




# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOMING PIGEON ASSOCIATION 2023 YEAR BOOK



**QR codes:** You will find some QR codes in the Year Book where we have been able to put together a bit of video. Use your smart phone by turning on the camera, point at the code and tap when a little message pops up.

Here are the QR codes for the videos we took of the SAHPA Hall Honour Boards:

	Honour Boards Part 1		Honour Boards Part 2		Honour Boards Part 3
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**Contact: 0448 883 512**

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOMING PIGEON ASSOCIATION

**SAHPA HEADQUARTERS: 10 Baulderstone Road  
Gepps Cross 5094. Phone 0448 883 512  
www.sahpa.asn.au**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Gavin Harris

**TREASURER:** David Walker

**GENERAL SECRETARY:** Tony Perkins

Mobile: 0448 883 512. Email: sahpa.secretary@gmail.com

**RING SECRETARY:** Sofia Thalbourne

7 Damian Drive, Salisbury Heights 5008. Mobile: 0409 802 944

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

Greg Hodgins, Graham Mitchell, Ricky Williams, Warren March, Bronte Andrewartha

**CLOCK CHAIRPERSON:** Russell Somerville

**CONVEYOR:** Nenad Stojakovic /Joe Jackson and Alex Stojakovic (driver).

**IT MANAGER:** Alan Agar

The SAHPA Annual presentation will be held at

Angle Park Greyhound track - Chasers Restaurant

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 10 Baulderstone Road, Gepps Cross.

*The Year Book is a collaboration between Alan Agar, Michael Donnellan assisted by Rolf Goodacre.  
The front cover has Allen Goodger, Bill Walford and unknown releasing birds.*

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## SAHPA Chairperson's Report 2023

It was great to race out a full season in 2023 on both lines of flight. The SAHPA Committee of Management have worked well as a team and it has been a pleasure to work with them. Our General Secretary (Tony Perkins) has gone way beyond what you would expect from a Secretary, the SAHPA initiative to build a loft to promote the sport to some schools has grown into a much broader promotion. Tony has committed his time and efforts to establishing a loft where past flyers can have a small team of 10 birds race throughout the season. This helps us increase our membership as these flyers with only 10 birds will be fully paid up SAHPA members, they will be able to sit out under the SAHPA Hall verandah and enjoy the thrill of watching birds pitch in, when returning from a race. Keeping an interest in pigeon races is so good for our mental health.

The Release Panel of (Tim Fawcett, Bronte Andrewartha and Lee Abbott) did an outstanding job this year, there was not many weeks where the weather forecasts made the decision process easy and they put hundreds of hours into the race day decisions.

David Walker stepped into the Treasurers role and has done a great job. Alan Agar has once again maintained our website, which in my opinion, is by far the most informative compared to other clubs and federations around Australia.

Finally, I would like to thank all the participants that keep all our clubs ticking over, we all need to thank them for the time they put into our sport.

# Trophies and Donors

Race point	Donor	Winner
Stirling North 1	Benzing Australia	I Durrant & T Cornish
Stirling North 2	Benzing Australia	J Williams
Peterborough 1	Benzing Australia	L Abbott & Son
Peterborough 2	Benzing Australia	F DiMella
Bookaloo 1	Benzing Australia	F DiMella
Bookaloo 2	Benzing Australia	Larsen & Brooks
Yunta 1	Benzing Australia	March & Andrewartha
Yunta 2	Benzing Australia	J Marafiotte
Pimba	Benzing Australia	T Fawcett & G Jackson
Olary	Benzing Australia	R & S Chapman
Glendambo YBC	Tim Fawcett	F Marafiotte
Little Topar SAD	Warren March	R & S Chapman
Glendambo Open (Rod Billing)	Warrnambool RPC	M Kovacevic
Little Topar Open	Gavin Harris	Barnes & Duits
Alice Springs	Andrewartha and Rayment	T Fawcett & G Jackson
Marree Open (Greg Hamilton)	Warrnambool RPC	A Agar
Marree 5-bird	Warrnambool RPC	A Hlebnikoff
Wilcannia (Alan Harris)	Warrnambool RPC	R Williams
Wilcannia 5-bird	Warrnambool RPC	R & L Drew & J Halligan
The Twins Open	Perry Burton	R Mcilduff
Marla (Keith Wickham)	Tim Fawcett	J Petruzzelli
Emmdale (Bill Walford)	Gavin Harris	A Ward Hinkler Lofts
Coober Pedy (Allen Goodger)	Gavin Harris	B Donovan
Cobar (Andrew Muirhead)	Yianis Bakirtzakis	J Marafiotte
Byrock (Rudy Diener)	Bill Bilecki	J Kokolakis
Small Team Flyer Competition	Central Districts RPC	R Mcilduff
Slowest Winning Velocity	Warrnambool RPC	J Marafiotte
Aggregate Points (two longest races)	SAHPA	Rayment & Andrewartha
Bird of the Year	SAHPA	B Donovan (SA22 10377)
First cock Alice Springs – (W. & C. Myers)	SAHPA	Rayment & Andrewartha
R. Horseman Memorial Shield (YBC)	SAHPA	F Marafiotte
R. Cann Memorial Shield (SAD)	SAHPA	R & S Chapman
Premier Club Trophy	SAHPA	Para Hills
Most Outstanding Performance (B. Healy)	SAHPA	R Williams
Short Distance Benzing Aust Series	SAHPA	J & C Harper
Vin Blanden Memorial Shield	SAHPA	B Donovan
5-bird Championship - Aggregate	SAHPA	Rayment & Andrewartha
SA Champion Long Distance Flyer	SALDC	T Fawcett & G Jackson
North Line Points Winner	SAHPA	J P Nicoli
North-east Line Points Winner	SAHPA	N Stojakovic
Ace Bird (Young and Old adj. by J. Harper)	SAHPA	B Donovan (Young)
Aggregate Points	SAHPA	I Durrant & T Cornish

**Bird Of The Year:** Won by Brian Donovan with SA22 10377 bch. 23rd Marree Open, 14th The Twins and 1st Coober Pedy. This pigeon also won the Ace Bird award.

# SAHPA Secretary Report

Most of the year went smoothly thanks to the help from club secretaries following procedure. The streamline way of sending bird numbers through makes it faster for everyone. The Club Secretaries do a mountain of work and are always undervalued by all. The Committee have worked hard to keep prices down and I will continue to push for a reduction each year for the Members.

Tony Perkins (SAHPA Secretary)

# Treasurer Report

Following discussion at the 2023 AGM your SAHPA Committee of Management agreed a policy of ensuring that income for the SAHPA would be no more than \$150K to ensure that no GST would be payable.

To this end, some activities were no longer to be the responsibility of the SAHPA. These activities were taken up by the SALDC, and the SAHPA COM is pleased with that outcome. The activities include tossing fees, vaccine procurement on behalf of the clubs at cost, end of year function collections and payments, etc. Any surplus funds (after costs) collected by the SALDC may be donated to the SAHPA as appropriate.

The SAHPA has again been fortunate to gain significant non-member income from outside sources – namely Harvey Norman Gepps Cross, Tomas Transport, and Laser World – these companies use 10 Boulderstone Road as a permanent and part time storage facility. This income has been used to reduce the cost for SAHPA membership and racing significantly.

In addition, to assist the process of ensuring that no GST payments will occur, the SAHPA COM held 2023 memberships at \$200, and life ring charges were reduced from \$1 each to 75 cents.

Total income for 2023 will be less than the \$150K threshold and total expenses will be less than our income.

The SAHPA is anticipating a small surplus for 2023 subject to any donations from outside sources. Donations are not subject to GST income consideration.

D Walker (Treasurer SAHPA November 2023)

# Golden Mile Loft Report

The promotion loft has been a huge success so far and will be bigger and better in 2024. The cage has now been extended. The three race program from five different schools was met with excitement and fun for each school. All of them want to be in it again next year but we will seek new schools in 2024.

We have 12 retired Members coming back to the sport next year to fly 10 birds from the loft in 2024, giving them a chance to have a sausage sizzle and see their birds come in. We have others on the waiting list for next year, so if you know of any others that may wish to come back to enjoy some fun, please let me know.

The One loft race is also been well received and is full, two birds for \$75 we will have a couple of lead up races then two main races. This will be on Benzing live for all to see. Tony Perkins (Loft Manager)



# Conveyor Report

## For the SAHPA, 2022-2023. Joseph Jackson North-west and north-east conveying team

Nenad Stojakovic and I convoyed the birds for the 2022 -2023 season. Our truck driver was Alex Stojakovic. Tony Perkins was back-up driver and did the Little Topar SAD race 2023. Wilcannia race 2023 was conveyed and transported in the Mazda Ute and Rayment Trailer by Nathan Williams and Vasile Curea.

**Procedure for conveying birds SAHPA:** water is filled up in the main water tank (1000 litres) and if required trailer water tank is filled (250 litres). Birds are watered when they are loaded onto the truck generally between 6pm to 8:30 pm at night.

Once loading has finished, the truck is closed after seals are cut to ensure doors will open at release time and site.

Generally, the fans are put on while the truck is travelling to the release point. In the short races the truck will travel to the release point, only stop will be for fueling.

As the distances increase and we enter Thursday hampering the truck will stop overnight at Port Augusta Puma truck stop or Yunta BP Truck stop. Overnight while truck driver and Conveyer sleep the truck and or trailer are left in a ventilating state with roller doors slightly open to allow air flow through the curtains and roof vents are opened, the automatic temperature setting is on so if it reaches 18.5 degrees the fans will come on.

When the sun has risen birds are watered. Generally, between 7 am to 8 am. Sometimes the truck will leave the SAHPA at 6 am so birds are watered at 5 am with lights on until truck is sealed. The truck and trailer curtains are fully opened before birds are watered; the pins are put into the locking mechanism to prevent hamper doors opening.

Travelling will begin or resume once everything is sealed up again with fans running and generally the truck is fueled up at this point. Birds are watered around 11 am to 12 midday, again units are fully opened.

Once at release point destination, the truck is fully opened. Feed if Thursday hampering or earlier will be given around 3 pm to 4:30 pm. If there are 3000 birds on board feeding takes about 40 minutes. 5 pm water is given after feed is stowed away. Water will stay on until release. Around 7 pm the release panel Chairman will contact conveyer with instructions regarding expected release time.

Truck is left open until conveyer goes to sleep which it is left in a ventilating state securely. Generally, at sunrise the truck is fully open except if it is a sunrise release then I will be up at 4:30 am to open and turn lights on in the units to prepare for release.

The release panel Chairman will call about 20 mins before release and get an observation report on whether the release will be safe for the pigeons. If in agreement an ok is give and birds are released at the given time.

**Observation at release:** As the races gathered in distance so too did the quality of the release performance. The Cobar release in 2022 was without a doubt the best release I have seen in the last two years. For this year the early releases could not be faulted almost perfect if that is possible..

**General Observations:** Observations witnessed on the way home were rarely consistent with forecast, and the worst weather forecasting I have seen this year. South-west winds with races crossing the hills need close attention as the south-west winds can cause fog in the Adelaide hills as was witnessed with the Little Topar SAD race this year. The warmer dryer winter created drier and hotter conditions on the northwest line and later the northeast line.

**Recommendations:** The truck and trailer I found to be engineered well for racing pigeons and are state of the art. With the fans all working I found there to be no issues. In general, the unit will rise 5 degrees with birds in the unit. I have found that the temperature in the unit to sit between 10 degrees to 25 degrees.

I found when birds eat in the units 90 pc of birds will automatically drink afterwards. Finally, I just wanted to say thank for trusting me with your pigeons and I wish everyone well for next year racing. Cheers  
Joe Jackson



## SAHPA 2024 Committee of Management and Officials



*Left to right: David Walker (Treasurer), Greg Hodgins, Joe Jackson, Michael Donnellan, Bronte Andrewartha and Warren March (all COM members), Tony Perkins (General Secretary and Vice Chairman). Seated at front Gavin Harris (Chairman).*

## Stellar performance from Brian Donovan



At the SAHPA AGM Brian was presented with another award for his outstanding racing season. His SA 22 10377 bch won the ANRPB National Ace Bird for middle to long distance performance in 2023. This hen must now be the most awarded pigeon in Brian's loft. I stand corrected, but I believe maybe in the whole of the SAHPA. Brian has achieved numerous Association wins, but I think this bbh might top the lot.

On Sunday Brian was presented with this outstanding award, and as usual in his humble manner received it gracefully. I think many a flyer would have been doing laps of the car park, but not Brian, with his modest demeanour stood calmly for photographs with representatives from the ANRPB.

The bch was destined for the stock loft post her achievements first Coober Pedy, ACE pigeon SAHPA, I think now she will be living in the house with Brian.



