

The sire of the 2017 Coober Pedy winner is a BBC that was 8th Lyndhurst Derby 2014. He is a blend of inbred Hereman Ceuster and inbred Brockamp. The dam of the 2017 winner is bred from a RCC - brother to the 2nd Alice hen and son of the base RCPH – he is the father of the current breeding loft. This dam has flown Marla three times with a best placing of 17th

BREEDING and BLOODLINES: Bunn likes the Blanden's but knows they are old fashioned and slow. The trick is to cross them to get the best of them. The three quarter and half crosses go well.

TRAINING and RACING: This begins with around 70 birds but noting that there are no stock birds. The training starts eight weeks before first race. Go about 7 km and then go 12 km and 20 km and keep going until they come straight back. Then to Outer Harbor. Bunn has chosen to only fly north line because he values the birds too much and doesn't like to lose them. This doesn't mean he avoids the hard and long tests. Credit to those that do go east but not for him. In 2017 he tossed on his own past Pt. Wakefield to avoid the rotavirus. He entered 7 birds in the Derby then got the virus. The birds only managed one race back before the Coober Pedy success. Getting birds to cross the water is probably his best option because of where he lives. When this happens, the birds are often on the top of the sheet. Birds are exercised around 2 or 3 pm and they fly for 10 mins. On a good day they might do 15 or 20 mins. Training is on the road: every Sunday, maybe Tuesday and then to Outer Harbor if needed. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Parachilna 2016 three minutes ahead with two birds in each loft was the most memorable result.

FORM: Walk in the loft and they sort of shine, the eyes shine and the wattle is pure white and they just look at you and say "send me".

FEEDING during breeding: Mainly peas and wheat, saff, milo. During racing: Dave mixes feed but as the distance increases the carbohydrate goes up.

MEDICATIONS: First time on truck Turbosole goes in the water. Then every 3 to 4 weeks. Respite at the start of year and as needed. Haven't done ACV or garlic for a while. Does use Probac from Colin Walker which is sprinkled on feed.

IN GENERAL: Bunn and Dave acknowledge the very significant contribution of their pigeon 'widows' - Noelene and Janet, and their families. In the day of electronic clocks and computers, there are too many nights away from families and our current structures put pressure on everyone, and especially those with young children. Pre-paid is good for him - it works out cheaper, but not bothered which way. One idea is to have a later release for the Coober Pedy birds when it is likely that the birds may just reach the northern suburbs on dark. This would enable a fairer result and not cause the southern half of the metro area to be disadvantaged. The focus on winning the Association points works against having more flexible programs, and realistic recognition of bird performances, and flyers management. The wind dictates who wins and first drop is the best spot to be.

WHERE IS THE SAHPA GOING: When I was 21 or 22 I was one of the youngest at the AGM I went to – these days I'm still one of the youngest at the AGM!

Why can't the Assoc. rent out electronic clocks for those who can't afford them? We need to help everyone get into it. For instance results could be phoned in and then the checking be done the following week which would help people who are busy with children etc? We need to try and cater for everyone.

LOFT: Is six sections 26 feet long 8 foot wide and has a four foot corridor. Has formboard on the floor but no covering. Cleans loft at 5.15 every day with the lights on.