

Marla Winner

Michael Molchanoff won Marla with his BCH SA 07 02762 which was nearly one hour in front of the second placed pigeon in the Assoc. The breeding of Michael's bird is a mixture of James Bond Jansen on both sides of the family.

Michael says she has the right genes to go on and breed some top pigeons.

Just after the bird returned from Marla Greg Hamilton made an offer to purchase the bird which he accepted.

This is Michael's second Assoc win. In 2008 he won Coober Pedy and he also was placed second and had five birds in the first thirty in the Assoc.

Michaels loft sits on top of a hill above Craigmere facing an eastward direction and is quite open. The Hummocks can clearly be seen from the loft.

He stopped racing in 1997 and in 2005 started up again. At the time there were a few sales around so he went to Buxton and Snyder's sale and also the John Budas sale to purchase birds.

He keeps mostly Goodger's and the Jansens. He starts flying them at the beginning of March, training starts about three or four weeks prior to the start of the racing season. First toss is Stockport 25 to 30 kilometers away.

Michael breeds about 150 young birds and will cull some, mostly cock birds if they don't look right, which brings the number down to 120. Plus he usually has 25 to 30 old birds left from the previous year.

Michael will sometimes breed a bird for the stock loft which has never seen a hamper. The criteria for this is he will look at the pedigree of the particular bird which must have proven performance lines. He doesn't believe in true eye sign but likes to pair two different coloured eyed birds together though he has had success pairing two pearl eye birds together.

Michael doesn't have any theories as such, but he does like a good wing and a good body but most of all he likes the first feet on the board.

He likes the longer on the day racing but he doesn't like two day racing. He likes the north, north-west lines of flight but dislikes the north-east, east and south-east lines because he thinks too many birds are lost on those lines.

Michael feeds mostly peas and wheat but feeds these separately. He also feeds some small seed plus maize and barley.

Michael does not buy any grit because he has found a sandy-clay spot on his property which he feels the birds get all their requirements from.