

June 2015



Rabbitopia

The Australian National Rabbit Council Inc. Rabbit Magazine



No sooner have we all caught our breath from the Extravaganza in Hobart and we are starting to prepare for Geelong 2016!!

Look out for details in this Newsletter and online!

In this Issue:

Geelong 2016

ANRCI Learning Weekends

Perpetual Trophy Winners

The RBAT Trophy Story

The Meat Pen

Show Dates of all Clubs across Australia!

ANRCI Committee

Mark Page - WA

Chairperson

Breed Standards Sub Committee

PSP 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

John Porrit—Vic

PSP Sub Committee

Breed Standard Sub Committee

ANRCI Youth Program

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

Seminar success, what a way to give back to the fancy. The idea started with a raffle to raise money for funds, originally the funds were to help with the Extravaganza to finance its costs. But when an idea came from Jenny and Debbie (who were having a bit of a daydream about what they would love to do to support the Fancy if they won Lotto) and a suggestion of where to use the money the best way and the rest is now history. With two seminars down and rave reviews about what is coming out of them from across the fancy. As it was explained in the promotion these are for everyone in the rabbit fancy in Australia and are aimed at growing the Fancy by making it more professional in all aspects. If you missed the first two in your area don't miss their return to do this click on link <http://www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com/club-support.html> register your interest and we will organise another one soon.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank John P, Debbie P and Jenny B (and Jenny P for being John P personal assistant and driver) for their time and dedication they have put into making the seminars what they are. We lose so much knowledge if its not handed back and we don't listen and take heed to our experienced members.

The Extrav was another successful event and another huge learning experience for all involved and I know from all the feedback we have received the host club RBAT did themselves proud and also made us feel so at home and on that note I would like to say on behalf of the ANRCI committee Thankyou and well done.

And with the next breath we are off to Victoria next year. RBAV are hosting and with what has come before them are promising another great event to remember as we head down to Geelong.

With the launch of the new web site <http://www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com/> we will have more information that you can access anytime or down load - like our Breed Standards supplement book. This new website - with its ease to use - we will give each of our clubs access to the actual webpage to keep updated and have the information that they would like on there. At present we have put some general articles up but would love for you to add a local touch to it.

This is what happens when I go fishing

Mark Page

From The Editor:

This month you have two newsletters—your normal one and a supplement all about the Hobart Extravaganza—so enjoy your extra reading!!



RBAV & ANRCI National Rabbit Extravaganza 2016

30 April—1 May 2016 Geelong Victoria

The 2016 event will be held in the Hall of Agriculture at Geelong Showgrounds over the weekend of 30th April 1st May.

The hall exceeds 1000 sq mtrs in size, enough spare to make the event “buzz”.

The Show Grounds has adequate caravan and camping facilities, with showers and toilet blocks. Powered sites are \$20 per night.

Less than 2km away there is the Barwon River Tourist Park, Freecall 1800 657 955, with many self contained cabins, available at around \$100 per night. This may vary as the price schedule for 2016 is not yet finalized.

Restaurants abound in the vicinity of the event, 5 minutes from the site is the Geelong city centre, with its fantastic shopping, food outlets etc, and for those contemplating the night life, and it's there for you.

Depending on the weather, there are magnificent beaches and promenade walks. You will have an opportunity for two Sunday markets, one at the showgrounds and one on the Eastern Beach seafront.

About 30 minutes drive is the Great Ocean Road, national parks, surf beaches and Water theme park to name a few attractions.

Judges are currently being organised - more later.

We have a fantastic team working hard to ensure the best that the fancy has to offer. You will enjoy this event, the biggest and best rabbit event ever in Australia.

RBAV Committee



ANRCI Learning Weekends

Striving for Excellence in Rabbit Exhibition and Breeding

For too long, there has been a realisation that there are clubs and fanciers living in “isolation” with little or no support in the way of guidance, help or advice.

The fancy is much more than buying a couple of rabbits, putting them together and hoping for an outcome. Further, clubs have been formed with little or no recognition of requirements or outcomes which indeed is of little advantage to those trying to make a go of it.

With this in mind, ANRCI has facilitated a programme of education to assist those who seek more from their hobby. To this end, Debbie, Jenny and I are giving our experience, knowledge and time, and are helping and advising all to enjoy the hobby, visiting various areas of the Country. This philosophy is directed at all fanciers regardless of affiliation or involvement. Basically, the approach to bringing people together, which seems to be working judging by discussions seen in the social media.

The programme over two days is designed on the premise “what’s in it for me” and looks at club organisation, operations, requirements and responsibility together with adherence as appropriate to State Government protocols.

Husbandry and health, stock selection and show preparation and much more, are discussed at length. This course is designed to be a precursor to those wishing to look at judges training.

