

ON THE GABBYS: Started with just the one from Lu Brothers (Little Boy) – he bought more but that was the only Gabby. Has imported 12 from Peeters and 14 from Mark Vandaele. Six from another Dutch breeder and a couple direct from Vandenabeele. They will do any distance. Very good all round pigeons – the cocks are a bit big but they do very well. Some of the local flyers who have done well include – MV Lofts, Leo Duits, Peter Vranek, Ross Chapman, Alan Agar, Andrew Muirhead, Allan Brown, Vasile Curea, Jurgen Ewendt also Vince Canizzo, John Share, Allen Limburner interstate. Jack got a good hen (Gabby) from Shaun Elliot which was mated to Little Boy – never looked back after that. Little Boy has been with two hens - Leading Lady and a James Bond pigeon (Jack's Derby winner). Every young one from those two hens has bred winners. Gabbys have gone all over the world – big time in USA. Gabby himself is out of pigeons due to health reasons and not likely to be back. The Gabby line goes back to his father who got a good original pair (Kleinen the sire). Little Boy was a half brother to the best stock cock Gabby ever had (Wittenbuik). Jack says some of the latest ones he is breeding have feathers down the legs, probably due to the intense in-breeding he has done. They are performing well.

L to R: 1. Ventilation and climate control. 2. Walkway of loft. 3. Typical Gabby.



A GOLDEN ERA IN PIGEON RACING IN ADELAIDE

Moments to Remember - By John Hofman

The year was 1959, Buddy Holly, Richie Vallens and The Big Bopper died in a plane crash. Elvis was singing "Are You Lonesome Tonight", Roy Orbison was on the verge of his first big hit with "Only the Lonely", and Port Adelaide Football Club won their sixth consecutive title. 1959 was also the year that Hofman Bros., of Seaton Park got their first pair of pigeons. My brother Greg brought them home from my now lifelong friend, Denis Place. Denis' older brother Wayne had established a loft of racing pigeons a couple of years earlier but never got around to racing them. They had "gone to seed" by this time and had been "infiltrated" by some commoners. The pair that Greg brought home were blue chequers. They appeared to be a cross of racer and commoner and were unrung. They were named "Bossknocker" & "Mrs Bossknocker", by my father. But that was the spark that started my interest and association with pigeons and the sport. The chook house in the back yard was quickly converted

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