

MEDIA RELEASE

THE CHICKEN AND THE EGG

It could be the largest hen house in Australia. The RNA's poultry pavilion has a new entrance designed as a rustic fowl yard to make the birds feel right at home.

A new large designer pond for waterfowl of all descriptions and an arched cage for exotic pheasants lead to the renovated entrance.

Touring American poultry fanciers will make the poultry pavilion the focus of their Australian tour and attend the Feather Clubs of Australia annual dinner on Friday, August 8.

Americans Lou Horton and Jim Adkins will join the judging panel for the show.

Lou Horton will be judging all single classes of Waterfowl, excluding geese, with Jim Adkins judging all geese, Pair, Trios and Juniors in the Waterfowl section.

Jim is a well credentialed Waterfowl and Poultry Judge and on previous tours has judged at the Warwick Poultry Show and at the National Plymouth Rock Show in Tamworth.

Lou Horton is arguably America's finest waterfowl judge and is a past president of the International Waterfowl Breeders' Association. Currently he is Vice President of the American Bantam Association, one of that country's peak poultry organizations.

Lou is the author of various books on Waterfowl and is a regular feature writer for Poultry Press, the leading American poultry magazine.

Entries in the Unusual Egg competition will be one of the more fascinating exhibits on view for the American visitors and Ekka patrons.

RNA Councillor, Bill Ryan, says one of the great features of the pavilion is the number of young people involved in the various competitions and breed organisations.

Young fanciers will provide demonstrations at the Ekka and explain how to get involved in the fascinating activities involved in poultry breeding.

Cr Ryan says it is not only humans who can be divided into the shy and retiring and the gregarious.

Visitors to this year's poultry pavilion at the Ekka will be greeted by feathered friends described as "socially competent" by the students of bird psychology.

The larger parrots and pheasants are in this order of outgoing personalities while canaries and budgerigars are a shy, retiring lot, who get all in a twitter if confronted by the public at too close quarters.

Large cages to provide better conditions for the viewing public and the birds have been arranged for maximum benefit to both species.

Nothing symbolizes the Ekka more than the noise of the poultry pavilion.

The range of clucks, quacks and cackles immediately links the visitor to the rural scene and sends its own promotional message from dawn to dusk while the show is in progress.

Frizzle hens with their back-to-front feathers resembling a feather duster are among the more fascinating species on display.
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**For further information please call Nan Dwyer 07 3253 3923
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