

Chairman's Report – 2019 Season

The SAHPA Committee designed a successful race program, we were able to hold ALL the races scheduled, the release panel monitored the weather very well and changed the release day when required. The program was increased from 4 to 6 long distance races and was designed so that the longer North races were held earlier before the probability of hotter weather and this meant we returned to racing Marla 970km and held two Coober Pedy 750km races on the North and a Benalla 680km and two Springhurst 740km races on the South East.

The Rotavax vaccine was available before the start of the race season which provided great relief to many flyers and administrators and we must thank Dr. Walker, Dr. White and the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board for their commitment to developing the vaccine. We were in the first shipment of Vaccine as our \$5,000 donation was one of the first to donate to the ANRPB fund.

Our membership this year was 159 plus 29 country affiliate members.

Jim Marafiote had another great season winning the Overall Aggregate Points with Nenad Stojakovic finishing second, Horrocks and Seiboth third. Ross Chapman won the short distance points with Hinkler Lofts second and our General Secretary John Harper finishing third. Nick Albanos finished the season strongly winning the SA Long Distance point with Horrocks and Seiboth second, Greg and Stephanie Kakoschke finishing third.

I wish to thank the SAHPA Management Committee Nenad Stojakovic, Perry Burton, Peter Burke, Phil Squire and David Buxton plus the 2 members who retired from the committee earlier in the year, David Thalbourne and Paul Springett. They are all very dedicated to improving the race program offered by the SAHPA and maximising the returns. Our monthly meetings often go until 11pm at night, members probably do not realise how much work the committee do and give their time freely. Our General Secretary John Harper spends many hours each week all year round on SAHPA activities and keeps the association running smoothly. Many hours are also devoted to the annual presentation, preparing certificates and trophies. I rely weekly on advice and assistance from our Vice Chairperson Paul Springett.

We have improved the drainage system at the SAHPA Hall, Ray McIlduff has done an incredible job for us at a very low cost. Nenad Stojakovic also saved us quite a bit of money by doing the race liberator job for 4 of the early races for no charge and he also built the stair case at the back of the hall to the loading dock for only the cost of materials



At the annual presentation we awarded Ray Pimlott (pictured above) the Grant Paterson award for outstanding service to the SAHPA. Ray has been driving the Southern Training unit for the SAHPA and went to extra lengths to help out this season by picking up birds from down south and meeting up and loading birds on unit driven by Don Schwarz a previous winner of the award. Ray also picked up the Ute and had it serviced on multiple times in his own time.

Grant Paterson was in attendance at the Annual Presentation to hand over the award and Grant gave us an interesting talk on SAHPA history in particular how the Gepps Cross land and club rooms were procured.

Once again, most the flyers that finished in the Top 30 of the Aggregate Points donated birds for an online auction which raised \$7113, Tim Fawcett provides his online auction site for no commission, our only expense is the photos. Thank you very much Tim, all the donours and the buyers from around Australia.

The SAHPA Committee are continuing to work hard to try and keep the costs down, we have deregistered for GST as from 1/1/2020 as we are now below the \$150,000 income threshold for Not for Profit organisations. Please join with me and be positive about the 2020 season.

Yours in Sport,

Gavin Harris

SAHPA - Chairperson