

Hans deVries - SAHPA Marla/Nyngan Joint Winner

Hans initially raced with Hampstead juniors then again later when he moved to Tea Tree Gully with his family. TTG club has since folded and he now races from Wynn Vale in the North East club.

His career highlights to date include 3rd Little Topar, 3rd Emmdale and 4th Temora. He admits to having his greatest thrills to date when he clocked three birds in the top 30 from Holbrook and three birds in the top 35 from Marla. This year 2009 he managed 5 top 10 SAHPA placings (4th Cobar, 7th & 8th Nyngan and 8th & 9th Marla). His aim is to place top 10 whenever he can.

He remembers winning the 'pontoon' at the NE club in his first year and has managed to do so in every year since. He clocked his second bird from Marla in 2009 because she was his pontoon bird!



His race record from Nyngan and Marla were excellent with 10 birds being sent to each race, two birds placing in the top 10 SAHPA and 5 returns from each race.

Hans breeds from 10 pairs and breeds enough to start each racing year with about 50 -60 in the race team.

Because of his small team, he races most of his stock birds and this year his 29th SAHPA Cobar 2008 gained 4th Cobar 2009 and also bred 8th Nyngan 2009.

8th SAHPA Marla 2009 was a gift bird from Alan Larsen of NE club and also bred 16th SAHPA Marla.

9th Marla is a Janssen/Dangerfield/Greg Hodgins cross - the Janssen sire bred from a mother/son mating and the dam being 14th SAHPA Cobar 2008 and bred from a cross from Greg Hodgins cock and a Dangerfield hen.

The Greg Hodgins cock is Han's #1 stock cock. 7th Nyngan was bred from the loft floor - the father being a cock purchased at a Seedsman sale for \$40 and the hen being a gift from Greg Ladegourdie.

8th Nyngan's sire is from a half brother/half sister mating (the father of both being the Hodgins cock), and the dam is his 4th Cobar 2009/29th Cobar 2008 hen.

Race birds are loft flown once a day and Hans looks to get an hour if he can. They are handfed twice a day with a mix which varies from the start of the week to hampering. The basic mix is peas and wheat with barley the extra in the start, and maize the extra by hampering night. He uses a small seed trapping mix on race days. Pink powder and Probac are used for health promotion and uses Colin Walker's Turbosole/Resfite programme for general health in the racing season. The race loft is cleaned twice a day.

Birds are tossed after they become confident and ranging. First toss is from 25kms about 4 weeks before racing, and he aims for 6 tosses to a maximum of 120kms by first race day. Thereafter he tosses 120kms on weekends with the SAHPA toss unit, and provides additional short 45km tosses as the season progresses.

His biggest issue with racing pigeons is finding the time to put into the pigeons to be competitive because of his work commitments.

Hans is a believer in pre-qualifying birds for the longer races and the east line SAHPA races. He says it is essential to ensure birds are properly trained for the new SE line in 2010.

Hans wishes to thank Greg Ladegourdie, Greg Hodgins and Alan Larsen for gift birds as these gift birds feature heavily in the pedigrees of the Marla and Nyngan birds for 2009.