

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOMING PIGEON ASSOCIATION 2024 YEAR BOOK



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HOMING PIGEON ASSOCIATION

**SAHPA HEADQUARTERS: 10 Boulderstone Road
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CHAIRPERSON: Gavin Harris

TREASURER: David Walker

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Greg Hodgins, Michael Donnellan, Warren March, Bronte Andrewartha, Joe Jackson

CLOCK CHAIRPERSON: Lee Abbott

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

IT MANAGER: Alan Agar

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

The Year Book is a collaboration between Alan Agar, Michael Donnellan assisted by Rolf Goodacre

Front cover pic by Joe Jackson at The Twins. Wall of Fame at Gepps Cross Hall.

SAHPA Secretary – Tony Perkins

Thank you to all the club secretaries for making my job easier I will be back next year to do it all again. Racing may not have gone so well, but a combined effort saw the administration side run smoothly. *Tony Perkins*

SAHPA Chairperson's report 2024

The 2024 Season was very successful, thanks to our hard working Release Panel (Tim Fawcett, Bronte Andrewartha and Rick Drew) who study the weather and pick dates to maximize returns and maintain the integrity of our race program. We are also in a good position having a reliable driver (Alex Stojakovic) and liberator (Joe Jackson) and the flexibility of having our own truck which means we can change dates whenever we need. Thank you to Nenad Stojakovic for being the back up liberator.

Thank you to Ray McIlduff who was the recipient of the prestigious Grant Paterson award for his services to the SAHPA, Ray volunteered to renovate our ladies toilet at Boulderstone Road to be suitable for disabled people. Troy Tirrell generously donated the bathroom fittings.

Golden Mile Loft further evolved in 2024, Tony Perkins had nine retired flyers come back as "Returned" members with small teams of ten birds to fly out of the loft. In 2025, Tony has now signed up 21 "returned" members to fly out of the loft and he has some more on a waiting list to join. The Returned members are full members of the SAHPA and their birds race for the overall Assoc placings. It gives them a chance to stay involved in the sport, they are welcome to socialise and wait for the race birds sitting under the SAHPA Hall verandah. Very well done by Tony Perkins and the Golden Mile Club members.

The SAHPA Committee of Management 2024 have done a great job in keeping the cost down for all participants, this year the prepaid price per bird was only \$2.50 which is the cheapest I can remember. Back in 2018 it was \$3.85 per bird. The 2022 Committee which arranged the SA Convention (Greg Hamilton Chair, John Harper, Tom Tirrell, David Walker, Graham Mitchell, Warren March, Greg Hodgins and Rick Williams) with assistance from Alan Agar raised \$22,000 for the SAHPA which we are allocating \$4,600 each year for five years towards reducing the price per bird. We also allocated (\$2,550) - three quarters of the 2023 financial year surplus to reduce the cost per bird in 2024 and plan to do the same in 2025.

At the line of flight meeting held this year, the majority of members voted to fly two lines of flight north / north west and east. It should be an exciting season in 2025.

SAHPA Treasurer's report

The SAHPA Committee of Management made a decision for 2024 to keep the costs down for our members and we budgeted for a loss. The financial accounts for 2024 report a deficit of \$12,772.62 for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. There was a small surplus before allocating \$13,834 depreciation of our vehicles and other assets.

Lower income contributors to this result were:

- Sales - Pre-Payment Income incl Trainers down (\$4,300)
- Sales - Life Ring incl Foreign Ring Transfers down (\$12,000)

Higher income contributors to this result were:

- Interest received – essentially from the twelve month term account - \$4,000
- Sales - Storage at Boulderstone Road up \$3,000
- Sales Capitation Fees up \$2,000 – largely due to the Returned Members using the Golden Mile Loft to race pigeons.

Higher cost contributors to this result were :

- Honorarium Golden Mile Manager - \$5,300 – a new expense approved by the SAHPA COM – so far, a very successful outcome thanks to efforts by our General Secretary Tony Perkins.
- Additional prize money (back payments to SAHPA Aggregate Points winners, SAHPA race prizes and 5 bird pools) - \$2,600
- Race Unit - SAHPA 1 and 2 - Repairs and Maintenance up \$15,000
- Waste Collection up \$800
- Yearbook Publication - \$2,400

On the plus side, 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 extra 2024 income of \$28,000 has been used as in previous years to reduce the cost for SAHPA membership and racing significantly.

I wish to thank the SAHPA COM and particularly to Gavin Harris and Tony Perkins – their support during the last two years was most appreciated.

D. Walker - Treasurer SAHPA January 2025

Joe Jackson North Zone Delegate 2024

I thank the North Zone Clubs Gawler RPC, Kingsford RPC and Central Districts RPC Inc for voting me in as their elected delegate on the Committee of Management SAHPA.

From the AGM the North Zone have been instrumental in small changes to the program, getting the Young Bird derby races swapped with the Open races and getting trainers sent on the first two SAHPA Open races Glendambo and Little Topar.

On the COM, I have learnt a lot about the daily running of the SAHPA and the monumental effort by those that put their hands up to help the SAHPA.

Keeping the cost as economical as possible for the SAHPA members is one of my priorities as with developing promotion ideas to attract more members to this great sport.

Some super results by the North Zone include the following: 5 SAHPA Aggregate race point wins Byrock, Coober Pedy, Emmdale, The Twins (No.2) and Glendambo Open.

Early SAHPA SDC races saw three Stirling North races all won by the North, as well as Bookaloo.

Overall Aggregate points:

3rd Place Rick & Len Drew

4th Place Geoff Rayment & Bronte Andrewartha

5th Place Tim Fawcett & Geoff Jackson

Overall SDC Aggregate points

3rd Place Tim Fawcett & Geoff Jackson

5th Place Grant Roberts

I wish everybody a safe and prosperous 2025. - Joe Jackson.

Conveyor's report 2024

Again, I was privileged to do the conveying of the SAHPA race pigeons for 2024. Russell Burnett conveyed the SALDC races of Alice Springs and the Wilcannia Sires with great appreciation. Tony and Anne Perkins conveyed the Yunta Open race with great success. The SAHPA truck driver Alex Stojakovic did a fantastic job covering many kms in 2024 and tending to the truck. Nenad Stojakovic also filled in on the third Stirling North Race with sincere thanks.

This season proved to be very testing both for our race pigeons and the release panel featuring Tim Fawcett (Chair), Bronte Andrewartha and Rick Drew.

Fog was evidenced in some races that forced delays or changed released times.

I made one crucial change to the process this year, and that was feeding the birds twice in a day enroute to release point. I felt more opportunity to feed was required to also get more birds drinking.

Truck and trailer repairs were done promptly. Many thanks to Tony Perkins, Ray McIllduff and Aldom for their much appreciated time and efforts. Thanks to the units cleaner Greg Hodgins.

Yours Sincerely Joe Jackson

Bird of the Year

Tim Fawcett: SA23 220 bch 1st SAHPA Coober Pedy Open - 3rd SAHPA The Twins Open 2

The Ace Bird Awards are:

1st Ace Young Bird SA23 220 bch owned by Fawcett & Jackson. 53rd Lyndhurst YBC, 3rd The Twins, 1st Coober Pedy - Av Unirate: 0.936%

2nd Ace Young bird SA23 12360 bch owned by Durrant and Cornish.

1st Marla, 35th The Twins #1, 54th Glendambo Open

Av Unirate: 1.55%

3rd Ace Young Bird SA23 24343 bbpc owned by N. Stojakovic

65th Little Topar, 34th Emmdale, 10th Cobar

Av Unirate: 4.47%

1st Ace Old Bird SA22 4989 bcph owned by T. Perkins

8th Wilcannia 5b, 33rd Emmdale, 4th Byrock

Av Unirate: 3.48%

Sires Produce

Ross's brother (Alan) bred three pigeons for the Sires Produce for Ross to race. The winning bird (PA23 0654 bch) was home first thing in the morning 6.20 a.m. from Wilcannia which was two weeks before the Sires race. She then went to Little Topar and homed on the day. That was 18th August also Little Topar on 3rd August and 11th bird home from Peterborough 28th June. 18th bird home from Stirling North. Ross thinks this bird is a bit of a sprinter but this race just suited her. He thinks this bird was a fair pigeon from the beginning and as the races got longer and harder she seemed to drop back a little. The Sires race was a bit easier and he thinks she found it a bit easier.

Alice Springs Winners



The partnership of Rick and Len Drew have now won this race twice in the last three years.

Their winning pigeon was a blue bar hen rung SA22 6148. This hen covered the distance of 1297.456 km to her home loft in 20 hrs, 3 min and 17 sec. with a velocity of 1078.263 mpm along with a winning margin of 23 min. In all there were 51 fanciers that entered 266 birds selected to compete in this marathon race.

The 2024 Alice winner was the Drew's clock bird from Yunta earlier in the year, and she also raced Little Topar before being sent to Alice Springs. In 2023 she was the Drew's second bird home from Byrock but was outside race time. She had four races as a baby and Alice Springs was her 4th as a two-year-old. She is a Dordin x Fraser from

a family of pigeons that the Drews bought from Port Augusta.

Her brother was 3rd in the Cock Bird Special and a sister was 20th SAHPA Cobar last year.

Trophies and Donors

Race point	Donor	Winner
Stirling North 1	Benzing Australia	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Stirling North 2	Benzing Australia	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Peterborough 1	Benzing Australia	F. DiMella
Peterborough 2	Benzing Australia	J. Vanderlinden
Bookaloo 1	Benzing Australia	J. & C. Horrocks
Yunta 1	Benzing Australia	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Yunta 2	Benzing Australia	March / Andrewartha
Pimba	Benzing Australia	G. Hodgins
Olary	Benzing Australia	March / Andrewartha
Stirling North 3	Benzing Australia	G. & S. Roberts
Glendambo	Tim Fawcett	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Little Topar	Warren March	R. & S. Chapman
Lyndhurst YBC	Warrnambool RPC	Horrocks & Seiboth
Little Topar SAD	Gavin Harris	M. Donnellan
Alice Springs	Andrewartha and Rayment	R. & L. Drew
Twins Open	Warrnambool RPC	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Wilcannia 5-bird	Warrnambool RPC	Nel Family Girls
Wilcannia (Alan Harris)	Warrnambool RPC	N. Stojakovic
Twins 5-bird	Warrnambool RPC	B. & S. Balk
The Twins Open	Perry Burton	Barnes & Duits
Marla (Keith Wickham)	Tim Fawcett	Durrant & Cornish
Emmdale (Bill Walford)	Gavin Harris	J. Williams
Emmdale Cocks Special	SALDC	K. Waters
Coober Pedy (Allen Goodger)	Gavin Harris	T. Fawcett & G. Jackson
Cobar (Andrew Muirhead)	Yianis Bakirtzakis	S. Manuel
Byrock (Rudy Diener)	Bill Bilecki	Rayment & Andrewartha
Small Team Flyer Competition	Central Districts RPC	M Donnellan
Slowest Winning Velocity	Warrnambool RPC	M Donnellan
Bird of the Year	SAHPA	Tim Fawcett & G Jackson
First cock Alice Springs – (W. & C. Myers)	SAHPA	M Donnellan
R. Horseman Memorial Shield (YBC)	SAHPA	Horrock & Seiboth
R. Cann Memorial Shield (SAD)	SAHPA	M Donnellan
Premier Club Trophy	SAHPA	North Suburban
Most Outstanding Performance (B. Healy)	SAHPA	Tim Fawcett & G Jackson
Short Distance Benzing Aust Series	SAHPA	J Harper
Vin Blanden Memorial Shield	SAHPA	S Manuel
SA Champion Long Distance Flyer	SALDC	Rayment & Andrewartha
North Line Points Winner	SAHPA	J Marafiotte
North-east Line Points Winner	SAHPA	R & L Drew
Ace Young Bird	SAHPA	T Fawcett & G Jackson
Ace Old Bird	SAHPA	T Perkins
Aggregate Points	SAHPA	J Marafiotte

Club reports 2024

Metropolitan IRPC

Jim Marafiotte again won the SAHPA Champion flyer award. Remarkably for the eighth time! Con Moukas and Perry Burton also performed creditably gaining 19th and 21st in the SAHPA Aggregate.

