

## Celia Vanderlinden - The Twins Open Winner - 6274 AUS07 BBH 222 Owners - 4110 Birds



Celia and Jack Vanderlinden are the owners of Adelaide Premier Lofts and fly in the SAHPA as C E (Celia) Vanderlinden. Jack has been around pigeons all his life beginning in Holland as a 5 year old. He remembers and he and a friend (Hans van Leusden) raced birds in the local club. In those days the birds were not toss trained but raced every 2 weeks. He and Celia immigrated to Australia in 1966. He started racing pigeons in Adelaide in 1983 and still recalls getting a bird from Nullabor at night in that first racing season. He remains friends with Hans who still lives in Holland. Hans checks out winning birds and families in Europe for Jack when Jack decides to purchase for Adelaide Premier Lofts and Celia assumes the loft manager duties when Jack is overseas on these buying trips. **AUS07 6274** flew Hawker in 2008 then in 2009 flew Parachilna, Lyndhurst Open and The Twins Open for 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA. She was bred from a half brother, half sister mating. Jack uses 55 pairs at stud, and races those birds which are not purchased.

His personal racing highlights are winning Morundah in 1983 and The Twins this year in 2009. He races up 180 birds a year, and the varieties are Vandenabeele, Van Dyke, Hereman, Flor Engle and Caesart.

The Tipes electronic system is used to clock birds.

Race birds are loft flown once a day (hens am, cocks pm) for about one to one and a half hours and sexes are separated early and trained fed separately. Young birds are mixed (for training) with 2 year olds only 3-4 weeks before racing commences. Because Jacks sells birds through Adelaide Premier Lofts, only 10-30 two year olds are flown.

A custom mix of around 10% wheat, 30% maize, 25% milo, 10% safflower, 5% sunflower, 5% canary, 5% millet, 5% race pellets, and 5% maintenance pellets is fed all race season. Some oil is provided on feed with brewers yeast. Race birds are hand fed once per day.

Loft training begins as soon as the babies are able to fly and toss training begins around 4 weeks before racing with initial tosses at 50kms and progressing to 90kms (7 tosses) prior to racing. Once racing starts, birds are tossed twice a week from 90kms. Jack tosses and races to the north only.

Jack cleans the lofts twice a day during racing, and provides no medication during this period.

Breeding birds are hopper fed 25% peas, 25% wheat and 50% breeding pellets. Breeders are paired in September and he mates his birds in a variety of ways which includes inbreeding, cross breeding and best to best.

Jack rates falcons as the biggest pest to racing pigeons because of both physical and emotional damage that can be caused by falcon attacks.

Jack believes that difficult lines of flight cause members to leave the sport.