

BILL MARKOU

As told to Peter Burke

Winner of The Hamilton Open 20/08/2019 97 owners and 1597 birds



History: Bill started in 1980 flying with the West Torrens Club in partnership with his brother Kos, and together they have won four SAHPA races. On his own Bill has won the Sires Produce but this is his first SAHPA win. Bill has always raced his birds from the family home at Fulham where his brother Kos resides next door, and probably keeps a watchful eye on things, although Kos says he's retired from the sport. Bill works most afternoons so most of his work with the birds is done in the mornings.

Training: Tossing his team of birds starts in a northerly direction and then they go over the Hills. Bill teams up with Richard Yeoll and they have a tossing program which suits a number of other flyers who all go along to train for the east line. In recent times Bill has only raced the east line as he believes it suits his pigeons and he has had his fair share of success on that line. Bill states they get plenty of east tossing.

Feeding: Feed for his pigeons is always sent away to Dr Marshall and tested before it's purchased. He starts off his youngsters with 50/50 peas and wheat mix with a little small seed added when moulting and no barley in this loft. Once the birds are working around the loft he changes their feed to 30% peas, 45% wheat, and the rest is made up of his own small seed mix.



Vitamins: Bill, like many flyers likes to keep his birds in top form, and when asked what additives do you give them? Bill replied I give them 11 in 1 made by Aviform. He puts it on the feed and on the Sundays after a race and sprinkles a little Protexin on the wetted feed to help with their recovery. The birds also have an unlimited supply of Rawleighs stock powder for them to have a peck at when they want.

Family of Pigeons: Bill like his brother Kos, has always kept a family of birds with the base being the Nelson / Marchant pigeons, and they are good honest hard day birds. In recent years

Bill has been on the lookout for a good cross to go into the family, to regenerate the vigour needed with inbred families. It can be noticed with the pedigree of his 2018 Hamilton winner, with the Hocking cock and Wayne & Cheryl Myer's bird on the sire's side. Any stock birds that don't produce results in a two-year period are quickly discarded.