone never to be changed.

Rules that are made with little thought and discussion, or with the wrong agenda, can turn out to bad rules. Without thought and discussion by a number of people, situations can occur that no one has thought of, or they may be accidentally biased towards one party or another. These sort of errors can often be easily remedied by an amendment of the rule – so long as it is realised before that rule is required! Also rules can turn out to be ineffective if the people making them have not thought thru the process in a clear and ordered way. The worst kind of bad rules can be made when the people making them have a particular agenda.... They may not want to let certain people get on the Committee or they may want the Committee to have more power than their members.

Organisations such as Rabbit Clubs are set up because a group of people have a common interest. They are formalised into a Club so that it is easier to run the organisation and its events. The members elect the Committee with the expectation that they will run the Club in the best interests of the majority of the members. It is an absolutely democratic organisation. It isn't expected to be run in a similar manner to a profit making entity or as an autocratic state!!

Members vote for their Committee at an AGM and they expect the Committee to run the organisation in an effective way towards common goals. Members have a right to demand that the Committee members do their jobs and that they listen to the members. However an organisation also has the right to demand some degree of loyalty of the members. Members, by voting for their Committee, are in effect, giving them the authority to rule them for the time they are on the Committee. So if you vote a particular Committee on then you should give them the respect of their authority and follow the rules. On the other hand, members of the Committee must also be prepared to work for the members that voted them in!

Rules Can be your Friend (cont)

I have come to these conclusions after being part of a Club for over 20 years, and in more recent times observing the workings (albeit from the outside) of other Clubs. WARCI has a huge volume of rules – it covers 12 A4 pages!!! It was very much based on the BRC rules. However our founding members wrote these rules very wisely and they have stood us in good stead. Some areas had to be tightened up or expanded to suit changing times but generally they are very well written.

The advantage of having such detailed rules is that covers almost all situations. And because every new member of WARCI is sent the Rule booklet when they join, everyone knows there are rules and what they are. I am amazed that many other Clubs in Australia never routinely send their members their Club or Show Rules. How can they expect their members to follow the rules if they cannot read them? Club Rules are not a secret weapon used to deal with troublemakers or so you can retain power – as a member it is your right to know what the rules are of the organisation that you have joined.

If members of an organisation can see the Rules and read them if a situation arises, it prevents many problems. And if they can see that their organisation follows their rules with no fear or favour, it gives the members confidence that the Club is doing the right thing. The Club can manage its ordinary business without having to continually defend its decisions or deal with complaints. And because there are processes clearly set out in all things ranging from running an AGM to dealing with a members bad behaviour it ensures that these things are sorted out fairly, with both sides being given the right to put forward their views.

So what do I think should be included in an organisation rules to make them good rules?

The most important part of any hobby Club (like rabbits) is the members. So the rules must clearly state the types of memberships a Club offers, when membership is due, whether any sort of pro rata system operates and what a member needs to do to join. It should also include the member's rights such as who is eligible to vote, how they can put forward a complaint and how they can withdraw their membership. With these rights come responsibilities.... And so members need to know what these are and how they could be punished if they breach them...

Now the Committee. As with any volunteer organisation these are non-paid positions, and done to the best of a person's ability. The Rules should clearly state how many people are on the Committee and their responsibilities. Some Clubs seek to restrict Committee Members by placing rules about their length of time in a Club before they can join the Committee. To me this could easily be misinterpreted by many as trying to stop unwanted people on a Committee (retain the 'purple circle' effect!) I like to give members of an organisation the benefit of enough intelligence that they would not vote a person onto a committee if they didn't think they were capable. By restricting nominations a Club may be depriving themselves of enthusiastic people that may bring a level of skill in some area that the Club could really benefit from... You can be sure that if someone stuffs up the job they won't be re-elected the following year!!!

So Rules are our friends - they make life simpler and roles and responsibilities clear. They make things like running an AGM less confusing as there are clear processes that everyone understands and can follow. So why do Clubs think that Rules aren't important or that the members don't need to know or understand the Rules?

Every new member of a Club should receive a copy of their Club Rules. When there is a problem the first thing you should be reaching for is your copy of the rules. Members should be reminded of the rules in any discussions...and Members need to see that the Club is running by, and respecting their own rules. If the Committee is not doing this how can they expect their members to respect the rules? So a Club with clear, concise and well thought out Rules is always going to be a better run, happier Club as everyone knows what their roles and responsibilities are.

So go and find your rule book. If you don't have a copy ask your Club to send you a copy. It is boring to read I know but make the effort. You may be surprised what you learn. And if the Rules of your Club aren't adequate then work with your Club to improve them... You will find that your Club will go from strength to strength with good rules.

Rabbit Recipes

ANRCI recognises that rabbits are not just involved in Exhibition. Many people get into rabbits by having them as companions. Some people do Hopping events or Agility. Others breed them to use their fleece or pelt. And others love eating them!

