

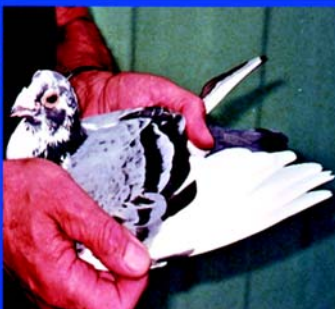
Success and Succession - The Goodger Story - Part 2



Left: SA 76 51397, the ace producer bred by Grant Paterson. As a producer of stock pigeons she rivals 'Lot 60'. Top Right: Con Moukas' champion producer cock SA-86-24405, direct son of 11829 x 51397. 2nd on Right: SA-91-7678, 1st Cobar 774km, 9th Boorooban 560km. A daughter of 24405, she produced champion producer 49721. 2nd on Left: Con Moukas' 2nd Farina 514km. Her dam's parents were both children of 51397.



3rd on Left: BCPC PTL-88-0631 Son of 51397 and 24405. 3rd on Right: 631's son SA-94-49721, sire of at least 28 SAHPA placings. Lower Left: Julie Moukas displays the wing Alice Springs winning cock SA95 47906, a son of 49721. Lower Right: SA94 18704, heavily linebred to 51397. He has sired 25 VHA positions for Wally Wojak.



By John Capel

With special thanks to Tim Fawcett, Con Moukas, Grant Paterson, Alan Thede and Bill Walford



Left: SAHPA Bird of the Year 1993, SA-91-7639. She was bred from a grandson of 24405. Right: John Pryor's famous cock, SA-82-11829, son of Lots 53 & 60. He was a producer cock without peer. Lower



Left: Charlie Forbes' champion hen SA-88-00582, winner of the Nockatunga National 871km. Lower Right: SA-93-28079, Charlie Forbes' SAHPA Inglewood winner 516km.



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In October 2003, and in two different states of Australia, two pigeons descending from the famous Goodger family distinguished their owners with superior race performances. In Adelaide, Brian Donovan clocked a smokey blue barred pigeon to win the Temora (820km) event for that year, one of the more prestigious events on the SAHPA's calendar. Nobody was surprised that a Goodger-line bird would win such a prize, but then came the news that the winner was a cock, and you could count on one hand the number of cocks to win from Temora. It was a *memorable* performance.

In Melbourne just twenty-one days later, Michael Lucas clocked his blue pied hen after 11pm to win the VHA's 1000km race from Baringun. Arriving home after nearly sixteen hours on the wing, the blue pied hen had flown into the night when the other birds had ceased racing, and the performance was readily recognised for what it was.... one of those great, *memorable* efforts.

What was the secret to the Goodger success? Answer.... *the Goodger succession!* The birds that won also produced. They could be easily described as the long distance equivalent of the Janssen family.

There were so many top producing pigeons, breeders of numerous winners and placegetters, and pigeons that won numerous prizes by themselves. The family of birds sold in August 1982 still carried the remnants of his 'Old Family,' which had produced three SAHPA Maryborough winners for him. But with the arrival of the 1964-bred Elliott hen came the 'New Family,' tougher, harder, and totally reliable when the going became difficult. It was built upon that Elliott Hen, 16016, which had won 17th and 19th from the SAHPA's racepoint at Finke, 1100km. That's a good start. Then came the two famous granddaughters, the 1968 bred '2nd Oodnadatta-Hen,' (13716), 2nd in a hard 870km race where only six birds had homed by the end of the second day, and the 1971 bred hen 22703, victorious by more than two hours (on the second day) from Cook, 880 km. This was the foundation, strengthened by the fact that Allen was never scared of close breeding, and the two granddaughters of the Elliott hen were often thereafter to appear in the same pedigrees.

But first a question: why is this relevant in 2007? We've established by reason of the performances of the two champions housed by Michael Lucas and Brian Donovan that the Goodger family still provides the winners of big races, but in looking at the Allen Goodger story, are we simply talking about an exceptional man, who was simply, and uniquely gifted with pigeons?

