

Feeding is by feed trays, as much as they want within a half hour. Small seed is used but the diet varies all the time according to what the pigeons encounter in racing and tossing and the weather conditions.

Tips

Keep a keen eye out, use good food and good training. Ask questions of flyers your respect and look to top flyers for new birds. Try to be a good worker for the Assoc. and club and be willing to listen and learn.



Andrewartha & March

Member of Racing Pigeon Clubs: Nairne, Alexandra, Strathalbyn, Adelaide Hills and now Southern District. Has held the office of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Publicity Officer at various times.

At the age of 12, having chooks, fantails, nuns and scrubbers, My father, Don Andrewartha, came home from work one day saying the chooks are going and we are going to race pigeons like your grandfather Roy did. In our first year (1971) we flew as D Andrewartha & Sons (4 boys).

Highlights of racing career: 1989 my father, Don won "The Sires" race in SA. Prize money was \$5000. In 2013, sadly Don passed away, however in a fantastic memorial to him, I won "The Sires" race in SA, in that same year in 9 hrs, 7 mins, distance of 614 kms and velocity of 1122 mpm. Now the race is known as the car race with total prize money in excess of \$30,000. Another highlight is when dad and I won SAHPA Temora 1971, a very tough race, 2nd day clock, no birds on the day. In 1995 my father moved to the South Coast to a milder climate for his health. In 2009 I followed him and we again raced in the same club until 2012.

In General: Around 80 stock hens and cocks are kept. The racing birds number around 220. They are Goodger, Metcalf, Eitzen, Dangerfield (G. Harris) and Koopman (Warren March). The birds exercise once a day in the morning and not forced. Feeding is twice a day for the race birds and they are fed either a light mix of wheat, barley, safflower and milo or the heavy mix which is peas, wheat, corn, safflower, milo, rape and linseed. The mixture is not varied during the week. Vitamins are given once a week in the water. During the breeding season the feed is peas, peas and more peas. Tossing is one long toss of 120 km and one short toss of 50 km every week. They are tossed on the line of flight. The loft is cleaned every day during the racing season. Turbosole and Resfite are given every three weeks to keep canker and respiratory under control. Birds are selected for racing based on buoyancy and white chalky wattle. They fly to the perch. Flyers can lose birds if they are not prepared properly i.e. tossing too far too early. Education is what is needed.



The loft has box perches, tunnel traps and sunrooms. There are two lofts – the reason for this is the size and position of the block. Marine ply is used on the floor and there is no dressing.

Stock birds are paired up the second week after the final race usually around the second week in October. Breeding birds are selected from the best in the loft also some selected especially for stock and purchased. New blood is introduced to avoid going backwards. Cross and line breeding is used. Birds also come from squeaker sales and friends. I like a bird that complements existing families i.e. size, shape and feathering. I love a small pigeon.



My father always told me tell people everything you do because 99% of flyers won't pay the price and do everything you do. People should use two ears and one mouth, if you listen twice as much as you talk you will learn 100% more. I have always sought out successful people in all walks of life and offered to shout them a coffee or a meal just so I can pick their brains, just to gain insight into their success. My greatest mentor in pigeon racing was my father Don Andrewartha. I have also sat down with David Buxton, Mark Bruggemann, Lee Abbott & (Doctor Death) Paul Springett. Poor sportsmanship & jealousy affect the sport going forward Winners should be sincerely congratulated. Winners are the flyer who wins on the day – not the flyer who got the 4th bird home on the day, but was so called the “best bird of the day”.

Some of the most ridiculous sayings in the sport are; the winds were in your favor or had a bad trap (which is only poor management). Just imagine if we changed our thinking, more people would stay in the sport, There is not true recognition of winners, shake their hands like you mean it. If you put in the hard yards your day will come.



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The biggest mistake made by fanciers is in the quality of pigeons which cause poor results. I start the year with a system and my goals, I may tweek slightly but I allow plenty of time for my system to work. Most flyers chop and change their ideas every week, Find a mentor who is in the top 10 in the Federation, preferable someone who is retired, take a week off work and offer to clean their loft and watch and listen to everything they do - then duplicate it 100%.

The results for 2015: 1st Association Moulamein Open (94 Owners, 1419 birds) 507.34 km SA11 (13) 23686 BCH. 1st Association Deniliquin Open (99 Owners 1370 birds) 586.56 km SA13 16066 BCH. Winner of the perpetual trophy for most Outstanding Performance of 2015 (Brian Healy Memorial Trophy) 1st Association Deniliquin.