

# Tasmanian Rare Breeds Poultry Club



## *Rare Feathers*



Volume 6 Episode 2 **Newsletter** June 2011

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello all,

Another show season is under way and no doubt you have all got your champions looking at their best and ready to take on the world. It is a very testing time for us poultry fanciers – not enough daylight hours to do all we need/want to do and poor weather conditions which make it difficult to keep the winners in show condition. Remember to give your birds quality feed and do not over show them – keep them fresh – and keep a regular check on the non show team birds – they can change and improve quite quickly – and you would not want to leave the best one at home. There are some of you who have not yet shown your poultry. If you are thinking of doing so but just not quite sure of the procedures, just contact one of us on the committee – we would be happy to assist. Showing your own birds provides an excellent chance to talk to other fanciers, ask questions and build on your knowledge.

With our Rare Breed Show and Auction only a couple of months away, let's all give some thought to how we can improve this great weekend. In particular, how we can best promote the keeping, breeding and showing of rare poultry. Either come to a meeting or pass on your suggestions to any committee member.

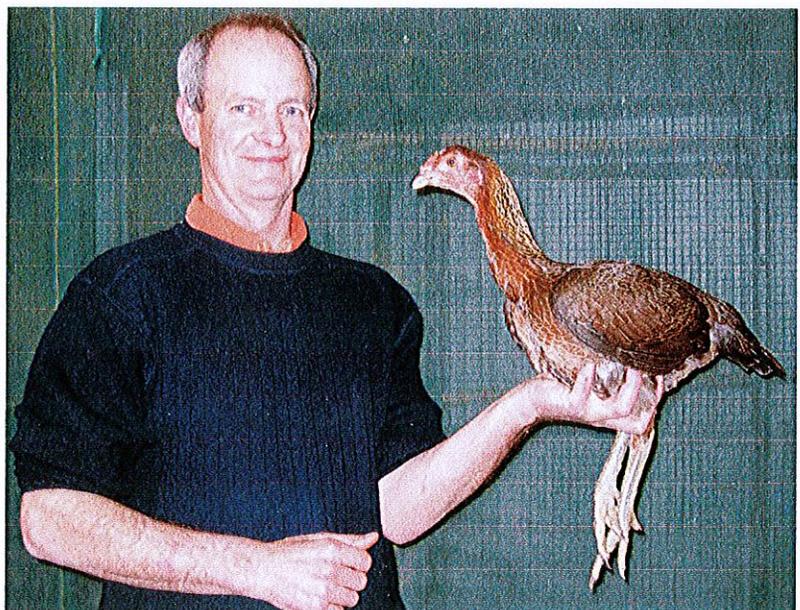
We now have our regular meetings at the Glenorchy Showground so once the meeting has ended we can have some birds there to discuss. If anyone has birds that they would like to have assessed or just a discussion to learn more, don't hesitate to bring them along. We can also go through the standard as it applies to birds and discuss show points and judging techniques or any other matter that anyone may wish to bring up. Most likely if you have a question, someone else is also looking for the same answer.

We can only look, listen and learn and maybe breed the occasional champion along the way but even more satisfying is to just appreciate the birds we each have in our own back yard.

Happy showing.

Cheers,

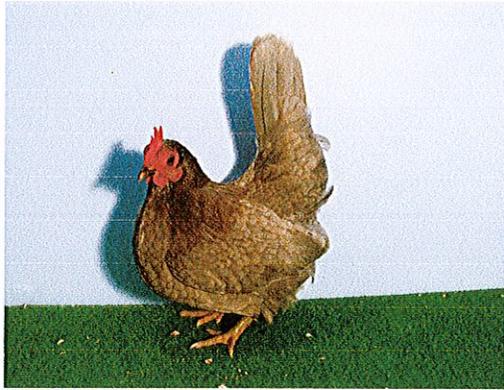
Richard Poke, President.



