

Lyndhurst YBC Winner

Greg Hamilton won the Lyndhurst YBC. The breeding of his YBC winner is Van Loon on the sires side and Jansen on the dam's side.

Greg became interested in pigeons during primary school. At the time pigeons were a bit of a craze - not necessarily racing pigeons, just pigeons in general, which developed into a real passion for racing pigeons.

Greg keeps several different blood lines of pigeons as he thinks it a good thing to have those different lines. He feels he needs different lines as it allows him to compete at all levels and stages of pigeon racing. More often than not you need a different pigeon for each task in the short and middle distance races and he likes the Jansen, Van Loon and Heremans-Ceusters. For the long races he likes the Van Loon and for the extreme distance Greg likes the Goodger/Pryor and the old SA families.

For the middle distance races the European pigeons are far superior and they back up with results, they won't give you just one result, and this is what's great about the European pigeons.

He breeds quite a few young birds, most of these being pre-sold from his stud. Greg likes to start the Assoc races with approximately eighty birds as he does not like to over-crowd his birds because as he says "you will never reach top form in your birds if they are overcrowded".

Training starts five to six weeks before the start of the races. He likes to train by himself, his first toss will be eight to ten kilometers away, he will toss there for five to six days as he likes them to develop good habits and head straight for home. If they are doing everything right he will then move on to the next toss point which is approximately 30km same thing 5 to 6 days straight after that he will then move out again.

The crucial thing about racing pigeons is the birds have to leave the release point straight away, "races are won or lost at the release point".

As the season progresses he will split the toss birds in to smaller numbers to get all pigeons thinking for themselves.

Hens and cocks are separated around about the YBC as he believes keeping them together puts the hens off their game. The cocks can still see the hens - he moves the hens into the cocks section then moves the hens into the cock section - this excites and motivates them.

Greg thinks loft position on a certain day can mean everything. If you are living on the wrong side of the wind you're probably not going to feature in the result. You still need good pigeons without a doubt. There is such a thing as drag where most of the birds entered in a race are from one position, quite often when you get a bird on that particular day when it doesn't suit you, you know you have had the best bird on the day to your position. That's pigeon racing for you just accept it and get on with it.

Greg had multiple clocked birds. He loves it when he sees his birds come together and then a good follow on after his clock birds he knows his loft is in form. "When you have form in your loft it's a great thing".

Greg does not increase the carbohydrates as the races get longer but does increase the protein and the small fatty seeds. He has tried increasing the carbohydrate ration but finds increasing the protein more beneficial in the longer races.