

27 Aug 2011 - Seymour 630km SE, 150 owners, 1957 birds
Nick Albanos - SA08 16639 BCPH



Nick & Maureen

Nick's first interest in racing pigeons began as a 16 year old in Renmark SA when he was given an old tin clock by Merv Carlake. At the same time he was called up to go to UNI to study music. So pigeons were placed on hold for 30 years.

Nick and Maureen have since been racing pigeons since 1997 and fly with the Salisbury club. They have a difficult neighbour and have to be especially careful in having the loft fly completed by 9.00am daily. Their greatest difficulty is handling the

initial flying of his babies, as this can only be completed in the last hour of the day.

Their racing highlights to date include a 2nd in the Adelaide 10,000 in 2002 (Nick says his bird landed with the winning birds but kindly stepped aside to let Greg Hamilton's bird take the limelight!), and winning the SRC Sire Produce in 2007.

In 2011 his winning bird **SA08 16639 BCPH** won the SAHPA Seymour Open. SA08 16639 was hatched with three other sisters in 2009 and all sisters raced in 2010 with limited success. **As two year olds** however, all sisters proved to be exceptional for Nick - all being clocked (or with leading birds) during 2011 with **SA08 16639 winning Seymour**.

The sire is from Black diamond / Barossa Lines and the dam is bred from a great granddaughter of SA99 38063 RCPC.



This bird (SA99 38063 RCPC) was **gifted to Rod Billings by Nick** and subsequently produced 'Gold' - Rod Billing's 2009 Alice Springs winner. SA99 38063 RCPC was purchased at Alan Thede's sale by Nick. Alan has since noted that he was ill at the time, and this cock was put in the sale by mistake!! Maureen looks after breeding from 25 pairs and raises 100 babies each year.

He breeds from Goodger based birds (from the red pied cock), Black Diamonds from Sydney (father of the Seymour winner), plus gifted birds from Bill Curnow and Brian Donovan, loaned birds from Ian Durrant and from the late Robin Brown (who gifted birds from his Alice Springs line & Nockatunga winner).

Race birds are hand fed twice a day on a 50/50 wheat/peas mixture to the YB derbies, and as the races get longer he increases peas at the expense of wheat, and progressively adds maize and small seeds. No other additives are provided.

Young birds are broken in 'on their own', then the older hens are added prior to serious loft training and tossing. No old cocks are flown. All birds are housed and trained together until the YB derbies, then separated. Loft training starts in March, with tossing about 4 weeks before racing. His initial tosses are from 10kms, and Nick tries for around 10 tosses to 150kms before the first race. From that point, birds are tossed twice weekly on the SAHPA training unit (Nick is the driver) from 80kms and 150kms. Breeding birds are fed twice a day on mixture of 89% peas/20% wheat plus some Coprice pellets. Stock birds are paired in October for two rounds. The birds used for breeding have been acquired for stock or are Nick's race birds that have performed well during the race season. He aims to breed best to best.

Nick would like to see more 5 to 10 bird specials and more long distance races.