## SAHPA 2023 POINTS TABLE - SUBJECT TO CHECK

Name	OVERALL		SHORT		MIDDLE		LONG		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
	TOT	POS	TOT	POS	TOT	POS	TOT	POS	YBC	SAD	GL	LT	TW1	T-5	WIL	W-5	TW2	MA	EM	CP	CO	BY	N	NE
DURRANT & CORNISH	236	1	163	3	166	1	70	7	17	0	13	21	27	27	22	19	20	0	29	14	27	0	118	118
R & L DREW & J HALLIGAN	234	2	37	43	158	2	76	5	26	26	6	19	14	0	21	30	16	7	17	27	25	0	96	138
MARAFIOTE J	214	3	92	13	116	4	98	1	29	12	0	7	8	0	23	15	22	19	20	29	30	0	107	107
ALBANOS N & M	198	4	17	70	118	3	80	3	15	11	27	18	20	3	6	16	2	23	25	13	19	0	103	95
STOJAKOVIC N	194	5	163	3	114	5	80	3	0	16	0	29	21	20	24	0	4	17	12	22	29	0	84	110
DONOVAN B	172	6	23	62	87	14	85	2	0	0	0	0	16	15	29	8	19	3	2	30	24	26	83	89
McILDUFF R	162	7	71	25	98	10	64	8	5	10	0	22	0	10	11	10	30	9	0	6	28	21	60	102
PETRUZZELLI J	152	8	89	14	92	11	60	10	11	23	0	0	15	0	19	18	6	30	8	0	22	0	62	90
VARAPODIO R	151	9	139	7	104	7	47	15	12	22	7	26	0	16	0	4	17	26	0	21	0	0	99	52
AGAR A	138	10	78	16	100	9	38	23	1	0	0	0	30	28	18	0	23	0	27	11	0	0	93	45
RAYMENT & ANDREWARTHA	137	11	21	65	63	25	74	6	16	1	0	5	19	22	0	0	0	8	23	1	14	28	66	71
BARNES & DUITS	134	12	118	10	114	6	20	45	0	0	0	30	25	11	26	14	8	0	0	20	0	0	64	70
NICOLI J P & N	131	13	103	11	87	15	44	18	20	0	10	0	28	14	0	0	15	6	10	28	0	0	121	10
T FAWCETT & G JACKSON	127	14	138	8	73	20	54	11	13	3	0	0	29	0	0	28	0	14	0	3	13	24	59	68
HLEBNIKOFF A	121	15	103	12	90	13	31	29	0	15	23	8	3	30	0	0	11	2	3	26	0	0	95	26
DIMELLA F	117	16	177	2	103	8	14	51	2	8	0	27	9	25	25	0	7	4	0	10	0	0	57	60
MARAFIOTE F	115	17	7	91	62	27	53	12	30	0	0	20	0	12	0	0	0	0	28	25	0	0	67	48
HARPER J & C	114	18	216	1	92	12	22	40	27	0	0	12	24	0	0	29	0	0	13	9	0	0	60	54
WILLIAMS R	114	19	78	17	83	18	31	28	0	27	0	0	11	0	30	1	14	0	0	8	0	23	33	81
BURTON P	109	20	5	94	67	23	42	19	0	0	15	0	0	26	17	0	9	0	0	24	18	0	74	35

## SAHPA 2023 SMALL TEAM POINTS TABLE - SUBJECT TO CHECK

Name	OVERALL		MIDDLE		LONG		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	TOT	POS	TOT	POS	TOT	POS	YBC	SAD	GL	LT	TW1	T-5	WIL	W-5	TW2	MA	EM	CP	CO	BY
McILDUFF R	287	1	172	5	115	0	23	22	0	27	3	21	24	22	30	22	16	21	30	26
VARAPODIO R	268	2	192	1	76	0	26	27	18	30	4	24	20	19	24	29	20	27	0	0
DONOVAN B	268	2	138	43	130	0	13	0	0	0	27	23	30	20	25	21	21	30	29	29
HLEBNIKOFF A	237	4	166	3	71	0	0	23	28	19	21	30	14	8	23	20	22	29	0	0
AGAR A	216	5	164	15	52	0	21	14	0	5	30	28	27	12	27	0	28	24	0	0
MITCHELL G	181	6	156	30	25	0	14	0	6	29	26	25	11	27	18	14	0	11	0	0
HARPER J & C	177	7	131	14	46	0	29	6	0	22	29	1	0	30	14	0	23	23	0	0
DONNELLAN M	176	8	124	18	52	0	6	24	3	17	24	2	16	25	7	0	26	26	0	0
MARAFIOTE F	161	9	104	10	57	0	30	9	0	26	0	22	0	17	0	0	29	28	0	0
SHEEHAN G	155	10	130	28	25	0	1	8	12	24	28	0	15	29	13	0	0	25	0	0
KOKOLAKIS J & N	152	11	72	54	80	0	0	5	0	16	0	0	25	26	0	0	24	0	26	30
D & S THALBOURNE	151	12	121	16	30	0	9	26	0	28	6	5	7	28	12	11	0	19	0	0
HINKLER LOFTS	147	13	93	20	54	0	0	29	0	18	0	0	28	18	0	0	30	0	24	0
WHITECHURCH FAMILY	139	14	121	11	18	0	27	12	0	3	19	16	19	23	2	18	0	0	0	0
GOODRICH G & H	130	15	97	39	33	0	0	16	0	14	9	10	18	24	6	25	0	8	0	0
BARLOW J	123	16	80	27	43	0	0	21	0	20	0	7	17	15	0	16	0	0	0	27
STENCEL K & H	120	17	74	9	46	0	0	15	26	0	0	6	5	0	22	0	0	18	0	28
LANGER P	118	18	91	21	27	0	11	0	16	0	23	12	0	0	29	13	0	14	0	0
ROBERTS G & S	113	19	101	44	12	0	0	0	13	23	20	13	21	11	0	12	0	0	0	0
KOVACEVIC M	110	20	76	17	34	0	4	1	30	12	10	0	10	9	0	28	0	6	0	0

# Barnes & Duits

## Little Topar Winner

**SA 21 17773 BCH. 1500 birds. Velocity 1475.373 distance 481.783 Flying Time 5:26:33**



The partnership of Barnes and Duits is one to be admired. It not only has the advantage of having the golden knowledge of Leo Duits, but also the longevity of a seasoned flyer.

Gary Barnes, a country boy from Crystal Brook with a strong desire to fly pigeons was destined to become successful. Gary flew in the juniors at Crystal Brook in 1970 for four years, but as his parents' circumstances changed, the family moved to Adelaide. Unfortunately, Gary ceased to follow his dream to fly pigeons as many of us do and he married, had children and perused employment ventures. Gary reignited his passion for pigeon racing in 2017. He applied to fly with North Suburban club, and upon visiting the club

rooms, he struck gold; Leo Duits offered to breed the new flyer some pigeons, and this is where the journey began. The partnership was formed in 2019, and it would be like going to the races and Bart Cummings saying, "Hey son do you want to learn about horse racing".

There is no doubt that the partnership has abundant knowledge fostered by Leo. Leo himself is a legendary flyer. In his mid-eighties his achievements are endless, numerous association winners, from Coober Pedy, Benalla, Cobar and even winning the prestigious Sires in 2018 in partnership with Gavin Harris. He also won the association points in 2015. This association winner is Leo's 9th his goal is to have 10, which looks like coming very soon.

Leo retired from full time racing in 2018, due to the demanding racing programme and unfortunately age has made it difficult to sustain the vigour of racing. Gary is extremely fortunate to have access to Leo's vast knowledge base regarding racing pigeons. Not only has Leo brought knowledge but has extensive network of pigeon fanciers. He has tapped into the Hunter Valley of pigeon breeders; People such as Jack Vanderlinden, Grant Paterson, and George Desira to name only a few.

Whilst still employed Gary started to fly a small team in preparation for full time racing when he retired. He flew about 30 pigeons gaining knowledge and mastering his skills in preparation for the big league.

The partnership is dynamic and unique. Leo breeds the majority of the race birds from his home address and Gary races them from his loft. They race about 160 pigeons each year. All the pigeon selection is performance based. Meticulous record keeping by both flyers ensures the next generation of pigeon is equipped with not only the best bloodlines but also the experienced eye of Leo Duits.

The Little Topar hen itself is blessed with a gene pool that many would aspire to have. This SA21 bch 17773 performance was highlighted back in 2022 in the Little Topar Derby. She was placed 9th overall and was destined to excel in 2023, and that she did. Her sister competed in the Adelaide Pigeon Club one loft race from Marree and gained first prize (\$10,000). That pigeon was raced and bred by Graham Watson and Bill Klenner. So obviously this hen is now in the stock loft. Gary has a grand plan for this hen: to breed her to a cock down from the infamous "arsehole cock". Hopefully the offspring don't inherit the cocks poor trapping genes.

The partnership of Leo and Gary flourishes due to Leo's patience and knowledge in pigeon racing. The team has no preference in the lines of flight. They do believe in educating their team, with extensive road work. Tossing begins, like many fanciers, about six weeks before the first race. Trips to Port Wakefield three times a week ensures fitness and education are achieved at the same time.

Their feeding regime is not that much different to numerous other fanciers. The basic foundation is wheat, peas, additional grain such as safflower, maize, milo is added at their discretion. Gary did admit,



they feed heavily on peas, in vast contrast to the philosophy of interstate flyers, who call peas “lead sinkers”. Garlic oil is added each fortnight along with measured amounts of pink powder (mineral supplement). The birds are fed once a day, then the food tray is removed approximately three hours after they have eaten enough.

Recovery is reasonably straight forward, no additives in the water, Gary believes that additives restrict the amount of water the birds drink, believing the additives make the water not palatable to the birds and this restricts them drinking in turn increasing their risk of dehydration.

Gary doesn't believe he does anything different to many other flyers but he acknowledges the immense knowledge Leo brings to the partnership and appreciates Leo's mentoring ability.

Gary's vision for the future is that all new fanciers could have access to people like Leo who could mentor new flyers and an added benefit is that a fancier in their golden years would not be lost to the racing pigeon world.

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## John Capel on South Australian pigeons – and the Goodger family

I have long believed that South Australia hosts the best long-distance pigeons in Australia, and possibly the world. I can't prove it, but I choose to believe it because I can't recall ever hearing of anything better.

In the midst of this formidable reputation must somewhere sit the pigeons of Alan Goodger and thereafter those who benefitted from the dispersal of his birds upon his untimely death.

There were just so many champions.

I once visited Alan to photograph the eyes of his birds. I professed no knowledge of eyesign and neither did he – we simply shared a joint curiosity. I photographed all his champions, including the famous Elliott Hen, The Cook winner, Lot 60 and others.....and in later years so many others in lofts throughout Australia. Bill Walford's wonderful red hen – John Pryor's 11829 – Grant Paterson's 'Power of One hen', Jack Metcalf's wonderful Alice Springs winner (and his Madura winner), the famous 'Grange', Lot 60's three sons that bred the first three placings from a difficult Temora – and on and on the story goes.

So many great pigeons.

I was at the Melbourne lofts of George Vella – a fancier without peer – one day when he showed me a hen he had done well with. She had been bred in Sydney from a champion producer cock Jim Marafiote had bred from his superb Goodger stock and sent interstate. That cock had a reputation equal to what would appear all around Australia, birds that bred easily whether retained within the family or crossed outside. The only other family of pigeons I found comparable were the imported Janssens, in that they had the qualities Piet de Weerd found to be the common factors in the champions he handled throughout Europe – birds that had beautiful feathering (with a glossy, wet look about them), didn't rely on heavy feeding, and maintained superb orientation skills.

It's that last factor – orientation - that I believe enhanced the Goodger pigeons – the ability to press on alone – and keep going. Witness Alan's fabulous Cook winner: the result indicates that she crossed the gulfs to the west of Adelaide on her way home from Cook alone. When she was nine years old she produced a young hen Greg Kakoschke purchased at a sale, and from which he bred (in her first season in the stockloft) the wonderful Sydney (1190 km) winner, a race so hard that only three birds had returned by the end of the second day.

And finally, this family also imitated the Janssen success in that birds could carry their genes for a generation or more without racing – and still breed champions.

The Goodger family may be – and probably is – the greatest family of pigeons ever seen in this country.

# R & S Chapman

## Little Topar Derby 481.7 km NE

SA 22 11233 GZLC Velocity 1056.360. Fly time 7:36:00. Tape 14:46:01



Ross Chapman

Ross is well known within the pigeon racing fraternity, so there is not too much that would enlighten people to his success. Ross admits his season wasn't as successful as he would have liked, even though he won the Derby and achieved numerous association placings in 2023. This highlights the standard Ross expects, not only from himself but also from his pigeons. Post the Sires Produce Ross suspected his birds weren't performing as well as he would have liked. So, he sought the advice of local veterinarian Dr Anne Fowler. He took a pigeon to the vet and a swab was analysed, but the result returned nil abnormalities. The next step was diet, Ross sourced new grain in the search to eliminate his perceived form loss. This again highlights the lengths a fancier with dedication will go to, to achieve results.

His Little Topar winner was sparingly raced, Olary then to the Derby. This particular bird has a sound pedigree, his sister was second SAHPA from Olary and 3rd from Little Topar. Ross also clocked the 3rd, 8th and 14th bird from the Derby. The successful bloodline doesn't stop there. The pigeon that was 2nd Emmdale and 6th Little Topar in 2022

is the sister to the 2023 Derby winner.

Ross stated he changed his flying regime this year separating the cocks from the hens. He admitted it was extremely time consuming but also stated his cocks flew better this year than in the past.

His feeding mix is fairly structured; 20% equal mix of wheat, peas, safflower, maize, milo. Obviously, this will change when distance increases with the discretion of the fancier. One thing that was noticeable was the condition of Ross's stock birds. They looked as if they could race tomorrow. They are housed within a section of his race loft and exercised with the race team. This clearly has a beneficial effect on the conditioning. It would be expected that this management style will lead to healthier stock birds and extend their breeding lifespan and increase their vitality.

Ross openly admits that the success to any fancier is getting good race birds. The challenge is obtaining the birds and naturing them to achieve success. He was lucky enough to acquire some Van Loons from John Hofman and cross this bloodline with birds from Allen Limeburner and this form his foundation for success. But even though you have secured good pigeons, there is still the art of getting them to race and perform, which Ross has obviously done.

