

PIGEON NOTES



Malcolm Burgan

Forty-three-year-old Gawler pigeon owner Malcolm Burgan is a champion when it comes to producing "big race" winners.

He is a member of the Gawler club, but rarely wins in club races. His specialty appears to be events of the parent body, the SA Homing Pigeon Association.

Last season Malcolm, who has had pigeons for 22 years, recorded his third SAHPA event victory.

He won the Tarcoola Open with one of his champions, by a bare three quarters of a minute.

The Tarcoola event was about 350 miles. The win was Malcolm's third "distance" win.

He works as a storeman in Gawler, and is married, with a son, Kevin, 15.

Kevin and his mother, Kath, help Malcolm in the feeding and training of his champions.

Kevin attends Evanston High School and looks after the pigeons when school ends each day, and until his father returns from work.

The pigeons are exercised around the loft once a day now, with the new season approaching. The loft houses about 65 to 70 birds at the start of each season and Malcolm keeps about 14 breeding pairs.

His original pigeons came from a number of flyers, including Jim Todd (Rosewater), the late Alf Mackereth of Wasleys, Charlie Henderson (SAHPA) and Malcolm's brother Jack.

Jack lives next door to Malcolm, and is well known in association and combine circles. He runs a twice-weekly road training transport.

He is also one of the main "brains" behind the new SAHPA road race transporter, which will be used for SAHPA and SA Pigeon Union races this year.

Strains of pigeon represented in Malcolm's loft include Logan, Stassart, Sion and "a little Barker."

Malcolm is like most Adelaide owners and prefers to race an honest working henbird to a cockbird.

He believes his pigeons are



suited to longer distance races, and has no preference for either north or south events, despite his loft location.

His racing mixture is the same as used by most other top owners — good clean hard wheat, peas and plenty of clean drinking water. These three ingredients are a must for pigeons if the birds are to perform well, he says.

In addition to the daily exercise around the loft, Malcolm's racebirds go out in his brother's road transport at least once a week.

Earlier in the season they were being sent twice weekly for education and a small amount of conditioning.

The Gawler club, of which Malcolm and Jack are members, has had up to 40 members. However last year another club was formed at Willaston, now known as Para.

Although there are now fewer birds in the area, the competition is keen enough to produce the form needed by Malcolm's birds to win yet another "big race" in town.—GRAHAM BAD GER.