

RUSSELL SOMERVILLE

Supplied by Russell

Williamstown member (Barossa Valley RPC Inc.)



I have kept pigeons since 1962. Started with show fantails then moved into race birds in 1964. I have raced at my current location since 1986. My birds are based completely around performance at the distance events. My main family is really a blend of old Aussie families over many years to form my own family of birds. These are a base of Goodger, G. Patterson, B. Donovan, Pryor, Peddy Barker, Cunningham and recently Verco from my late good friend Jurgen Ewendt.

I have one of each Rutz, Brockhamp and John Ellis birds as imports to blend in but only on a small basis.

I have won officially four SAHPA races - Canberra 950 km, Madura Pass (WA) 1148 km, Glendambo Open 505 km and Alice

Springs 1309 km. Unofficially I have had the 1st Assoc Bathurst 1000 km one day out of race time with a young hen pooled in every pool in the race and 2nd Assoc Nundroo 700 km when my relatives told me they had been trying to get the bird in for 5 min before telling me and beaten by 8 secs by Roy Dangerfield.

I have been successful in homing many birds in the top 10 from all the long distance points from Madura Pass in the west, Alice Springs in the north, Bathurst in the east and from Devonport (Tas.) in the south.



My family of birds have to be tough to be able to survive living in the middle of three National Parks and three State forests but they will fly through a brick wall to get home.

Year 2018 saw the result that I had been trying to achieve for a long time in winning the SAHPA LDC Alice Springs with a 2 year old Black Pied hen (Black Onyx). This wonderful hen is incredibly brainy and full of determination. She has 10 SAHPA wins in her pedigree all at between 700 to 1320km. She was set as a baby in 2017 for Alice Springs 2018. She finished 2017 season with Coober Pedy. In preparing her with the Alice team she had all the Westline races in the