<p>SA22 11233 grzl cock Bred by Ross Chapman 1st SAHPA Little Topar SAD</p>	<b>Sire</b>	<p>SA-15-14617 GZL COCK Bred By: Ross Chapman 2nd, Moulamein sad. 39th Deniliquin. Sire of 1st Coonalpyn, 20th Edenhope, 24th Mt Gambier 9th, 13th Allendale, 3rd Hamilton</p>	<p>SA21 19965 bch Bred by Ross Chapman 1st SAHPA Emmdale</p>	<b>Sire</b>	<p>NH-15-1120 BB COCK Bred By: Allen Limeburner Sire of 1st, 3rd, 4th Mt Gambier 5 bird, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 19th, 29th, Mt Gambier. 2nd, 3rd</p>
<p>SA-19-4747 GZL COCK Bred By: Ross Chapman 3rd Penola, 1st s/p Piccaninnie Ponds. Sire of 6th Little Topar, 2nd Emmdale, 1st, 3rd Little Topar. 2nd Olary.</p>	<b>Dam</b>	<p>NH-15-1126 BB HEN Bred By: Allen Limeburner 12th Cowangie. 9th s/p Moulamein. Dam of 24th Mt Gambier. 9th, 13th, Allendale. 1st Coonalpyn. 4th Tintinara Verco, 3rd</p>	<p>SA-19-4753 BC COCK Bred By: Ross Chapman 12th Tintinara. 10th, Keith. 4th Mt Gambier open. 11th Allendale East. 36th, Farina. Sire of 11th, 12th Wilcannia, 1st, 21st Emmdale, 8th Little Topar.</p>	<b>Dam</b>	<p>SA-18-07269 BC HEN Maggie Bred By: Ross Chapman 1st Cadgee, 1st Hamilton sad. Dam of 4th, 10th, 11th Keith. 1st Mt Gambier 5 bird, 1st, 4th Mt Gambier open, 11th, 11th</p>
<p><b>Sire</b></p>	<b>Sire</b>	<p>NH-15-1120 BB COCK Bred By: Allen Limeburner Sire of 1st, 3rd, 4th Mt Gambier 5 bird, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 19th, 29th, Mt Gambier. 2nd, 3rd</p>	<p>SA-19-4749 BC HEN Bred By: Ross Chapman 10th Tintinara. 9th Allendale East. Dam of 11th, 12th Wilcannia, 1st, 21st Emmdale, 8th Little Topar.</p>	<b>Sire</b>	<p>SA-16-08601 BC COCK Bred By: Ross Chapman Sire of 7th s/p Terang, 10th Benalla, 5th Hamilton, 12th Keith, 10th Tintinara. 23th, Penola, 2nd s/p Piccaninnie Ponds.</p>
<p>SA-19-12767 BB HEN Bred By: Ross Chapman 1st Mt Gambier 5 bird, 11th Allendale east, 42nd Farina. Dam of 6th Little Topar, 2nd Emmdale, 1st, 3rd Little Topar, 2nd Olary.</p>	<b>Dam</b>	<p>SA-18-07269 BC HEN Maggie Bred By: Ross Chapman 1st Cadgee, 1st Hamilton sad. Dam of 4th, 10th, 11th Keith. 1st Mt Gambier 5</p>	<p><b>Dam</b></p>	<b>Dam</b>	<p>SA-18-07204 BB HEN Daisy Bred By: Ross Chapman 23th Edenhope. 1st Hamilton 5 bird. Dam of 10th Tintinara. 12th Keith. 23th Penola. 2nd</p>

# Jason Petruzzelli

## 1st Place Marla Keith Wickham Challenge 2023

SA 22 23022 BCH Vel 1041.32 mpm. Distance 952.825 kms. tape 08.35.39. Fly time 15.15.01



The first introduction into pigeon racing was star gazing at a fancier's birds next to his aunties house when he was a young boy. It appears that bug stayed with Jason for many years. Whilst Jason was renting a property at West Lakes, he acquired a couple of homing pigeons for a hobby. Fuel was added to the fire during covid lockdown and Jason's interest grew while watching pigeon racing programmes on the internet, and then the journey began. Jason was lucky enough to have understanding parents who let him race pigeons from their address at Semaphore. So with some encouragement from Trevor Tonkin Jason joined the Port Adelaide Pigeon Club in 2021 and commenced a successful passage into pigeon racing. The first race he entered he won from Stirling North; he thought this pigeon racing caper is easy! his next race brought him back to reality, his Bookaloo result: last place.

Jason has now moved to Salisbury but is still a member of the Port Adelaide Pigeon Club. He expressed sincere gratitude for the help the members provided to him as a novice flyer. Aaron Ward, Slavko Piliskic, Geoff Verrall and Graham Watson have been extremely helpful, not just

in breeding him birds but also the ongoing support. Finally, his win could not have happened without the gifted bird from Tony Cornish. Its obvious Tony is not just an exceptional flyer but also a generous person. Birds gifted to Jason not only produced his Marla winner but also a 12th from Little Topar.

The loft has a wild variety. A mixture of European and Australian bred birds. As many new flyers do when entering the sport they acquire pigeons from many sources, but after a successful season Jason now intends to form his own style of pigeon.

He starts the season with about 125 birds and believes this is ample for the average flyer, with work and family commitments it becomes too demanding with too many pigeons. Currently Jason has approximately 20 stock birds. He was lucky enough to buy Rob Caruso's old loft and his club members helped erect it at his current location. His normal training routine is the birds are released in the morning prior to him leaving for work, one feed in the morning, and his dedicated partner supervises their return to the loft. Upon returning home from work the birds get another feed. Training starts in about April with short tosses of about 20 kms in a northerly direction. Then in increments of 50 kms until he believes they are fit and educated enough and then on the SAHPA training unit.

His Marla hen had only three races on the North West line before her first place, Jason stated her performance was unremarkable in those races, but having long distance bloodlines that was expected. After her success, she is now destined for the good life in the stock loft.



His feeding regime is like many flyers subjective, basic grains, wheat, peas, milo, safflower, canola, and barley. Jason was quite willing to discuss percentages of his mix, but every flyer will mix at different ratios and some often try and protect their mixtures, but as we all know, different locations, different birds, different results.

His preferred distance would be middle as now his family is growing, and he will be committing more time to his children and less to his pigeons. Like many people today, time is precious, and the demands of pigeon racing are ever increasing, but hopefully his young son will follow in dad's footsteps.

Jason's biggest influence is fellow flyer Aaron Ward, as Aaron's racing routine is challenging due to his work and family commitments. He also

acknowledges Tony Cornish's mentorship throughout his short racing career which has been invaluable. Joe Nemelka a USA One Loft Specialist practices the philosophy of "teach them". He often speaks about the novice flyer being ill prepared for pigeon racing. There are no secrets!

- Teach them how to hold a pigeon.
- Teach them what vents are.
- Teach them about the forearm/steps in the flights.

If the experienced fancier does not educate the novice that knowledge will die with them!



# Port Adelaide Club Report

The 2023 season was a successful season for the Port Adelaide Racing Pigeon Club.

We saw four individual association winners, two of whom had their first association wins. Highlights of the year;

- Ricky Williams taking 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th Association in the Wilcannia Open and winning the award for most outstanding achievement of the 2023 season.
- Jason Petruzzelli taking 1st Association in a hard Marla race.
- Ross Chapman taking 1st and 3rd Association in the Little Topar SAD.
- Hinkler Loft taking 1st Association Emmdale National.

Special mention to Alan Harris (possibly the most senior pigeon flyer in Australia??) who reminds us all through his efforts that if he can do it, the rest of us can't be making any excuses!

Our membership has been down a little in recent years as we, like all clubs, continue to try and find new ways to keep members in the sport. Thanks to all members who contributed to keeping the club operating in 2023. The club will be undergoing some significant changes in the coming year or two, a council development of our clubrooms and carpark will result in losing our building and a likely move to the Association.



We thank all office holders and volunteers for their hard work in 2023, particular special mentions to Tony Perkins and Gavin Harris. Thank you to Nenard and Alex Stojakovic and Joe Jackson for all their time, care and effort in transporting and caring for our pigeons, we are very fortunate to have these people within our sport. Thank you to all members for supporting our fundraising sale again and wish all members the best of luck and good health for the 2024 season.

Ricky Williams won the Wilcannia Open (*picture at left*) with SA22 20891 grz cock bred from a Van Loon mated to a Hardy Kruger. This pair was given to Ricky by Len Colgate. He wants to acknowledge his friends and mentors over the last 45 years with a special mention to Peter Wortley who Ricky has dedicated this win to.

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## This information generously provided by Dr Colin Walker

- Australian Pigeon Company 0450 400 034

Vaccination is the key to preventing some of the most serious pigeon diseases.

**Timing of Vaccination is Crucial** With most vaccines, but not all, it is usual to give two vaccinations. When two vaccinations are necessary, timing is crucial. The first dose sensitises the immune system and the second dose starts antibody production. Without the second booster dose, the initial vaccination only protects the pigeon for a short period of time, probably just weeks. The booster vaccination prolongs the protection period so that the pigeon is covered for about 12 months. An annual booster is then required to provide cover for a further 12 months.

**In Summary** *THE SENSITISING DOSE* - Sensitises the immune system - Initiates antibody production, takes several weeks - Protection provided is short lived, weeks to months *THE SECOND VACCINATION* - Increases immunity to protective level - Provides cover for 12 months - Cover is less protective as time passes since vaccination *THE ANNUAL BOOSTER* - Stimulates the immune system and provides cover for a further 12 months

Timing of the second dose is crucial

### How to use the Vaccines

#### 1/ Salmonella (Bioproperties) *Preparing the vaccine:*

The vaccine is presented as a freeze dried pellet. This needs to be kept frozen until use. The vaccine pellet is dissolved into 100 mls of sterile water for injection. This is done by repeatedly rinsing the vial with sterile water (available through your vet) using a needle and syringe until all of the vaccine is dissolved in the 100ml bottle of sterile water. The vaccine mixture must be used within 2 hours of preparation. Each pigeon must receive 0.1ml of this mixture.

*How to give the vaccine:* The vaccine can be given in 1 of 3 ways:

1/ 0.1 ml injection under the skin at the back of the neck

2/ 0.1 ml of vaccine can be given orally. The vaccine is equally well absorbed from the lining of the bowel as from an injection under the skin. Using this method it requires very little effort to protect your birds.

3/ The vaccine can be added to the drinking water at the rate of 10mls in 5 litres of water to vaccinate 100 pigeons. All of this water must be drunk within 2 hours for the vaccine to be effective. Because this is difficult to achieve this is regarded as a less optimal method. Two doses of vaccine are given 2-4 weeks apart. Annual boosters are recommended.

**2/ PMV Vaccine** Two doses of 0.5ml, 4 weeks apart, under the skin at the base of the neck, after 6 weeks of age, are given. Annual boosters are necessary. In high risk situations a first vaccination can be given at weaning, ie 4 weeks, but as each pigeon needs 2 shots after 6 weeks of age, this will necessitate giving 3 shots.

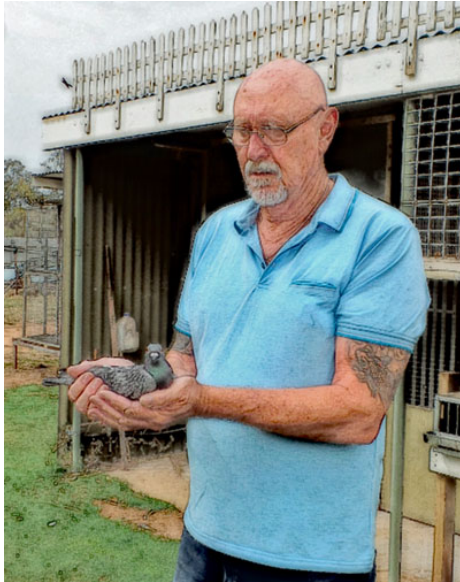
# Brian Donovan

**1st place Coober Pedy. Bird of the Year 2023.**

**ACE bird 2023**

**SA 22 10377 bch Distance 725 kms velocity 1110.676 fly time**

**10.52.50 tape 17.57.49**



Brian produced an outstanding result this year, not only winning Coober Pedy, but also BOY and Ace pigeon in 2023. This exceptional hen was clocked three times this season: 1st Coober Pedy, 13th The Twins and 22nd in the Marree Open. This is a reflection of Brian's philosophy to produce race fit, hard day pigeons. Brian also finished sixth in the SAHPA points this year.

Brian lives on a 5-acre property in Virginia north of Adelaide, the first thing you notice is the serenity of his property, his loft is surrounded by native trees and open spaces, the envy of many suburban flyers. Brian's race team consists of around 100 pigeons, stock birds about 12 pair. Brian has a strong Goodger based bloodline which he believes is a winning formula for long distance racing. His results also mirror this philosophy, gaining 8th from Cobar and 10th Byrock two very tough races this year. His long-distance achievements don't stop there, winning the marathon event: Alice Springs three times and with numerous placings throughout his racing career.

Brian manages to maintain a strong and consistent race team with a comprehensive breeding bloodline. The sire of this hen was the son of his Lyndhurst winner, and the dam is the granddaughter of his Lyndhurst winner, and the grand dam is his 2nd Alice Springs pigeon, so obviously Brian has focused on breeding strong long distance winning bloodlines.

Brian has a wealth of knowledge; he successfully managed the Adelaide Ten Thousand One Loft from his Virginia property for about eight years. He does admit it was a challenging venture and through this experience he gained a vast amount of insight into pigeon welfare. He utilizes this knowledge when assessing birds, which he believes are not performing by analysing their droppings under a microscope (a skill only a few can master).

His training programme is built around education before fitness. It is unwise to toss too far if the birds are not educated first. Brian tosses numerous times at short intervals to ensure the birds are educated first and then fitness will naturally follow. Interesting enough is that he has a training crate extending out from his loft which the young birds are feed and watered and gain exposure to the transport environment. Again, a strong emphasis on education.