# RARE BREEDS ANNUAL SHOW 2011

**SATURDAY AUGUST 27**

**HOBART SHOWGROUNDS**



**TWO INTERSTATE JUDGES**

**DALLAS SMITH**

Rare Breeds Section

**GAVIN WOODS**

# AUCTION 2011

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28**

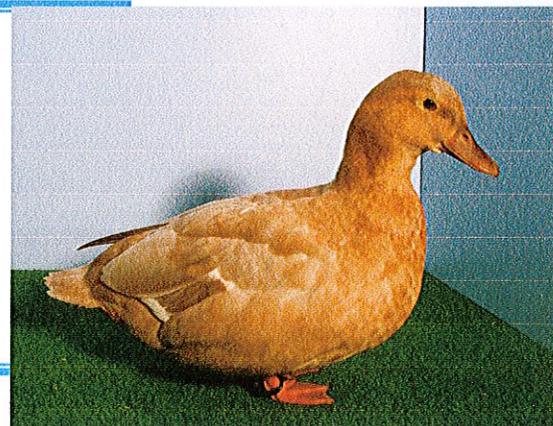
**HOBART SHOWGROUNDS**

**WHAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO SEE**

- RARE AND PURE BREEDS
- EGG LAYING HENS
- TOP QUALITY SHOW STOCK
- GOOD PUREBRED STOCK FOR THE BACKYARD FARM
- WATERFOWL
- ASSORTED POULTRY EQUIPMENT INCL FEEDERS

**SHOW AND AUCTION SCHEDULES  
OUT SOON**

**IF YOU ARE WANTING A COPY OF OUR SHOW AND  
AUCTION SCHEDULES  
PLEASE CONTACT DEANNE LANCE (SECRETARY)  
ON 0419 870 666**



# Breeder Profile:

## *Isaac Walker*

Let me introduce Isaac Walker to you. He is only 13, but has been breeding his chicken of choice, the Silkie, for almost 7 years. He has been home schooled for many years, and this has helped build his love of chickens according to him. He has had his photography of chickens published in Jackie French's *Chook Book*, won numerous prizes at shows, and he recently even did a 'talk' on chickens at 'The Center', a get-together meeting for the elderly and disabled who wish to 'socialise' which is held monthly by the Anglican Church of St Clements, Kingston. Isaac is also due to have an entire book of chicken photography by him to be published in the near future.

But none of the above is really what this is about. What counts is that Isaac is a great supporter of fellow juniors, and he has donated several Junior Encouragement Awards to various poultry clubs and societies during his time as a member of the hobby. He is also dedicated to rare breeds, and in fact the selection of birds he breeds consists entirely of rare varieties or breeds, including Red Jungle Fowl, Japanese Bantams and Silkies. The "What we breed" page on his personal website boasts an impressive selection of rare breeds that he and his family breed, including Aylesbury Ducks, Brahma's, Blue Australorps, and rare coloured Muscovy Ducks. Many people may also know Barry, the white Silkie cockerel which Isaac imported from the Tisdell family of NSW last year, who has won several Reserve Champion Juniors and Reserve Champion Soft-Feather Larges.

The Walker's also live the lifestyle they promote. When you visit the Walker families property, Skye Farm, you find an almost classic story-book farm, except the chickens are all weird and wonderful varieties, and the house is reminiscent of a Swedish mountain lodge. The family of chickens includes Adolf, who goose-steps instead of walking normally, Ginger Nut, the strangest coloured Silkie you will ever meet, who was eventually classed a 'Harlequin', Bluestein, the Buff Blue Columbian Silkie cockerel who has progeny in every colour from Partridge to Blue, and many other unique characters.

The Walker's have many other animals, including a deaf quarter-horse called Misty, the lovable but huge German Shepherd, Duke, the one-eyed tailless long haired moggy Jake, and the ducks who have a liking for lining up from biggest to smallest, meaning the enormous Aylesbury leads the way, while the pair of tiny and petite Call drakes come in last. Stepping inside the house is like changing worlds. The Walker's, who include Judi, Isaac's mother who loves to crack jokes, Adrian, Isaac's father who is an avid collector of antique books, and Peter and Samuel, the twins who are complete opposites, in both personalities and looks, and Isaac himself, are all very friendly and you will almost always be treated to a divine home-made biscuit, cake or scone, with a hot cup of tea when you sit down, and the rustic charm of the cathedral ceilings, 50 foot long lounge, and the Huon Pine benches and Black Wood clad interior will rub off on you for certain and Isaac's 'Chicken Collection' is sure to charm, which includes everything from stuffed chicken toys to ceramics, antique stickers and chicken medallions.

# The Hamburg: A part of History

Initially while researching Hamburgs through the many old poultry books from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century it is clear the type has been recorded from as early as the 15<sup>th</sup> Century when a pencilled variety was described by Aldrovandus in 1630. Its also from my research appears the local English spangled fowl may owe its colouring and type to the Spitzbargen which is described in early text in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century having been imported from the northern continent. Long there has been the question of the origin of the spangled variety that seems to have been created in the counties of Lancashire. Each variety from the county's had their own name and specific spangling type, while the Lancashire variety were called Moonies, the variety from Yorkshire, the Crescents, had more crescent shaped spangles, in fact breeders of the day considered it beneficial to breed their full moon males over "nutty" or crescent females.