To date, 2 seminars have been completed; both in NSW, at Goulburn and Muswellbrook, and both have received tremendous support. Where to next, Victoria, S.A. and yes W.A. We must say that the interest generated by the participants has been phenomenal, creating much debate and discussion throughout our time together.

I thank Debbie and Jenny for their support. We work well as a team and receive much satisfaction from the feedback we receive, which can surely enhance the fact that ANRCI is doing the right thing.
John Porritt



Watch This Space!!!

Lots of exciting things have been happening with ANRCI these past few months

The Hobart Extravaganza has come and gone and now we are looking forward to the next one in Geelong in May 2016.

This month you have two newsletters. One is filled with all the results from Hobart with lots of photos of the winners. And you also get your usual one....

Our website has been updated and revitalised. Our last host was not as good as we had hoped and was extremely difficult for non nerds to update—which meant it wasn't updated as often as it should have been. The new one is much easier and so we hope it will be updated regularly and will have lots of new information on there. Check it out at <http://www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com/>

Positive Patter.....

Lots of positive vibes for this newsletter.

ANRCI has had two Learning weekends in the last couple of months—one in Goulburn and one in Muswellbrook. The fact that many people gave up their valuable time to attend and to learn is going to be such a positive for the Rabbit Fancy of the future. These people will be the movers and shakers of the future—because they care enough about the Fancy to spend time with each other and two of the most experienced Rabbit Fanciers to learn and grow. The Rabbit Fancy can not grow into the future unless it becomes more professional in all areas—from running a Club, to running a show, to running and managing your own rabbitry. Well done to all that attended (and from all accounts it was freezing at both venues!!)

These keen Fanciers could not have had a seminar to attend if it wasn't for John Porritt and Debbie Pulford giving up their valuable time to run them. Both events required Debbie and John (and Jenny P) to be away from home for several days. They endured starvation, miles and miles of driving, bad car services and a dodgy GPS to get there. So Thank you to both of you for giving back to the Fancy in such a big way. Also Thanks to Jenny P for acting as Johns PA and Typist—and being the driver on those long journeys (1000 kms one way to Muswellbrook)

Stud Prefix Database

ANRCI maintains a National Stud Prefix database which is available for anyone to check online. It can be found at:
<http://www.australiannationalrabbitcouncil.com/national-stud-prefix-database.html>

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!

Perpetual Trophy Winners for 2014

TROPHY	WINNER	NAME	RING NO	DONATED BY
Best Exhibit	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes	13E 00829	ANRCI
Best Exhibitor	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes		ANRCI
Best Fancy	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes	13E 00829	Chalinda
Best Lop	Tinseltown	Melissa Jeffes	13D 00649	Tinseltown
Best Fur	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes	12D 00527	Nardeeneen
Best Rex	King Conin	Jessica & Martyn Connor	13E 01862	King Conin
Angora	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes	13E 00829	Relogl
Astrex	Nardeeneen	Jenny Buckingham	13E 03714	
British Giant	The Diamond	Nanette Jenkins	13H 00175	Tarm
Cashmere Lop	Tinseltown	Melissa Jeffes	13D 00649	Fluffy Friends
Californian	Bosworths Calis		12L 00086	
Chinchilla	Avalands	Maryanne Kipping	13D 02324	Avalands
Chinchilla Giganta	3rd Rock Rabbitry	Sharon Paull	13L 00506	Reguli Rabbit Stud
Dwarf Lops	Forever Hopping	Caitlin Cooper	13C 00468	National Dwarf Lop Club
Dutch	Pipkin	Julie & Brendan Edser	13B 02798	Nardeeneen
English	Robetty	Christina Cooper	13D 03630	Jaelle
French Lop	Bordello	Mulcahy & O'Neill	13H 00146	
German Lops	Mandjar	Rachael Mulcahy	12L1	Bunnie Beauties
Harlequin	Rhosgobel	Maureen Coupland	13E 03713	Nardeeneen
Jersey Woolley	Camelot (Tas)	Sarah Van Steenis	13B 00886	Danielview
"	Talisman	Christine Blamey	13B 00906	
Mini Lops	Mystique	Julia Macaulay	13K 02102	Bedlam Bunnies
Mini Rex	Bolshi Bunnies	Debbie Pulford	13B 05343	Silverlake Bunnies
"	Robetty	Christina Cooper	14B 00976	
"	Dreamchaser	Chris & Michael Dean	14B 02646	
Mini Cashmere	All Ears	Allan Harvey	13C 02969	Mystique
Mini Plush Lop	JK Hoppers	Julie Chard	13K 02872	Tweeny Burrows
Mini Satin	Rigby	Jo Lacey	13D 01846	
Netherland Dwarf	Forever Hopping	Caitlin Cooper	13X 02254	Harlem Shake
New Zealand White		Fran Boston	14H 00510	Sharaway
Polish	Wandin	Jamesy Wilson	13A 00587	Wandin Rabbits
Rex	King Conin	Jessica & Martyn Connor	13E 01862	King Conin
Sable	Camelot (Tas)	Sarah Van Steenis	13D 04218	Tarm
Satin	Hill Bunny	Elissa McNamara	13E 00562	
Satin Rex	Dreamchaser	Chris & Michael Dean	13E 01388	
Silver Fox	Somerset	Adrienne Hawkes	12D 00527	Chonico Bunnies
Smoke Pearl	King Conin	Jessica & Martyn Connor	13D 04219	Dreamchaser
"	Dainty	Sue Greaves	14D 01162	
Swiss Fox	Samsara	Sarah Graham	14E 03799	Nardeeneen
Tan	Camelot (Vic)	Amanda Hines	13B 05339	Chonico Bunnies
Thrianta	Forest Gait	Mich Winter	13D 02659	Chonico Bunnies
Tri Dutch	Arteemis	Chantelle Boahm	13D 03758	Arteemis