His feeding mixture is reasonably basic over the breeding period; he has two hoppers full of wheat and peas, as Brian loves to travel the hopper feeding system works well for his system of flying. During the racing season, his mixture changes to the birds' requirements. Wheat, peas, safflower millet. Brian states quality grain is essential for optimum racing performance. He will often travel to numerous fodder stores to obtain the best grain. Minimal amounts of medication are used, Brian believes that quality pigeons must build a strong immune system to perform at extreme distances. He prefers a small, bodied pigeon and believes they perform best for his style of flying. He puts garlic in his water and a weekly dose of apple cider and vinegar.

Finally, advice to new flyers, education is paramount for good results, for both the fancier and the pigeon.

## **ANRPB ACE BIRD REPORT**

Brian's bird finished 15th Fed from Marree 560.203 kms, competing against 114 fanciers that sent 1889b. His co-efficient from this race was 0.7949709. This bird was then clocked for 12th Fed from The Twins a distance of 608.771 kms competing against 105 fanciers that sent 1430 b. His co-efficient for this race was 0.8391608. This bird was then clocked from Cooper Pedy a distance of 725.086 kms winning 1st Fed against 82 fanciers that sent 1363b. His co-efficient from this race was 0.0733675. Therefore his average co-efficient over the three races was 0.5691664.



# The Marree Sires Produce 2023

**Won by John Harper**

**SA 22 19568 bbh, velocity 1309.951. Distance 589.718**

**Time 7:30:11. Tape 14.30.11**



The Sire's Produce is the largest prizemoney race conducted in South Australia. Organised by the South Australian Long Distance Club it is one of the races all flyers would love to win. This year's race was conducted from Marree which is approximately 582 km north of Adelaide.

With extremely attractive prize money, usually around ten thousand dollars to the winner and numerous other prizes, such as prizes for each zone within Adelaide, highest placed interstate bird and highest placed country bird. Each fancier selects their best pigeons to ensure the outcome is positive. Flyers from all over Australia send birds to selected flyers to compete in this prestigious race. Flyers such as Grant Paterson, Allen Limeburner and George Desira are just some of the distinguished flyers who put their faith in selected Adelaide

fanciers, in a chance to compete and hopefully collect some prize money.

This year's race was won by John Harper, Secretary of the North Suburban Pigeon Club. The SAHPA conducted their open race, and 5 bird Special a day earlier, and it was said by many fanciers that it was a strange race. So, the Sires entrants waited with anticipation for a smooth and successful race, which it was.

Not only did John Harper win the event, but he achieved 3rd place and 4th place - an outstanding effort by both flyer and pigeon. Another bonus was additional pools prize money, which all fanciers cherish considering the current economic climate.

On Sunday, all the flyers congregated at the SAHPA hall presenting their evaluation sheets, with deep anticipation that their selected bird would be the champion of the Sires Produce 2023

The tension could be felt in the office as the results were being entered. John himself was one of the volunteers entering the result, (obviously not his own) which were over seen by SALDC officials and other members entering results. As more results were being entered, the nervousness in John's persona was increasing. On the results forum everyone could see the results live as they were being entered. You could hear the murmurs outside the office door, which increased John's level of anxiety. As the results were nearly completed the results panel collated the sheet and there was a well renowned flyer who had not entered his results, and as usual rumours were circulating that this flyer had a good result. A quick phone call to him which was unfortunate, as he did not present a result, through not getting a bird home in race time.

So, at this stage John was extremely pleased that it was official, he was the winner of the Marree Sires Produce 2023. There were reports that other members in John's club had that much confidence in his loft, they purchased it in the Calcutta and received a tidy sum of cash in return.

A little snapshot of the man: John is one of the lucky flyers whose father raced pigeons in the SAHPA Gardens Club pre war. John's desire to race pigeons was ignited when he was about 12 years old and saw a picture of his father's association winner on the wall in his family home. The craving for a winner like his father's then began.

John flew at North Suburban as a father and son team back in the sixties when the club was at Dudley Park. John mentions renowned flyers such as Keith Wickham who was the leading flyer in the SAHPA at that time. Then the dreaded teenage years arrived, and John's passion changed. Work commitments and family were the focus of John's life for many years. During those years John began competing in fun runs up to marathon distance then progressed to Triathlons, culminating at the Ironman distance. This instilled a strong 'health and mental stamina approach', which has now been introduced into his pigeon racing. When John retired, he decided to rekindle his passion for pigeon racing but Idle time equal's an idle mind, so post-retirement John decided to attain a degree in Science (Biology) at Flinders



Uni. Those who know John are aware that he places high importance in the performance side of the pedigree. I believe that the genetic component in his B.Sc. degree has greatly assisted in managing his stock loft and his successful breeding programme.



When John renewed his desire for pigeon racing in about 2005, he flew with Hyde Park, then moved to North Suburban in about 2014. With this transition to North Suburban came the introduction to a vast network of pigeon flyers. John continues to network and has developed his performance-based pigeons from a mixture of Gaby and Heremans, which were sourced mainly from Jack Vanderlinden and Ross Chapman. These birds are crossed with those purchased at Andrew Muirhead's sale. The selection process that John utilizes as mentioned previously, is performance based. He has established his own "type" and it continually evolves, hence John's ongoing success.

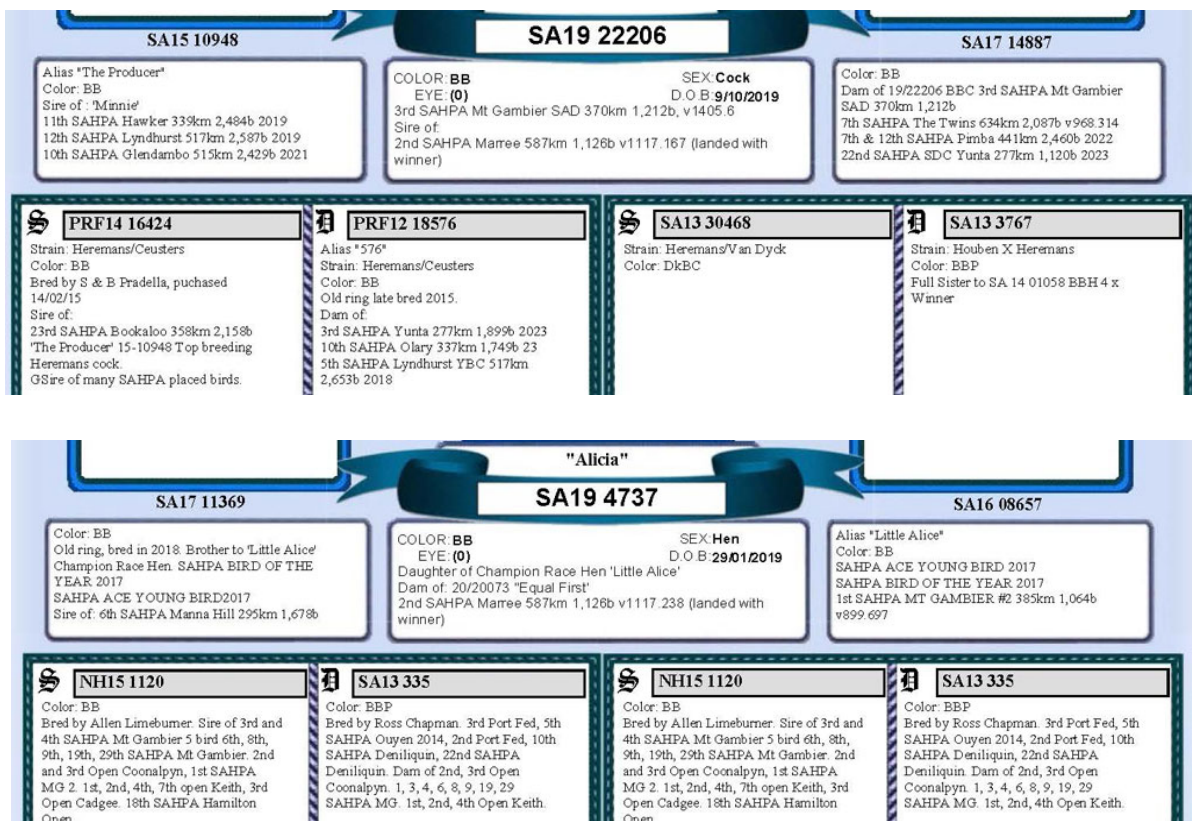
The pedigree of his Sires birds are blessed with numerous Association winners and placings. The intricate network of John's pedigrees are a blend of those bloodlines already mentioned. One only has to view any pigeon auction site to fully understand the dynamic mixture of John's breeding programme.

The lead-up process began at the breeding season. John selected the pairs he thought would produce the best outcome for the Sires. His first three birds are closely related. His selected race team were given every opportunity to display their ability prior to the race cut-off date. The Sires race team flew Stirling North, Pimba and the Glendambo YBC, then obvious success in the Sires Produce.

The race feed preparation consisted of rice bran oil and pink powder added to a general mixture of protein, fat and carbohydrate grains. Every flyer will modify their feeding regime to suit their lifestyle and pigeon heritage, so understandably there is no need to explain percentages of a selected flyers programme. Post race the birds are given plenty of respite and nutrients, as this increases the birds best chance to fully recover from a race.

John keeps fastidious records and intensely studies his birds' pedigrees and performance. One thing John also believes is that successful flyers have an inherent stock sense. The ability to assess, gauge and develop outstanding pigeons, gives the dedicated flyer an advantage over other flyers.

**Below: pedigree of SA22 19568. Sire: SA19 22206. Dam SA19 4737.**



# Jim Marafiote - Cobar 1st and 2nd

SA 22 12498 BBPH velocity 831.370 fly time 15.27.20 Tape 07.50.20 distance 770 kms

SA 22 3136 BCPH velocity 831.370 fly time 15.27.20 Tape 07.50.20 distance 770 kms

# Frances Marafiote - Glendambo YBC 1st

SA 22 14047 BBC velocity 1642.086 fly time 5.11.28 Tape 13.11.28 distance 511kms.

This year we had a new partner into the Marafiote household. Frances came out of the limelight and presented some outstanding results. It's difficult where to start. Firstly with Jim the senior champion flyer or his ever-supporting wife Frances who as all pigeon wives tolerate pigeon fanciers. Jim gained 3rd position in the SAHPA points and Frances was placed 17th in the SAHPA.



Jim won the Cobar Andrew Muirhead race with two outstanding pigeons landing at the same time. Both young bred hens. Everyone was made aware of the difficulty of this event as Tim Fawcett from the release panel prepared in great detail the travelling programme too all flyers on the SAHPA forum leading up to the basketing night. This note prepared the fancier to select only their most capable pigeons to challenge this enduring event. Jim was lucky enough to get not only the winner but also the second-place bird as well. This result speaks volumes for these two young hens.

Frances won the Glendambo YBC with a young bbc beating Jim by four seconds, now that would have been entertaining dinner conversation. The champ pipped at the post by the novice. Frances also achieved 3rd in Emmdale and 7th YBC.

The fascinating thing about the two hens from Cobar is that the bcph 3136 trapped first but the bbph 12498 registered first on the Benzing system. The sad thing is history will show SA22 12498 as the SAHPA winner, but both birds displayed outstanding stamina and courage to complete the arduous task of flying a

tough 770 kms from Cobar in 2023. The two hens, like many winners didn't display any outstanding result during the year, both flew two races on the NE line, but obviously excelled in the Cobar event. All the winning birds from the 2023 season are now in the breeding loft. This strategy of breeding winners to winners has obvious benefits in the Marafiote loft. But the challenge is to ensure that this tactic continues. Jims grizzle hen (SA15 04359) has produced numerous SAHPA placings, most recently the 2023 YBC. The entire grizzle bloodline is peppered throughout his successful pigeons.

Jim's success blossomed when he purchased three special pigeons from John Hofmans Ponderosa lofts Adelaide in 1991. These pigeons have formed the foundation to Jims outstanding racing career. The two hens were direct daughter from James Bond. (James Bond NL83 1774007 Hans & Evert Jan Eijerkamp) I doubt whether he could have even have imagined these birds could accomplish so much in such a short time. The pedigree supplied will give further insight into the breeding pattern of Jims pigeons.

There is no need to proceed about training / feeding and other aspects of Jim's racing, as there have been many articles written about his success. But Jim did express the view of changing the race programme. He believes that there should be some come back races later in the year to assist late bred birds and birds that have not had a chance to achieve their optimum fitness. The rationale for this is that ill prepared pigeons create dysfunctional race releases and hinder experienced birds upon release, this in turn reduces race returns and jeopardises the welfare of all pigeons. Also Jim reinforced the philosophy of: don't send unfit pigeons to races.



# Peter Langer

Withdrawing from the sport for health reasons but has a ton of knowledge and experience he has shared with us. Best result this year: 4th Assoc.



Peter started his pigeon interest around 2004 when Butch Abraham encouraged him. That was with the Salisbury Club who at that time had members such as Bill Curea, Nick Molchanoff, Charlie Forbes, Graham Watson, Ian Durrant, Goodchild, Purdey, Kaz Stencel, Bob Seedsman and Brian Donovan.

Main success at that time was aggregate points 2011 and 2012, four club Derbys (on both lines) and wins in Marla and Holbrook. 2006 and 07 were the most successful years.

The bloodlines were Ivan Wareing / Goodger and Ferguson / Janssen and Smeulder / Janssens. Peter found it difficult to get better than 4<sup>th</sup> in the club points until his good friend Bill Curea gave him a Wareing pigeon which turned the loft around. A pair from Charlie Forbes and a Busschaert from Lindsay Smith completed the turnaround. Peter's wife Rosslyn was a great help at that time. When the Smithfield club formed Peter moved clubs with Nick and Bill and joined Smithfield. Eventually with Centrals after the Smithfield club closed.

