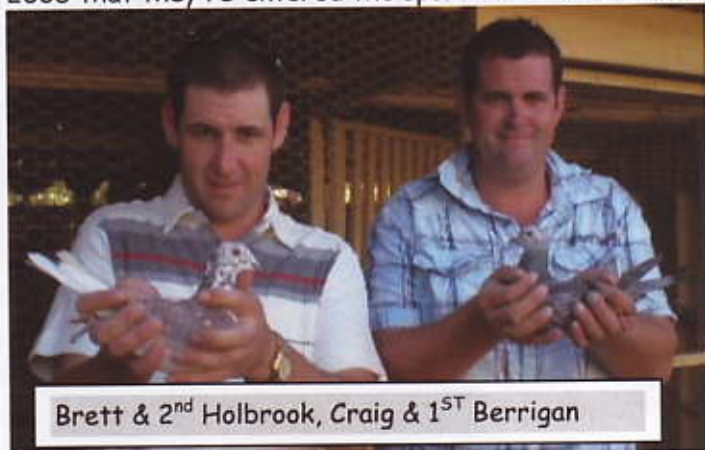


## Craig & Brett Renton - Berrigan 1 Winner - 15148 SA05 BGH

Both Craig and Brett started racing pigeons at their step-father's (Keith Saberton) house at Smithfield in 1996. At the time Craig was mates with Troy Jeffries and they raced together for the first year. The next four years Craig raced with his brother until they moved house. It wasn't until 2005 that they re-entered the sport at Christie Downs and raced with the Southern Districts club.



Brett & 2<sup>nd</sup> Holbrook, Craig & 1<sup>st</sup> Berrigan

They have won the club points at Smithfield and for the last two years at Southern Districts.

Their achievements in 2007 include fastest Nhill #1, 2<sup>nd</sup> SAHPA Holbrook and 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Berrigan #2. In addition they won the Club Aggregate points and the club Long Distance points. The sire of the Berrigan hen is from Lee Abbott (hard day SA family) and the dam is an Eitzen (down from birds purchased at the original Eitzen sale). The hen flew for two years - in 2006

(5 races) a consistent but not a winning year, and 2007 when she flew Keith, Nhill #1 (2<sup>nd</sup> club), Mitiamo (7<sup>th</sup> SAHPA) and Berrigan #1 (1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA).

His bird which placed 2<sup>nd</sup> Holbrook to Lee Abbott has an interesting story - Lee rang to let him know that he had clocked at 9:56PM so Craig immediately went outside, turned lights on, and started looking at all the roofs in the close vicinity with a torch - he reckons the neighbours think he is strange! - anyway, no bird. He then decides to camp in the back room (about 4 metres from the landing board, and is awoken in the early am by his dog. It's only just beginning to be light and he rushes outside to find the hen on the landing board and clocks her at 5.37am to record 2<sup>nd</sup> SAHPA - he reckons she probably came with Lee's winner but maybe roosted close to Lee's house.

Craig and Brett breed from 20 pairs and use some of the better performed race birds to produce two rounds of babies. He breeds lots and culls to down to around 150 young birds plus up to 50 from previous years. The birds are a mixture - birds from Bob Marchant's sale, Terry Fidler (Magro lines), and recently from Lee Abbott and birds purchased from Bob Seedsman's sale.

He has used hand clocking in the past but intends to use the Tauris ETS in 2008.

Race birds are flown for about an hour once a day from around 4.00PM. The area is home to other flyers (A Ellul, V Allan, K Karagiannis) and when up together provide an excellent workout for all parties.

Cocks and hens are raced and trained together however in 2007 after the derbies, the birds started to train poorly so the cocks and hens were split for about a month. The birds continued to fly badly so they were re-united and trained more on the road. Excellent results were achieved.

In general, if the birds work hard they are fed hard. Peas (50%), wheat (25%) and milo, safflower and small seeds make up the rest. Fewer peas are fed towards the end of the week throughout the race season. He feeds Golden Boost from Gilbertsons, garlic oil on feed, plus grit all the time.

Cocks from the previous year are flown but for best results they are worked hard early and fly the early races. Once they become a nuisance, they are removed from the race team.

Craig reckons that to help keep the sport going, the junior system needs to be properly managed and resourced, and he likes the 'extra' races like the 8 and 10 bird Specials. Craig and Brett appreciate being part of a friendly and well run club at Southern Districts. They often have late nights after meetings just 'talking pigeons'