It was not till later that the variety known as Dutch Everlasting Layers was introduced into England, although they were not pencilled as first thought, but barred! As proof, a stuffed specimen of a "pencilled" Hamburg hen is in a glass case at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham. Towards the late 1800s a sub variety appeared from Holland of which the pencilling were described more like "cobwebs" on the feathers and a blackish variety appeared as well described as not having the thick blotches giving the bird a silvery grey or a tinged brown appearance their hackles were pure white with black tails that were traced with white, this variety was called Mossies and were much admired.

Very shortly after a black Hamburg appeared and were titled as Black or Gold Pheasants, or Bolton Bays. The new Dutch varieties were known also locally as Chittiprats or Praters, so called for their monotonous chattering sounds the hens admitted long before laying their eggs. It is from this term describing the very popular fowl that the common saying "prattling on" arises to describe a person who talks away for no apparent reason. Of course we have many new varieties of Hamburgs today - White, Blue and Splashed, as well as Bantams of most colours.

Below I have formulated a chart describing the 2 different cataloged varieties of the 1800s.

**Pencilled fowls with light hackles;** Chittiprat, Bolton Greys, Penciled Dutch, Silver Hamburg and Creel or Coral.

**PencilLed fowls with dark hackles ;** Bolton bay and Gold Hamburg

**Spangled fowls with light hackles;** Silver spangles, Silver Pheasants, Silver Moonies and Silver Moss.

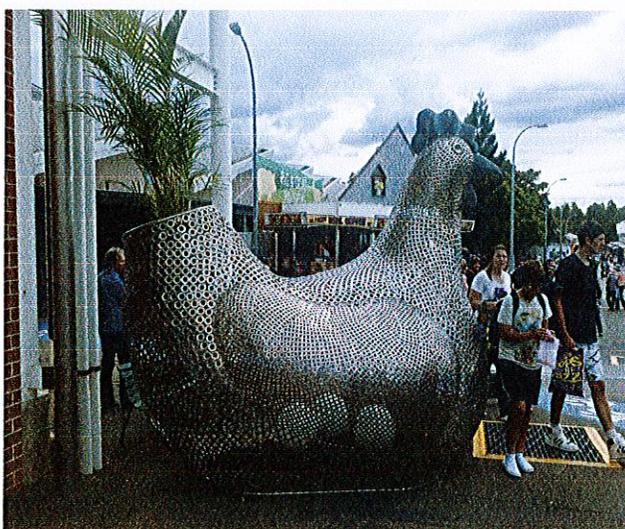
**Spangle fowls with dark hackles;** Gold spangles, Gold Pheasant, Gold Mooney, Red Caps and Copper Moss.

# **Rare Breeds & Varieties Shine at Sydney Royal Easter Show 2011**

Several rare breeds or varieties were successful in procuring major awards at this years show under specialist judge John Gibson.

With the poultry exhibits inhabiting the pavilion for the full 14 days of the show it was quite a challenge for exhibitors to prepare their entries for this early show.

To the credit of their owners a rare breed Malay was Champion Hard Feather Large Male owned by Norm Black and a rare variety Cuckoo OEG was Champion Hard Feather Large female owned by A. Mountney & M. Claxton.



The Rare Breed Poultry Club of Tasmania wishes to thank the following business's for there contribution to the Annual Show and Auction in 2010:

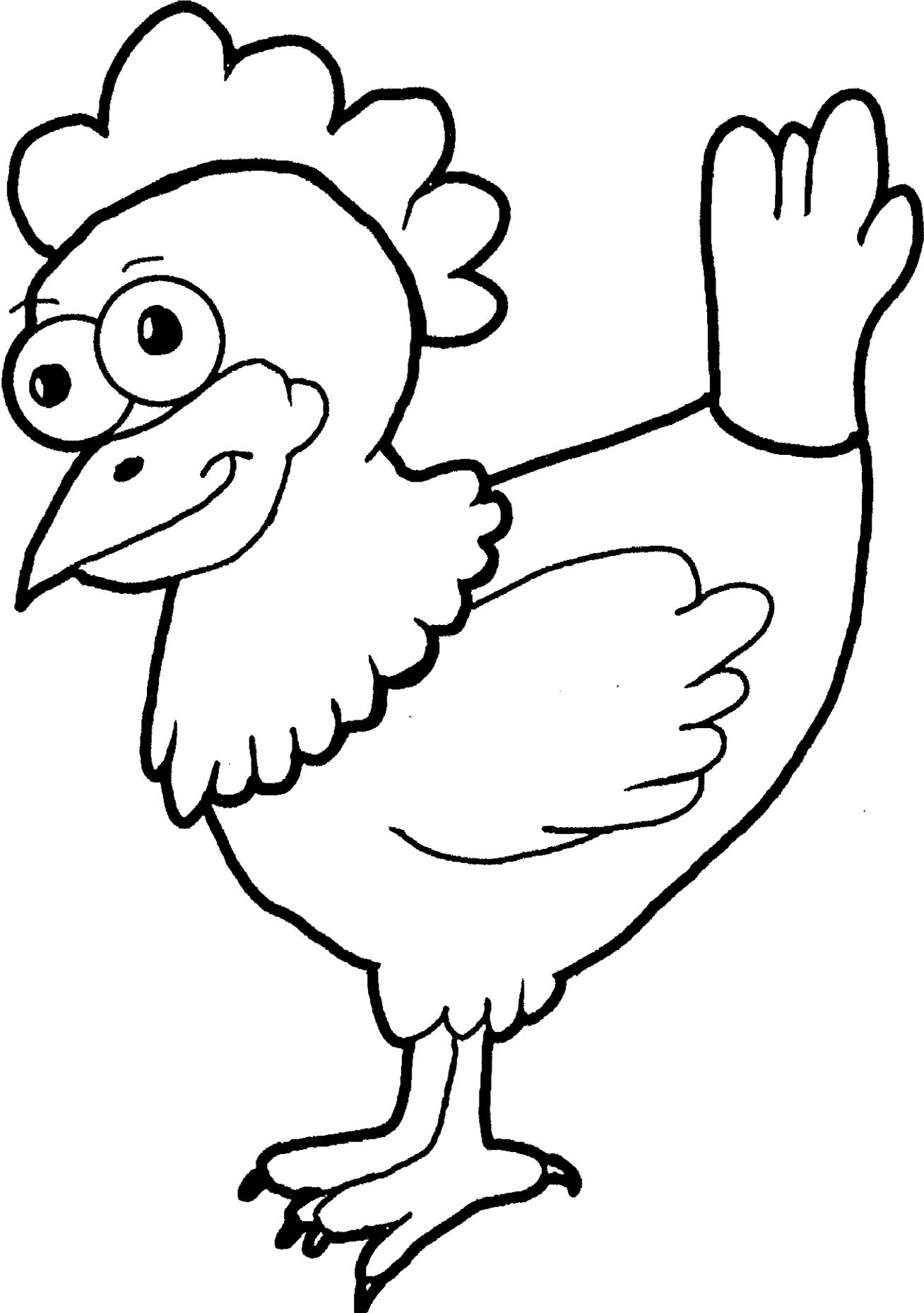
**VIEW Tasmania**

**Totally Organic**

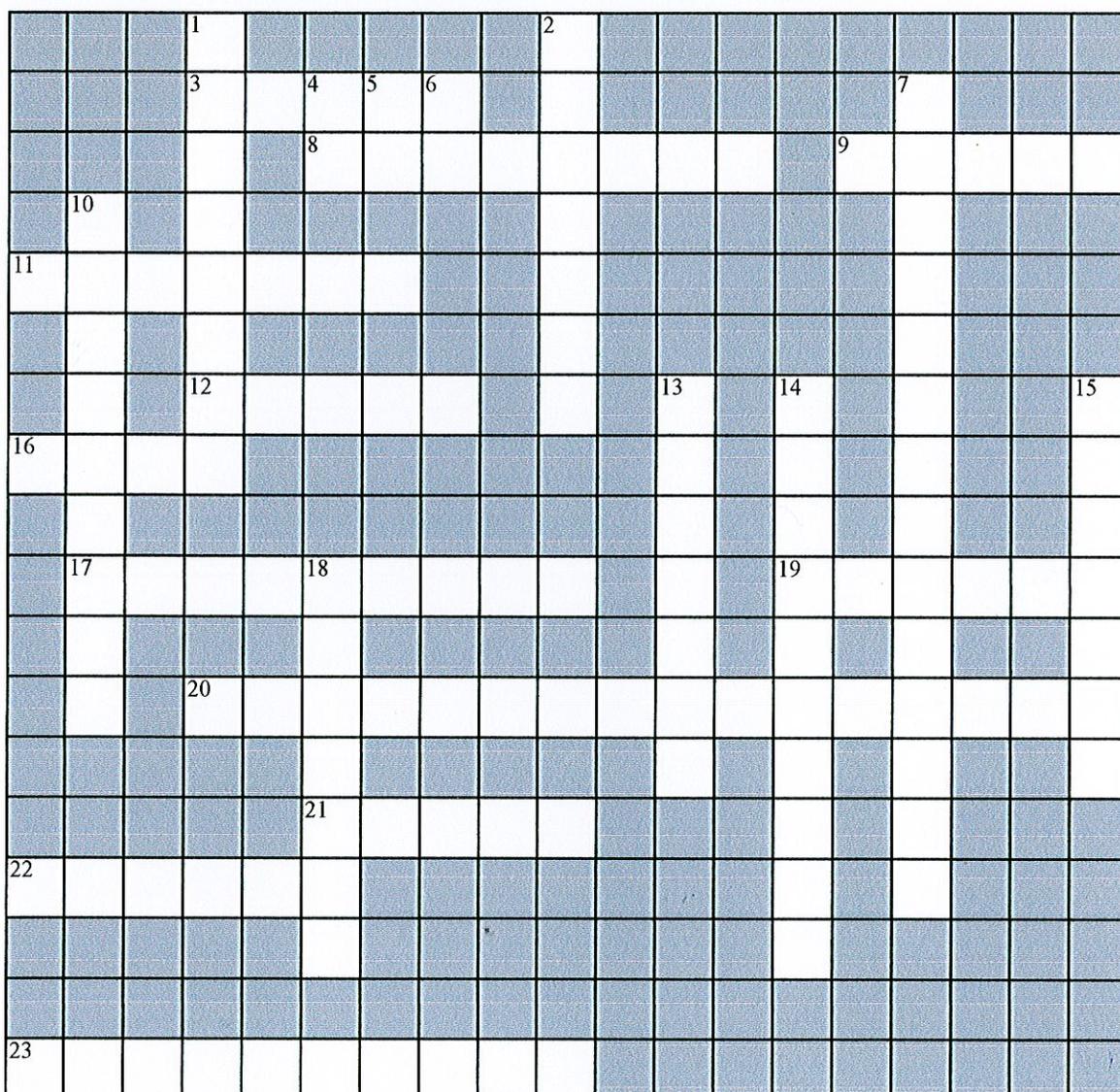
**Coffee Bean Frenzy**

**Glenorchy Lions Club**

Colour it in



# Test Your Poultry Knowledge



## ACROSS

3. Name of a rare hardfeather breed
8. Name a serious fault
9. Another name for light brown
11. Another name for Indian Game
12. Name part of a Turkey
16. How many toes does a favorolle have?
17. What duck has a girls name
19. Where do Guinea Fowl originate from
20. Name a frizzle waterfowl
21. What breed lays a dark brown egg
22. Name of main feather in tail
23. What breed was once thought to be crossed with a turkey?

## DOWN

1. Name of a true Bantam
2. Name of colour of a fowl
7. What do all Mediterranean poultry breeds have in common?
10. Grey or smokey colour appearing where not wanted
13. Type of poultry comb
14. Name a colour of a Turkey
15. Name a colour of a fowl
18. Name part of an egg

# TASMANIAN RARE BREEDS POULTRY CLUB INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM

Thank you for applying to join the TRBPC Inc. Please complete this form and post it with your payment money order or cheque made out to Tasmanian Rare Breeds Poultry Club Inc. to 17 Granary Place Sandford Tas 7020.

Name	
Address	
City, State, Post-code	
Country	
Phone	
Mobile	
Fax	
Email	

Age (Please tick box)

Adult (16 years or older)

Junior under 16 years old

Junior date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want your details registered on our TRBPC Breeders Register? Yes No (Please circle)

This information can be given out to people who are looking for the particular breed you have. (Please circle what information you would like given out)

Mobile only

Home Phone

Address

All

Membership rates: Adult member \$15 junior member \$4 Family/Non-for-profit \$25

(Annual membership fees fall due on 30 June each year)

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

What Breeds to you currently keep?


All members of the TRBPC Inc. are asked to actively support the clubs activities and objectives and follow the clubs constitution.

I agree to abide by the club's constitution guidelines:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_