Or is it the story of one man's clever, calculated compilation of pigeons that created a reliable family of tough, resilient birds that win the tough races in a difficult competition? If it's the latter, (and it is suggested that it is exactly that), **then anyone with intelligence and patience can do what Allen Goodger did. But few will.** As Dr Arthur Bricoux, that racing and breeding genius from an earlier age was quoted as saying:

Many fanciers will not listen; others will not bother to become or be good fanciers. Such people who call themselves 'fanciers,' indulge in fancies and attach a good deal of belief in the most nonsensical and foolish talks; they only lend an ear to "secrets" and to "secret things." I maintain there are no secrets in our hobby. I am sure of one thing and that is: "there are more good pigeons than there are good fanciers."

Source: Gallez J. The history of the Belgian strains. 1976. Pp66

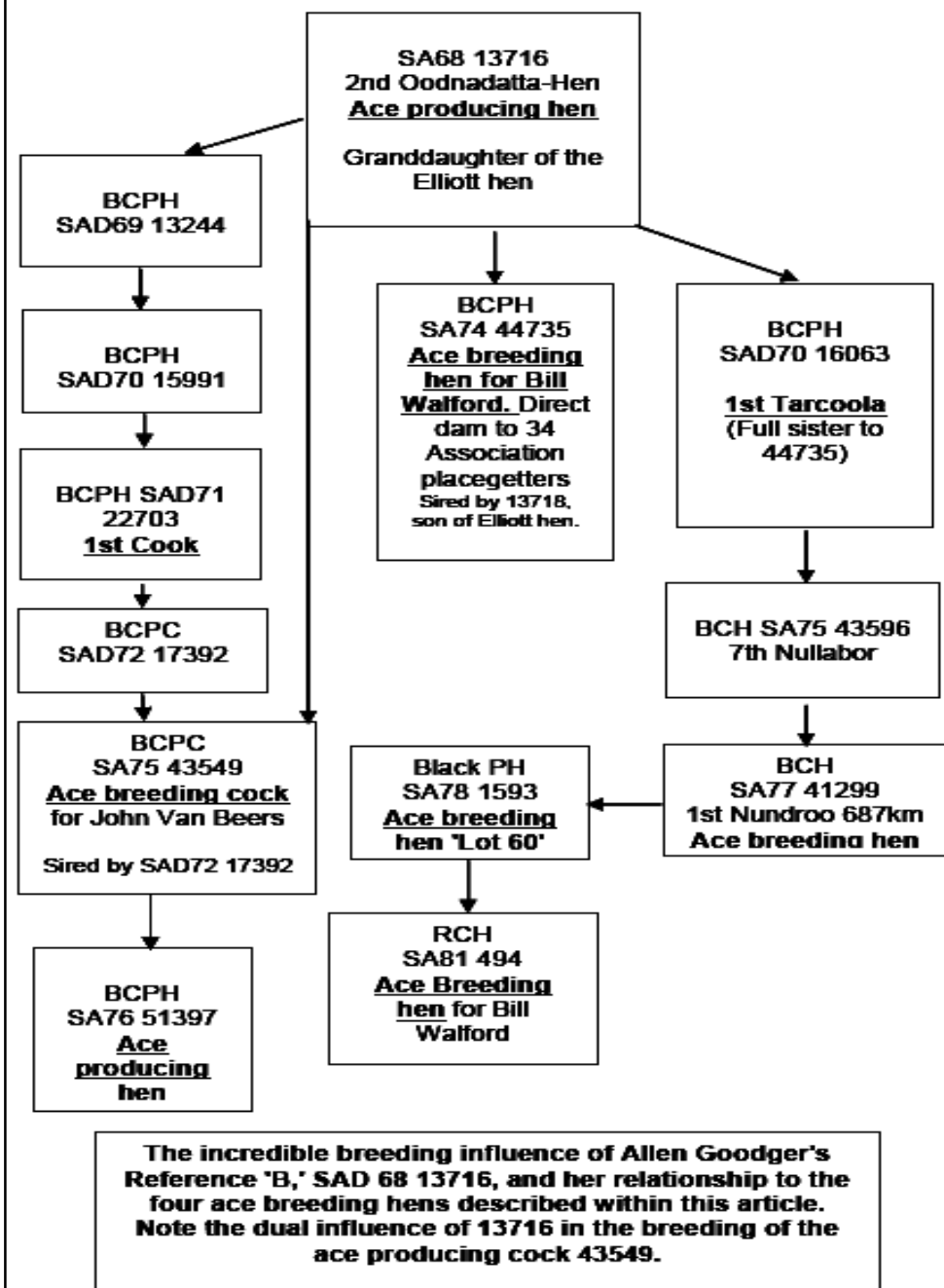
This is not a study of theories, secrets or secret things. It is a study of the Goodger succession: four champion Goodger-line producer hens which became part of the Diaspora - birds which became great elsewhere....and whose descendants are still active and winning in 2007. Then it has an added dimension, in that we can see the incredible benefits of using two such hens in tandem.