RBAT Trophies for Extravaganza 2015



In Hobart for the 2015 Extravaganza so many people admired the magnificent Trophies that RBAT had commissioned for the winners. Made from native Tasmanian wood by Peter Van Tilburg they were the centre of much admiration. So I asked Lorna to tell us the story of the wood that made up the trophies.....

When Peter and I were approached to create trophies, for the Convention: to represent RBAT. It was with trepidation but pride to exhibit our gifts that only a few had seen within our club.

We were asked if we had any 'Huon Pine'. We both just looked at each other and knew what Huon Pine we were going to use! But we needed a good contrasting timber and immediately chose the Blackwood, not just any old Blackwood but our special stack. We had Black-

wood from a 100 year tree that had been hit by lightning. It was a deep Blackwood colour.

The Huon Pine we had hidden away that we both chose to use was special to us not just because we love our native timbers but because of its history and ownership!

Frank was his name, just simply Frank. We never asked his surname, never got that formal. To him, we were Dutchy (Peter) and Little Mrs (Me).

We met Frank more than 10 years ago. He walked into our shop at Penguin and blew a whistle. 'You made all this mate?' Peter just looked up from his Scroll Saw and just smiled. Their friendship grew from that.

Frank would come in most weekends and he and Peter would talk. I would listen as a captured audience to the stories of Frank's life. He was a fit, strong, 85 years young when we met him and so very passionate about his trees.

Frank had been a logger, as was his Dad and his Dad before him. He told us of trees that 27 men with outstretched arms could barely get around. How they walked the trees down as they felled. The trees stood like ancient giants reaching for the heavens. How they would carefully select and hand cut each tree.

He hated the logging carried out now. 'Disrespectful, what about all those youngins (saplings) trying to come up to become giants. Who's looking after em?' 'Have these blokes ever got out of their damn machines, touched the tree they are just shoving over.. doubt it.. just money now no care no thought!' Frank had little time for today's foresters.

Our weekend talks ended three years ago when we left Penguin. But Frank called in to see Dutchy (Peter) now and again to make sure he was okay. The beginning of last year Frank came over and his mood was a little different. "You need to come over, need to show you something," we went.

Drove up Frank's driveway to see an old shed older than Frank.. 'Come in and have a look', Peter and I were quite quizzical at this stage. We stepped into his 'barn' and sitting in a big neat as button stack was the most glorious Huon Pine we had ever seen.

"Me Dad felled that" was Frank's response to my jaw dropping.. he then took out this old photo of a glorious giant tree with two men, one standing either side of it. "Me Dad and his Dad, this is some of that tree". We were in awe. Frank began to tell us the story of his Dad's tree.

"It was in the way, you see. They wanted to put in a road but this old girl was in their way. Me Dad told them to change the road the tree should be left alone. But government men don't listen they just want their way. So me Dad and his Dad, well they had to cut it down so they did. Took 'em three days. But the tree she was too long, too big to fit in their skids so me Dad had to cut it up some more. He did not like that much.. well anyway there was a big piece left over and they were going to burn her. Dad and his Dad

RBAT Trophies for Extravaganza 2015

"It was in the way, you see. They wanted to put in a road but this old girl was in their way. Me Dad told them to change the road the tree should be left alone. But government men don't listen they just want their way. So me Dad and his Dad, well they had to cut it down so they did. Took 'em three days. But the tree she was too long, too big to fit in their skids so me Dad had to cut it up some more. He did not like that much.. well anyway there was a big piece left over and they were going to burn her. Dad and his Dad said nope she was going home with them. So they did, they brought her home. She sat here for such a long time but when me Dad died I decided to cut her up and make something for him. Well did that but was left with all this. Have never known what to do with it all. It had to be something special see not just anything, something special so thought of you Dutchy, you could use it. You make something good so she keeps on going. Yeah would like that so would me Dad and his Dad, yep you are the right one.

