

PIGEON NOTES



Stan Ferguson

Stan Ferguson of the Henley and Grange club created history last year when a hen-bird from his loft won Morundah in the SA Homing Pigeon Association for the second year in succession.

It helped Stan win sixth place in the aggregate points of the association.

It also brought to five the number of separate association race winners housed in Stan's loft.

Last season Stan trained a second SAHPA race winner, from Oodnadatta, and seven winners in his club.

The Oodnadatta event was won by a margin of one-and-a-half hours.

The Morundah winner had flown on the south line, the three years prior to its entry into the Morundah events.

Stan's brother, Jim, is a successful flyer with the Magill club.

He races the same families.

These include Clay-Barker from the loft of Harold Peterson in East Suburban club.

Logan (Verco and Willoughby of Henley and Grange club) and Smut (Max Smith of Lefevre).

Stan races hens and cockbirds, but stops the latter when the weather becomes too hot to control them.

He admits that he has had several good performances

from the cockbirds early in the season.

One of the secrets behind Stan's success is that he breeds most of his youngsters from young stockbirds.

He does, however, have a few pair of proven old birds which he mates to perpetuate his stock loft each season.

Stan has been chairman of the Henley and Grange club for about 12 years.

He is 57 and operates a laundry business.

The Grange loft houses about 130 pigeons and about 90 of this number are actual flying birds.

Although Stan has never trained his pigeons in "night flying" he has had several late night and early morning arrivals.

His dual Morundah winner was among the pigeons which have homed in the dark.

Stan is helped in the sport by one of his two grown sons, Malcolm.

It was Malcolm who timed in the Temora winner on one of the winning races.

Stan lets his birds out once a day or twice a day when the racing calendar moves into the long races.

He hopper feeds his pigeons on peas and wheat, and provides millet and linseed for returning racebirds when they have been on the wing for most of the day.

Stan has been racing pigeons for about 14 years and is in the top echelon of the sport. — GRAHAM BADGER.