Put all of that together, and the story has enormous and current value to anyone who wishes to learn what a master of pigeon racing did to earn his reputation – a reputation which became a legacy for the rest of us.

In the previous article we mentioned that of all the great *racing* pigeons within the Goodger loft, the Cook winner' was probably the racing 'Jewel in the Crown'. However it was her cousin, (and also her great-granddam) the '2nd Oodnadatta-Hen' (SA68 13716) which was the breeding equivalent: she was that *breeding jewel*



beyond price, about which we spoke last month. Even the time of her passing at twenty-two years of age was recorded. Here's how she dominated the four Goodger-line hens which became ace producing hens:





As a two-year-old in 1970, the 2nd *Oodnadatta-Hen* was mated to a son of the Elliott hen (thus her uncle), and bred for Allen the winner of the SAHPA's race from Tarcoola (608km). The Tarcoola winner in turn bred a hen to win 7th Nullabor (814km). She in turn bred the elite Nundroo winner 687km, which then produced the famous 'Lot 60,' mother to a whole dynasty of her own. Lot 60 is the first hen in our study, and her magnificent daughter '494' is another.

In 1974 the then six-year-old 2nd *Oodnadatta-Hen* produced the excellent pied hen SA74 44735 (a full-sister to the Tarcoola winner). She raced for three years, was clocked on various occasions, but didn't win anything. Allen gave her to Bill Walford, and the fun began. In her first year she bred offspring with which Bill won nine Association positions: I'll say it again in case you missed it: *nine!* One hen won four Association positions on her own!

In 1975, when the 2nd *Oodnadatta Hen* was seven years old, she produced the ace producer cock (SA75 43549) which went home from the Goodger sale with John Van Beers, and established his own dynasty in Victoria. However, well before leaving Adelaide he had sired a very special daughter at the loft of Grant Paterson: a blue cheque pied hen Rung SA76 51397.

This then, is the first part of the Goodger Diaspora – the dispersment of the birds into the wider community, where they performed with equal merit to those which Allen Goodger had flown.

The enigmatic, incredible Lot 60: SA78 1593.

Grant Paterson told me recently of a sale in Adelaide many years ago which contained an old producer cock. He duly attended the sale and inspected this champion producer, but didn't particularly care for its general structure, or the shape of its flights. Allen Goodger had encouraged him to get it because of the old-fellow's known breeding record. When Grant subsequently told Allen he hadn't bothered to purchase the old cock, Allen thought him careless, and duly told him so.

"Look what he's produced," said Allen. "He's a producer of producers, the best type you can get. It doesn't matter whether he's open vented, got a crooked keel or a club-foot." continued the late champion. "He's taken the guesswork out of it!"

And it was to be that same quality, *the ability to produce producers*, which would make Lot 60 famous.

How is it that a hen which won a minor club race of less than 300km could produce those three cocks (two brothers, one half brother) which bred the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placegetters in that difficult, two day Temora race over 800km in 1991? The cock which bred the 3rd placegetter was to produce SAHPA winners from the tough racepoints Benalla and Alice Springs, two granddaughters to win from Alice Springs, and another daughter to take 2nd position in that marathon event? It doesn't seem possible. Yet it did happen.

The answers to those questions reveal the dynamic effect of the famous 'Lot 60,' rung SA78 1593. Listed just five lots after her in the catalogue was her red chequered daughter SA81 494, destined to be purchased by Bill Walford and duly to become an ace producing hen for him. But its fair to say that Lot 60 had bred nothing of substantial note at Allen's place, and she was now about to enter her fourth breeding season.



The late John Pryor and Con Moukas, viewing the SAHPA's trophy table. In 1986 they shared the youngsters bred from John's champion cock 11829 (a son of Lot 60) and Con's champion Goodger-line hen 51397.... with exceptional results for both men.