Special mention for new flyer Rick Verdino who put in an impressive performance flying a very small team. Sadly, 2024 also saw the retirement from our sport for very popular clubman Alex Hlebnikoff.

Para Hills Pigeon Club

Commenced the 2024 Race Season with 11 Flying Members. We had six different members who won races in our club this year.

Summary of outstanding achievements: Our Club Overall Points went to Rocky Varapodio for a second year in a row. He won three races this year, and ten 2nd positions. He also finished in 6th position in the Assoc Short Distance Championship, and 3rd position in the Small Team point score.

Horrocks and Seiboth had another successful year, winning a total of eleven club races. Including winning the Association Lyndhurst YBC.

J & C Horrocks also won a SDC race from Peterborough flying a fast speed of 2158 m/min.

Our club also conducted the second year of the Red Colour Race. The winner of the race was Ken Waters with a mly hen SA23 18738.

Para Hills appreciates the support and will continue this as an Annual Event.

Central Districts RPC Inc.

Starting with 10 competing members and 937 pre-nominated race pigeons, the club saw great heights this year.

Alan Agar was the best and fairest in the club with 9 x 1st wins and 4 x 2nds, runner up was ever consistent Graham Mitchell with 5 x 1st wins and 6 x 2nds.

Meritorious mentions:

Alan Agar 9th and 10th Open Pimba SAHPA SDC 430 kms

Alan Agar 4th Open Lyndhurst YBC SAHPA 540 kms

Joe Jackson 4th Open Alice Springs SALDC 1271 kms

Alan Agar 8th Open The Twins (no. 2) SAHPA 620kms

Joe Jackson 6th Open Emmdale Cock Bird Special SALDC 640kms

Alan Agar 4th Open Emmdale SAHPA 621 kms

Alan Agar 4th Overall Small Team Aggregate SAHPA

It was an enjoyable year at the club, great teamwork with getting the birds to the SAHPA. Look forward to seeing everyone in 2025.

Stay Safe. Joe Jackson Centrals Club Chairman

North Suburban RPC

Club Birds of the Year:

J Vanderlinden SA22 23973 BBH 1st Stirling Nth, 1st Glendambo

N Stojakovic SA21 17658 BBH 1st Wilcannia 5b, 1st Cobar

North Derby: Barnes & Duits

South Derby: N Stojakovic

Combined Derbies: M Molchanoff

Short Distance Points: J & C Harper

Middle Distance Points: N. Stojakovic

Long Distance Points: N. Stojakovic

SAHPA Points winner: N. Stojakovic

Overall Aggregate points: N. Stojakovic

SAHPA wins:

The Twins Open: Barnes & Duits

Wilcannia Open: N. Stojakovic

Port Adelaide Racing Pigeon Club

We had a close competition for club points winner in 2024. The final result depended upon the final races of the year. Jason Petruzzelli won the club points, with Rick Williams finishing a close second. Interestingly Rick Williams was our clubs highest placed flyer in the Association points - finishing 12th. Highlights for the year must include Ross Chapman winning the Association for the Little Topar Open and the Wilcannia Sires Produce event.

The club benefited from our shared squeaker fundraising sale. We thank all fliers who attended and the Centrals club for all their work in helping make the event happen.

The club will continue to operate from its club rooms down the Port in 2025 with the area of the club rooms still planned for redevelopment by local council in the coming year or two.

Unfortunately 2025 will see our club with a few less members as some give the sport away and others move to clubs to suit their locations, however the club will continue to persevere.

We would like to thank Tony Perkins for his continued assistance to all our members over the previous year, his efforts and time are greatly appreciated.

All the best to all clubs and members for the coming 2025 season.

SARPF



It was another great year of racing for the SARPF (Fed) this season just gone. There were lots of great racing by its members and some excellent results in the SAHPA. Special mention should go to the members that won SAHPA races this year being B & S Balk for The Twins 5BS, Nel Family Girls for Wilcannia 5BS and Shaun Manuel for Cobar. There were plenty of other results with owners having birds placed high up in the SAHPA results which is good to see for the members. It was a great catch-up in November for the members where we had a bbq breakfast followed by our AGM, then onto the

presentation for the year. Firstly, the winners all received their prizes, and then we moved on to other awards for points, champion club and Bird of the Year. The bird of the year went to Lee Abbott, and the champion club was a closely fought battle between Glenelg, Southern Vales and Southern Districts, where Southern Vales came out the victors for the year. The points winner was a close fought battle with Tom Tirrell taking an early lead thanks to three wins being the Glendambo Open and YBC plus Coober Pedy. However, a fast finish by Shaun Manuel was not enough to overtake the consistency of Gavin Harris for the chocolates. Well, done to all members on another great year with lots of fun and laughs and I am sure we are looking forward to another great year of racing in 2025.

The Golden Mile Racing Pigeon Club

The Golden Mile Pigeon Club gained two new members this year to strengthen the ranks of the returned flyers club, Yang & Gao and M. Donnellan. Both Dennis, Rambo and Michael had a competitive season. Yang & Gao won the club YBC and numerous other club races. Michael won the SAD and his first Association race and did well in the Alice Springs event gaining third and fifth with the first cock bird home. Tony Perkins excelled in the long- distance events winning Cobar and Byrock club races. He also was successful in winning the *1st Ace Old Bird with this outstanding hen: SA 22 4989, 8th Wilcannia 5b, 33rd Emmdale, 4th Byrock*. The club is still in its infancy and has performed well for such a young club. It would be remiss of me not to mention all the assistance from sponsors and other generous flyers who have donated their birds and time to support the Golden Mile Club. We are truly grateful for all donations and support throughout the year. THANK YOU.

Chairman / Treasurer Tony Perkins, Committee: Vice Chairman Greg Hodgins, Secretary Michael Donnellan, Bronte Andrewartha, Grant Paterson.



Kingsford IRPC

The club had another outstanding year with several flyers producing some exceptional race performances. None other than the partnership of Fawcett & Jackson who started the season with extraordinary performances winning four races with three fastest times in the state and a second fastest in another race result finishing third overall in the SDC points. Also G. & S. Roberts flew extremely well in the Short Distances races winning three races having fastest time from Stirling North finishing 1st and 2nd and also 3rd and 4th in other races and finishing 5th overall in SDC points. A top effort. Grant especially for a small team flyer. Others to win a club race included M. & E. Skelland, G. Rayment & B. Andrewartha and S. & G. Roberts & K Bowen. Well done to those members.

When the big races commenced – well as they say the cream rises to the top with some exceptional and extraordinary performances from the members with T. Fawcett & G. Jackson continuing their exceptional season winning five races with three SAHPA wins being at the highest level and also taking multiple places in majority of those races – what an unbelievable season. R. & L. Drew performances rose to the next level winning five races with several top SAHPA places to their name. R. & L. Drew also won the prestigious Alice Springs event for the second time in four years, an awesome result. The partnership of G. Rayment & B. Andrewartha also had excellent results once the Association races commenced winning two races, one being first SAHPA Byrock which was a tough and difficult race. Well done Geoff and Bronte. Another flyer who performed well at Association level was Whitechurch Family gaining top places in several distance races including seven places from Alice Springs which was a very tough race. Others to win races at Association level included K. Waters from Cobar and S. & G. Roberts and Bowen from Twins 5-bird Special. The following members: R. & L. Drew 3rd, Rayment & Andrewartha 4th, Fawcett & Jackson 5th and Whitechurch Family 22nd all finished in the top 30 of the overall SAHPA Aggregate points for 2024. These flyers have become the benchmark for long distance racing in South Australia. Congratulations to all the members for a wonderful year – WELL DONE.

We would like to acknowledge the kind generosity of Rick and Len Drew in their contribution in the Sires Produce race – not only did they nominate a team of birds for the race they also put on a free bbq on the day for all the members and what a day it was with four birds arriving together with two being club birds and winning \$850 for the club. Many thanks guys. We have a GREAT CLUB as we all get along with each other which is good for the sport. Secretary / Treasurer K. Bowen.

SAHPA 2024 Benzing Short Distance Points

It was most pleasing to follow up the 2023 Benzing Short Distance Points win to repeat again in 2024. In the last two seasons I didn't set out to win the SDC points - it just happened, mainly due to the performance of a small team of 25 two and three year old hens. This small team was tossed every Sunday on the Mazda unit and fed on a regular diet of peas, wheat, sorghum, safflower and maize. So, nothing really special going on here.

When I look at the SDC Honour Board and see the names of the previous winners especially that of Cook & Edwards from years 2015-2018, I reflect on what a wonderful achievement by this partnership. Personally, knowing just how hard it is to achieve this award it is indeed an honour to be amongst the list of these previous SDC winners.

Unfortunately, my team of young birds contracted a most unusual sickness similar to "fat eye" which really affected their performance, so my results tailed off from the Derby onwards when I rely on my youngsters to take over. In my opinion pigeon racing consistency comes down to good health, good management and good pigeons.

I would like to thank Kevin Clark for sponsoring the Benzing SDC series and I am sure that the individual SDC race winners are also very appreciative of their Benzing prizes. John Harper



SDC RACES 2024



Stirling North No. 1. Flew well as a baby, clocked at The Twins 5B Special without placing and is a daughter of G Hamilton's champion racer and breeder Duchess. Duchess was 2nd and 4th in SAHPA races and is dam of two SAHPA winners, g/dam & g/g dam of SAHPA winning birds.

Stirling North No. 2. Picture is Eve SA 23 257 BBH, having her first race from Stirling Nth she was in a drop of 10 birds and won the race. She is from top performed birds I bred and raced down from my best Heremans imported lines. Sire is Lachie. 1st SAHPA Pimba 412 km 2023 2873 birds. nest brother to Candice 1st SAHPA Glendambo YBC 2022 2212 b. Sire of 1st SAHPA SDC Stirling Nth No 2 2024 1837 b 250 km. From No 1 pair Lachlan & Bonnie. Dam is Bloom, super race hen for 2 seasons placing 1st club 6th SAHPA Bookaloo 330 km 2802 b and 5th SAHPA Glendambo YBC 492 km 2212 b 2022. Dam of 1st SAHPA SDC Stirling Nth No 2 2024 1837 b 250 km, 28th SAHPA Glendambo YBC 2023 492 km 2710 b, Nest sister has placed 6th and 25th in SAHPA in 2022 and 2023.

Peterborough 15 June. Was a tough race to start the North East Line of racing. With the winner being Fred Dimella from North Suburban club, flying 832 m/min, in 4 hours and 9 mins 45 seconds from the 208km journey. Sire of the winner, is a son of Fred's Temora winner and dam is Full Hereman Ceusters. This hen has been a very consistent bird for Fred.



Bookaloo 1. Winner this week was Jack Vanderlinden who timed in a bch SA21 25560 from the North Suburban club, flying 1366 m/min in 4hrs 14 mins 39 sec for the 348 km journey. Jack indicated that the sire was a grandson of the Bordeaux International race in Belgium and dam is a Hereman Ceuster from Cook and Edwards

Peterborough No. 2 Winner this week was Justin Horrocks (J & C Horrocks) who timed in a bbh SA21 21618 from the Para Hills club, flying 2158m/min in 1hr 31mins 42 sec for the 197km journey. The bird was bred by a former Para Hills club member Brenton Howson from a Van Loon cross Gaby. Justin indicated that she has been a consistent race hen.

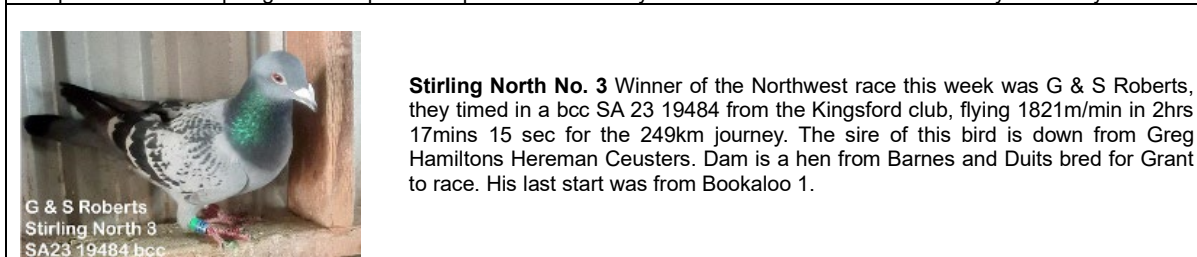
Yunta. Winner of the Northeast race this week was March/Andrewartha Partnership, they timed in a bbc LM21 1184 from the Lower Murray club, flying 1295 m/min in 3 hrs 52 mins 34 sec for the 301 km journey.



