

# Nenad Stojakovic - Deniliquin



In 1964 every week-end I cleaned top Hampstead Club flyer Wally Mathews lofts and at the end of the flying season he lent me eight pair of stock birds for me to start with. From these I bred one cock bird SA66 7115 BCC that won 7 of 7 starts on the south line.

We would ride our bikes around to senior flyers of the club and go down to the old Mile-End Hall with Wally and listen to all the old flyers talking about the race. I have raced from the same location since 1972.

The main bloodlines are John Pryor, A Richardson, D Green and Leo Duits and imports.

My winner in 2016 from Deniliquin was bred from BCC 2<sup>nd</sup> SAHPA Marla 2007. He is a Richardson x Janssen and the dam, a BCH was 33<sup>rd</sup> Glendambo 2012 and 24<sup>th</sup> Terang 10-bird - all John Pryor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century and Morundah lines.

I have had help from flyers in the past – W Thiele, Leo Duits, L Monk, R Male, the late Curly Maricic – and they still would. My wife helps also if I ask her to let the birds out for a fly in the afternoon if I am working late.

My favourite bird has to be the brother to my 2<sup>nd</sup> Marla cock. He has bred 16 SAHPA placings and grand-sire to 42 SAHPA placings.

My best results include:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Young (only 5 birds on the day) in 1979. In this race I took 6 SAHPA placings.
- 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Benalla, only two birds clocked in the dark. I won by one and a half hours clocking at 8.30 pm.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marla – a cock bird with only three clocked in the dark.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coober Pedy 3-bird Special - only three birds homed in the dark with two at Gawler. I saw the pigeon coming out of the north-east at approx. 8.30 p.m.

Winning pigeon races has been a very satisfying experience for me. Inspiration has been from John Pryor. My ultimate goal is to win Temora.

My best memories are of winning the points in the Hampstead Club when John Pryor was there (John won the points that year). I finished third and also won the SAHPA points in 2011.

## Opinions and advice

I was against buying the new unit but don't mind the pre-paid system however I would rather pay as you go. We need to keep the sport simple to improve it.

The "hobby" has become too expensive for new flyers to start and compete against the big flyers – new loft, electronic clock, rings joining fees etc. The money man is killing the sport.

It pleases me when others have success with my birds but if they have success and don't let me know I'm not happy with that.

Make sure you enjoy the sport and don't let it take over your life.

To all flyers - we all have good pigeons but it is how you manage them that makes the difference between winning and losing – so don't always blame the birds - just look in the mirror sometimes. To the new flyer - just try and enjoy the pigeons and the sport.

On drug testing I think they are testing the wrong pigeons.

### **The Pigeons**

I like a well balanced pigeon with tight vents with no drop between the keel and vent.

We all think we can see breeding potential in birds but the stock house is the only way to find out ie, breed and race the progeny.

I pick a pigeon in form based on its work rate around the loft and how they react in the loft - on the go all the time. They will have bright eyes, their colour is clean - black is black and white is white - clean and warm feet, pink throat, feathers are tight and belly is clean.

I value a bird that has won with a slow velocity on the south-east line. I do introduce new birds. The imported birds can compete in the longer races and I am always looking to improve. I don't think I have paid big money for a pigeon. I think I have been lucky in the sport. I have swapped birds and been given good birds and paid little. An outcross would be introduced to get new bloodlines in the loft and I would go to a top flyer with the right bloodlines. I keep plenty of stock birds and pairing up is based on pedigree and performance. I don't discard them on age – if they are good, they are always good. This year I have put birds straight to stock without racing. Pairing up is done on the first week-end of November. I will probably breed 200 in a given year.

### **The Loft**

It is 8 metres long and has four compartments and a corridor. I have 280 available perches. The drinkers are on the outside and it is made out of timber with chipboard floor. The loft is cleaned daily.

### **Feeding and Medications**

I feed peas (approx. 45 pc), wheat (approx. 45 pc), safflower and maize (around 10 pc). No barley. Feed is mixed by me. They are always fed by hand. The birds are treated with Turbosole every Monday and are wormed prior and during the season. Grit and minerals are available but not small seed. Epsom salts are used once a month. I use honey on race days. No medications are used on returning from a race. I used to consider the carbohydrate but not now.



### **Training and Racing**

I will start with 30 old birds and approx 200 that I have bred. Training starts after the birds are ranging for about one month. I like them to be doing an hour and a half around the loft. My birds are exercised once a day in the afternoon. They get three Dublins and then Pt. Wakefield. No further at all. I personally don't single up train or educate them in the basket. I plan carefully only for some SAHPA races but I'm always trying to improve. Birds are raced once a month. I like a race with a

head wind - races of 600 to 700 km – on the day – are my preference. The wind and loft position does have an influence up to 500 km.