

Lyndhurst Ten Bird Special Winner

Helena Stencil won the Lyndhurst 10 Bird Special by 5 seconds with her Van Loon hen.

Helena was born in Poland where her interest in pigeons started as her father had pigeons on their farm. When the family came to Australia, Helena met Kaz who also was interested in pigeons and when she was old enough to get married her interest in pigeons developed again.

At the moment Helena is developing a Van Loon family.

She does not use any vitamins. The only vitamins she uses is a natural one which is TLC.

Helena starts training her birds around the end of April. The first toss is St Kilda which is about 20 km. She prefers head wind training to set the birds in good stead when the birds have a tough race.

Helena does not medicate after the birds return from a race.

She does at times use a small cube of garlic straight down into the crop but she does not do this religiously.

Helena would like in the future to make her loft into three sections.

She does not believe in eye sign, but does like to see a nice healthy eye in her birds.

The droppings are not sent away to be tested but she can usually tell when her birds are not well.

Pairing up is usually done in October but in 2010 she paired them up in September. Helena usually breeds one hundred babies.

She keeps twenty pairs of stock birds but only has twelve nest boxes so the birds get changed around to the different boxes.

Helena does not separate the cocks and hens. She likes to keep it natural and keep the birds happy, she feels that it gives the birds incentive for them to home fast.

Helena has never tried widow-hood because she does not believe in it and thinks it won't work in Australia.

She does feel the wind influences the race results but you still need a good pigeon to win a race.

Helena prefers North line racing.

She does not like racing late bred birds because she feels they are easily lost on hard races.

Helena mixes her own feed to her specifications. At the beginning of the season she may feed a little extra barley and apart from that, they get the same throughout the season.

Helena would like to thank her beautiful friend Reg Muller for the success she has had. Without Reg she would not have the wonderful line of Van Loon's that she has today.

Helena hopes the sport continues into the future, but gets nervous that the younger people are working longer hours now, so, to be a good flyer you have to put a lot of time into the sport. Hopefully they will find a balance and become involved in the sport.

One tip for the beginner: "he needs to go to a good pigeon flyer to try to get some of his good birds or even get some of his last eggs."