Bookaloo 2. Winner this week was Fawcett and Jackson Partnership who have now won three SDC races, this week they timed in a bch SA22 9385 from the Kingsford club, flying 1168 m/min in 4 hrs 42 mins 42 sec for the 329 km journey. This hen is the daughter of the partnerships No 1 pair.

Pimba. Winner of the Northwest race this week was Greg Hodgins, he timed in a bch SA22 23463 from the North Suburban club, flying 1357 m/min in 5 hrs 17 mins 56 sec for the 431 km journey. Greg informed us that the Sire was a Koopman and Dam a Van Dyke. Greg indicated that she was not raced as a young bird, he was going to put her in the stock loft, but as most of us do, changed his mind. Wise choice Greg.

Olary. Winner of the Northeast race this week was March/Andrewartha Partnership, they timed in a BB H SA22 23712 from the Lower Murray club, flying 1283m/min in 4hrs 29mins 23 sec for the 345 km journey. The hen is a Koopman Gabby. Koopman side of the pedigree is the partnerships consistent family. 23712 raced and tossed consistently as a baby.



SAHPA Juniors 2024 Results

Hi everyone, please find a list below of this years race results and overall points winners. The presentation was held in conjunction with the senior presentation. A big thank you to all of our race sponsors for 2024 - David Walker, Gary Lillingston, Tom Rushton, John Harper and Tim Buxton. Congratulations to Rory Williams for winning the overall points and the Doug Searle Shield, we had 18 juniors competing this year. Also a big thanks to the Yarraville Club, WPF Melbourne for their continued support to the SAHPA Junior competition which assists in trophies, assisting juniors without a senior flyer etc. Kind Regards Tim Fawcett-SAHPA Junior Co-ordinator.

Juniors 2024 Overall Points						
Flyer Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Total
Rory Williams	17	5	8	10	14	54
Yang Bros	12	14		12	13	51
Kakoschke Grandkids	15	11	12	1	9	48
Jack Petruzelli	10	7	3	15	10	45
Lorenzo Aquilina	13	13	11	2	5	44
Lucas Williams	16	2	9	7	8	42
Cooper Horrocks	14	3	5	16		38
Jessica Ellul	8	8	10	6	2	34
Jackson Andrewartha	4	10	6	14		34
Hugh Mahney	5			17	12	34
Charlotte Horrocks	9	12		11		32
Harry Caon	3		7	9	11	30
Chloe Barlow	11		4	8	4	27
Abbott Grandkids	6	6		5	6	23
Carter Kids	1		2	13	3	19
Thomas & Henry Tirrell	2	9	1	3		15
Olivia Freschi		1		4	7	12
Nirike Nel	7	4			1	12



Pictures from left to right: Tim with Kakoschke kids, Rory and Lucas Williams, Yang kids, Tim with Jessica Ellul, Nerica Nel, Chloe Barlow, Jack Petruzelli, Lorenzo Aquilina

Jim Marafiote

Aggregate Points winner 2024



Jim had another very consistent season. Even though he did not win an association race he was well clear of the next flyer by 58 points. Much the same as last year's points winners, Durrant & Cornish who won the points, but did not win an association race. The aggregate points are about the overall consistency of a flyer throughout the entire season. This feat of winning the points is never an easy one, to present a team of pigeons that consistently achieve high results is a great accomplishment for any flyer. Jim has now won the points eight times which is an incredible SAHPA record.

An example is in the Twins Jim clocked the second, third, fourth and seventh bird only to lose by 28 seconds. In Wilcannia he clocked the third and tenth pigeon, and in Cobar he clocked the second pigeon in the race, so obviously an ever-consistent performance in 2024.

There are many articles written about Jim, so we decided to focus on his breeding programme. As with many flyers selection is an ongoing process. This process just doesn't start at the end of the race season, continual assessment of races throughout the year are documented and the pigeon's performance is noted. This strategy not only ensures that the data collected is factual but reflects the pigeon's parents background and pedigree.

He normally takes no more than three rounds from a pair of birds, believing producing more reduces the longevity of the hen. Jim's well known grizzle hen, who is eight years old has produced two association winners, so his philosophy has merit. The question arose about the age

he would stop breeding from a hen, the evaluation process is not a simple one. Many factors are taken into account. Is the egg quality sufficient, is the shell smooth, white, and of adequate size. The outcome of this question begins long before the mating process. Calcium deficiency is often a cause of poor-quality eggs, providing a calcium rich grit throughout the year to your stock birds is essential to fertile eggs. It is often thought that hens that produce poor egg quality have not been supplied enough grit prior to breeding time or have a poor diet. Much of the calcium in egg production comes from the skeleton of the hen, so it is imperative that a diet rich in calcium is supplied to your stock birds.

One could take it for granted that you would automatically mate a pair of association winners together, not necessarily. Jim will wait until the end of the season and analyse all his birds' performances. Then he will match pedigrees with selected pigeons to ensure his preferred type of pigeon is produced. The advantage or dilemma is the endless winners and association placed pigeons he has to select from. This is where a professional eye and extensive knowledge of your own pigeons comes into play. Knowing your pigeon's history and race performance will enhance your breeding outcome. Monitoring race performances and noting the race conditions are essential to preparing your stock birds. Often a race result is distorted due to loft position and the weather pattern, so being fully aware of the bird's performance, even though it didn't rate high on the points ladder, the performance in your loft could indicate a far better result than one would think. He rarely introduces new pigeons into his loft unless they have proved to be exceptional. Characteristics of any pigeon are in the eye of the fancier - a supple round shaped body is one of the many attributes that Jim prefers in his pigeons.

Recovery was also discussed; no additives are added to the water, fresh, clean water is crucial to good pigeon health, electrolytes are only supplied if the birds appear dehydrated. A mixture of small grain is provided upon race return, separated on day one, exercise next day, day two return with main batch. Finally, selecting a breeding pair or race bird is not a science; fanciers' preference is the main tool one uses, there are no secrets! Eye theory, wing theory, vents, square underwing feathers are all theories. An asset that a flyer requires to be successful is not always attainable; stock sense, the one thing that a fancier cannot gain by reading books or watching YouTube, it's just natural talent.

Jamie Williams

First place Emmdale (Bill Walford) National

SA21 15398 bbh 1116.241 mpm - 610 kms – fly time: 9:07:17



Jamie has continually strived for success. He moved to Adelaide a couple of years ago and was fortunate enough to purchase Tony Perkins old property which had an established loft. He instantly tasted success with a win from Coober Pedy in 2022. Prior to that he lived on a hobby farm near Port Wakefield and was an affiliate member with the Gawler Club for six years. Since then he has worked hard to receive acknowledgement for his achievements. Success comes with hard work and consistency, which Jamie has abundance of. So, when he won Emmdale his hard work and individual performance was recognised. Jamie also gained second place in the small team flyer points - again evidence of a very consistent year.

This bbh has been extremely consistent for Jamie throughout the year. Raced seven times on both lines and gained first place in four club races, so this win was again recognition for consistency. The evidence of

performance was also shown by this hen winning the National for Jamie and supplying Jamie with a monetary reward through the pools system. This again reinforces Jamie's judgement and keen eye when he selected his pool birds early in the season, secondly also selecting her for the Emmdale National.

The sire was bred by T. Woollatt and performed well on the west line. The dam was bred by Tony Perkins and won Bookaloo for the club, so both parents have a performance-based history. The bloodlines consist of Koopman / Dangerfield / Busschaert. His race team consisted of just over a hundred birds this year and his stock loft has about 25 pairs. His breeding philosophy regarding longevity of stock birds is that he will breed from a pair as long as they produce performance-based youngsters. He does not stop breeding from a hen due to her age, he will persist until her progeny fail to perform. He is aware of other flyers beliefs that you should stop breeding from a hen past five years but currently has had success with his current theory.

Jamie states not much has changed in his training regime since 2022, but did mention his feeding process has been modified since his 2022 Coober Pedy win. This year he purchased the race mix from The Royal Bird Company from the Association hall. (Tony Perkins has organised a mini co-op system for flyer to collect specialised grain from the hall). Jamie would assess his bird's nutritional needs and add more fats or protein when he believed they needed it. He also stated he reduced the amount of peas fed to his birds this year and it appears there seems to be a common theme to this feeding pattern over the past few years in Adelaide. Jamie also fed barley in the evening to his birds over the colder months during the race season. His pattern of recovery remains the same, rest for the first 24 hours, assessment, day two remain separate from the race team, day three return to race team.

Jamie is lucky enough that two of his three children, Lucas and Rory, both are keen fanciers. Currently Rory has the wood over his older brother Lucas in the results this year. But it's obvious both boys are competitive and have a strong bond which enhances their love of pigeons.

Unfortunately, Jamie is moving from his current location to the Gawler Belt, having a young growing family, they have decided they need more room for their three children. Jamie will continue to race pigeons and already has a vision for his new loft. His loft will be built from scratch, numerous sections, great ventilation, a fly-in section for return race birds and elevated floor to reduce cleaning. No doubt there will be many long nights of planning to ensure his high level of performance is maintained in the pigeon racing sport.

Jaimie is concerned about the future of pigeon racing and the decline in numbers, believing down the track more clubs will be utilising the Association Hall for hampering and maybe satellite hampering centers north and south. He also would like prize money to be more accessible to the flyers and believes this would not only help the flyers reduce their cost but also alert the public that there is a return for their time and investment into pigeon racing. Like many other sports, horse racing and greyhound racing, football: *all reward their participants for their efforts.*

Fawcett and Jackson

Most outstanding performance for 2024

First Glendambo Get On Open.492 kms. SA23 17309 bch Velocity 1119.969. Birds 2271

First The Twins Jim Marafiote Open. 609kms. SA 23 315 bbh Velocity 1223.570 Birds 1169

Equal First Coober Pedy Alan Goodger. 725 kms SA23 220 bch Velocity 1307.485 Birds 1199

Equal First Coober Pedy Alan Goodger.725 kms SA23 402 bbh Velocity 1307.485 Birds 1199

The Coober Pedy pigeons were equal first place and with seven birds being clocked within 27 seconds of each other, hence the most outstanding performance of 2024.

First Ace Young Bird is SA23 220 bch 53rd Lyndhurst YBC, 3rd The Twins, 1st Coober Pedy

This was Tim's review of his Ace bird: *The Ace Bird and SAHPA Bird of the Year SA23 220 bch was a fantastic race hen all year but really hit her peak in the final few races. Her sire is an original Greg Hamilton cock being a direct son of ace hen called Tame, he is a half-brother to outstanding racer and breeder Duchess. Her dam was purchased from Steve Summers from Sydney, and this was the first time I bred from her. Her dam was purchased from Greg Hamilton and is Tick Tock she was first SAHPA Allendale for Hamilton & Fawcett and is a daughter of ace racer and breeder Duchess. So, she contains all the best of Greg Hamilton's birds.*

The Fawcett and Jackson team had a remarkable year, winning three association races. I doubt anyone in the world of pigeon racing hasn't heard of Tim Fawcett, he has been flying for approximately 40 years. The partnership between himself and Geoff Jackson started a few years ago when Geoff who lives in Victoria wanted to purchase some pigeons from Tim and from there a friendship developed and they now team up together with a strong long-distance partnership. Geoff bred the Glendambo winner for their partnership so its not all one way. Geoff breeds about twenty pigeons a year and sends them over to Tim to race out of his loft.