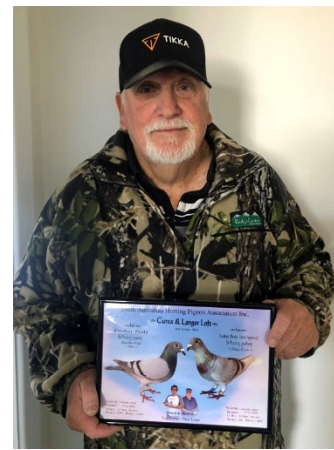
Training: once a day for one hour. Hens and cocks separated very early on. Tossing is

between 20 km and 120 km. Once they are adequately trained Peter starts putting them on the truck. He says the truck helps the birds to learn how to break. He says birds that are just "following" is because they are not fit and/or fatigued.

Feeding is protein early in the week and more carbohydrate later in the week. Oil seeds and really good quality barley is also used.

The optimum number for him is 80 birds as he says it is much easier to get to know your pigeons. He did have much larger teams years ago but now thinks the smaller team is better. Medications are Turbasole, Moxidexcent, Triple X and Doxy T. Hemp oil and brewer's yeast on the food and Red Cell.

Peter's parting thoughts on the racing is that the Assoc should start two weeks earlier, have some more double up week-end races so that later in the season the heat is not the problem it currently is.





# L & R Drew & J Halligan

1st Wilcannia 5BS 2023. SA 22 13251

Len and Rick Drew introduced a new partner to their loft in 2023, Joe Halligan. Joe was in South Australia for a short period of time and asked Rick if he could fly some of his birds in the Drew loft, Rick obliged. Joe raced about eighty birds with the Drew team. Joe has now returned to Victoria due to work and family commitments.



Its not the first time that the Drew team has tasted success; in 2022 they won the Alice Springs Marathon when there were only six birds home in race time. This race was much shorter, (only by 736 kms) . Len and Rick displayed their usual astute eye? During the 2022 North Suburban squeaker sale Chis Mav generously donated two open picks from his loft. So, the team assessed Chris's loft and selected two birds and as luck would have it or was it that astute eye that picked their winner of the Wilcannia 5BS? The Sire was off a 1st association winner and the dam was Chris's clocked bird from Alice Springs in 2023. The winning pigeon not only by sheer brilliance but also a little bit of luck. In Ricks haste he hampered 13251 BCPH instead of 13252 BCC, as it is now documented 13251 won the Wilcannia race. Evidence of the astute eye with birds purchased at sales is reinforced with continued SAHPA placings, a few are 1st Wilcannia, 5th YBC, 6th SAD and 11th Coober Pedy.



Rick has a competitive manner and is keen to extend his winning streak. His loft can hold nearly 500 pigeons. He intends to register about 300 pigeons this season. Rick is continually improving his loft layout. Currently it spans about 22 meters long by 4 meters deep with 11 sections. Well-ventilated and with room to grow.

Training is much the same as his fellow fanciers, but being isolated at Penfield, road work plays a large part in his training regime (with obvious success). Post race his birds receive respite for one day, fresh water and small mix, day two electrolytes added to the water, the team believe the birds' recovery is quicker with non-additives in the water upon their return then replenish electrolytes on day two. Depending on their presentation the race birds return to the main batch on day two and continue training tosses. A variety of quality grain is supplied throughout the season, peas, wheat, safflower millet, hempseed, and maize. The chore of mixing the grain is reduced with the aid of a concrete mixer, clearly still very demanding.

Rick voiced his concern regarding perceived negative image of his strong desire to purchase quality pigeons at auctions. I referred to him in a positive term as a whale! Note the official definition.

A whale, also referred to as high roller, is a player who wagers massive amounts of money. The term isn't specific to a single game – whether the gambler in question is playing Online Slots, Poker, Online Roulette, or Blackjack, he or she can still be considered a whale as long as the bets are sufficiently large. In brick-and-mortar casinos, whales are often treated to special comps, which may include free drinks, private jet transfers, limousine use, or access to the gambling establishment's best suites.

You can guarantee that the treasurer of any club would be delighted that the Drew team are at their squeaker sale. Which fancier wants to be the mug when their bird gets passed in and makes no money for their club? Often fanciers buy their own birds back as they believe they are worth more, not when the Drew team is there, they will assess and bid accordingly, often with great success.



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# LONG DISTANCE RACES

These flyers are long distance flyers and have generously offered these tips



## Russell Somerville

I sometimes see the label (Long Distance Racing) put on races from 500 km. If races start at 80 km then maybe 500 km does seem a distance event. I feel very fortunate to be in an Association that has a dedicated Long Distance Club where races are around 1000 km and beyond.

To have birds to go to these events they MUST be bred from generations of birds that have homed from these distances.

In entering birds for these events it is not a matter of the more the merrier and keeping fingers crossed, it is selecting the birds that you have confidence in them doing the job.

The birds must have the right type of slender flights, the powerful yet balanced body, the ability to look like they haven't been anywhere when arriving from a tough race or toss. They MUST ooze confidence and strong character and get closer to the top of the list as the races get longer. They must show you they are mentally switched on to do the job. They must have the confidence to be able to fly hundreds of km on their own or the company of one or two birds.

Whilst I didn't get one in race time my 2022 Alice Springs arrival had a single toss from Port Augusta three weeks before Alice.

This years 6th place Alice Springs hen is a niece (her sire is full brother) of my 2018 Alice Springs winner Black Onyx.

Black Onyx's great granddam was my Madura Pass WA winner 2001 – 1150 km.

The Madura Pass winner is a great great granddaughter of my Canberra Jubilee 150 winner 1986 – 970 km.

Long distance birds are a special breed of pigeon that once you understand them they tell you pick me, pick me. You are wasting your time sending birds to see if they can do it unless all these ducks line up in their background. - Russell Somerville

## Tim Fawcett & Geoff Jackson

We started 2023 with 210 birds, around 50 long distance birds are in those numbers. The main aim for the long distance birds was Alice Springs for the old birds and Marla for the young hens.

**Training:** The birds are trained weekly to about 100 km as I work full time so can only train on a weekend. Loft flown daily for usually over an hour. The lead up for Alice Springs birds was the early club races from Bookaloo (both) and the SAHPA toss from Lake Hart 460 km which was a good lead up 7 hr fly about three weeks out from the race.

**Feeding:** The birds are fed on a commercial mix which contains high percentages of corn, leading up to the longer races peas and corn are increased with a small quantity of peanuts also fed about three times a week.

**Breeding:** I generally have the theory that you don't breed Melbourne Cup winners from something that wins a sprint up Flemington straight. The long distance birds have to have the breeding in their background and also performance close up in the background. My Alice Springs winner is bred from a cock bird that previously bred my 2nd Alice Springs in 2019, he is a half brother to an Alice Springs winner also. Her dam is from Gavin Harris and is a daughter of his Alice Springs winner from 2020, so she is littered with top long distance winners.

## Ray McIlduff

**By Dennis Shaw: loft manager for Ray McIlduff**

Dennis arrived at Ray's place at the start of the season. First thing he found is that the birds are largely long distance pigeons. Perfect distance wings, really good bodied birds. Bloodlines are mainly Marchant and Jimmy Cox.

**Feeding:** feeding is the same mixture all year of four grains. Peas, wheat, saff and maize. Equal proportions. Let out once a day in the morning and then fed and feed not eaten is removed. Usually fly for an hour.

**Tossing:** Long toss on the Assoc unit. Hansen or Port Broughton and a few short sprints in between. Around 40 km maybe Lower Light or Dublin.

**Knowing the birds as individuals.** Handling the birds after a race to see what condition is lost. Seeing how long it takes to bounce back to normal condition. The good ones lose a bit of weight but bounce back quickly. The cocks getting back to being noisy and back up after a 7 hour race. So by the time the Derbys come around there would be around ten out of 30 he would be looking at for the longer races.

**Conclusion:** It boils down to 90 pc the pigeon (bloodlines and constitution). Send the birds that can fly the race.

**For the record:** Alice Springs, Marla, Cobar, Coober Pedy, Twins, Byrock.

**Results:** Alice 2 out of 3, Marla 5 out of 5, Cobar 4 out of 6, Byrock 4 out of 5, Coober Pedy 14 out of 14 and Twins 11 out of 11. Ray was placed with small teams in all six long races and with four pigeons lost in these long races. This took 60 years of study. It all comes down to bloodlines, constitution, wing and body. **Don't send birds that can't fly these marathon races.** Yours in Sport, Dennis Shaw (loft manager for Ray McIllduff).

## Ross Chapman

For long distance races feeding is peas, wheat, milo, maize and saff equal proportions. No different to shorter races even though they are longer.

**Pigeons:** Ross has pigeons that can win from first to last - within reason - and does expect them to fly up to Cobar, middle to long with success. If you want to fly longer races you need the right pigeons (genetics) and perhaps a different training regime. If he was aiming for a particular race at the end of the year he would train longer and harder with those particular pigeons.

**Type:** Usually a long distance pigeon is a bit longer cast in the body and the wing is a bit more boomerang shaped and the short distance pigeon's wing is a different shape. Constitution is important and without knowing the shape of the perfect wing other factors are important. Flying all day and not looking like they have gone anywhere is what he looks for.

## Chris Mav

Once racing ends I wait one week and then pair up. This allows me to choose from the best possible birds for breeding especially long distance pigeons. During breeding birds are fed peas, pigeon pellets and grit (from Melbourne) and provided with spinach which I grow myself. Once birds are weaned they are fed wheat along with the previous feed. They can eat as much as they want. When birds have been bred I then break them in.

In mid March I commence loft flying around 8 weeks around the loft before tossing begins. They don't range so much due to the many feral pigeons around. Tossing program is usually once or twice a week approx. 40 km for first weeks and then once or twice a week up to 90 km for four weeks. Once short tossing is over then it's on the Assoc truck. Toss as far as the truck goes with the longer tosses. Then racing starts. Birds are fed peas, wheat, pellets, vetch. The vetch (from Royal Bird bird feed a local supplier) is on the hopper and the other grains are later in the day. Two weeks before the derby tossing is between 3 to 5 days a week (40, 70, 90 or 100 km depending on the weather), very rarely do I cancel the toss. I try to get a toss of between 30 mins and one and a half hours. Go to Kulpara and the Hummocks. After this maize and safflower is added as much as they can eat. Birds must race and been conditioned to be able to race long distance.

**Bloodlines:** family consists of Goodgers, Wickhams, Orfanos and birds from DiMella, Marafiotte and Tsonis, Muirhead (Bathurst family).

**My Byrock bird:** Bred from a pair of pigeons given to me by Barry Vaughan Horsman. He is the grandson of Barny Horsman and they are inbred Horsman pigeons. Both sire and dam side. This is the first time they have been used for stock. My Cobar bird is grandson of Rod and Judy Billings Alice Springs winner (Goodger) on the sire side and the dam side is my old family which is Goodger, Wickham, Orfanos from Terry Castle, John Schiavone and Dordin. My Marla bird is a Horsman from Barry as well.

## Geoff Rayment for Rayment/Andrewartha

Long distance success first and foremost starts with the bird, it is the most important aspect when selecting your team. Just because you have a bird who successfully flew your 1000 km race doesn't mean it will compete or even home from 1300 km. Find birds that have flown the distance you want to target, maybe you can improve on a particular family of proven distance birds by preparing them better!



Do not think that introducing shorter, faster birds into your bloodline will improve your position, you will only weaken the distance line, it has never worked for us.

**Feeding:** Feed them well, as much as they want. Peas, wheat, maize, milo, safflower, millet, canola etc give them enough fuel and they work better round the loft.

**Training:** Give them some long tosses and short ones too. Training intensity is dependent on how often a bird is raced. Gauge how much road work they need by the way they perform loft flying, the birds need to be keen with their daily exercise otherwise you may be tossing too much. I can't give you specifics because every loft is different. We don't get them all home, but they all eat the same! It all boils down to the genetics behind the birds and preparing them specifically for the race you want them to win.

## Nick Albanos

**Training:** Nick recommends short tosses. They do more than flying around the loft. Used to toss at Robertstown because then you can race any direction but wont go there anymore because its too dangerous. Silver Sands is a good toss point. As many tosses as you have time for. Put them on the assoc unit for your longer tosses.

**Feeding for long distance:** Nick fed wheat and peas and for Assoc races added maize and safflower (small percentage of maize and safflower). Some peanut oil as well. Vitamins in the water once a week.

**The birds:** It's all in the genetics and thats more important than the feed.

**For Alice:** the birds you pick for Alice you race every two weeks up to 600 km then just tossing before Alice.

**His bloodlines:** Originally John Pryor. Bought one bird from Ron Peckham (probably a Pryor pigeon), Jurion, Goodgers. Has not bought a bird for years. Just mates together the birds that do well to get the best long distance. Looks for birds that have the body after a long toss or race and still feels good. Do the homework. You have to physically pick up the birds, feel them, mark them out of ten and keep this in mind.

## Gavin Harris

**Bloodlines :** Pigeons to race Alice Springs (1350kms) need to be bred from proven long distance families, many birds can fly up to 3 hours on the second day but for Alice Springs the birds need to fly 11-12 hours the first day and then be able get up to fly at least 6 to 10 hours the second day.

**Training:** All my pigeons are tossed twice a week, the week end toss is around 160km and the mid week toss is around 110kms. Occasionally I will do short tosses of around 30 minutes if an important race is coming up. In 2020 when I was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from Alice Springs, the team had three races and then they were tossed 3 weeks before the race from 200 km and then they had 40 to 60 km tosses every 2 to 3 days up to a week before the race, a couple of the tosses were late afternoon so they fly faster to get home before dark.