Ray Rowe purchased her at Grant Paterson's suggestion, along with Lot 53, BCC SA81 428, son of the '\$1900 cock.' I asked Grant why he had recommended the hen, especially when there was no evidence of any outstanding breeding record to date. Grant had asked Allen how her youngsters had performed. "Steady" was the reply, indicating that he was happy with them, but still hoped for better to come. "What appealed to me," said Grant, "was the fact that she was the most perfect example of the family – her colouring, the pied head, the excellent body structure, and yes, even though I didn't have regard for eyesign, I was aware of her incredible eye. In addition her pedigree was saturated with SAHPA winners."

Following the sale she went into action with Lot 53 in the Rowe loft, and in her first year produced SA82 11829, which was to become the ace producing cock for John Pryor. We've seen little to compare with this fellow, because not only were his offspring sensational, they also carried the genetic capacity to breed deep into further generations which remain prepotent today. Consider this:

- Mated to the excellent stock hen SA83 39313, he bred the Benalla and Alice Springs winners. One son bred twenty-four Association positions. Two granddaughters won Alice Springs (1320km), another won Emmdale (635km). That Benalla winner (SA87 17108) was so classy that by the time she was a three year old, she had (a) won an Association race (Benalla 690km), (b) bred an Association winner (Emmdale 635km), and (c) was grandmother to an Association winner (Alice Springs, 1320km)! *At three years of age!*

- Mated to Grant Paterson's ace producing hen 51397, 11829 produced three champion cocks: 24469, which left a list of legendary winners for John Pryor (including the wonderful 'Morundah winner', racer and breeder extraordinaire), and 24405 which did the same for Con Moukas..... and a lesser known cock 1062, to be known as the 'Port Lincoln cock.' He was known by that title because he carried a 'PTL' ring... one of his daughters was to breed fifteen SAHPA placegetters on her own!

- Mated to a Van Wanroy hen, 11829 produced a 1991 hen to finish second Alice Springs.

We aren't talking about ordinary pigeons here. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the top-shelf! Lot 60 was something extraordinary, and it wasn't limited by her being mated to 428, for she was just as proficient with other mates. On the next page is the list of her major progeny:

The known breeding champions produced by 15393, the famous 'Lot 60'.

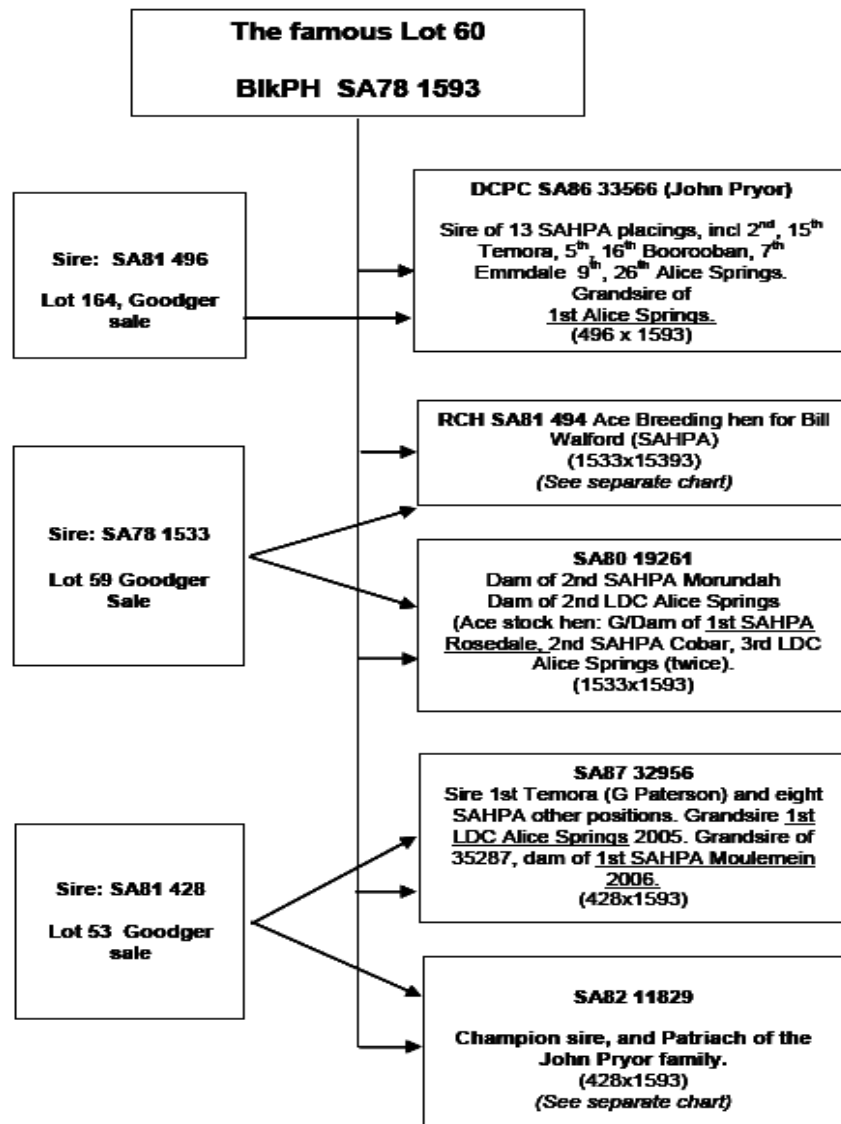
We know that she bred until she was at least twelve years of age, at which time she produced the dam of Keith Sagers' excellent red chequered hen 'Ruby,' (VHA95 20400) which won 3rd National at 700km when she homed *in the dark* at the end of a hard day. Then Ruby became dam to three VHA Federation winners just to show that the enduring class could still be transmitted to progeny!