So Debbie Pulford is going to create a Rabbit Recipe book with all your favourite recipes. We will sell it thru ANRCI as Fundraising once completed

So please send your recipes to Debbie. And include photos of your own successes. Please remember some recipes may have copyright! To make it easier for her it might be better to send via email in a word document to save her having to retype everything out!

Here is a couple to start us off with.....

Rabbit Pie

1 Fryer Rabbit quartered,
1/2 tsp salt, 1 onion chopped,
1 green pepper(capsicum) chopped,
dash of Tabasco,
3 Tbsp butter or fat,
3 Tbsp flour or more,
single pie crust,
1/2 C parsley chopped

Place rabbit in a large pot and barely cover with hot water; add salt and cover slightly with the lid and simmer until tender, about an hour. Drain and measure the broth; remove meat from the bones in large pieces. Cook the onion, green pepper and parsley for a few minutes in the butter or fat; stirring frequently. For each cup of broth, measure 1 1/2 Tbsp flour and mix well with the drippings and seasoning; adding the broth and stir until thickened. Add more salt to taste and the Tabasco sauce. Mix well with the meat and pour into a baking dish. Cover with pastry dough; trimming dough and vent the top. Bake in a 350 degree oven until the crust is a golden brown colour.

Old Fashioned Rabbit Stew.



Rabbit only needs a few ingredients to be transformed into a delicious one-pot meal.

Rabbit Stew (cont)

Ingredients

3 tbsp plain flour
2 tsp dried thyme, or 2 tbsp chopped fresh thyme leaves
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
15g/½oz butter
2-3 tbsp sunflower oil
1 large farmed rabbit or 2 young wild rabbits, jointed into 8 pieces
6 rashers rindless smoked streaky bacon, cut into 2cm/¾in squares
2 onions, chopped
500ml/17fl oz dry cider
300ml/10fl oz chicken or vegetable stock
2 bay leaves
350g/12oz chantenay carrots, peeled
150g/5oz frozen peas

Preparation method

Place the flour, thyme and a good pinch of salt and plenty of freshly ground black pepper in a large freezer bag. Put the rabbit portions into the bag, a few at a time, and shake well until evenly coated in the seasoned flour. Transfer to a plate.

Melt the butter with one tablespoon of the oil in a large heavy-based frying pan over a medium heat. Fry the rabbit, a few pieces at a time, until golden-brown all over. Put all the front and rear leg portions into a flameproof casserole dish.

Transfer the saddle pieces to a plate, cover loosely and set aside (these will need less cooking time, so can be added later on). Preheat the oven to 170C/340F/Gas 3½.

Add a little more oil to the pan and cook the bacon until the fat is browned and beginning to crisp. Add the bacon to the casserole dish.

Add a dash more oil to the frying pan and fry the onion for 5-7 minutes, or until lightly browned and beginning to soften. Add the onions to the casserole, sprinkle with any flour remaining in the freezer bag and stir until well combined.

Pour half of the cider into the frying pan and stir vigorously with a wooden spoon to lift any sediment from the bottom. Simmer for a few seconds then pour into the casserole. Add the rest of the cider and the stock. Stir the bay leaves into the casserole, cover with a lid and cook in the centre of the oven for 45 minutes.

Remove the casserole from the oven, add the reserved saddle pieces and carrots, turn all the rabbit portions, ensuring that as much of the meat is covered by liquid as possible. (Not all the meat will be covered.) Return to the oven for a further 1-2 hours.

Take the casserole out of the oven after one hour and check the rabbit – the meat should be starting to fall off the bone when the rabbit is ready. Poke the leg portions and the saddle pieces with a knife and if it doesn't slide in easily, return the casserole to the oven. Check again for tenderness and turn the rabbit portions every 30 minutes or so.

When the rabbit is tender, skim off any fat that may have risen to the top of the casserole with a large spoon. Carefully transfer the casserole to the hob. Bring to a fast simmer and cook for 3-5 minutes, or until the liquid reduces to a slightly thickened, gravy-like consistency. Stir in the frozen peas and simmer for a further three minutes. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper and serve.

Show Dates

ANRCI & RBAT National Convention

2 & 3 May 2015

All Breeds 5 * - David Gallagher (UK)

Fancy 2 * - Jo Lacey (Vic)

Lop 2 * - Allan Harvey (NSW)

Fur 2 * - Joan Eastley (Tas)

Rex 2 * - Debbie Pulford (Tas)

YSS 3 * - John Porritt (Vic)

RRBA 3 * - Jenny Buckingham
(WA)

Country NSW Rabbit Club

29 Mar 3 * - Paul Young

30 May 1* - Sharon Jacobs

30 May 1* - Kirsty Prince—Fancy

5 Sept 4* - Chris Dean

Hills Rabbit Club (WA)

