

W & M Griffith - Wedderburn 8BS Winner - 06291 SA04 BGH

Wayne has been involved in racing pigeons for some 40 years, starting with Hampstead Juniors in 1967 while he was still at school. He joined Vitesse in 1970 and has been a member since and is currently racing from Modbury. Highlights of his career include three SAHPA wins (Cooper Pedy in 1995, Booroorban in 2005 and the Wedderburn 8BS in 2007).

He uses 50 Pairs of stock birds to breed around 200 young, and adds about 40 2yo's to his race team. The birds are 'old Dangerfield' family plus van Loons from Ponderosa and John Cock. His recent winning birds have been van Loon x Dangerfield.

Race birds are flown for 40-50 minutes daily and are hand fed twice a day on a mixture of peas, wheat, maize, milo safflower and linseed. He uses maize in greater quantities if the weather is cold. Small seeds from Gilbertsons are provided as titbits, and apple cider is provided twice a week in water. Pink powder is available at all times.



Young birds are loft trained and working well before the older hens are added to the race team - very few 2yo cocks are raced. Once the birds are working well, they are tossed at around 35 kms some 6-8 weeks before racing



begins. As Wayne is self employed, the training tosses are only done on weekends (both days), and he tosses to a maximum of around 95kms by first race. Weekly tossing from 95 kms is completed during the racing season. Wayne generally tosses in one direction only - that being to the north.

During racing the loft is cleaned once per day, and returning race birds have preventative medication (for canker and respiratory) - generally SAHPA races only. Turbosole and Triple-X are the drugs of choice.

Breeding birds are hopper fed peas, plus some maize, wheat and small seed by hand as extras. He notes that the birds look forward to his visits and the dispensing of the extras - they become very energetic, fly to the wire and generally 'let him know their expectations'.

Birds are paired at the completion of racing in October, and he breeds from his best race birds and those birds put aside specifically for stock. He generally inbreeds (while performance continues) then outcrosses, and backcrosses as necessary.

Wayne thinks that it is harder to fly pigeons these days. He finds himself breeding larger numbers to ensure he can be competitive and compensate for the losses. He is unable to provide answers for the more difficult conditions.

Wayne would like to see more limit flying, and a way to make it more worth while to fly pigeons. He questions the value of the current transport unit, and notes that a modern smaller unit offers the possibility of birds being liberated in better condition, and therefore the prospect of better returns.

For novices and new flyers he advises that they should approach leading flyers and studs with good reputations for quality birds and good advice.