



## **WARRNAMBOOL Open** 143owners 1565b

Won by Jim Donald of the Para club with a 3 year old cock, whose Sire is from John Pryor's Family of Goodger's, the dam is Kakoschke. This Cock flew all stages on the North line as a baby then all stages of the West line as a two year old then was switched to the SE line as a 3 year old and flew every 2 weeks before winning the Warrnambool Open.

Jim has a 2 acre block just east of Two Wells, plenty of room for the pigeons compared to those of us that live in the city. His family of birds has been created from a mixture of the old Australian

bloodlines of Pryor, Kakoschke and Goodger's from I Kutcher, Harrison's and the Jurions from Keith Saggars.

Jim first started racing in the Bass Hill club in Sydney in 1966 and has flown in the NSW town of Young. Some of his highlights over the years have been having the only bird home on the day from Gilgandra to Young on 2 occasions, winning the Vin Blanden Trophy from Coober Pedy when only 25 birds were home on the day, 2<sup>nd</sup> SAHPA The Twins and of course winning Warrnambool in 2013.

Jim breeds from around 25 pairs each year and breeds around 120 youngsters and adds whatever old birds are left from the season before. Best to best are mated together when breeding.

During the breeding season they are fed mainly peas with some wheat and a little maize. Grit and mineral powders are refreshed daily. The race mix is 2 parts peas 4 parts wheat 1 part maize with a little barley white rice and linseed. For each 100km the race distance increases 1 extra part of maize



is added towards basket day the birds are fed in trays and eat and they are not taken away until the last bird has finished. The youngsters are trained and flown north and the old birds are trained over the hills and flown every 2 weeks on the opposite line. As this method tests his pigeons they have to fly for 4 years before they get a spot in the Stock loft.

The only medication given is Moxidectin for worms and lice control before racing starts. The birds look a picture of health and are kept as close to nature as possible with plenty of fresh air and sunshine.