**Feeding for long distance:** Peas 30%, Durum wheat 30%, Maize 10%, Safflower 10%, Barley 10%, Small seed mix (milo, rape, vetch) 10%. Once a week coat seed with stockgain and probiotic or brewers yeast. Provide electrolytes in water for birds returning from races.

### SALDC POINTS 2023

### SA CHAMPION LONG DISTANCE POINTS

41 Members

MEMBER	CLUB	Alice Springs 1320km	Marla 970km	Cooper Pedy 750km	Cobar 770km	Byrock 850km	TOTAL	POS.
FAWCETT T & JACKSON G	KINGS	30	25	20	23	28	126	1
RAYMENT & ANDREWARTHA	KINGS	29	20	19	24	29	121	2
MCILDUFF R	PARAH	13	21	22	30	27	113	3
ALBANOS N & M	PARAH	22	27	24	26		99	4
MAV C	NOSUB	6	24	15	21	30	96	5
KAKOSCHKE G	METRO	21	15	5	28	26	95	6
DREW R & L & HALLIGAN J	KINGS	8	19	29	27		83	7
VARAPODIO R	PARAH	27	28	27			82	8
DURRANT & CORNISH	VITES		13	25	29		67	9
NICOLI JP & N	NOSUB	12	18	30			60	10

# Milenko Kovacevic

## Winner of the Glendambo Open

The Glendambo Open was moved south of Glendambo due to heavy fog on the day of release. The release location was Wirraminna. Milenko clocked his blue bar pied hen SA17 (old ring) 21007 at 12:53 covering the 464 km at a speed of 1606 mpm.

Milenko says he feeds mainly peas, wheat and lentils. He exercises his birds daily in the morning letting them out only once per day. Hens and cocks are separated when the seasons dictate it necessary. He is keen to fly the longer races.

Medications are mainly Turbosole and worming medication. He uses Epsom Salts in the water (monthly) and garlic on the feed. Pink powder and electrolytes are also used.

The bloodlines of his winner and racing stock are a mixture from Nick Molchanoff, Vasile Curea, Alex Hlebnikoff, Curly Maricic (Pryor) and Nenad Stojakovic.

Milenko also has a recipe for a tea that he prepares for his birds.

Here are the ingredients: yarrow (Milfoi), plantain, garlic, sage, alecost (bible leaf), stinging nettle, citrus, dandelion calendula (pot marigold), wormwood (green ginger), montrial.



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## Some pics from the SAHPA Presentation



# Club Reports

## Central Districts RPC Inc.

The Centrals Club had a very successful year, both Alan Agar and Milenko Kovacevic achieved SAHPA wins in the Marree Open and Wirraminna respectively, along with multiple Top 10 placings. Graham Mitchell also achieved multiple positions in the Top 10. Alan Agar placed 10th in the overall SAHPA result and Graham Mitchell came 29th. The club also featured well in the Short Distance Championship, with Alan Agar coming 7th and Graham Mitchell coming 28th. In the 120T club Alan Agar ran 5th and Graham Mitchell ran 6th, with David Thalbourne, Peter Langer, and Milenko Kovacevic also placing in the Top 20.

Joe Jackson is our newest member and has already proved to be a valuable asset.

This year's club champion was Alan Agar who dominated the club in the long distance, with Graham Mitchell placing second. Alan Williams clocked our only bird in race time from Cobar, so well done. David and Sofia Thalbourne finished the year strongly scoring well in the Coober Pedy. As a club we are very proud of our achievements.

Adrian Stacey has had health issues and has spent some time in hospital but has now returned home and is on the mend.

Sadly Peter Langer has decided to retire from the sport for health reasons. Peter has been a dedicated and hardworking member of our club and we are sorry to see him go. Peter did finish on a high with a 4th Assoc at The Twins. We wish him well for the future and hope he will not be a stranger.

## Gawler and Districts RPC

Jamie Williams had a great year firstly placing 1st, 2nd and 5th Assoc open from Peterborough. 4th place from Keith, 19th Assoc from Bookaloo, 3rd from Kingston SE, 17th from Bookaloo 2, 8th Dimboola, 4th Assoc from Pimba, Alice Springs Marathon he placed 4th and 12th Assoc, 14th Marree 5 bird race, 28th Wilcannia open, 26th Assoc from Coober Pedy CBS all results in open clocking.

Peter Mundy placed 15th Assoc from Bookaloo 2 and 5th place from The Twins.

Young flyer Lilly Harrison raced as a full club member this year and competed in her first Alice Springs race and placed 17th Assoc.

Neville Tymms placed 3rd Assoc from Wirraminna. Tim Wickham placed 28th Assoc from Marree Open, 32nd Assoc from Alice Springs. Nathan Williams was placed 2nd Assoc in the 5 Bird race from Marree. Harrison family had their first club win this year and were placed 16th, 25th and 29th from Coober Pedy CBS and 40th Assoc from Alice Springs.

The club had four juniors competing this year in the Association. Rory Williams won his first Junior Association race from Bookaloo 2. Club Champion for the year was Jamie Williams. Club Bird Of The Year went to Peter Mundy.

## Barossa Valley Racing Pigeon Club

Our members do it tough with all of our birds having to break from the main convoy and then going to lofts at Angaston, Riverton, Mallala, Freeling, Williamstown, Tanunda, MacDonald Park, Lyndoch and although not able to compete this year one flyer at Black Hill.

There were a few top 30 placings for the year. One of our newer flyers Greg Moore from Freeling won his first race from The Twins Open.

Short Distance points were won by Russell Somerville, Middle Distance points were won by Roger Farley, Long Distance points were won by Terry Burdon flying in partnership with Bruce Woollatt. Overall Club points winner is Roger Farley and Bird of the Year was won by Roger Farley.

Season 2024 sees two new flyers compete for the 1st time with Daniella Moore from Freeling and Paul Cranney from Kapunda joining the club. We welcome them to pigeon racing and wish them successful years ahead in the sport. R.Somerville (Chair BVRPC Inc.)

## Glenelg Invitation Racing Pigeon Club

The Glenelg club had another successful year of racing. As like many other clubs some members are restricted by work and family commitments, so their race schedule is also restricted. All flyers flew exceptionally well considering their challenging locations and with some the raptor is their closest neighbour. One flyer went north to smell the roses, or more to the fact the crocs. Long term member John Crummey retired from the sport due to ill health. John is renowned for his outstanding Alice Springs results. John will now race in the one loft race at the SAHPA Golden Mile Club and will purchase a few birds from sales and race in a fellow members loft.

It was a close finish for the aggregate points throughout the year with a tussle between Mark Coates, Trevor Madigan, and Michael Donnellan. The eventual winner was Michael Donnellan.



Our Derby winners were Trevor Madigan Glendambo YBC while also achieving 3rd in the SAHPA, and the SAD winner was Michael Donnellan. Mark Bruggemann had an outstanding year considering he only flew a few races due to work commitments. Mark achieved great positions in the Twins, 7th SAHPA and 4th Little Topar. Marla was a challenging race and Tom Tirrell was placed in numerous SAHPA positions. Tom gained 5th SAHPA from Marla, 2nd and 3rd in Coober Pedy CBS and 8th from Marree 5BS. His loft partner Grant Sheehan produced 6th SAHPA Wilcannia 5BS and Mark Coats finished 10th SAHPA in the same event. Stu Hodgson produced a great effort in the Marla race gaining 7th position in the SAHPA. Our marathon Alice Springs winner was Troy Tirrell with an outstanding pigeon in tough conditions. The Sires Produce winner was Michael Donnellan with three on the drop. But without being too biased I believe the highlight was for Michael Donnellan winning the Barossa fundraiser prize of \$4500 for the highest placed bird in the association with his 22nd from Coober Pedy. (Thank you Russell Somerville and the Barossa Pigeon Club). Congratulations to all flyers at the Glenelg club and hopefully the successful season will continue in 2024.

## Happy Valley Club

Just a short report from Happy Valley Club Firstly all members would like to thank the tireless work by loft manager Bob Hill and Betty handling the treats department (anything from a roast - nibbles and drinks) Thank you. Members would like to thank Hyde Park club members for any assistance throughout the season. Thank you. Yes we have meetings when needed and this works for all involved. Decisions are resolved rapidly. During the flying season there is jovial bantering over results. Overfly is not an issue in our club. Everyone from children to adults and partners have some input in the running of the club. The main thing is everyone is enjoying the experience, that's what pigeon flying should be. HAVING FUN! Good breeding and a good season 2024 everyone, cheers. Dennis.

## Kingsford IRPC 2023

The COM of the SAHPA decided to go back to the traditional race program with the first 10 races being club races and the SAHPA races commence from the North Derby onwards. The new partnership of S & G Roberts & K Bowen won the first race of the season from Carrieton and two club races in total from Stans new home at Lewiston. The partnership of T Fawcett & G Jackson were the stand outs in the club races, Winning six races, others to win a club race included the partnership of Rayment & Andrewartha one win, and the partnership of R & L Drew & J Halligan one win. T Fawcett & G Jackson finished 8th in the SDC Points and the partnership of S & G Roberts & K Bowen finished 18th in the SDC points. Well done guys.

The prestigious events commenced from the Glendambo YBC, with the honours going to the partnership of R & L Drew & J Halligan finishing 5th SAHPA. The Little Topar SAD was won by Ken Waters who finished 4th and 11th in SAHPA. R & L Drew & J Halligan also flew a top race with 6th & 9th in the SAHPA. Ken also won the following week from Wirraminna finishing 6th in SAHPA. Ken managed to string together two good wins in a row with top Association places to his name, Well done Ken. The Partnership of R & L Drew & J Halligan went on to win another 6 races at SAHPA level. None better than 1st SAHPA Wilcannia 5 Bird Special, & 12th in same race. Other top performances included 4th & 11th SAHPA Coober Pedy and 7th, 11th, 20th, 27th and 29th SAHPA from Cobar. An absolute awesome season guys and congratulations in finishing 2nd in the SAHPA Aggregate points. A season of great memories, drama and excitement as the points decider came down to the last two races of the season. What a finish. M & E Skelland took out the Marla event with a top result finishing 3rd in SAHPA. Elaine is our Clock Chairperson who does an amazing job every week allocating birds to the crates and scanning the birds to the races, an excellent result to you both.

Tim Fawcett & G Jackson also flew some consistent races throughout the year winning the Marree open gaining 2nd SAHPA, other top results included 3rd SAHPA in Wilcannia 5 Bird Special, and not to forget the prestigious marathon event of the year from Alice Springs gaining 1st SALDC & 21st 23rd & 27th all in top 30 result. Great result for the partnership as Tim is our Assistant Secretary and does our race results every week for us. Many Thanks to you Tim.

The partnership of G Rayment & B Andrewartha also finished the season off strongly in the long races. The partnership had an excellent result from Alice Springs finishing 2nd, 3rd and 9th all in the top 30 of the SALDC result. They also won Marree 5-Bird Special gaining 9th SAHPA. Emmdale 9th and 25th SAHPA and Byrock gaining 3rd 5th 7th 8th 19th and 20th an amazing result guys considering only 21 birds made it home in race time. Congratulations go to R & L Drew & J Halligan finishing 2nd SAHPA Aggregate Points, G Rayment & B Andrewartha 11th SAHPA Points and T Fawcett & G Jackson in 14th SAHPA points. Congratulations to all the winners and to those who finished in the SAHPA Aggregate points for season 2023 well done. Many thanks to all the members who participated weekly and made our club a most enjoyable one throughout the season Well done to everyone.

In closing I would like to thank members from other clubs for supporting squeaker sales and fund raisers because without their support several clubs would struggle to survive. Clubs require revenue to cover overheads and expenses each year. At the North Suburban squeaker sale last January Chris Mav kindly donated two rings as he had no youngsters available at the time. The purchaser being R & L Drew were able to pick any pair from Chris Mav stock loft consequently the young R & L Drew selected won the Wilcannia 5BS for them also at the same sale R & L Drew purchased a bird from Barnes & Duits which finished 6th SAHPA Little Topar SAD. What an awesome story and such a fine gesture and sportsmanship on Chris Mav part, excellent work guys. Secretary/Treasurer: K Bowen.

## Lower Murray

The club is based in and around Murray Bridge, approx. 80 km SE of Adelaide. Commenced the 2023 season with five active flying members and two non flying full club members. We decided to concentrate only on the NE line due to previous poor returns on the NNW line. However, the NE line again resulted in very poor returns, resulting in Wilcannia being our last race. We did have excellent returns in the mid week race from Kingston SE. Looking forward to the 2024 to see what eventuates.  
Warren March Secretary LMRPC

## Metro Club

The Metro Club welcomed new members Alex Hlebnikoff and Dr Jonathan Barlow in 2023. Both Alex and "Jonno" are experienced and knowledgeable pigeon men. The Club also warmly welcomed Frances Marafiote and Jodie Walsh.

All new members featured in the SAHPA top 30 results.

Highlights of the Season included;

- Frances Marafiote winning the Glendambo YBC, with husband Jim taking second place.
- Alex Hlebnikoff winning the Marree 5BS, with Perry Burton taking 5th place.
- Frances Marafiote gaining 3rd place from Emmdale.
- Jim Marafiote gaining 2nd and 8th place from Coober Pedy, with Frances 8th, Alex 10th and Perry 12th.
- Jim Marafiote winning Cobar with two birds in equal time, with Greg Kakoschke taking 6th place.
- Alex Hlebnikoff 8th place from Wirraminna, with Jodie Walsh taking 13th place.
- Dr Jonathan Barlow taking 14th place from Byrock to add to his two top 30 placings from Little Topar & SAD.