Tim races in the Kingsford club from his home in Gawler. He has raced from this location for about five years. The origin of many of Tim's pigeons are European based. He has a high opinion of the Heremans strain. Note he has crossed them with the Gaby Vandenabeele strain with the desire to breed "superior pigeons". This term was voiced numerous times throughout the interview which highlights Tim's passion and drive to attain consistent results. He has a strong network with many interstate flyers, Graham Davison (hall of fame ANRPB 2018) which Tim states he got the best Heremans in ten years. He also purchased birds from the Ponderosa lofts in 2012 which gave him "instant success. The desire to accomplish consistent results has been paramount in Tim's success. He imported pigeons from Evert-Jan Eijerkamp in 2014 and was so impressed he has left testimonials on their web site in 2018. The birds that he has referenced are still in his winning pigeons bloodlines.

This was Tims view on his 2017 pigeon: (extract from 2017 yearbook) My winner in the Lyndhurst Open in 2017 is SA15 24295 bch. She is very well bred being from my direct imported cock "Angus" who is a grandson of the world famous Nieuwe Olympiade owned by H. & E. J. Eijerkamp.

Her dam is from Ponderosa Australia bred from top producer Olympus & Kirsty. She is 100% Leo Heremans.

Tim commences the racing season with approximately 250 pigeons from which he endeavours to achieve winning pigeons throughout the year. He has approximately 70 pair of stock birds and has numerous individual pens which ensures the progeny is genuine. The race loft is twelve metres long by three metres deep, consisting of four race sections and at each end of his loft there are separate breeding areas. The loft is 600 mm off the ground to ensure plenty of ventilation is maintained. Breeding "best to best" is his philosophy, attaining superior pigeons is the desired outcome. His stock birds are continually reviewed, hens after six years are assessed and if their offspring are not performing, he does not breed from them anymore.

He did acknowledge pigeons get old quick, so ongoing reviews are essential to maintain superior stock/race pigeons. A pigeon must achieve top ten placings over a two-year period to gain a spot in the stock loft. He is not keen on late bred pigeons, as this is disruptive to his training programme.

Training commences with six 20 kms tosses in succession. Not until the birds leave the site quickly do they progress to the next distance of 40 kms, they are tossed for another four times in a row then advance to 70 kms. Tim trains on his own with a strong belief that his birds should remain on the line of flight directly to his loft, not distracted by other pigeons, this dictates their line of flight on race day (wind permitting). The objective is to get the pigeons fit and educated; he uses the Benzing Live system to evaluate the bird's performance. Noting the birds who continually return to the loft first and this gives him the ability to chart their performance and plan their race programme. This strategy gives him some insight to the bird's fitness and race ability. He does not flag his pigeons during the racing season, his birds have a natural desire to exercise, which reflects their vitality and inherent desire to win. He has no preference of lines of flight stating "good birds" will win from anywhere!

The recovery programme consists of electrolytes upon race return, rest day one, warm bath day two, post bathing return to main batch. Assessments are continually being completed by Tim to ensure returned birds are fully recovered, if not they are given more time to recover.

The feed mix is a combination of Green Valley from Victoria, which he modifies to suit race distances, adding fats and protein to maintain fitness and stamina.

Green Valley Pigeon mix is made from all natural seed and with added oils for extra nutrition, ensuring your pigeons have a tasty and healthy snack between meals. Now with the added natural multi strain probiotic ProN8ure® for optimal intestinal digestion and health.

INGREDIENTS: Dunn peas, whole maize, sorghum, safflower, wheat, vegetable oil.

Tim states he has been fortunate enough to have gained knowledge from many flyers. His grandfather was his first mentor in the sport, Brian Fretter another, and most recently Greg Hamilton, who Tim describes as a "master" in pigeon racing. His professionalism and eye for detail made him stand apart from other flyers. Stock sense is a trait which he believes is essential for a successful pigeon flyer to have.

Tim continues to build the sport by managing the junior members but acknowledges this task is becoming increasingly difficult. He encourages all members to rally behind the sport and do as much as possible to expose the art of pigeon racing to the public.

SAHPA Presentation picture



In this picture: Rick and Len Drew, Keith Bowen, Geoff Rayment, Perry Burton and Gavin Harris

Shawn Manuel

First Cobar (Vin Blanden)

SA20 4414 bbh 1276.402 mpm 783.349 km birds 494. 10.13.43



Shawn has been flying pigeons for many years starting as a junior. He flew with Southern Districts and currently is with Southern Vales.

The season commences with about 120 race birds and he has about twenty-four stock pigeons. Shawn is no stranger to success: he won Tatura 2013 with a well bred bbh. The Cobar winner had performed consistently for Shawn as it was his first bird home from Emmdale 2024 and in 2022 she was placed second in Paruna and thirteenth in Little Topar Open. Her full sister has also been placed five times in the SAHPA top 30. The sire of this hen returned from Coober Pedy with the life ring cut off, so unfortunately who knows what it could have achieved. Both grand parents were purchased from the Wayne Myers dispersal in 2017. The bloodlines consist of birds from J Marafiote, Bruggemann and J Pryor. Shawn had a break from racing in 2023 due to work commitments. Obviously coming back refreshed and driven towards success. The dam of Shawn's winner is a David Cunningham pigeon.

Shawn states he prefers the Australian breed of racing pigeon; his loft contains some Dangerfield's, Pryor,

Metcalfe pigeons, to name a few. He has also been lucky enough to have an established network of flyers in the Southern Federation who assist him in attaining quality pigeons. Shawn also has an ardent desire to improve his race team by recently attending an auction of recently retired flyer Viv Allan. Viv has flown in the Southern Federation with outstanding success winning races on the east line such as Terang, Springhurst, and has achieved numerous top placings in the SAHPA, so all going well his stock loft will be gaining some exceptionally good pigeons.

His philosophy on the longevity of stock birds is if they are still producing quality performed pigeons he will continue to breed from them. There is a thought that particular flyers reduce their stock hens once they pass the age of five.

His feeding regime has varied over the years, currently his feed mix is approximately 40% peas, 40% wheat, 15% maize and the rest is a mix of safflower, sorghum, barley. He also noted that he feeds pigeon pellets at times to add any missing elements not attained with his grain mix. His stock birds are fed 30% peas, 30% wheat and 30% barley and small mixture to reduce weight gain during winter.

His training routine commences from approximately 15 kms once, then to St Kilda twice, Port Parham which is about 75 kms from his house, then he uses the SAHPA training unit for the rest of the year. He separates the hens from the cock birds directly after the Derby. His goal is for the birds to exercise around the loft for about 90 minutes if they tend to become unmotivated he will flag the pigeons to maintain a certain level of fitness.

Race recovery begins with an electrolyte (P180) added to the pigeon's water, Respite on day one. Day two they remain separated from the main batch, but access to exercise. Day three return to main race team, tossed next week weather permitting. Common sense will prevail if the pigeon has had a tough race, and extra attention is given to ensure full recovery is achieved.

Shawn has an intensive medication regime. On a three week cycle he rotates firstly Turbosole, week two: Baycox for coccidiosis, week three: S76. Once the race season is completed his medication regime ceases.

S76 is a 30ml water treatment designed specifically for controlling air sac mites and other parasites in cage and aviary birds. With active ingredients like mectin and slippery elm, this product offers a broad-spectrum defence against various pests, making it the ideal choice for bird owners with multiple pets.

His line of flight is preferably east mainly due to his location. Shawn believes his type and bloodlines are beneficial to his flying pattern.

Shawn's advice to new flyers is to take advice from other flyers in the same boundary as you are flying in, as they are familiar with the terrain and wind patterns.

Rayment & Andrewartha

First place Byrock Bill Button 2024 distance 850.906 km

SA23 17456 bch 1207.073 mpm – 11 hr 44 min 56 sec



Geoff Rayment's partnership with Bronte Andrewartha commenced in 2019. Geoff has been flying pigeons for approximately 27 years. His pigeon club history is varied and vast. Flying in Clubs such as Dublin, Balaklava, Metro and currently at the Kingsford club. His partnership with Bronte came about when Bronte achieved an outstanding result from Alice Springs in 2017 (1st, 3rd and 6th) and Geoff contacted Bronte to purchase some long-distance pigeons, it was then their relationship developed. Bronte has generously gifted Geoff pigeons with the view to enhance a fellow flyers stock and performance. The partnership is managed totally by Geoff who lives at Angle Vale and Bronte in the Southern suburbs approximately 80 km away.

Geoff is no stranger to success, in 2018 he was the winner of the 5-bird The Twins, and has attained outstanding achievements in long distance races: Border Village in 2021, first and second and currently first place Byrock. This hen was a sires nominated pigeon, which flew 6 races this season and is all Aussie Blood. She is off one of their

champion breeders a bcc bred by Bronte Andrewartha mated to one of their hens Geoff Rayment purchased which contains the blood lines similar to the sire. The Rayment / Andrewartha Aussie based long distance blood in 17456 consists of Eitzen, Goodger, Metcalf, Dangerfield. The winner's half brother was their first bird from Tasmania last year and half sister 30th Cobar last year. Geoff states there is not enough recognition given to flyers who breed their own pigeons from established breeders. The amount of eg, Goodger/ Metcalf and Dangerfield bloodlines left in certain pigeons is diluted over the years, so it is hard to really state they are pure. His preferred bloodline is Australian bred pigeons, currently 80% of his stock is Australian, the other 20% European. When asked what age do you stop breeding from your stock birds? As long as they are producing performance pigeons, he will continue to breed from them. He did present to me a magnificent cock bird which was rung in 2008 which is the grand sire of his Byrock winner and grand sire of pigeons which have returned from Tasmania. So, the



theory that old cock birds do not produce appears to be unfounded.

Geoff races approximately 300 pigeons and his stock are comprised of about 200 pigeons. Geoff does not breed from all of the stock birds, he carefully selects performance-based pigeons for his next race season. Birds that are selected for the next season are selected on pedigree, performance and birds that are still in his loft at the end of the season. Just because they did not gain a top position in the SAHPA, there will be birds who faced challenging situations throughout the race season and have demonstrated a strong desire to return to their loft. Geoff has several single breeding pens to ensure the progeny of his pigeons is secure and genuine. He stated he will breed from a pigeon who have returned home from a race injured, as he believes this pigeon has demonstrated tenacity.

Training his birds is based on education first. They are hamper trained in front of the loft as youngsters, then transported a short distance and released within a secure environment to ensure they return home stress free. Then his training commences with short tosses of about 20 km, then 40 km, 60 km then about 100

km. During this training period if there is any form of setback, he will return to the same distance to ensure the team are fully educated. Due to the amount of pigeons Geoff has, his training programme is conducted solo. He catches each pigeon individually to guarantee they are in good condition before they enter his training unit.

Feeding programme comprises of a mixture of grains; peas, wheat, maize, sorghum, safflower, vetch, french millet aiming for about 14 percent of protein. But this formula will vary throughout the season depending on distance and weather. Oils are also part of this feeding programme, sunflower oil, hemp oil, flax seed oil. He also uses an equine product called Energy Gold supplement.

Energy Gold is a premium 'super cool oil and fatty acid supplement, designed to deliver daily energy for performance, stamina and coat shine. Blended from cold-pressed, virgin Australian sourced oils, Energy Gold is a slow release, non-fizzy source of omega fatty acids, offering natural anti-inflammatory benefits and improved muscular function, as well as enhancing coat and skin health for a glossy shine. Energy Gold is garlic flavoured to please reluctant eaters and contains no preservatives or sugar, making it suitable for grain or sugar-sensitive horses and ponies as an energy source or coat conditioner.

The Concept of Energy Gold: Dr John Kohnke's special Energy Gold formulation provides a ratio of omega-3 to omega-6 fatty acids that make it superior to other oils, such as linseed or flaxseed, which are only palatable in small amounts. A specific balance of omega fatty acids can offer benefits for overall health including anti-inflammatory properties, and improvement in gastric, muscle and immune function. Energy Gold is also uniquely boosted with an optimal, fat-soluble source of vitamin E as an antioxidant for muscle and cellular function in exercising horses.

His recovery plan entails, when the birds return from a race they have access to fresh water with nil additives. Approximately two hours after they are allowed back in the main loft, returning to their own perch. They are not forced to fly with the main team until they recover fully. They are not tossed until ten days later.

