

EDITOR'S REPORT



Our apologies to our readers regarding the mis-spelling of Nockatunga in Mr Cocks letter to the editor. I take this opportunity to thank Len Vanderlinde, we have had some very interesting articles from Len on racing in Queensland during his time as publicity Officer of the Queensland Pigeon Federation. We feel sure the position now being taken over by Ian Howard is in very capable hands, fanciers will have read Ian's article in No 3. Vol 2. 91. magazine "From the way we were to the way we are"

Once again I don't think some kind of publicity on the T.V. about pigeons does the majority of pigeon fanciers any good in the estimation of general public. A recent program on T.V. showed Pigeons



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being bred for exhibition that could not even feed their own young, I suppose beauty is in the eye of the beholder but breeding against nature to deformity in my opinion is cruel and does not enhance the esteem of the general public of the pigeon fancy as a whole. Publicity like this we can do without. I remember some time ago seeing a Vet on T.V. and he was very upset about the way bulldogs were being bred as he explained they were having problems breathing because of the shape of their nose, from the day they were born.

I have heard fanciers whinging about the follow up of squeaker sales. Fanciers sending birds then not hearing anything else about them. A little co-operation on both sides could perhaps eliminate the problem. My suggestion would be each youngster have a card with it's ring No on also the printed name and address and telephone No of the breeder sent with each bird, to be pinned to the pen at the sale. I have been present at sales where a fancier has sent several youngsters with only ring No's and his name on one card. A card on each would certainly help the auctioneer as well as they do a very good job under difficult conditions at times and the persons taking the money and making out receipts. They have certainly got enough to do. A little co-operation on the breeders and buyers part should eliminate any problems. Give it a Go next time you enter birds in Squeaker sales, make sure there's a card for every bird. Thats my view what's yours.

*Yours in Sport
Harry*

The Best Five Dollars I've Ever Spent

Leo Duits was born in Ulreight in Holland. The onset of the second world war when he was ten brought difficult times to his parents, trying to raise 13 children. Living close to a major motorway that the German army patrolled and with the English airforce bombing constantly meant their route to school was cut off, enforcing their absence from school on many occasions. Lack of finance gave little choice in hobbies, so Leo kept a few wild pigeons in a small loft.

During his years as an apprentice fitter and turner attending trade school, racing pigeons came into focus. A fellow student would often sprint home in his lunch break to check on the hopeful return of his race birds from France. This sparked an interest in Leo that lay dormant for quite a few years.

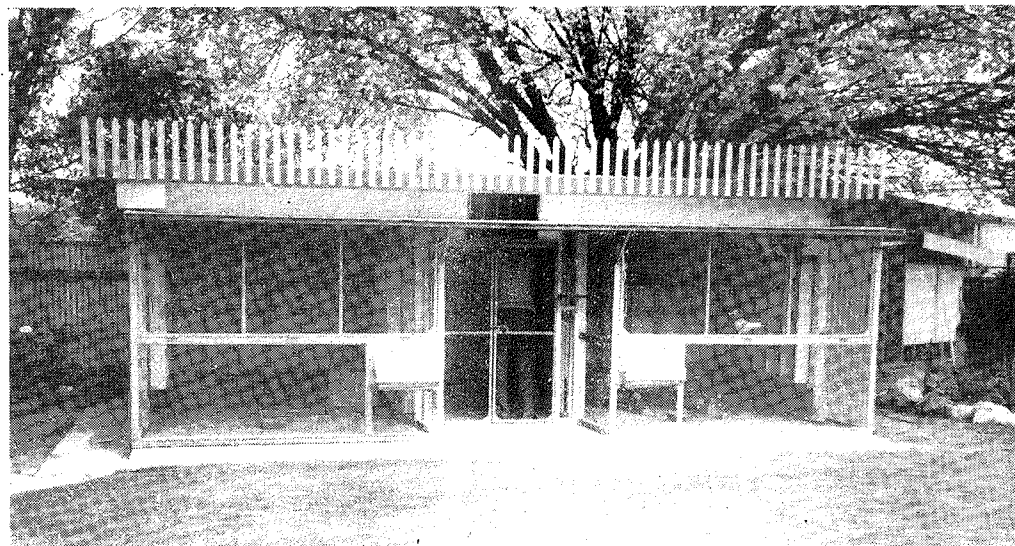
Yanny and Leo perchanced to meet at a village dance, Yanny was the cloak and hat attendant. Leo was smitten by the

gentle-spoken young lady.

They married in October 1957 and three weeks later set sail for Australia to start their life together.

On his first day in Adelaide he found work in a factory in Mile End, with the aid of the Dutch consulate as an interpreter. Both Leo and Yanny soon learnt English with daily contact with Australians. Leo eventually found work in his trade as a lift installer. Working around the city buildings he began to notice the daily forage for food by the wild pigeons that lived on the office rooftops. The weekly radio pigeon release broadcast, stirred a long stored memory from his youth. Deciding to at long last to give pigeon racing a try he made contact with the secretary of the Association Doug Green, who furnished him with Allen Goodger's address. He also met Bill Kalenderg who gave him pigeons to start a breeding campaign.

