

Ray Linkevic - Emmdale Cock Bird Special Winner - APR06 7893 BBC

Ray started racing pigeons with Riverside Juniors in 1968 and raced for four years until cars and other birds took his interest. Since then he restarted at Woodville West in 1978 for ten years following his marriage, then restarted in 2001 after relocating to Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills. He has found racing pigeons at Birdwood challenging to say the least with falcons in the area proving to be a serious and major issue.



His achievements this season include 1st SRC Emmdale CBS, 19th Alice Springs and 2nd Club Points at Barossa. He reckons he got more satisfaction and energy from the Alice Springs result than any other result this year. He is of the view that SA has been renowned in Australia for long distance flying, and he looks forward to being part of this race for years to come. The Sire of APR06 7893 is Dordin based from K Hams of Ardrossan via Don/Colin Hawke breeding) and the dam is an 2005 hen rung BAR03 694. This hen is Doug Green/Smutt/Gregerson bloodlines and its G'Dam is down from M Taylors 1st Alice Springs bird. APR06 7893 flew two

races for the year - Olary #2 and Emmdale CBS.

Because of his location and because of the falcon menace, Ray breeds from 100pairs and raises around 500 youngsters each year. This year he finished the racing season with 45 pigeons.

The loft is based broadly on Doug Green and Kakoschke (Sydney) bloodlines. Race birds are fed 40% peas, 30% wheat, 5% maize with milo, safflower and Coprice M pellets comprising the balance. The mixture is varied around the volume of peas depending on the conditions and how the birds

are flying. Fresh garlic, apple cider vinegar is added to the water during the week, and Stock Gain, pink minerals from Colin Walker and Rawleighs minerals are provided with grit. Cocks and hens are raced together, and whatever is left that doesn't go into the breeding loft is raced again the next year.

Once the youngsters are broken in, they generally don't have much flying until 4 weeks before racing starts. Then they are required to fly and Ray is looking for extended ranging and for at least an hour a day. Unfortunately by the time they start ranging, the falcons have begun to congregate and at this point the birds either won't fly or they do very small laps of the loft. Generally at this point, Ray stops the loft flying and starts tossing to break up the routine and to get fitness and confidence in the birds. The race loft is cleaned once per week, and loft flying is generally around 20minutes due to the birds being falcon shy.

During racing he uses S76 (monthly), Turbosole and Triple-X every 3 weeks

During breeding the birds are hopper fed with peas (80%) with wheat, maize, milo, safflower and Coprice M making up the 100%. Breeders are mated in October (that's when it warms up in Birdwood) and he breeds from birds put aside for stock on the basis of race performance. Often this means that he puts birds aside for breeding next year based on the previous years race performances as well as using some of the birds that survive the years racing.

Ray would like the SAHPA to explore ways of shortening the race season (by perhaps doubling up some or all of the club races, and to plan for the four longest SAHPA races to be in the middle of the SAHPA race series rather than leave the races to the end of the programme and the hottest period.