In silence and in complete shock we loaded the van up to the roof with this piece of Frank's life and with a huge hug (and a tear) left Frank waving goodbye. That was the last time we saw Frank. He died a month later at the young age of 96.

So the timber was chosen but then had to come up with a design that paid homage to the timbers we were going to use. "Height, it must have height to show Australia, Rbat is tall and strong like our trees had been", that was my instruction from hubby when starting to design.

So the finished trophy represents the strength of Rbat in correlation to the trees that blessed us with timbers that will forever age with the Rbat insignia pinnacle. And each trophy has referenced a rabbit to the class representation to symbolise that breed distinction.

Hopefully the recipients of the trophies will remember the 2nd ANRCI National Rabbit Extravaganza with pride of their accomplishment!



Rabbits for Meat

THE MEAT PEN

It is fair to say that all fanciers have a commercial influence.

Whilst we breed with exhibition in mind, inevitably surplus stock becomes part of the cycle and disposal does require much thought and decision. Unfortunately, as much as we would perhaps like, we cannot keep everything we breed.

Whilst some choose to “sell on” to pet shops, or other fanciers, there are others who may look towards the food market as an outlet.

True, room for positive thought, and one which deserves investigation. Overseas, especially Europe, Asia and USA, clubs exist for exhibition, fur and meat. Let’s talk USA where recognition of the commercial animals achieves such a high profile that meat classes are an integral part of all shows. Whilst animals have a commercial Standard, covering meat, fur, condition etc, there is the requirement to adhere to ARBA breed standard for faults and disqualifications, as listed in the exhibition segment, consequently it can be said that commercial animals are subject to a double dipping of faults and/or disqualifications.

Ok, let me explain a little further:

Commercial animals are categorized as Fryers, Roasters, and Stewers and are a demonstration of the breeder’s ability to produce a market animal of consistent size and quality.

FRYERS: young rabbits under 10 weeks of age, with a weight range of 1.5kg to 2.5kg.

ROASTERS: are rabbits 10 weeks to 6 months, with a maximum weight of 4 kg.

STEWERS: adult animals with perhaps very little demand.

In general terms, schedules list the meat section as an integral part of the show, animals being judged not only individually, but in the case of young animals, as meat pens/ 3 young rabbits (fryers) alike in size, weight and stature, and of the same breed and colour, i.e. following ARBA standard. Bear in mind that 3 rabbits of individual weight, may not uniform in size.

Now to look at the judging scene: As previously mentioned, all exhibits must adhere to the ARBA Breed Standard of Perfection and faults and disqualifications together with a commercial standard, which covers meat, condition of flesh and uniformity of body and weight. All animals must be in prime condition and should be smooth, firm, solid, thus providing a high quality meat. Pelt should be tight over the body, without flabbiness, looseness, heavy belly – displaying good overall health.

The rules governing the meat pen go a little further, in that should any one rabbit be outside weight limits for fryers, or show any disqualifying fault, and then the whole pen is disqualified from competition.

In the USA, commercial rabbit farming is so highly cherished, that foundation bucks can cost many thousands of dollars, with outstanding monetary prizes being the goal of many.

Recently a State Fair attracted 114 commercial exhibits – the winner receiving \$6000, 2nd \$4000 and 3rd place \$1000. Even the 30th exhibit received \$125. All US dollars of course.

This then is the scenario in the USA but then they have the population, the facilities and the outlets to facilitate this exciting part of the Fancy. But then, can this contribute to the future of the rabbit fancy in this country.

John P

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 * - Alicia Balzan (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

20 & 21 June 5* - ASS & YSS

12 July 1* - TBA

9 August 1* TBA

Sept 2* - TBA

18 Oct 2* - TBA

15 Nov 2 * - TBA

Rabbit Breeders Assoc of Tasmania

10 Jan 2* Sarah Van Steenis

10 Jan 2* - Alicia Balzan

14 Feb 1* Nanette Jenkins

14 Feb 1* Ryan Page

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

14 Nov 1* - Vanessa Sullivan

12 Dec 1* - Alicia Balzan

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

Adelaide Rabbit Club

17 May 2* Ryan Page

17 May 1* Sarah van Steenis

14 June 2* Chris Dean

19 July Training Day

2 August 1* Maryanne Kipping

20 Sept Debbie Pulford

11 October Allan Harvey

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

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*

Sydney City Rabbit Enthusiasts

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

ANRCI FOR SALE



Bumper Stickers \$5



ANRCI Pens \$5



Wall Sticker \$2



Cloth Badge \$15