1965 was his first season as a member



Leo Duits' Loft.

of the Hampstead club. In 1966 he and Bill Kalenderg founded the Vitesse club, which had it's inauguration in Leo's garage.

For the first ten years Leo said he was a 'Mug Flyer'. Many times he was still waiting for a bird when other members would arrive with their clocks. Leo persisted through trial and error, without much help from anyone, keeping his eyes and ears open to the success talk of other fanciers.

His first taste of victory was a 16th Assoc. Tarcoola derby which was won by Allen Goodger.

In 1976 he won 1st Assoc. Nundroo, this was bred from a pair he bought at Alb. Walford's sale and was Blanden bloodlines. They proved to be good producers, winning back the purchase cost in their first season of breeding.

The last year Leo lived at Hillcrest before shifting to his present address he attended a sellout sale of the Elliot Family of Gawler. He bought a red check hen for five dollars. This hen was bred by Alan Brown and carried L. Lloyd and A. Goodger strain. She had been placed 17th Eucla Assoc. in a two day race. It proved to be the smartest move Leo has ever made in purchasing stock birds. Her progeny have brought Leo into the winners' circle.

The first yield of youngsters produced a 13th Assoc. Booroorban, with another young cock placed also and a hen bird racing consistently. Following seasons produced a 3rd Assoc. Booroorban and a 27th Assoc. Young.

Four daughters from another seasons' breeding, won two 7th. Bennella Assoc. 18th. Assoc. Mt. Willoughby, and one of

these hens went on to breed as a two year old 1st Assoc. Cobar in 1989.

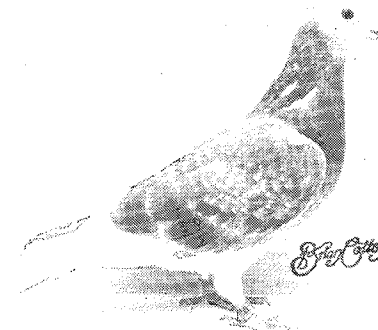
In the 1990 race season the two 7th Assoc. Benella hens placed 5th Assoc. Nyngan and 6th Assoc. Gilgandra. The 6th Gilgandra hen bred 4th Nockatunga National 1990.

In 1989 on one weekend Leo won the 1st Assoc. Cobar and 2nd. Nockatunga South. Aust. section. This was probably Leos most exciting experience in racing. The Cobar was an overnigher. He walked outside at 5.30 a.m. to find the Cobar hen on the loft board and half an hour later his Nockatunga entrant dropped in.

The sire of the Nockatunga placing was A. Goodger strain purchased by Leo at the Convention sale and supplied by Bill Walford. Dam was from Jack Van Der Linden (Grant Patterson Goodger strain) Leo borrowed a Ray Rowe - Goodger pigeon that had placed 7th Temora Assoc., off this came a Pimba winner and a hen placed on numerous occasions. A 2nd Assoc. Cobar was bred from a son of the original red hen a daughter of the 5 dollar hen that had earlier bred a 7th Assoc. Benella continued on to breed another two 9th Assoc. placings.

Leo crossed Bill Strongman-Stef Orfanos bloodlines with red check strain hitting the jackpot with a very successful merger of genetics. Leo keeps only 10 non racing stock hens. He believes in breeding off his fit racers.

A hen that Leo transferred to the stock house, in two attempts at racing, strayed into foreign lofts, deciding because of her quality lineage to give her a try proved to be a bounty for Leo in producing the best singular performance pigeon he has ever raced. On her first race she was overnight from Carrieton, her next race she won 9th Assoc. Little Topar and 3 weeeeks later gained a 9th Assoc. again.



Hen Placed 9th Assoc. Twice.

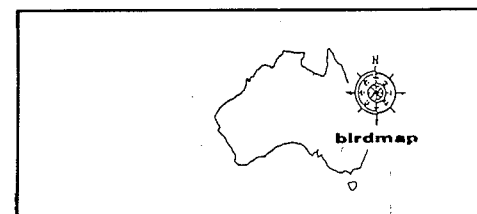
Leo finds the old birds perform the best on average. He trains twice a day and likes to see his birds do ¾ hour each time. He uses group training on units weekly. Fitness to Leo is shine and bulging muscles.

1988 he finished second in Assoc. aggregate points and 1990 fourth. He breeds around 110 a season and averages 30 to early races and 12 to distance points.

Leo has been a stalwart worker for the Assoc., he has been a 5 man management committee member twice.

Australia has been home to Leo and Yanny and their five children for over 30 years now, they decided to return to their native homeland early in 1991 for a holiday the first time they have been back since 1957.

Pat Marchant.



AUSTRALIAN PIGEON FANCIERS ASSC. INC.

22 Vernon Street, Greystanes, N.S.W. 2145

☎ (02) 6316929

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