Geoff commented that he would like to thank Bronte for all his help, and did have admiration for fellow flyer Grant Roberts. Grant has a demanding schedule, with young children, working and flying pigeons he does an outstanding job with his small team.



Gavin Harris, Geoff Rayment, Bronte Andrewartha, Lee Abbott

Bert Balk

First place The Twins 5 Bird Special



Bert currently flies with the Southern Vales Club. He has a long and vast history in pigeon racing commencing back in 1964 with the Oaklands pigeon racing club. He has flown at many locations from Angle Park in the late sixties and now at his current location at Morphett Vale.

His winner was bred by the Nel Family; a cross of Hereman / McLean / Appleby. Her race programme leading up to The Twins win was his first bird home to his loft in the YBC, so he was confident it had some potential. Bert is unsure of this hen's future, whether to race her next year or retire her to stock. This is Bert's second Association winner, his first was from Coober Pedy in 2005, which he proudly exhibits on his trophy wall in the spare room.

The loft location is unique. His loft is basically two steps from his back door (note picture). He has made use of every inch of his limited back yard. Unlike numerous flyers, Bert does not have the luxury of seeing his birds approach his loft from afar; they basically arrive over the house roof and into their loft. The loft comprises of four sections. Bert has a Tipes clocking system.

The race team comprises of approximately 75 race pigeons and 12 breeding boxes. Selection must be precise and calculated to ensure the loft size is stocked with his best performed pigeons. As many flyers state, "breed best to best".

Bert is lucky to have a sound network of experienced flyers who support him with training and breeding. His training programme commences early with a focus on education. Distances start at about 10 kms x 3 then 15 kms x 3, 30 kms x 3, then to Thompsons Beach then finally to Port Wakefield. He rarely uses the SAHPA tossing unit as his network with his fellow flyers encourage him to train with them. He did state his team does train over the hills up to Hahndorf. He is one of the lucky flyers who have other fanciers within a few kilometres of him which his birds batch up with to assist in extended training time around the loft. He does flag his birds late in the season to ensure fitness is maintained.

The feeding regime is not traditional. I noticed he uses a lot of barley mixed with pigeon pellets. His race mix consists of one part peas, three part barley, three part wheat, one part safflower, one part milo, one part corn and one part sunflower. This ratio is fed to his pigeons throughout the whole year. He does utilise pink powder and hemp oil in his feed to encourage optimum health for his pigeons.

Water supplements used is Stock Gain.

Customer information from Vetmeds365 web page.

A versatile, all round liquid supplement for horses made in Australia from 100% natural ingredients. Contains black strap molasses for high palatability, Includes apple cider vinegar, a source of sodium, potassium and antioxidants. Enriched with seaweed concentrate to provide micro and macro minerals for rehydration. Source of vitamins A, D and E. May be used to improve flavour and digestion of feeds, mask taste of powders and medicines and improve water taste. Easy to use, simply add to feed or water.

Recovery programme for race returned pigeons consists of a teaspoon of honey in the water and respite on day one, then return to the race team programme. Health is paramount to any race team and Bert ensures all his pigeons are vaccinated as per SAHPA protocol.

Bert did acknowledge the continuous support from Bronte Andrewartha and did mention that if anyone new entered the sport of pigeon racing Bronte should be the first person they speak to.

Garry Barnes and Leo Duits

First place the Twins (Fred Dimella) Open 620 km

SA 22 6805 bbc 1382.838 mpm.- 626.195 km. - 7:32:50



The Barnes and Duits juggernaut continues to roll along with another association win from The Twins. When the partnership formed in 2019 nobody would have expected the pair to blossom so early. The Twins win is Garry's second in consecutive years and Leo's tally is currently 10. As stated by Leo last year in the yearbook, his goal was to reach 10 association wins, that being achieved, he now has to set a higher goal. Sadly, Leo's health is still poor and this year he had to make the painful decision to remove all his birds from his house. As we all know this can be devastating and detrimental to a person's wellbeing, luckily his partnership with Garry still gives him joy.

Their bbc displayed consistent performance during the year. He was clocked four times prior to winning The Twins. 5th Peterborough, 2nd Stirling North, 9th Carrieton and 8th

Coombah. Obviously showing ability on both lines of flight. The sire is a Stakenborg imported by Jack Vanderlinden gifted to Leo. The dam is a full sister to Grant Paterson's 2014 Gold Coast One Loft winner. This pigeons bloodlines don't stop with just him; his full brother was placed three times in the top ten of the SAHPA. So the potential for further race wins is on the cards.

Garry stated his training pattern and feeding regime has not changed from last year. It is essential to a pigeon's wellbeing that they receive an adequate diet. Garry's grain mix is based on peas, wheat, safflower, maize and milo. He leaves a hopper full of peas throughout the year in the race loft during the breeding season to ensure that they have access to essential proteins. Unlike many fanciers the reduction in peas is not Garry's feeding philosophy, Leo also has the same outlook regarding modern day feeding models.

The team's training model did vary slightly this year, in 2023 he would train with a selected group, but due to travel commitments this year, Garry did a lot of solo training which obviously returned good results. He believes that once the race birds are fit, you should not over tax them with numerous long training sessions. Prior to his win he decided to do a series of short sharp tosses from Webb beach which is about 65 kms from his house. This method obviously proved to be fruitful as the results in the YBC from Lyndhurst showed with his birds gaining 2nd, 3rd, 13th, 19th and Garry stated he could have clocked more of his pigeons from this race.

Garry and Leo race about 160 pigeons and have about 25 stock pair. Both are continually reviewing the race team's performance to ensure a high standard of race bird is maintained. Garry and Leo prefer to fly the NW line due to his home's location but does fly both lines of flight.

Race return protocol: the goal is to ensure the birds recover from the race. To make sure this happens when a pigeon returns from a race they are separated from the main batch for 24 hours. Day two return to the main batch. No tossing for seven days. Ongoing assessment is noted to guarantee the pigeon recovers well and if they show signs of extended fatigue they are separated and further rest given. No additives are added to the water upon return, but apple cider vinegar is added to their drinking water to provide good gut health. Garry strongly believes that if your birds are not healthy then performance will be low. Vaccinations are essential to safeguard the team from infection and disease. Again this standard of treatment enhances the future of the race team.

The question of when do you stop breeding from a hen was put to the team and both Leo and Garry agreed that they keep breeding from a pair until they are no longer productive. Leo stated he never separates a pair that continually produced consistent race birds. Note the sire of the Twins winner is a 2018 bred bird and the dam is a 2015 bred pigeon. The sire of their 7th placed pigeon in the Sires Produce was bred in 2011.

Michael Donnellan

**First and Second Little Topar (Ross Chapman) Derby 494.090 km
SA 23 11080 bbc Velocity 979.884. Fly time 8.24.14. Tape 15.40.12
SA 23 1621 BBPH Velocity 979.301. Fly time 8.24.32. Tape 15.40.3.
Alice Springs Marathon 1329.769 km third and fifth
SA 22 17211 bbh vel. 1056.826. Fly time 20.58.16. Tape 16.19.14
SA 22 17212 bbc velocity 1040.375 Fly time 21.12.06 Tape 16.33.04
Winner of the SAHPA Small Team Points 2024**



My first exposure to pigeon racing was as a teenager when I met a flyer named Jack Waite at Cheltenham in the seventies then fast forward 50 years and John Crummey reported a stray pigeon of mine and this is where my journey into pigeon racing began. I shadowed John for two years whilst still working in the health industry as a nurse. Working 13-hour days made it impossible to dedicate any routine to race pigeons. I decided to go part time and race pigeons in 2020. Being the covid year it made it convenient for me as we only raced within the SA borders. In 2024 I joined the Golden Mile Club with Tony Perkins.

I have been extremely lucky to be gifted numerous pigeons from generous flyers. My Little Topar winner was bred by Alan Agar. Alan and I have exchanged pigeons for many years, but obviously I got the better end of the deal this year. My second placed bird was the result of mating my Sires birds from 2023 which were bred by Allen Limeburner and sent down to me to race on his behalf. The dam was placed 18th from Marree and the sire was injured as a youngster and only had one race from Coober Pedy.

One would think winning an association race would be exhilarating - and it was, but just after my Derby birds arrived home around 15.40, my

first Alice Springs bird arrived at 16:19, to my delight. But the highlight was my dear friend John Crummey who gifted me the dam sighting the hen arriving. John's health has not been good of late, and he gave up pigeon racing two years ago. The thrill of John and his wife Marg being at my house and seeing the Alice birds arrive eclipsed the Derby win. I was fortunate enough to also clock the hen's nest mate who took out the first cock bird from Alice Springs as well. And to top off my year, I was lucky enough to win the Barossa Squeaker sale prize with a pigeon bred by Jeff Howell who is the editor of the Australian Racing Pigeon Journal.

My training regime starts early in the season (around Easter). First tossing distance is only 10 kilometres up Anzac Highway next to the netball courts, focusing on education not fitness. I continue this about five times, then on to St Kilda, which unfortunately from Glengowrie is basically tossing from Outer Harbour. Then on to Dublin, then to Port Wakefield. Once race fit, I toss midweek from Sellicks Beach which is about 40 kms.

My feeding programme varies throughout the season. The foundation starts with 30% wheat 40% peas 10% maize 10% safflower 10% sorghum. As the race season progresses, I increase the maize content by 20% and reduce protein. Leading up to the race I increase the carbohydrates and fats. Post the race I increase the protein content. My stock birds are fed basically the same mix as my race birds, mainly

due to convenience. Leading up to the breeding season I introduce chicken layer pellets to increase the calcium content to maintain strong bones and egg quality.

My race loft is only small, I made a recess into my garage due to land restrictions and it has three sections the centre area is for return race birds which are kept separate for two days post their race, its 3 meters wide 2.9 meters deep and will house about 90 pigeons. I removed 20 box perches last year, as we all know; more perches, means more pigeons, so removing these perches by stealth restricts my race team. My stock loft only has six boxes. My breeding season starts about September and at times I foster out the birds I believe will be more successful as race birds.

Post treatment of race birds. The return birds are given P180 electrolyte in the water. The return race birds are kept separate from the race team for two days, I do not force them to leave the loft, providing a stress-free rest period I think is paramount to recovery. I provide them with warm bath water post-race to assist in soothing muscle pain.

Unfortunately, due to land restriction my stock loft has not the capacity to separate cocks from the hens, I am envious of flyers who have purposely designed their loft for functionality. In saying that, an experienced flyer once told me that a pigeon would fly home to a shoe box.

The strain of my pigeons is varied. Alan Agar gifted me a pair of Muirhead pigeons who have produced some consistent birds. I purchased a pair from Tony Cornish and Keith Bowen and this pair has produced numerous Association placings. (Van De Wouwer x Van Dyke) and some pigeons from John Harper who needs no introduction as an excellent flyer in the SAHPA.

What do I do differently to other flyers? I recall whilst producing the yearbook, some flyers stating you need good pigeons. I thought how do I get good pigeons without getting an overdraft. Common sense says no flyer will give you their A grade birds; and why would they! So, that old cliché, get good pigeons is sound advice.

I think perseverance, dedication and motivation will go a long way to achieve good results. You just have to look at the variants that govern the race results; wind, race point, bird fitness, loft position and the raptor factor en route and last of all, lady luck thrown in for good measure and then maybe you win a race.

Finally, I'd like to thank the numerous flyers who have guided me through my racing pigeon journey. The generous flyers who gracefully invited me into their homes to conduct their yearbook articles, without their co-operation I would not have gained some invaluable insights into different flying styles. The flyers that I pestered when I knew little about pigeon racing; Graham Goodrich who constantly guided me through weather patterns, Tom Tirrell who has been inspirational and encouraged me to think outside the square, Alan Agar who recruited me to assist him with the Year Book, John Harper who told me to aim higher, when I said I was happy just to win a club race, He told me my goal should be to beat the best, not be content just winning a club race and finally Garry Barnes who is like minded and we have established a network of quality pigeons.



John Crummey is an avid fan of long-distance racing. In 2013 he gained second from Bathurst when only three birds were home in race time, and again in 2022 flew Alice Springs and was placed third with only six birds home in race time. John gifted me his 2022 hen which is the dam of the third and fifth placegetters from Alice Springs in 2024 and are nest mates. His quote to me is “I have always got a bird home from Alice”.

