

Wayne Griffith

Wayne Griffith has won the Twins 10-bird special for two years in a row. In 2014 SA11 13314 bbh won in 9 and a quarter hours. In 2015 SA13 3196 bgh won in 9 hours and 28 minutes.

Wayne started early in pigeons. He was 14 years of age when his dad used to show chooks. He has been very successful with his Silver Shadow / Van Loon / Dangerfield. The original Van Loon cock is still alive at 19 years. A Dangerfield hen has bred two Association winners. The breeding of this year's winner was Silver Shadow / Van Loon. The bloodlines have been kept for the last 20 years. Wayne has been racing to the same location for 39 years and prefers the middle distance races. He does believe the imported birds can compete in the longer SAHPA races.



He has had seven Assoc. wins and many Assoc. placings along with being the SAHPA Points winner in 2009. The first Assoc. win was in 1995. The main target for the year is to finish in the top 30 Association points winners. Dave Jackson is the fancier Wayne names as being more help than any other to him. One of his first major influences was Frank Coppock. It's pleasing to him when other fanciers have success with his birds.

He thinks retired people are at an advantage and the SAHPA should be targeting "seniors". The new truck is well over due and as far as the pre-paid system in concerned he says it works interstate.

Wayne values the support and friendship of other flyers and on winning he feels you have to be able to take losing well. Fanciers that beat him only inspire him to do better. New flyers should be given more help. The only secret in pigeon racing is "you only get out of it what you put in."

On drug testing he feels the wrong birds get tested.



One general point he has learnt over the years is that sales are not the place for new birds to be introduced and he says don't listen to everything you hear!

On breeding: He doesn't believe you can see breeding potential just by handling the pigeon. However, he will put a pigeon straight into the stock loft without racing and does this every year. Families are tried to be kept together but pairing is by type. He doesn't like to breed too close. New birds are tried often. Some good birds have come from John Cock but he has paid good money at sales for example \$900 for a cock at Colin Nelson's sale. He would also source birds from Phillip Jacobs.

If a pigeon does not handle well the pedigree would not matter – he looks for pigeons whose parents have won. About 200 are bred for the coming season and pairing up begins after the last race.

The loft has four sections and a trapping section (approx. 22 ft long by 12 ft. wide) and Wayne is happy with it and won't change anything.

On training and racing:

Wayne looks for silky feathers and bright eyes in a pigeon and says there is a big difference between top form and out of form. Training is around the house for (forced) 45 to 50 minutes and road work on Saturday and Sunday. Five weeks before the first race training starts and the jumps depend on how well they are tossing. The first toss is around 35 km usually the Port Gawler turn-off. No preference to head or tail winds. Hasn't tried single up tossing for years and doubling birds back hasn't brought success. No training into the basket (eating and drinking) is given. He doesn't like latebreds because there is not enough time to devote to them. Hens and cocks are not separated and there is no preference in which to race. Never tried widowhood. Favorite line is north or the old west line. The loft is cleaned twice a week while moulting and every day in the race season.



Young birds will get three to four races a year as far in distance as possible. The average for the loft is five or six races a year. Firmly believes some birds are smarter than others and this can be the difference to winning.

Wayne prefers the north line but would like the N/East line when there is plenty of water out there, he thinks they would do better on that line than on the S/East line.

Feeding and Medications:

Wayne talks to his vet every two weeks and believes if you do not medicate you will not win. Medications are all on vet advice. The vet is also used to examine bird droppings. The birds are wormed every month in the race season and vitamins (pink powder and Dufo Plus in the water) are used. He does not think that grit and minerals is a big part of the diet. The birds are wormed on the first of every month to keep worms and feather lice at bay.

Feed is from Gilbertson's Fodder and is the "Pryor mix." Barley is fed only while moulting. The moulting mix is barley, wheat, peas, safflower, milo and maize. The race mix is pale wheat, peas, safflower, milo and maize. Peas are around 50 pc of the mix. The race birds are hand fed but the stock birds are hopper fed all year round. Small seed is mixed by Wayne and he will not use pellets. Carbohydrate is not increased as the races get longer however maize is added towards the end of the season.. Wayne doesn't use apple cider vinegar, garlic etc.

The last word from Wayne: "get good pigeons, have good food and do the right training."

