

YBC 2018 Bronte Andrewartha



The 2018 Young Bird Derby was originally going to be from Lyndhurst 552 km straight north of the Andrewartha lofts. Strong N/West winds were forecast and the release committee decided to change the race point to Glendambo to ensure the safety of the conveyed birds. Leading up to the race a blue bar hen LM 17 0512 had only two races. The first race, being Bookaloo 388 kms taking 5 hrs 43 minutes to complete the course. The 2nd race was from Hawker 374 kms and taking 3 hrs 52 minutes (6 minutes behind his clock bird which was the 1st place). Her next start was from the Glendambo YBC.

There were 134 flyers and 2,674 birds entered into the Glendambo YBC. The hen

came straight from the north, did a half circle and into the clock. I'm very happy and surprised to get one so early. My mate, Don King was at the Adelaide Pigeon Club One Loft Race, which is about 45 kms shorter than my loft. Around 300 pigeons were released for this event with the SAHPA Glendambo birds. Don had not called me from there to let me know the birds were around, so when I got one before the call, and he was 45 km shorter, it was a shock. I can only think it must have crossed the water. I have no idea if it did or did not, all I know is the bird did a fantastic job.

The pigeon breeding is a Koopman / Hereman, bred by my racing partner, Warren March's Seasue Lofts pigeon stud. Since 2015 Warren has bred about 50/60 pigeons every year, it is supposed to be 30. This year the batch were mainly Koopmans, Heremans / Ceusters and Gabbys.

BBH LM 17 0512 did a great job doing 2106 mpm and taking 4 hrs 17minutes whilst still having to drop both 9th and 10th flights. That speed is approx. 125 kph or 78 mph. This was my first ever SAHPA blow home win, but it still feels the same as the other long distance events did, I was just as excited!

I have never had speed pigeons before the connection with Warren and I had to learn not to treat them or feed them like my Goodger/Metcalfs, Eitzens and Dangerfields. I trained them separately, which takes a bit more work to hamper the Aussie birds up, and then the Euros completely separately as I didn't want to slow Warren's birds down, nor wreck my Aussies into trying to keep up. Conversely, there is no point in forcing distance birds to try to compete at a gait which was far too fast for their normal pace.

For three seasons I absolutely ruined my speed teams, as I elected to feed and train them the same way I did successfully with the old bloodlines that I have flown for years. I remember, with some shame that year, after year I blew them away very quickly by using my long distance methods, which simply did not help them one little bit to perform to their optimum potential.

When I won Alice, I had for next 6 months people telling me how to feed and train them to win such a race.