

Brian Lintern of Victor Harbor

Brian started with pigeons when his brother-in-law sold his house at Port Elliot and had nowhere to put his pigeons and he talked Brian into building a loft. He says they spent many nights out looking for lost pigeons when they were transferred. This was 1971. The Victor Harbor Club was started in 1925 by Reg Solly.



He says the SAHPA new unit looks very impressive. However, their club doesn't have the pre-paid system and they pay as they go.

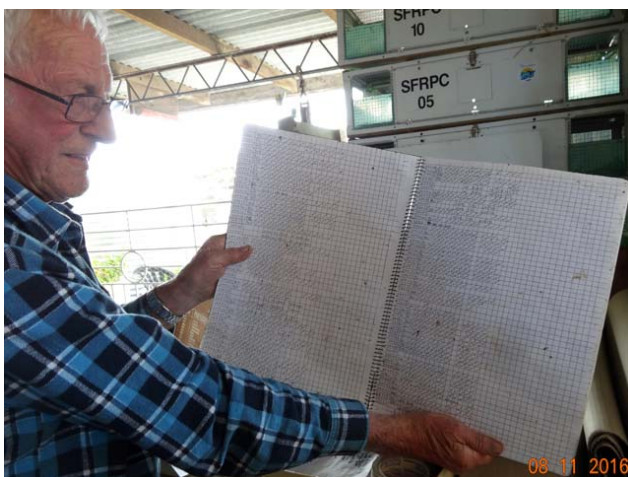
New flyers don't get enough help and the SAHPA should be targeting them and seniors or semi-retired people as he thinks they have more time and this is an advantage. Brian says his wife assists him a lot. The most critical aspect of pigeon racing is getting the first bird home but he is pleased if others do well with his birds. For the future he has no particular goal – but would like to win Alice Springs!

The Loft and Birds in General

Brian says when he built his loft the Council insisted on 4 inch beams and concrete 4 inches thick. When he pointed out his dairy had concrete 2 inches thick they quickly agreed to that. After 35 years the beams still look pretty solid but the loft has seen better days - but can still clock winners. The loft is 25 ft long by 7 ft wide and

divided into five sections. The trap is very basic drop wires with no electronic system. Face the loft east if possible Brian says. The loft is cleaned regularly.

He says the fun of pigeon racing is watching them come home. Slow velocity winners are preferred. There is no separation of hens and cocks and no particular method of motivation.



BRIAN KEEPS DETAILED RECORDS

Distance and direction doesn't matter to him.

The best birds he has had over the years have been from gifts although he has got good birds from Greg Harris and the late Lance Holdsworth and Jeff Stock. Brian has his own team/family of pigeons and doesn't look for new birds. Not interested in imports or eye sign. He can put a bird straight into the stock loft without racing or pedigree – just good confirmation.

Most important is the bird. Look for one that is agile, trains well, feathers shine and is itching to fly. Somehow the feathers seem to part on the chest. He likes ten feathers even in space and length.

For the beginner he says go to someone who is experienced, ask their advice, and take it. And if they offer you a pigeon then take it – it will probably be a good one.

Feeding and Medications

Feed is 60 pc peas and 40 pc wheat. When they come home from a race or toss they get small seed (canary) and for the long races he introduces some maize. Grit is always on hand. Barley is not fed and he has tried pellets but found no difference. There are no medications, no testing of droppings. Stock birds are fed on the hopper but the race birds feed for 10 to 15 minutes before the feed is taken away.

Sick pigeons when spotted are sometimes treated with salt water down the beak and he says this often helps. Other than that there are no secrets, no garlic, no apple cider vinegar.

Breeding and Training

Brian keeps 15 pairs of stock birds and pairing up is easy – they pick their own partner. Age is not a major consideration. He seems to get his best birds from a good average bird mated to another good average bird.

Sixty are bred each year. However, from that sixty some 12 to 15 latebreds are put aside for the following year. But they must be trained with the others. So, the year starts with approximately 30 old birds and 50 young ones. No preference for hens or cocks.

Training is one hour around the loft. If they don't want to go longer than 10 mins he will keep them up. Training starts at 30 km and takes four jumps up to 100 km depending on the wind and time flying. This starts 4-5 weeks before the first race. He likes to exercise them twice a day if possible.

Tossing is once a week. Tosses need to be an hour to hour and quarter – if there is a tail wind he will go further to get the time on the wing. Head wind training is preferred. Single-up didn't seem to work for him. No specific basket training. If a bird loses form he won't race it.

Highlights

Highlights include winning Bathurst in the club and a bird that came home from the Derby the year before ripped open and then was the fastest in the State from Mittyack.

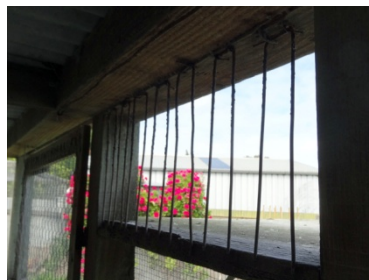
His favourite bird: **SA06 30416 RCPH** and his last results were:

Carrieton	2 nd	10		Bookaloo	1 st	9
Lyndhurst	1 st	5		Pimba	1 st	6
Lyndhurst	1 st	7		Glendambo	1 st	6
Cooper Pedy	1 st	5		Marla	1 st	6
Cooper Pedy	1 st	4		Cooper Pedy	1 st	7
Paruna	4 th	20		Hawker	10 th	12
Georgetown	1 st	14				

Bird of the Year in Club for two years in a row also BOY in Combine of four clubs.



BRIAN'S CLUB RECORDS



OLD STYLE TRAP 1



THIS YEAR'S CROP