The Metro Club finished a very close runner-up in the SAHPA Premier Club Award and would like to Congratulate the Para Hills Club for winning this prestigious award in 2023.

Our highly valued Club member, Vasile Curea, held a very successful dispersal sale in Sydney, and club members wish Vasile every success in his new venture in Romania.

Greg Kakoschke (Chair: Metro IRPC)

## Para Hills Pigeon Club

Commenced the 2023 Race Season with 11 Flying Members. We had seven different members who won races in our club this year.

Summary of outstanding achievements: Our club overall points went to Rocky Varapodio who won seven races this year. He also finished in 7th position in the Assoc Short Distance Championship, and 9th in Assoc point score, and equal 2nd in the 120 Club point score.

Our new club member Jon Dalby also won his first ever race from a steady Bookaloo race. Considering he only nominated 30 birds this year, great effort for a first year flyer.

Brian Donovan won the Coober Pedy Assoc, and was very consistent in the longer races after his fishing holiday through the year. Brian finished 6th in the Association's end of year point score, and equal second in the Association's 120 Club point score

Ray McIllduff had a successful year winning four club races and consistent throughout the year finishing second in club overall points. Also winning the Associations 120 Club point score. Finishing 7th in the Associations end of year point score.

Nick Albanos was very consistent as always, finishing 4th in the Associations end of year point score.

Our club also conducted some fundraising activities like the Red Colour Race. We were quite pleased with the support received with 85 birds entered.

The winner of the race taking home over \$200 was Perry Burton with a Red Hen SA 21 12676 Second prize was Larsen and Brooks and 3rd position was Peter Langer. Para Hills appreciates the support and will continue this as an annual event. So ensure to start sourcing red colour producers.

## **Southern Federation**

Consists of three clubs, Southern Vales, Southern Districts and Glenelg. In 2023 there were twenty-six competing fanciers. The Southern Federation covers a vast area, from Seaford Rise, McLaren Vale to Melrose Park and Plympton, so the outcomes can be varied and on the NW line the results deserve high recognition. The aggregate points winner this year was the Nel family. Nico had a very consistent year, hence; 1st SARPF Wirraminna, 32nd The Twins and 3rd Coober Pedy. The last two tough winning the points. The YBC was won by Trevor Madigan, the SAD was won by Michael Donnellan. Tom Tirrell also had a very consistent year finishing second in the Federation (again). Grant Sheehan produced an outstanding pigeon to take out the BOY. Grant nominated two birds for BOY, SA 21 7899 bbh the eventual winner. Her placings were races from Cobar and Byrock were won by Arthur Ellul and Gavin Harris. Arthur also had an outstanding result in the Sires Produce from Marree placing 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. The Nel family also ranked high gaining 6th in the Sires Produce. The champion club of the year was taken out by the Glenelg Club. Michael Donnellan.

## **Southern Fleurieu RPC**

We started this season with six members. We were lucky to gain a new member in Ian Sanders, formerly of the Port Adelaide club. He only raced a handful of young birds this year and hopefully his loft is ready with birds for the 2024 season.

Ida Bay Loft won the Bookaloo 1 and Wirraminna races. Brian Lintern won Carrieton, Peterborough, Bookaloo 2 and The Twins races. Eric Joy won Pimba, Olary, Glendambo Derby and Little Topar Open races. Rhubarb Racing Loft won Stirling North, Yunta 1 and 2, Little Topar Derby, Marree, Wilcannia and Cobar races. Eric Joy's bird earned the Bird of The Year by winning the Pimba and Glendambo Derby races.

Our members would like to thank the SDIRPC and the SVIRPC that make our racing possible by transporting our birds to the SAHPA.

## **Vitesse RPC**

Peter Pollard and family won one race. Kaz Stencil one club winner and several occasions sent one bird and got it including Bookaloo. Larsen and Brooks three winners. S. Muein had a good one from Coober Pedy and won the club and 8th Assoc. D. Male gained 20th Assoc. Marla. P. Jacobs won the Wilcannia 5-bird. W. & M Griffith winning three races and two birds placed in Byrock. Durrant and Cornish had a great year winning 12 races and the club points and the Assoc points also 5th in the Sires Produce.

The club has 16 members but only 15 flew this year as John Cock had a knee operation. The club has six flyers on manual clocks with other members on Tipes and Benzing. Chairman is Wayne Griffith and Philip Jacobs is the Secretary.

## **North Suburban IHPC**

Season 2023 was similar in member participation to the previous season, with many members choosing not to fly the North East line especially after the Derby, but numbers generally returned to full participation on the North and North/West line.

Our 2022 club champion Fred DiMella again proved the man to beat in the early races along with John Harper who tossed his birds with Fred. However, John eventually won the Club Points and also the SAHPA Short Distance Points. Not sure if Fred will let him on his unit next year!!

The North Derby was won by J & C Harper and the North East Derby by David Brokensha, resulting in the combined points for both Derbies finishing in a tie between David Brokensha & Greg Hodgins. Middle Distance points were won by our clock chairman John Paul Nicoli with the Long-Distance Points resulting in a tie between Chris Mav and Nenad Stojakovic. The club Association points and Aggregate points went to Nenad Stojakovic.

The notable performances for the year were: 1st SAHPA Little Topar Open by Gary Barnes & Leo Duits, 2nd and 3rd to Nenad Stojakovic. This was Gary Barnes first Association win.

1st SDC Marree Sires Produce won by J & C Harper with Fred DiMella 2nd, five of the first ten positions going to these two flyers. Fred was away on an overseas trip to Italy for a month at this time so Tony Perkins looked after his birds, well done Tony. Peter Vranek scored 2nd SAHPA The Twins.

The last two races of the year on the North East line were very tough 2-day events with many empty perches on the second night. Nenad Stojakovic finished 3rd SAHPA in Cobar and Chris Mav 2nd SAHPA in Byrock.

The club decided not to pay prizemoney this year, instead using the money raised by our pigeon sales to pay for an enjoyable night out at the Albion for members and partners. Our monthly barbeque/pizza night again was well received by the members and was a great opportunity for all to catch up in a more



relaxed atmosphere. The club bar was a real highlight during the year with our barman Steve Gelastopoulos run off his feet at times, restocking the fridge with more and more beer. Good luck to all for a successful season in 2024. Nth Sub Sect

## West Torrens

The West Torrens Club had a very quiet season with a number of members finishing early to ensure that they had a few old birds for next season. Wins were shared between Peter Mallia, Tony Lewis, John Kokolakis and the Zerella & Borg partnership.

The highlight for the season came in the final weekend in the very hard Byrock race with John Kokolakis finishing 1st & 4th SAHPA. John also clocked from Cobar finishing 24th SAHPA. John had missed the early part of the season with an overseas holiday in Greece. As a result he held a number of young hens back for next year but still showed his ability and what his family of birds are capable of in the long hard races.

We welcomed a new member, Luan Tan Huynh, who only had a very small number of birds and only flew a few races. He hopes to be able to compete in more races next year.

On a sad note we heard of the passing of former member, Wally Tworkowski.

# SAHPA Juniors 2022

An outstanding 2022 SAHPA Juniors season has come to an end with an outstanding 24 Juniors competing in the 2022 competition for the Doug Searle Shield. Congratulations to all competing and to the winners for each race: Stirling Nth 1 - Kakoschke Grandkids. Bookaloo -Lorenzo Aquilina. Pimba 1 - Yang Bros. Glendambo YBC -Yang Bros. The Twins - Yang Bros

Congratulations to the Kakoschke Grandkids for winning the 2022 Doug Searle Shield, with some great consistent flying all year. A list of the points scores and the results for the 5 races are listed below. All Juniors competing will be able to collect their prize at the SAHPA Annual presentation evening in November.

A big thankyou to our sponsors for 2022-Rick & Len Drew, Alan Chapman, Alex & Nenad Stojakovic & Russell Burnett. Also to the Yarraville Club-WPF Victoria for making a kind donation to the SAHPA Juniors trust fund to ensure we can continue to promote pigeon racing and keep our juniors involved at a local level. Tim Fawcett, SAHPA Juniors Co-ordinator

### SAHPA JUNIORS DOUG SEARLE SHIELD POINTSCORE 2022

FLYER NAME	STN1	Book	Pimba	YBC	Twins	Total
Kakoschke Gkids	20	19	14	12	11	<b>76</b>
Yang Bros	19	5	17	20	13	<b>74</b>
Harry Caon	6	17	12	11	12	<b>58</b>
Lorenzo Aquilina	16	20	1	18	0	<b>55</b>
Rory Williams	17	3	8	16	10	<b>54</b>
Jack & Max Abbott	4	16	15	17	1	<b>53</b>
Thomas & Henry Tirrell	12	18	5	7	9	<b>51</b>
Cooper Roberts	11	13	11	13	2	<b>50</b>
Jackson Andrewartha	15	11	9	5	6	<b>46</b>
Lucas Williams	1	10	7	15	8	<b>41</b>
Mia Williams	5	14	3	14	0	<b>36</b>
Kaylee Keszler	18	4	4	1	7	<b>34</b>
Jm Kokolakis	0	15	10	8	0	<b>33</b>
Charlotte Horrocks	8	7	16	0	0	<b>31</b>
Somerville Cousins	10	12	2	2	3	<b>29</b>
Nirike Nel	13	8	0	3	4	<b>28</b>
Hugh Mahney	9	2	6	9	0	<b>26</b>
Isobelle/Patrick Snyders	3	9	0	4	5	<b>21</b>
Lilly Harrison	0	0	0	19	0	<b>19</b>
Chaos Kids	0	0	13	6	0	<b>19</b>
Olivia Freschi	0	6	0	10	0	<b>16</b>
Mia Heemskerck	14	0	0	0	0	<b>14</b>
Hayley Heemskerck	7	1	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
Oscar & Percy Walker	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>

# BILL WALFORD'S LAST YEARS OF BREEDING

During his final years of breeding racing pigeons at his home in Stansbury, Bill was concentrating on the Goodger pigeons via Alan Thede of Ridgheaven and Brian Ashwood of Broken Hill. In particular during the last couple of years he was concentrating on the bloodlines of his "Ace Red Hen" SA 81 494 which was Lot 65 in Allen Goodger's auction sale.

The "Ace Red Hen", (ARH) a producer of producers, was a daughter of Goodger's Lot 60, SA 78 1593, also an outstanding breeding hen. When mated to BCC SA 81 428, Lot 53, she produced both John Pryor's and Grant Paterson's number one stock cocks. Goodger's 2nd SAHPA Booroorban was bred from Lot 59 x Lot 52 and Lot 53 was from Lot 51 x Lot 52, bloodlines that keep on producing top birds.

A sister to the ARH was BCH SA 80 19261, Lot 64. She bred 2nd SAHPA Alice Springs, 2nd SAHPA Morundah, 17th SAHPA Nundroo and 17th SAHPA Alice Springs.

The ARH herself produced RCC SA 84 35623 "Young Star" who in turn bred 1st SAHPA Emmdale, 3rd SAHPA Moree, 13th SAHPA Nyngan, 17th SAHPA Cobar, 17th SAHPA Marla and 34th SAHPA Gilgandra.

A daughter of the ARH, mealy SA 91 23798, bred 1st SAHPA Morundah, 2nd SAHPA Emmdale, 4th SAHPA Booroorban, 7th SAHPA Booroorban, 13th SAHPA Mt. Gambier and 27th SAHPA Mt. Gambier for Jim Marafiotte. To produce this mealy hen, the ARH was mated back to her son.

Another son RCC SA 83 7633 produced the sire of Charlie Forbes's 1989 Nockatunga National winner which won Charlie a trip to Europe. 7633 was one of the first two sons bred from the ARH. A great grandson of ARH bred Rod and Judy Billings 1st SAHPA Alice Springs in 2009. Greg Hamilton's famous marathon hen "Grange", bred by David Cunningham of Port Pirie, won 19th, 4th and 3rd SAHPA Alice Springs in successive years, 2007, 2008 & 2009. Her sire contains a lot of the ARH blood in her. A daughter of "Grange" has also won 5th and 3rd SAHPA Alice Springs in 2009 and 2010.

The sire of the ARH, RCC SA 78 1533, lot 59 in Goodger's sale and his bloodlines were described as "All Blanden". He was the sire of 2nd SAHPA Booroorban, 2nd SAHPA Nundroo and 3rd SAHPA Young.

In around about 2003 the Hams Brothers of Ardrossan got hold of a direct son and a direct daughter of the ARH, among other pigeons, from Bill. They were full brother and sister and Bill advised them what to mate them with. The story goes that they got Bill's advice wrong & "stuffed up" by mating them together. When Bill saw this red hen Kadina 01 701 (old ring – bred 2003) and found out that she was bred from a son and daughter of the ARH, he just had to have her. He loaned her to Alan Thede in 2006 and each year gave Bill a cock or two off her, mostly with old rings on. Alan inbred/line bred with her to the 494 line. Bill got her back this year and with the recent acquisition of Red Chequer Pied cock SA 03 29836 he was confident that he could reproduce the ARH. Some months ago, Bill and his wife Judith drove from Stansbury to Angaston to pick up this cock. He picked it up from Len Colegate who in turn had it from Ray Linkevics of Birdwood. This bird was bought, among others, from Ken Hams prior to his death, by Michael Partington and Ray Linkevics and apparently is an inbred grandson of the ARH. It was planned to go into the auction and had even been allocated a lot number when I found out that it was on loan to Bill from Linkevics and Partington. I have arranged, with the permission of the owners, to display him only in Lot 7 pen at the auction, next to his intended mate, RCH Kadina 01 701. Naturally he cannot be sold and he will be taken immediately after the sale by his rightful owners.