Durrant & Cornish



First place Marla Keith Wickham Challenge 970 kms 2024
SA23 12360 bch. Velocity 995.886 birds 601. Fly time 15.59.35
SA22 21289 bch. Velocity 995.869 birds 601. Fly time 15.59.36
SA23 12360 bch. Second Prize SAHPA Ace Young Bird 2024

The success of the Durrant and Cornish team continued into 2024. Last year they won the SAHPA aggregate points and this year they achieved an outstanding result from Marla - two hens landing together and blitzing their rivals by 49 minutes.

When I interviewed Ian and Tony they stated they did nothing different from last year. Ian humbly stated everything went right for them last year. The wind, race points, no training disasters and the birds remained healthy all year. But I believe they underestimate their dedication and knowledge regarding the effort it takes to train and maintain a racing team of pigeons. To win the points last year and to continue the success into the next year is no easy feat.

This pair of winning hens bloodlines are peppered with association placings and wins. SA23 12360 is a Van de Wouwer x Flor Engels (bred by S. Hanel). SA22 21289 is Van de Wouwer x Hereman. Three sisters

of this hen have numerous placings in the SAHPA - Pimba, Marree, Bookaloo, so obviously the mating plan of Ian and Tony has been extremely successful. It is always impressive when flyers network. The winning hen SA23 12360 was a cross of his Flor Engels hen mated to a cock bird gifted to him by Tony from his Glendambo winner in 2021, so this network has been extremely successful.

One keynote is how this success came about. Ian expressed a strong desire to acknowledge Leo Duits contribution to their success. Leo gifted SA16 12302 bbc to Ian and this cock has sired 1st SAHPA Glendambo YBC, 2nd Marla, 11th Twins, 18th Glendambo, 4th and 9th Marree, grandsire 1st Marla. Which brought me to ask Ian and Tony, how long would you keep a stock bird for? It was obvious that performance is the key to any stock bird's place in the stock loft. Ian said pigeons would have to be continually placed in the top 30 of the SAHPA to be considered for a place in his stock loft. Tony on the other hand likes to preserve bloodlines. He will cross brother to sister then outcross and keep for stock. Referring back to SA16 12302, I handled this pigeon, and he presented as robust with plenty of vitality again evidence of a high standard of animal welfare that both Ian and Tony adhere to.

Here is an extract from last year to refresh our memories:

The type of pigeon the team aims for is an apple bodied pigeon and not too large. The wing theory and the four under feather theory is not practiced in their loft. Both prefer hens to cock birds, as cocks can often be too disruptive however both flyers have had outstanding cock birds and are fully aware of the value of a good cock bird. Their first-year birds will receive about four races. They are not a fan of strong wind assisted races, noting that it does not prepare the bird for more robust races. They do not train over the hills and believe many fanciers underestimate the intelligence of the racing pigeon.

Tossing starts at approximately 20 km. Once educated, progress to 50 km then to Port Wakefield weekly. Initially training by themselves then they utilise the association transport unit. Both said the association transport unit was extremely beneficial to the local SA fancier. Their birds exercise around the loft for approximately an hour and a half to two hours a day. The team is fortunate enough to live in the northern suburb of Salisbury and have two experienced fanciers within a kilometre of them and this ensures they batch up with the other birds and increases their motivation to exercise more.

The feeding programme is remarkably similar to many other fanciers. Their race mix consists of a formula of wheat, safflower, maize, millet, sorghum and rice. It is an ongoing selection issue in SA that the humble pea is often either used extensively or minimally. Ian says in race returns the birds get protein for recovery for two days, then no peas until the next race.

Birds returning from a race receive glucose upon their return to rehydrate then rest the next day, then join the race team. The loft can accommodate approximately 150 pigeons, but overcrowding is not accepted as this compromises the welfare of the pigeons. Ian is fully aware of presenting a fit and healthy race pigeon and maintains his loft by daily cleaning and vacuuming the loft and has a sound understanding the damage residual plume does, not just to the fanciers but also the pigeon.

Finally, Ian and Tony appreciate the camaraderie at the Vitesse club. Ian has been there for two years and says that every member makes him feel welcome and again acknowledges the generosity of Leo Duits in gifting him an outstanding cock bird.

Horrocks and Seiboth

Lyndhurst YBC 10th August 2024, 135 flyers, 2141 birds



From the results as reported by Darren Aquilina

The young bird derby was conducted this weekend from the north direction at Lyndhurst. The winner of this prestigious race was the Horrocks and Seiboth partnership from the Para Hills Club.

The winning bird bbh SA23 5633, covered the 484 km distance in 6 hrs 4 mins and 28 seconds, flying a speed of 1328.078 m/min.

The bb hen was bred by the partnerships good friend Gary Lillingston. She is a Van Den Bulck x Heremans. She was also placed 9th Open results from Bookaloo this year.

Written by Aaron Horrocks: This hen had two other starts earlier on in the season where she was 1st bird and 2nd bird to loft placing in top 30 of the SAHPA first birds.

Mixed families of imports eg. Heremans, Pryor, Marafiotte distance, Mark Seiboth mixed family. Trying out the Van Den Bulcks the last couple of years.

The family of pigeon was Van Den Bulck crossed Heremans from our good mate / silent partner Gary Lillingston. Cock was purchased from Steve Lucas, hen pure Heremans also from Steve.

Breeding: Generally start season with around 150 babies, plus 2 year olds. Generally will try turn over stock once they have stopped producing performance pigeons, age generally doesn't matter with cocks, but prefer breeding race birds under six years old.

Feeding: Heavier pea feed but increase fats as distance goes on. Pellets only used during breeding.

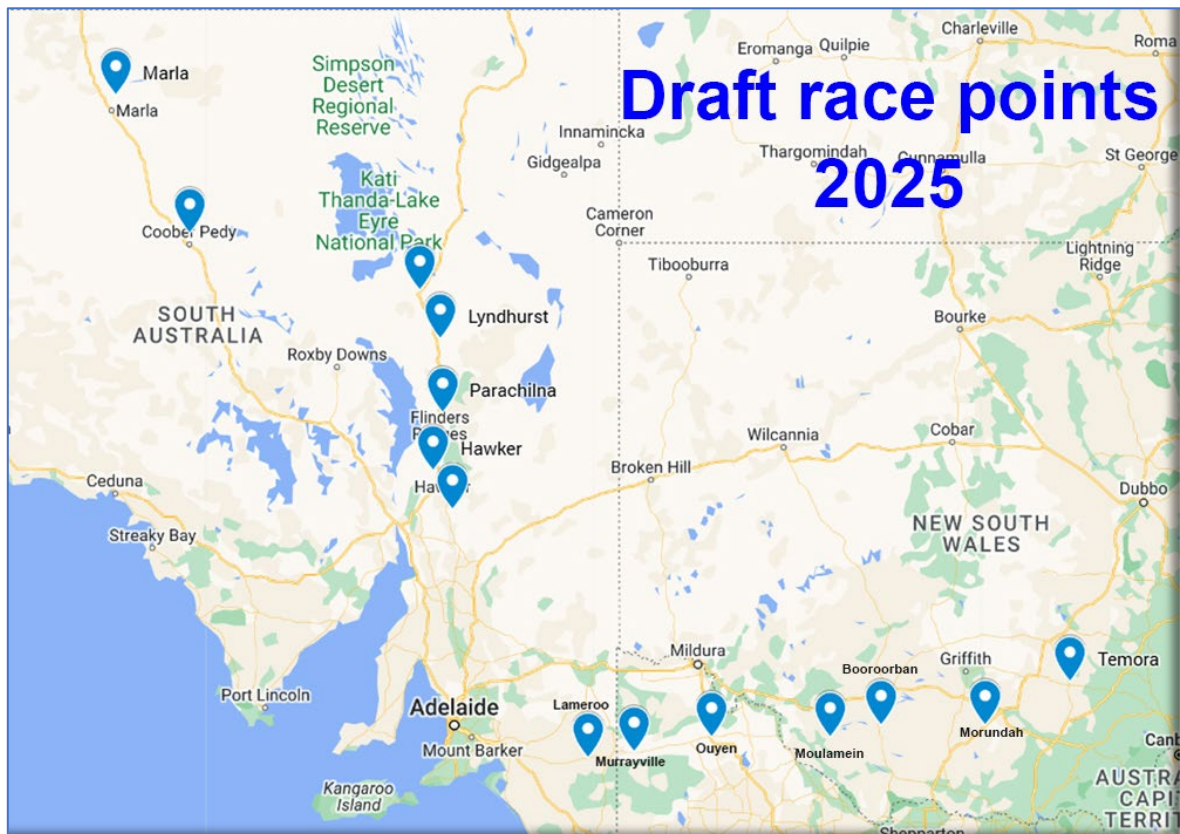
Tossing: Toss mainly on our own, believe mix up tosses are required. Lots of tossing.

Recovery: glucose in water on return, Grain fed upon return heavier mix with small seeds added.

Medication: Vitamins, additives. Follow Marshalls programs.

Loft: open front, plenty airflow and dry, has five bays with a half bay trapping section. Fly in trapping, wouldn't have anything else now that I have one.

Clocking system: Benzing run the Live system.



The Nel Family Girls

First place Wilcannia (Ray Fewings) 5BS Distance 580 km

SA 21 13711 bcc 1360.554 mpm 7.27.36 - owners 65/birds 314

The Nel girls are not just a token name sake for the Nel loft. Mum Jeurika and daughter Nirike are truly passionate about pigeon racing. The Nel family moved to Australia approximately thirteen years ago from South Africa. Jeurika like many pigeon fanciers partners are by stealth fanciers themselves. As a junior flyer, daughter Nirike is successfully involved in One Loft racing around Australia. Initially her brother Franco wanted to race pigeons. So Dad, Nico, who raced pigeons back in South Africa as a child decided to return to the racing domain. I think pigeon racing might be in their veins. Nico's father also raced pigeons in South Africa, so what hope did he have in making the decision to join his son in racing pigeons. Unfortunately, son Franco moved to Western Australia two years ago, and this is when Nirike blossomed into a up and coming fancier in her own right.



As Nico is a self-employed maintenance landscaper and works extremely long hours, it became difficult to dedicate the time needed to race his team. Nirike showed her father her ability to manage the racing loft. At the age of fourteen she would demonstrate to all her strong desire to be successful as a pigeon fancier. In 2024 she received numerous certificates and trophies from the Bundaberg One Loft. The Nel family also participate in other One Loft events around Australia, Nico believes sending his pigeons to other lofts gives him a better understanding of the quality of his pigeons. He stated he will never breed other people inferior pigeons as this does nothing for the sport

and nothing to enhance other flyers potential.

The Nel family fly in the Southern Vales Pigeon Club, Nico stated the Girl's winning pigeon was the result of networking between fellow flyer Gavin Harris and himself. A couple of years ago Gavin bred Nico three birds and in return Nico bred Gavin three. The Nel family race approximately 250 pigeons with about 200 stock birds. He did admit his stock loft has too many pigeons and in the near future he will have to reduce the stock birds to a more manageable number.

The Nel family training regime commences with their first toss around 6 km x 2, then 10 km x 2, 15 km x 2, 30 km x 2, 45 km x 2, 60 km x 2 then Port Wakefield. All the training tosses are assessed to ensure the team is totally educated. This pattern is not only for fitness, but education is paramount in the transformation of a confident racing pigeon. If any of the training tosses are challenging it is assessed and if required return to a more suitable distance to fully educate the race team. Nico has established a unique network of training partners within his club. He trains with Bronte Andrewartha, Lee Abbott and Bert Balk. They alternate weekends and destinations between the four of them which is extremely beneficial in regard to time management. Nico uses the Accu Weather app to assess training days, location and race conditions to ensure the best outcomes for returns. He has no real preference towards lines of flight, but commonsense indicates loft location is taken into consideration when selecting your race team.