29 Mar 1* - TBA

19 April Teaching Day

21 June 3* - Trophy Day

12 July 1* - TBA

8 & 9 August 5* - ASS & YSS

13 Sept 2* - TBA

18 Oct 2* - TBA

15 Nov 2 * - TBA

Rabbit Breeders Assoc of Tasmania

10 Jan 2* Sarah Van Steenis

14 Feb 1* Nanette Jenkins

14 Mar 5* - Phil Batey (UK)

11 April 1* - Debbie Pulford

13 June 4* - TBA

11 July 1* - Vanessa Sullivan

8 Aug 3* - John Porritt

12 Sept 4* - TBA

10 Oct 2* - Marai Catacouzinos

24 Oct 3* - TBA

14 Nov 1* - Ryan Page

12 Dec 1* - Alicia Balzan

10 Jan 2* - Alicia Balzan

14 Feb 1* Ryan Page

14 Nov 1* - Vanessa Sullivan

Southern Tablelands Rabbit Club (NSW)

21 Mar 2015 Goulbourn Agi

5 July 2015 TBA

6 Sept 2015 Maryanne Kipping & Steph
McLintock

8 Nov 2015 Paul Young & Irene King

Metro Rabbit Club (Vic)

14 Mar 3* 11 April 2*

23 May 2* 27 June 2*

18 July 3* 18 July 2* - YSS

15 Aug 5* 28 Nov 2*

Show Dates

The NSW Rabbit Association

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 22 Mar | 2* - Rowland McDonnell |
| 22 Mar | 1* - Kirsty Prince—Fancy |
| 26 April | 3* - Maria Catacouzinos |
| 12 July | 2* - Rebecca Wallbank |
| 12 July | 1* - Sharon Jacobs |
| 16 Aug | 3* - Alicia Balzan |
| 4 Oct | 2* - Jo Lacey |
| 15 Nov | 4* - Warren Hill |
| | Jenny Buckingham |

West Australian Rabbit Council

| | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 29 Mar | 3* - TBA |
| 19 April | Teaching Day |
| 9 & 10 May | 4* - David Gallagher (UK) |
| 21 June | 2* - TBA |
| 12 July | 2* - TBA |
| 13 Sept | 1* - TBA |
| 18 Oct | 1* - TBA |
| 15 Nov | 2* - TBA |
| 5 Dec | 4* - TBA |

Southern Cross Rabbit Club (NSW)

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 10 May | Gunnadah Rowland McDonnell |
| 19 July | Glen Innes (Nnrhc) |
| 27 Sept | Maitland Maria Catacouzinos |
| 22 Nov | Gyra Sharon Jacobs |

Northern Rivers Hopping (NSW)

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 19 July | Glen Innes (Combine with SCRC) |
|---------|--------------------------------|

Non Affiliated Club Show Dates

Rabbit Breeders of Victoria

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 21 & 22 March | Phil Batey (UK) |
| | Allan Harvey |
| 26 April | |
| 17 May | |
| 6 & 7 June | Scott Wiebensohn (US) |
| 26 July | |
| 23 August | |
| 27 Sept | |
| 6 Dec | |

The Victorian Rabbit Association

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 22nd February | Berwick Agi |
| 14th March | |
| 16th May | |
| 18th July | Xmas show |
| 19th September | |
| Nov TBC | Dandenong Agi |
| Nov TBC | Lilydale Agi |

Northern Country Rabbit Club (Vic)

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| March 7th | Steph McClintock |
| April 4th | |
| May 9th | |
| June 13th | |
| July 4th | |

Northern Country Rabbit Club (Vic)

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| August 1st | John Porritt |
| Sept 12th - | Ben Ellis (NZ) |
| October | Stephanie McClintock |
| Nov | TBC |
| Dec | Kilmore agi |

Non Affiliated Club Show Dates

Rabbit Exhibitors & Breeders (NSW)

8 March Judge: John Porritt (VIC)
 19 April Judge: Paul Young (NSW)
 14 June Judge: Heather Smith (VIC)
 19 July - Judge: Maryanne Kipping (VIC)
 30 Aug Judge: - TBA
 18 Oct Judge: Maria Catacouzinos (NSW)

Rabbit Breeders Association (NSW)

1st March
 25th April Hawkesbury Ag
 2nd May Gosford Ag
 17th May Koi show
 28th June
 9th Aug Frank Roughley Memorial Show
 11th Oct. Mary Laurie Memorial Show
 8th November

Rabbit Fanciers of NSW

13/14/15th March, Castle Hill show, Judge
 Mr Ben Ellis
 16/17th May, St Ives show
 21st June,
 19th July
 13th September
 1st November

Orana Rabbit Club (NSW)

April 11th
 July 4th
 September 26th.

Canberra Rabbit Club (ACT)

March 15th
 June 21st
 October 17th

South Australian Rabbit Club

March 29 th
 April 19 th
 May 24 th
 June 6th and 7 th
 July 5 th
 July 26 th
 September Royal Adelaide show
 September 27 th
 October 25 th

The SA Rabbit Fanciers Society

7 March - training day if weather is too hot
 12 April
 24 May
 14 June
 18 July
 9 August
 10 October
 15 November

Sydney Royal

31 March

Sydney City Rabbit Enthusiasts

3 April 5* Phil Batey (UK)
 3 April 3* John Porritt YSS

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