I have tried to decipher Bill's breeding books to the best of my ability but cannot guarantee that all pedigrees are entirely correct. The task was made difficult due to the fact that throughout the years Bill often failed to record the ring numbers of the grandparents of the breeding pair. Often the ring numbers of the actual breeding pair were not recorded either. For example, not that it concerns the compiling of the pedigrees for this auction, but in breeding season 1978/79 his rings were numbered 901 – 1000. Approximately 115 youngsters were bred but not one ring number was recorded against any of the youngsters. It must have all been in his memory. The same thing again the following breeding season when about 75 youngsters were bred but additionally there was no record of the batch of rings that he purchased that year. Also, throughout the years, a large number of unringed birds and birds with old rings were used, particularly in the latter years at Stansbury. John Hofman (Note: Not long before his passing John sent me quite a lot of articles that I will use from time to time).

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## What is "Going Light"? from Dr. Colin Walker

"Going Light" is a term that was used before we had the knowledge of pigeon disease that we have today. The term just means a thin pigeon. A pigeon that had lost weight was said to have "gone light". Weight loss can be due to many many things ranging from problems that might cause weight loss in flocks such as viral, bacterial or parasitic infections through to problems that affect individual birds like cancer. There is no universal treatment for weight loss. It would be great (and a bit amazing) if there was a magic bullet that treated all of the diverse causes of weight loss. Once the cause is identified then a treatment in that instance can be given. These days "going light" should be regarded as a symptom rather than a diagnosis. Other similar "diseases" from the past include "roup" and "sour crop" which were used to describe birds with difficulty breathing and delayed crop emptying respectively no matter what the cause.

## WILLI THIELE – A lifetime of racing pigeons



I was born in Germany and emigrated to Australia in 1955 at the age of 12 with my parents. As a kid I grew up with racing pigeons by helping my father with his birds which was around 1953 in Germany.

We went to live in Keith, SA for the next 33 years. I can remember flying the Keith club around 1960-70 and we would put the birds on the train with a small bag of wheat tied on the hamper with a note saying to the station master at Marree "please feed and water and release birds on Saturday morning".

In 1960 myself and Alan Sanderson decided to form the "Keith Homing Club" which is still active today.

In the 60s and 70s I played Aussie Rules with the Keith Football Club. I played over 250 games and was made a Life Member. In 1972 I won the "Vergo Medal" for the best player in the Tatiara League.

The first couple of years flying pigeons we were using the old "Tin Lizzie" clocks.

In 1988 I was transferred by Telstra to Adelaide racing against the best when the SAHPA had almost 500 members.



Left to right: C. Sanderson, A. Sanderson, A. Cotton, M. Nicolia, G. Jones, S. Mitchell

*At left are the members of the Keith Homing Club a few years ago.*

Flew in the Para Hills Club for two years then moved to the North Suburban Club.

Over the years I have won Marla, Coober Pedy and The Twins which are the longer races. As well 24th was the closest I got from Alice Springs.

When the first lot of imports came out, I bought a few Meulemans from John Hofman. One of the recessive red hens won me 4 races. I still have this strain today. I also love breeding colored racers which consist of yellows, opals, duns etc.

In 2012 I imported two Tiger grizzles from Belgium which I crossed into my solid Portuguese blacks.

The best flyers I have raced against would be Leo Duits, Nenad Stojakovic and the late Neville Kakoschke.

As far as training the birds I take them myself for a few short tosses and then put them on the SAHPA Unit. Love doing things for the club and have run the bar for a few years plus being Clock Chairman and now still operate our club Tipes system.

Up until a few years ago I was showing my birds in the Royal Adelaide Show.

My main family of race birds are the old red Aussie line of Doug Green, Eitzen and the Jurions. I only flew these in long hard races up to Alice Springs. As well I have the Hereman pigeons down from Ponderosa via Leo Duits.

I feed my birds a mixture of wheat, peas and barley once at night and then hand feed some small seed every morning. Seeds like safflower, milo and budgie mix.



**From the book "Getting paid to Drink and Gamble by Jeff "Pigeon "Collerson**  
**Jeff Collerson joined the late Sir Frank Packer's Daily and Sunday Telegraphs in 1962. He has owned and trained racing pigeons and greyhounds and led separate tours to the USA and Europe. Here is an extract from the book which I found very amusing.**

My secondary schooling took place at Enmore Boys' High, a couple of miles from Tempe. Twice a week I would lug a basket of birds, along with my schoolbag, on the Tempe-to-Sydenham and then the Sydenham-to-Enmore buses I took to get to school. What a different world we lived in then. In the three years I did this not one person - bus drivers included - ever complained about sharing their bus with my feathered friends. Can you imagine anyone being so tolerant now?

By taking the pigeons to school with me (usually only about six or eight of them at a time) I was not only giving my birds a training toss but it also enabled me to produce my first racing form guide. I handed these carbon-copied guides out to teachers and students when I got to school. There, a class mate named Stan Kemp, who later became a bookmaker, would frame a market on which bird would reach Tempe first. In my typed form guide I would give my tips and comments for each bird, with the staff and pupils betting enthusiastically with Stan. Because it was such a short flight the pigeons would invariably arrive home together, so it was a matter of which ever bird was first into the loft being declared the winner.

My mum's task was to stand outside the loft and await the birds' arrival. She knew each bird by name and a blue chequer called Zorro soon established a six-flight winning streak. Zorro, a hen due to a mistaken case of identifying the correct sex by yours truly - pigeons are hard to pick - was usually an odds-on favourite and her wins had most of the kids in clover and Stan on the breadline. At the 11 am recess we would all rush down to the corner shop where I would phone Mum to find out which bird had won. I'd shout the winner's name - usually Zorro - to the assembled throng and the successful punters would order a slap-up lunch accordingly, with the losers going without their sandwiches.

One day a stray bird entered my loft. Essential to the birds' training routine were forced 30-minute, twice-daily-exercise flights around the loft. For several days the newcomer, which I had named Rocket, beat Zorro through the traps when the 30 minutes were up.

Stan saw this as a chance to recoup all his lost money. He asked me to bag Rocket in the form guide but my conscience wouldn't let me do that to my other schoolmates. Instead I gave Rocket a wrap when she was having her first race from school, saying she had been 'trailing brilliantly'. But Zorro's legion of fans ignored my tip, plunging their shillings and two-bobs on their pin-up bird.

To Stan's horror, Zorro, who had been beaten by Rocket in every trial flight leading up to this race, won when it counted. When I phoned Mum to ask her the result she replied: 'Zorro won as usual.' Stan was dumb founded and had to borrow money from his parents to settle his bets.

I had a bit of success at the pigeon caper but I can tell you that caring for these winged wonders is harder than training greyhounds or probably racehorses. Sometimes a horse or dog trainer believes his animal might stay- that is, be suited by a long distance race - and tries him accordingly. If the horse or dog fails to get the new journey there's no harm done, the trainer simply reverts to sprint racing again. But you can't do that with pigeons, as I found out to my dismay.

Around 1962 I had a beautiful red chequer cock which I named Time and Tide, after a famous racehorse of that era. Time and Tide won a race from Marulan to Sydney (86 miles as the crow - or pigeon - flies) beating a field of 700 starters. He won the same race the following year, this time leaving 600 birds in his wake. Mel Mercer, the most successful flyer in my years at the Cooks River Pigeon Club, advised me not to be greedy and to put Time and Tide aside for the same race the next year. 'This is obviously the bird's pet distance and his metabolism must be such that he hits his peak around this time of the year,' was Mel's sage advice.

'No way, Mel,' I said. 'Time and Tide wouldn't have blown a candle out after the Marulan race, I'm getting him ready for the Cootamundra Combine.' The Coota Combine was a major race but was 100 miles longer than the Marulan sprint. Full of confidence, I dispatched Time and Tide to the big event and have never seen him since. Seems he could only sprint after all!

My fastest bird was a blue chequer hen called Jessie, but she had one bad habit. She could out-fly most of her race opponents, but when she arrived home at Tempe was reluctant to come into the loft. She was a bit like a slow beginner at the dogs, always finding a way to get beaten. One Saturday she got me into trouble with my father when she landed on the roof of the Drug Houses of Australia boardroom, which was adjacent to our home. Anxious to get her into the loft to have her race time registered, I hurled a rock at the boardroom. I missed and the stone smashed a window. Fortunately, Dad had a key and was able to retrieve the rock and have the glass replaced before the directors arrived for work the following Monday.

# Australian National Racing Pigeon Board Update

The ANRPB was established back in February 2016, initially it was to be involved in the formulation of the Australian Government's Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines and we were fortunate to have Grant Paterson represent us at the meetings in Canberra.



The current board meets monthly and includes Vince Pedavoli (NSW) as Chairperson, Stephen Shears (NSW CCF Vice President) Vice Chairperson, Gavin Harris (SA SAHPA Chair) Treasurer, Janine Johnstone (QLD) Secretary, Phillip Almond (QLD Chair of NRC), Russell Somerville (SA Regional SAHPA Vice Chair), Tony Price (Vic VRPB Chair), Leo Turley (WA), Andrew Crothers (WA Regional), Paul Gibbs (NSW Regional). Greg Kakoschke now retired but was our Chairperson for many years and was instrumental in building the ANRPB.

Some of the topics we are working on :

- 1) National Ace Bird award – 2023 was the first year where we have introduced a national award for the best perform birds that have been clocked in multiple races. Our own Brian Donovan has won the Ace Award Middle to Long Distance for 2023. We also had Ace Award for Short to Middle distance.
- 2) National Race – We are working on getting all states to have a National race, our ultimate goal is to have a staggered release from one race point but at this stage each state is selecting their own race point. Vince Pedavoli and Pat Arcella have generously donated \$1000 for each state to add to their prizemoney.
- 3) Disease Management Fund – When Rotavirus broke out, the ANRPB called for donations to help pay for the work being done by the AgriBio Victoria, LaTrobe University and Dr. Colin Walker. We raised just over \$68,000. This money was lent to Tredlia BioVet to commercially develop the vaccine with Latrobe University and then was paid back to ANRPB out of sales of the Rotavirus Vaccine. This helped keep the price down for the vaccine. We hold this money in trust in case another virus breaks out.
- 4) Application for Membership of the FCI – Federation Colombophile Internationale. This is the international body for pigeon racing and we hope to be voted in this year. Portugal delegate and several other country delegates will be supporting our application.
- 5) Victoria Court of Arbitration – We have made donations to VRPB and the some of the funds raised at the Victorian Convention are being used to pay for a King's Counsel to represent Victorian pigeon flyers in a court case to avoid councils only allowing 20 pigeons in our backyards. The Victorian representative is keeping us updated, we need to win this case to avoid councils in other states trying to restrict the number of pigeons.
- 6) Loading Density of pigeons in crates/baskets - the current standard published by Australian Animal Welfare is based on Utility (meat production pigeons) which are much larger than race pigeons, our WA representative is working through this firstly within WA and then nationally.
- 7) Promotional Video – we commissioned Rod Simmons to develop a video to promote pigeon racing. The initial video can be watched on youtube and it goes for 19 minutes, it is a very professional video, there is a link on our sahpa website. We plan to have a 3 minute version and a 30/45 second version. Some of the options we are considering is having the 30 second version shown in Picture theatres around Australia (audience of 60,000 people guaranteed), we are also considering using google ads to pop up the short video. Plans are to have versions in Filipino and Mandarin.
- 8) Canberra War Memorial – Greg Kakoschke was instrumental in establishing a plaque at the Australian War Memorial. Visit [anrpb.org](http://anrpb.org) to see more about the part pigeons played during the war.



# THE GOLDEN MILE

The Golden Mile concept was the result of our general membership wanting promotion of our sport and thankfully Bronte Andrewartha put this concept to the COM and they agreed and ran with it. Thank you everyone who attended the squeaker sale and helped make the sale a complete success. I was hoping for 40 birds and raise around \$3000, well the pigeon community turned up with 80 birds raising \$4700. Now I can start to help others. I must admit the overwhelming support took me by surprise. It was a terrific day, and I am so thankful.

The 13 returned members in the Golden Mile RPC will pay full membership to have the chance to win an Association race. Given they only have 10 birds each, it's now up to me to get the best out of their birds. Just some background on a return member that turned up to pay his fees, he is 90 years old and was full of smiles seeing the cage and I could tell he was so excited to just attend on a race day and wait for his pigeons to come home. This is why I took on this task to help others. I am at the loft from 8-11 a.m. seven days a week. Next year I have five more retired members wanting to join, so, if you know of anyone no longer racing, please contact me.

The One Loft Race with 50 Members was quick to fill up, all birds must be in the loft by the 31st of January. I will do a lead up trial race the week before the start of the season to Stirling North 280 km, a second to Hawker 360 km or similar distance, then the first of two main races from the Glendambo Open 510 km and the second from Coober Pedy 750 km.

<b>50 members paying \$75</b>	<b>\$3750</b>	<b>Feed &amp; medicine</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Electronic rings</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>Money remaining</b>	<b>\$3200</b>

Training no cost SAHPA provided. Management fee no cost - provided by the SAHPA. Golden Mile RPC donation \$800 Prize money total **\$4,000**

1. Stirling Nth trial 1st \$100 2nd \$50 3rd \$50
2. Hawker trial 1st \$100 2nd \$50 3rd \$50
3. Race 1 Glendambo 1st \$1000 2nd \$300 3rd \$200
4. Race 2 Coober Pedy 1st \$1500 2nd \$350 3rd \$250

The trial race from Stirling North will be a chance for all SAHPA members to put trainers on the Geraldty transporter at a cost of \$1 per bird. This will be a donation to the Angel Flight organisation who provide a wonderful service to remote areas transporting sick and injured people back to local hospitals. Again a huge thank you to everyone who has donated time and money towards this venture. Thank you.

