

16 Jul 2011 Edenhope 330km SE, 176 owners, 2743 birds

S&S (Steve) Sargood - 21126 SA09 BCPH

Steve has raced pigeons since 2001 and flies with the Southern Vales Club. He has been around racing pigeons during his childhood in Sydney (Bankstown) where his parents raced pigeons for some fifty years.



His racing highlights in 2011 include 1st SAHPA Edenhope and 30th SAHPA Maryborough. And in 2010 - 1st and 2nd leading velocity Kingston in SAHPA club series.

The winning bird **SA09 21126 BCPH** was bred from a Goodger cock that Trevor Haines gifted to Steve and the Dam is SA06 01693 BCH (which gained 11th SARPF Warracknabeal SAD and 12th SARPF Berrigan). **A full sister to 01693 (SA10 23084) finished second in the SAHPA to SA09 21126.** In 2010 another sister to 01683 and 23084 finished with the leading velocity from Kingston #as noted above.

The birds in the loft consist mainly of Goodgers, Dordins and Logans. Steve uses fifteen pairs of breeders to breed around 70 babies, and aims for a race team of around 100-110 pigeons. Gifted birds from flyers and birds bred from these gifts make up the majority of his breeding stock. Race birds are handfed twice a day made up of a custom mix to suit Steve. He uses 40% peas, 30% wheat, 15% maize and 15% milo. As the racing season progresses, Steve adds some small oil seed mixture as he deems appropriate. The mixture is varied very little throughout the race year, and the breeding birds are fed the same mixture. No additives are provided on food or in the water. Water is changed daily.

The aim at all times is to have happy and healthy pigeons. Medication is used only as necessary, and only provided to the ill pigeon. Garlic is however provided in water occasionally and an electrolyte is provided to returning race birds that appear dehydrated.

Hens and cocks are trained to trap into separate sections and are housed separately for the rest of the year, but trained as a mixed team. Steve has used mechanical clocking to date, but has decided to 'go electronic' in 2012. Serious loft training begins when the old cocks are added to the team in March, and tossing starts on Anzac day. Initial tossing is from 5 kms, and some ten tosses to 100kms are completed before racing starts. Once racing starts, he tosses twice a week for the first month, then once weekly for the rest of the season.

The loft is cleaned daily and race birds are loft flown once a day for around 1hr.

Steve enjoys the pigeons as a hobby (family has pre-eminence) and says any success he gets is a bonus. He is very pleased to be part of the Southern Vales racing community - it is a 'fantastic' club, and also enjoys being able to fly in the Southern Federation.

Steve's suggestion to the SAHPA for an improved sport is to replace the current race unit and to attract younger members.

In closing Steve would like to thank all the members of Southern Vales club and the SARPF.