

Michael Molchanoff - Coober Pedy Open Winner - SA07 02789 BCPH

Michael has had pigeons since 1974 however in those days it was a few fancy pigeons and he lived at Findon. He moved to Melbourne, got married and returned he purchased some blondinettes. When one 'got out' he noticed that it was flying with one of Jack Hick's race birds and was duly given race birds by Jack to replace the 'showies'. Michael has since been in and out of racing pigeons a number of times. He recalls in his first year of racing at Woodville (Jack's club) he won a race from Pinnaroo - a great start. It wasn't that easy ever again!



His early achievement includes 5th SAHPA 1993 Aggregate Points. In 2008 he was placed in 13 races (which included a 1st and 3 2^{nds} and regards this as his best year of flying to date.

He restarted for the fourth time in 2005 and was careful what he purchased, and looked to purchase performed birds either on the race track, or in the breeding loft.

In 2007 he purchased Lot 33 (from Grant Paterson - a breeder of 6 SAHPA places) at the PD White sale and mated this to his 3rd Lyndhurst YBC hen. SA07 02789 was the result of this mating. She flew Glendambo YBC (1st race), Glendambo Open, The Twins and was 1st Coober Pedy. He breeds from 20 pairs and starts the season with about

135 flyers which includes around 35 from the previous year.

The basis of the breeding is Dangerfield (his sale in 1991), Nick Molchanoff, Buxton & Snyders and Budas. He trains the cocks and hens together but races the hens north and the cocks east.

Race birds are handfed twice a day with as much peas and wheat as they want plus some titbits now and again. The mix includes about 10% barley. Returning race birds get honey in the water (Michael has a bee hive on the property), and grit from a sandy/clayey spot on his property.



As soon as babies are broken in they are mixed with the older birds, and are allowed then to relax and moult prior to loft training later in the year.

Loft training starts around 1st April with loft training building up to one hour then tossing after Anzac Day to around 25 kms. Race birds have some 8-10 tosses before the first race with tosses being extended to 100 kms. By racing they are on a programme of twice weekly tosses - one at 100 kms, the other to 50 kms. Michael tosses on line of flight. The birds are dewormed prior to racing, and breeding birds are given Turbosole prior to the breeding season.

Otherwise no other medication is provided. Breeding birds are hopper fed with peas but he provides a cupful of other seeds daily as variety. The breeders are paired in mid September and he takes about a week to mate them. He mates pairs daily for the week as he has found it stressful doing it all in a day. He mates the best race birds together and his best breeding birds (based on performance of youngsters). He also breeds some together to produce new stock birds.

Michael believes that it takes a few years to understand the basics of pigeon breeding and racing and thinks that this (his fourth start in racing pigeons) has been his best start back into pigeon racing.

Although Michael understands to difficulty in providing prizemoney for SAHPA races, he would like to see the SAHPA providing more cash into racing.