Nico prefers an apple shape pigeon, not an overly large pigeon with a strong wing, a pigeon when held, demonstrates strength within the hand, not content just to sit in your palm but to exhibit vitality. His stock loft blood line is 80% imported birds and obviously the rest Australian strains. He did express he was partial to the Gabby Vandenebeelee breed of pigeon. Breeding age was not a concern as long as the pair continue to remain productive producers. Nico insists that you must acquire quality pigeons if you want to be successful. Nico has sourced pigeons from all over Australia in an effort to establish the best race team he can. "Only the best is good enough" is his motto.

His feeding mixture consists of 60% maize, 20% peas, the rest is a mixture of small grains: sorghum, safflower, wheat and sunflower seed. A liquid multi vitamin is added to the pigeons drinking water weekly. Apple cider vinegar is also added fortnightly.

Recovery is similar to other flyers: day one rest, P180 electrolyte additive supplied to race return pigeons, but returning to their own perch as a motivational tool. Day two not encouraged to leave the loft if they have no desire to, given access to a warm bath. Nico indicated that the birds tend to bath longer when the water is warm. The next training toss is assessed on the level of fatigue displayed on a particular race return. If a pigeon has not fully recovered from a previous race it will not be tossed, and only when it has fully recovered will it return to the normal race programme.

He has the Benzing live clocking system which is essential if you are time poor and cherish time with your family.

Some pictures taken at the SAHPA Presentation at the Albion Hotel

Starting at top left: Garry Barnes and Leo Duits, Gavin Harris and Jim Marafiote, Leo Duits and Jack Vanderlinden.

Rowt two: Ray McIlduff, Tony Cornish and Tony Perkins, Dennis Gao and wife.

Row three: Gavin Harris and Bert Balk, Lee Abbott and Tony Perkins, Michael Donnellan and Leo Duits and Wayne Myers.



Nenad Stojakovic

First Place Wilcannia (Greg Hodgins) Open 578 kms

SA 21 22445 bbh velocity 1396.339 Fly time 6.54.02. tape 13.24.02

Second overall SAHPA aggregate points



Nenad had a very successful season. Not only did he win the Wilcannia Open he also gained second place with an outstanding bbph who landed with the winner as well as clocking the eleventh and twelfth birds as well. He has been flying pigeons for over fifty years and has won numerous association races and awards, but still experiences that exhilarating feeling of seeing a pigeon arrive home from a race.

The winning hen had an unusual preparation, she was not raced as a yearling but was trained with the race team. She showed potential early in the 2024 season, being his first bird home from Peterborough also flying Olary and then success came with her winning the Wilcannia Open. Training commences with education, first tosses to Dublin, which is about 50 kms from his home, only when the birds leave the site swiftly, do they progress to the next distance of about 70 kms. Finally, Port Wakefield, and this is as far as he likes to toss his birds. Two parts to his theory one being once race fit this

distance is far enough. Secondly, the risk of raptor attacks is greater the further you travel, so why risk more stress from raptors than you need to.

Breeding commences in November, Nenad says he likes to have a month off post the racing season, he also believes young birds develop better in the warmer months. The race team consists of approximately 240 pigeons, the aim at the end of the season is to achieve a quality team of pigeons that have been clocked consistently in the top 30 of the SAHPA. Birds that are regularly in his top ten home are the foundation for the race season and future of his loft. He has no bias against late bred pigeons and prefers a medium sized pigeon with a apple shape body and a well-presented pedigree. The bloodlines of many of his birds are based on Terry Underdown pigeons. Nenad says that he wanted to improve the blood lines of his birds, so in 2017 he approached Terry with the goal to purchase pigeons to enhance his stock, and this did indeed happen. Terry also gifted him some untried pigeons as well. He says with the introduction of the Underdown blood, crossed with his birds proved extremely successful. There is no hesitation in breeding for stock with the view to maintain the bloodline, as noted in the pedigree of his winning pigeon. The continual desire to develop a consistent race team never stops. A network of flyers have assisted him in gaining this achievement, people such as Phil Thalbourne who Nenad speaks very highly of and acknowledges his input to a successful breeding outcome has been invaluable.

Feeding is selective and different for all flyers. Nenad prefers his youngsters to be robust and well nourished, this ensures when they move across to the main loft they are well prepared for the new adult environment. There are hoppers in the stock loft that guarantees the pigeons dietary needs are always met. The current mix that he uses is one-part peas, one wheat, half maize, half safflower. and an equine pellet supplement called cop rice.

Cop Rice is a brand of horse feed that uses rice bran to provide horses with protein, energy, and essential fatty acids. Cop Rice products are designed to support a horse's health and vitality, and can

help with muscle development, coat health, and stamina. **Ingredients Rice bran:** A source of protein, essential amino acids, and rice bran oil, which contains antioxidants and fatty acids. **Wholegrain rice:** A component of Cop Rice Versatile. **Calcium carbonate:** A component of Cop Rice Versatile. **Molasses:** A component of Cop Rice Versatile. **Vitamin and trace mineral premix:** A component of Cop Rice Versatile.

Recovery commences when the pigeon arrives home, assessment is the first stage, is the bird fatigued, injured, fit and well? This assessment governs the next stage of the recovery plan. With shorter races the pigeons go straight back with the main batch. Longer distances they are separated from the main race team for longer to ensure they have fully recovered. All returned birds will have access to a bath the next day, they are not forced to fly but are given the opportunity. Electrolytes are added to the water prior to race day and upon return. Turbosole is given weekly during the race season as a preventative.

One thing that was of interest is that Nenad was impressed with a product call Coopex. He sprays his lofts with this product, and it eliminates insects.

Coopex Residual Insecticide is a water dispersible powder, which is mixed with water to prepare a residual insecticide spray for controlling a wide range of household insect pests, both indoors and outdoors. It can be used in commercial buildings such as bakeries, hotels and restaurants, as well as around farm buildings, poultry houses and stables.

Permethrin is a common synthetic chemical, widely used as an insecticide, and insect repellent. It belongs to the family of synthetic chemicals called pyrethroids and functions as a neurotoxin, affecting neuron membranes by prolonging sodium channel activation.



A sample of the pigeon related items available at Boulderstone Road. Tony Perkins is usually available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9 and 11 am. Please contact Tony on 0401 818 862



Many thanks to Dr Walker for allowing us to include some bits from his book in this Year Book. Dr Colin Walker was awarded the Medal of the Order of Austral (OAM), for his service to avian veterinary science and to pigeon racing.

The avian veterinarian has worked with government agencies to develop vaccines for viral diseases to protect pigeons and has committed his life to the sport.

Colin started racing pigeons in 1968 as a schoolboy, a long way before his avian veterinary career. "We had a guy who raised pigeons moved in where my parents used to live, about three doors away from us. After he was there, I started to see his racing pigeons flying around," he recalled. "I was just mesmerized, so I went down and introduced myself. He invited me around, so I got to know him. "After he realised that I was genuinely interested, he offered to breed me a few babies after a period of time." Fast forward almost 60 years, Dr Walker is now living with 500 pigeons, mostly racing pigeons, on his big acres in Pearcedale. His lifelong fascination with pigeon racing has also produced a 600-page book on the topic and still motivates him to write for a national racing pigeon magazine after 40 years.

To be successful in racing, pigeons have to have the right genetic makeup, according to Dr Walker.

Dr Walker likes the way that pigeon racing is done at home. "Pigeon racing is something you can do in your own backyard, with your family, rather than having to go somewhere else," he said.

He remembered that his last race was a 900-kilometre travel between south of the Queensland border and Pearcedale. Those pigeons were let go at 6.15 am on the day and they came back at 8 pm.

"And you think, wow, that pigeon is at the Queensland border. It's come down through the red dirt country of central New South Wales, and then maybe after lunch, it starts to see the Murray River coming up," Dr Walker said.

"On it comes and then down through Shepperton. Then they see Melbourne ahead and then over Melbourne and down to the Mornington Peninsula and they land." "I think that's just amazing when they do that."

Question: What do you think of the idea of putting detergent or pine-o-cleen in the bird's bath water?

Answer: Why do this? It is toxic if ingested. The birds might drink the bath water and certainly preen themselves afterwards. Any macrocyclic lactone eg Moxidectin or ivermectin at 1 mg per litre of bath water is more effective and totally safe. If you want to spray you can get liquid permethrin (the same active as the powder in Coopex 40 mg/ml and dilute to 10 ml per 1 litre of water. Doesn't clog in the sprayer and contains a wetting agent so get good penetration i.e. no beading on the feathers.

Question: How do I manage an outbreak of canker during the breeding season?

Answer: When canker does appear during breeding, its management is two-fold. It is a matter of: treating the sick youngsters – In lofts with a canker problem, all youngsters should be checked daily. If a sick youngster is noticed it can be successfully treated, and such youngsters can go on to be successful racers. A variety of medications are available. A common and effective treatment is carnidazole, available in a 10 mg tablet called Spartrix. The dose of Spartrix is one tablet per adult bird. Estimate how big the youngster is compared to the adult and give it this proportion of the tablet once daily until well. Usually, one to four doses are required. It is often good to also medicate both the nest mate and parents for two days.

Question: If Chlamydia is diagnosed through the racing season, what should the fancier do?

Answer: Give appropriate medication. The choice of drug is often dependent on the involvement of secondary organisms, but usually the antibiotics doxycycline and tylosin are given together, or a blend of doxycycline, tylosin and spiramycin. An initial course usually of 5-10 days is given, depending on the severity of the infection and response.

Question: How do I get rid of roundworm and hairworm?

Answer: A range of wormers are available. Some, such as fenbendazole, interfere with feather growth if used though moulting. Others, like levamisole, can cause vomiting and are therefore difficult to use through racing, while in some of the older drugs; for example, piperazine, worm resistance is common. These days the most commonly used wormers are the macro-cyclic lactones. This group of medications includes drugs such as ivermectin, moxidectin, selamectin and others. Of these, moxidectin is regarded as one of the safest and most effective. Moxidectin is commonly used to treat hairworm and roundworm.

Question: How do I treat salmonella?

Answer: Most common Salmonella strains are sensitive to either the fluoroquinolone antibiotics (for example, enrofloxacin) "Baytril" or sulphur-based antibiotics (for example, trimethoprim/sulphadiazine, "Sulpha AVS"). Some are sensitive to tetracyclines (e.g. doxycycline). Few are sensitive to the penicillins (for example, amoxicillin). Once the antibiotic to be used has been selected, this needs to be given as a long course. Treatment times of 10 to 14 days are usual.

