

Viv Allan – SAD (Moulamein)



SA15 02905 BBH

Viv has been racing pigeons for 40 plus years – this follows an introduction into a neighbour's loft, and a subsequent handing over of birds to Viv to breed and race. Since then various friends have contributed to his current loft of pigeons which are now essentially Warren Moyle.

Warren Moyle has been of particular assistance. Viv has known him for most of his life in pigeons, but over the last twenty years or so they have become very good friends and Viv has followed lots of advice provided by Warren. Other friends that have contributed to Viv's enjoyment of race pigeons have included Arthur Ellul, David Thalbourne, Mark Bruggerman and Gavin Harris.

The winning bird is 85% Warren Moyle with a dash of Gavin Harris. She currently is breeding in Gavin's loft.

Viv has generally looked after the birds

on his own, however his wife Sandra was of great assistance when Viv was a working man. Now in his retirement, he wonders how the work all got done. He finds that as a retired person he has been able to perform better as a pigeon flyer. The extra time put into management and planning for health and general well being is being well spent. He has always appreciated the company of other flyers.

Viv has very fond memories of two much earlier career races. The first from Madura in which he clocked his bird on the day when very few homed, and the second in which he won the Bathurst 1980 National. The National winner was found in the loft at 0530 on the second morning!

Viv considers that racing 2 and 3 year olds to be his forte. He generally lets his babies have up to 3 races in their first year, but tosses them every week of the season.

He then likes to race cocks for another 2 years and the hens up to another 4 years. At that time, he assesses pedigree and performance and line breeds accordingly. He brings in the occasional outcross.

At the end of the race season he starts his breeding programme. His setup is unusual in that most of his stock birds have open loft. He breeds from 28 pairs and in 2016 this included 4 pairs which were breeding as prisoners. Once babies are ready to be weaned, they are transferred to the race loft where that are held for a few days to ensure eating and drinking, then the race loft is opened, and the breeding cocks go looking for the babies and feed them in the race loft. In due course, the babies 'break' themselves in – a very peaceful and simple process – just needs all breeding birds homed to the house block!

During this time, the 2, 3 and 4 year olds are held in a very airy cage with lots of sunshine and do not join the new babies until breeding is finished. At this time birds of both sexes and ages are mixed for the beginning of the race season.

Viv begins tossing around Anzac week, and first tosses from Outer Harbour. If the birds get home in 40 mins or less, he moves to Pt Parham. Otherwise he returns to Outer Harbour for another two or three tosses. All race birds do these initial tosses. Once the birds are tossing well from the north he starts tossing east – initially Milang then Tailem Bend and Meningie. Loft work is done to a flag – flag up they work – flag down they come down! He looks for 40 mins as a minimum. He flies his mealies and reds north and the blues and blue chequers to the east. Occasionally birds are doubled back, but generally they fly a three week cycle. He flies about 100 babies and 40 older birds each year.

His race loft has been ‘made to fit’ over the years and modified and changed to get the best racing results. The initial loft was built along the back fence facing south east. To this, Viv has added lots of extra ‘sun aviaries’ to the side of the loft and on top of the roof of the loft. The birds look most contented. He has also added separate breeding lofts to ensure plenty of race loft and perch space. In the last year he has added the Tipes electronic clocking system – the best thing since sliced bread! The loft is cleaned daily.



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His birds get the usual requirements of grit, pink mineral powder, and apple cider vinegar on wet humid periods. Vitamins are provided post race.

Race birds are fed a basic mixture based on peas – generally 75% peas, 5 % wheat, 5% safflower, 5% milo, 5% maize and in the last few years 5% barley. Race birds are always hand fed and food is never left in the loft all day.

Breeding birds are fed 90% peas from a hopper plus other grains as and when Viv decides, plus green feed from time to time.

Medications are basic – worming 4-6 weeks before racing and Turbosole as necessary.

Viv likes to do all his pigeon management to a timetable so that the race birds get into and expect a routine.

His only theory about pigeons is ‘the feet first theory’ which was advised by Warren Moyle – first pigeon home with feet on the landing bird is his best bird! Other than that, he ‘likes what he likes’ for handling and looks and hopes for the best! He handles his birds once to twice a week, and for race birds on hampering night looks for buoyancy, obvious health, bright eyes and good clean feather.



MOULAMEIN SIRE

Over the 43 years, Viv has flown as:

Viv Allan also Viv Allan and son

also Viv Allan and daughter also Viv Allan and grand daughter and hopes to add Viv Allan and grandson or maybe Viv Allan and family to the racing record in the 2017 race season.