



Jack Burgan

Jack Burgan, 50, of Gawler, must be one of the best known pigeon flyers in SA.

He has been involved with the sport for 34 years.

And he is an even more familiar figure in SA Homing Pigeon Association and Combine circles because of his twice-a-week training service for metropolitan owners.

On alternate Sundays Jack travels north or south up to 100 miles in his familiar blue painted pigeon truck. He frees metropolitan birds along the way at predetermined release points.

This gives owners the chance to educate their champions, and leaves them at home to await the birds' arrival. Without a service of this type owners would have to transport their own birds individually — a time consuming and costly business.

Jack is a member of the Gawler Club in the SAHPA.

Each season he starts with about 110 flyers and 18 breeding pairs. They are from original strain, which incorporates a mixture of Lester-Logan-Briko-Stassart-Sion and Guernay bloodlines.

They have proved a winning combination on many occasions, and although Jack has yet to train an association winner, he has had birds placed second and downwards in a number of events.

At one stage of his career Jack had won the Gawler club points 23 years out of 26.

The original birds which formed the foundation of his loft came from Laurie Thamm and Jim Todd, two fine flyers from the Port Adelaide Association.

Jack finds that his pigeons of today are best suited up to the middle distance events.

Exports from his loft have travelled to all Australian States and owners, including leading flyers in Queensland and Tasmania, are winning with birds from his champions today.

When Interstate flyers come to SA each year for the



SAHPA social a number can usually be found staying with Jack and his wife Vi at their Gawler home.

Similarly when Jack and his wife travel interstate they usually stay with friends in the game.

Jack's latest "baby" is the SAHPA race transporter which is expected to take to the road this week-end for the opening race of the SAHPA season from Carrieton.

The unit, built at a cost of nearly \$10,000, was principally constructed by Jack. He did most of the building and designing, along with John and Lee Fenton, two other Gawler identities.

They were also aided by a special transport committee formed by the SAHPA.

Jack, who has carted more than 1m. pigeons for release in the past seven years, has incorporated many new ideas into the transporter. It has its own lighting, heating and cooling systems, as well as onboard feeding and watering facilities.

It is almost like a "luxury hotel" for pigeons, and Jack is confident it will prove one of the best units of its type in the world. — GRAHAM BADGER.

RESULTS

Port Wakefield: Skyline Continental, 56 miles (14,193) — G. Stuart 1.8.34, G. Stuart 1.9.3, A. Ellis 1.9.17.