This archive article written by John Hofman in 2011 NEW FACTORS MAY LEAD TO PROGRAM CHANGE



With regard to pigeon racing, two primary factors have occurred since 1990. One has been unique to Australia and the other is happening worldwide. In the first instance I am talking about the introduction of pigeons from Europe which has led to faster and more aerodynamic pigeons up to about 1,000 km, and secondly, climate change. Whether climate change is being hastened upon us by mankind and his past and present practices or if it is a naturally occurring cyclical event I will leave that up to the scientists to thrash out as even they cannot agree. But both these events must and will lead to a significant change in race programs and the way we race our pigeons if we are to conduct successful racing in the future. Since racing began in Adelaide we have almost always flown in two opposite directions on alternate weeks. The old argument being "what you give one week, you get the next". Well that is speaking broadly because we have never ever coupled up two opposite lines of flight in the same season. In Adelaide it's impossible to fly due north

one week and due south the next because beyond Victor Harbour, (80km) one would end up in the Southern Ocean. Over past seasons we have flown WNW coupled with EAST, NNW coupled with EAST, NNW coupled with SE, WNW coupled with NE, NNW coupled with NE and currently NNW coupled with SE. The closest we can get to directly opposite is WNW coupled with the SE line and NNW coupled with a Lower SE line. Strangely in the history of the SAHPA, these last two mentioned combinations have never been coupled together (until 2010) so the above mentioned saying is nothing but a fallacy and couldn't be further from the truth, especially with what we are now flying i.e., NNW and NE. We might as well be flying from just one direction, like the rest of the world does and adjust our method of flying to make it fair as possible for all. My personal preference is for one line of flight from the NNW with the SAHPA being divided into two sections, a dividing line running across Adelaide from the NW to the SE, splitting the Association in two with one section being released approximately one half an hour after the other on a weekly alternating basis from the first race to the last middle distance race. For the long distance races, all would come together as one. The entire program could be condensed into 16 or 17 weeks thus avoiding most of the hot weather up north. But another approach, as outlined below, may be just as good. I believe what has got to happen is for the sport to foster and encourage specialization in order to cater for all members and keep as many as possible happy and content. Right from day one we have been flying a "one fits all" type of program. This may have been fine years ago, but not so now. Back in those days the accent was always on long distance racing and the club races plus the middle distance races were used by most fanciers to condition their pigeons for the long distance events of 800 to 1300 km. Virtually all of our birds back then were of long distance bloodlines. We now should be catering for, on a weekly basis, the North line flyer that specializes in faster sprint type races, likes to see good and quick returns more often than not and has the pigeons bred for that job. We also cannot overlook the flyer who likes tougher on the day racing, is not quite as concerned with good returns although does appreciate it when it happens. We also must cater for the long distance flyer who will patiently wait up all night and all of the following day if necessary. At the moment I don't think we are looking after any of the above mentioned types with the way that races are scheduled. The north or northwest lines are by far the most popular. One only needs to look at the patronage compared to other lines of flight to see that. Consequently, a large number of flyers are competing on the North line only so they must wait two weeks between events. There are also a much smaller number who compete in the easterly events only so they are in the same situation. Line preference is often determined by loft position and also by the type of birds kept or preferred. The long distance competitor is often hit by race shortening, postponements and cancellations due to hot weather often experienced at the time of the year when these events are scheduled. Many fanciers who are all-rounders and whose desire it is to compete in all events with the maximum number of pigeons need to keep large teams in order to complete the season. The current style of program suits them but by catering for the specialists would not affect their requirements as they may still fly all or as many races they desire. I also think that once flyers have these options, we should fall into line with most of the rest of the world and commence Association racing at the 350 km mark. Although this is written with Adelaide and its peculiarities in mind, similar circumstances probably would apply in other Australian states and cities. **Article written late 2011**

Pictures from the 2024 SARPF Presentation



Left to right: Graham Goodrich, Trevor Madigan, David Buxton

SAHPA 2024 POINTS TABLE - ASSOC (subject to check)

Name	North										North East										TOT	POS
	TOT	GL1	YBC	TW1	TW5	TW2	MAR	CP	LT1	SAD	WIL	WI5	EMM	COB	BYR	N	NE	TOT	POS			
MARAFIOTE J	286	5	24	29	18	17	25	26	0	20	29	19	21	29	24	144	142	286	1			
STOJAKOVIC N	228	0	0	25	14	2	27	23	0	23	30	13	18	28	25	91	137	228	2			
DREW R & L	205	15	0	8	0	0	15	0	28	28	28	21	29	13	20	38	167	205	3			
RAYMENT & ANDREWARTHA	202	23	9	0	0	19	23	2	13	25	5	25	13	15	30	76	126	202	4			
T FAWCETT & G JACKSON	190	30	19	3	0	30	28	30	16	0	0	0	5	12	17	140	50	190	5			
WILLIAMS J	156	26	0	0	0	29	26	24	0	0	0	0	30	0	21	105	51	156	6			
McILDUFF & ARL	148	0	0	0	0	0	21	28	2	16	16	0	28	21	16	49	99	148	7			
DURRANT & CORNISH	147	22	26	15	0	22	30	21	0	0	1	0	0	10	0	136	11	147	8			
MANUEL S	138	0	0	11	9	0	9	9	7	11	8	16	0	30	28	38	100	138	9			
DONNELLAN M	138	3	13	7	20	4	0	0	29	30	6	14	12	0	0	47	91	138	9			
DIMELLA F	134	24	0	28	15	24	29	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	134	0	134	11			
WILLIAMS R	130	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	26	26	26	9	23	3	0	17	113	130	12			
HORROCKS & SEIBOTH	130	0	30	10	0	18	14	13	20	0	3	0	22	0	0	85	45	130	13			
KOKOLAKIS J & N	126	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	2	15	10	25	26	23	0	126	126	14			
YANG & GAO	121	0	20	0	27	15	17	15	0	0	0	12	0	0	15	94	27	121	15			
ABBOTT L & SON	118	0	0	16	22	0	11	0	0	0	0	26	16	27	0	49	69	118	16			
STENCEL K & H	114	0	0	19	0	6	0	19	0	0	24	0	24	22	0	44	70	114	17			
MAV C	113	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	22	18	25	1	15	4	26	2	111	113	18			
MOUKAS C	110	11	0	23	0	21	6	0	6	0	27	5	11	0	0	61	49	110	19			
HARRIS G & L	108	0	0	4	24	0	10	0	4	9	22	0	0	6	29	38	70	108	20			
BURTON P	108	6	12	17	0	20	16	10	11	0	2	0	0	14	0	81	27	108	21			
WHITECHURCH FAMILY	107	29	0	0	0	28	22	0	0	10	0	18	0	0	0	79	28	107	22			
AGAR A	106	20	27	6	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	79	27	106	23			
CHAPMAN R & S	104	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	30	17	23	6	17	0	0	11	93	104	24			
PETRUZZELLI J	96	19	7	0	0	10	13	18	0	0	0	0	10	0	19	67	29	96	25			
TIRRELL Tom	96	0	22	0	28	14	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	0	96	26			
NICOLI J P & N	95	14	0	24	0	11	20	17	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	86	9	95	27			
MITCHELL G	86	18	0	0	0	13	18	0	0	0	21	0	0	16	0	49	37	86	28			
BARNES & DUITS	85	0	29	30	0	1	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	85	29			
SARGOOD S & S	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	27	11	28	0	8	0	0	79	79	30			

Pictures from the SAHPA Presentation



Tony, Gavin and Bert Balk, Tony, Tom Tirrell, Gavin, Gavin Ray McIllduff, Michael Donnellan and Tony

SAHPA SMALL TEAM 2024 POINTS TABLE - ASSOC (subject to check)

North

North East

Name	TOT	North										North East						TOT	POS
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	N	NE		
	GL1	YBC	TW1	TW5	TW2	MAR	CP	LT1	SAD	WI5	WIL	Emm	COB	Byr					
DONNELLAN M	279	17	24	26	25	21	0	17	29	30	22	22	25	21	0	130	149	279	1
WILLIAMS J	273	28	13	17	9	30	30	29	10	0	13	15	30	20	29	156	117	273	2
VARAPODIO R	220	19	14	8	5	5	19	21	27	18	25	9	23	27	0	91	129	220	3
AGAR A	217	26	29	25	0	28	0	8	8	15	17	17	29	15	0	116	101	217	4
STENCEL K & H	188	3	12	29	8	23	0	28	0	0	0	30	27	28	0	103	85	188	5
BUXTON & SNYDERS FA	185	0	0	30	0	26	26	0	13	26	0	20	21	23	0	82	103	185	6
MOLCHANOFF M	177	18	27	4	16	12	0	11	16	28	19	26	0	0	0	88	89	177	7
MITCHELL G	171	25	11	2	14	25	28	0	6	7	0	28	0	25	0	105	66	171	8
WHITECHURCH FAMILY	160	30	0	0	0	29	29	0	7	22	24	0	0	19	0	88	72	160	9
KOVACEVIC M	158	23	20	7	0	22	24	0	11	8	0	8	19	16	0	96	62	158	10
CHAPMAN R & S	155	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	30	27	20	29	26	0	0	23	132	155	11
HARPER J & C	141	27	0	9	28	0	0	24	15	0	14	24	0	0	0	88	53	141	12
ELLUL A & SON	133	0	0	6	0	8	0	15	24	0	23	27	0	30	0	29	104	133	13
GOODRICH G & H	131	0	19	0	22	0	21	0	20	0	28	21	0	0	0	62	69	131	14
SARGOOD S & S	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	29	29	25	0	24	0	0	130	130	15
NEL FAMILY GIRLS	128	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	19	21	30	11	24	18	0	5	123	128	16
BALK B & S	119	0	2	0	30	6	0	0	14	17	18	12	20	0	0	38	81	119	17
SKELLAND M & E	117	0	21	19	15	18	25	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	0	117	18
PERKINS T & A	117	16	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	27	0	18	22	30	20	97	117	19
ROBERTS G & S	110	21	6	14	12	0	0	0	25	20	12	0	0	0	0	53	57	110	20
HINKLER LOFTS	105	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	21	14	28	0	0	25	80	105	21
McBEATH & BUTTFIELD	97	1	0	0	11	0	0	0	28	13	26	18	0	0	0	12	85	97	22
AQUILINA D & SON	91	0	28	1	6	9	27	0	0	14	0	6	0	0	0	71	20	91	23
HLEBNIKOFF A	88	0	0	5	0	0	0	6	1	25	15	10	0	26	0	11	77	88	24
CLARE G & B	86	0	0	15	21	7	22	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	21	86	25
JACOBS P	84	0	0	16	20	0	0	0	18	0	11	19	0	0	0	36	48	84	26
MARAFIOTE F	80	13	0	0	23	0	0	30	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	66	14	80	27
TOOWOOMBA CONNE	76	0	10	28	13	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	0	76	28
MOUKAS J	74	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	16	23	0	0	0	9	65	74	29
CARUSO R	69	29	0	13	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	69	30



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DRAFT RACE PROGRAM 2025

DATE	Release.	RACEPOINT	STATUS	HAMPER NIGHT	Distance to Adel.	Line
May 31	Sat	Carrieton / Stirling North 1	SDC / Benzing	Friday	280	NW1
June 7	Sat	Carrieton . Stirling North 2	SDC / Benzing	Friday	280	NW2
14	Sat	Lameroo 1	SDC / Benzing	Friday	182	E1
21	Sat	Hawker / Bookaloo 1	SDC / Benzing	Friday	360	NW3
28	Sat	Murrayville 1	SDC / Benzing	Friday	240	E2
July 5	Sat	Hawker / Bookaloo 2	SDC / Benzing	Friday	360	NW4
6	Sun	Ouyen 1	SDC / Benzing	Saturday	330	E3
12	Sat	Parachilna	SDC / Benzing	Thursday	415	NW5
19	Sat	Ouyen 2	SDC / Benzing	Thursday	330	E4
20	Sun	Carrieton / Stirling North 3	SDC / Benzing	Saturday	280	NW6
26	Sat	Lyndhurst South Aussie with Cost Open	Assoc	Thursday	510	NW7
26	Sat	Moulamein Warren March 5 bird Special	Assoc	Thursday	500	E5
August 2	Sat	Moulamein Warrnambool Club Open	Assoc	Thursday	500	E6
2	Sat	Lyndhurst Yarraville Club 5 bird Special	Assoc	Thursday	510	NW8
9	Sat	Lyndhurst John Sagggers YBC	Assoc	Thursday	510	NW9
16	Sat	Moulamein MacLeod Bros SAD	Assoc	Thursday	500	E7
23	Sat	Marree Tirrell Family Open	Assoc	Thursday	585	NW10
23	Sat	Booroorban Ray McILDuff 5 bird Special	Assoc	Thursday	565	E8
30	Sat	Booroorban Bill Walford Open	Assoc	Thursday	565	E9
30	Sat	Marree John Harper 5 bird Special	Assoc	Thursday	585	NW11
Sept 6	Sat	Marla Keith Wickham Challenge	Assoc	Wednesday	970	NW12
13	Sat	Morundah 1 Doug Green	Assoc	Thursday	700	E10
20	Sat	Coober Pedy Allen Goodger	Assoc	Thursday	750	NW13
27	Sat	Temora Grant Paterson Newland Cup	Assoc	Thursday	870	E11

TRAINERS : Only for club races for any birds over 30 are charged at \$1 per bird.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Aug 15	Fri	Alice Springs	SALDC	\$25	Tuesday	1320 km
Aug 31	Sun	Marree Sires Produce	SALDC		Friday	585 km
Sept 13	Sat	Morundah Vin Blanden (Nom 1 Bird)	SAHPA	\$5	Thursday	700 km
Sept 20	Sat	Coober Pedy Cock Bird Special	SALDC	\$5/5 th free	Thursday	750km
Oct 3	Fri	Bathurst	SALDC	\$20	Tuesday	1025km

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