Hens which can race and breed like Ruby, are very rare: so are those which produce producers, like Lot 60 did. Why was 'Lot 60' so good? Eyesign enthusiasts will tell you it was because of her fantastic breeding eye.





Breeding Chart : Lot 60 and her champion offspring.



The known breeding champions produced by 15393, the famous 'Lot 60'.



Both Bill Walford and Keith Saggars have told me that much: she actually died at Keith's loft, but he can still talk in depth about the quality and vivacity of her eye. However not everybody is an eye-enthusiast, so let's look elsewhere, and what better place to start than her pedigree.

Pedigree: SA78 1593: Bred by Allen Goodger. The Famous 'Lot 60'

Sire: Black PC SA77 5622 Half brother to the Cook winner	SAD70 16030 Sire of 1st Cook.	BCPC SAD69 13279 Sire to the \$1900 cock	SAD68 13718 Sire 1st Tarcoola, 1st Oodnadatta. Son of the Elliott hen
	OSBN70 1750 (Webber)	GD: SAD64 16016 The Elliott hen	SAD65 16579: GD of the Elliott hen
Dam: BCH SA77 41299 1st Nundroo 686km (2nd Day) <u>Ace breeding hen</u>	GS: RCC SA74 50643 (Webber)	Harold Webber's Reference 'A'	
	GD: SA75 43596 7th Nullabor 814km	Harold Webber's Reference 'B'	
		BCC SA74 56922 The Verco cock	
		BCH SAD70 16063 1st Tarcoola	
			SA68 13718 Son of Elliott hen SA68 13716 GD of Elliott hen

Note that she is a direct daughter of one of the finest of the Goodger champions - the elite Nundroo winner, which was to become another ace producing hen in the loft of Jim Marafioti. She left him several birds that were extraordinary breeders, one siring his Gilgandra winner (1000km) in the SAHPA. The Nundroo winner was one of the great results from that line we showed earlier, which started with the famous 2nd Oodnadatta-Hen 13716, being a granddaughter of the Elliott Hen. Keep in mind the fact that you're going to find this 2nd Oodnadatta-Hen within each of the pedigrees of the four ace producing hens we discuss in the article.

Note the sire's side, where Lot 60 is the daughter of a direct grandson of the Elliott Hen, being sired by a half brother to the Cook winner.

The Incredible SA76 51397 - 'The Power of One'.

I'm indebted to Tim Fawcett's excellent article titled 'The Power of One' which appears on the SAHPA's website for acquainting me with the enormous merits of this hen. She was a blue chequered pied rung SA76 51397. In the raceloft she was clocked on three occasions, and was placed at club level, a record not much better than that of Lot 60. However when she entered the stockloft she became a good producer in her own right, breeding immediately, so that at the end of her first season in the stockloft she had produced the winners of three Association positions.

But none of that could have possibly alerted her breeder, Grant Paterson, to the fact that she would become a dominant hen of a standard rarely seen in the annals of our sport. In fact she became more dominant as she became older. She had produced good pigeons at the time of Grant's sale in 1983 (when she was seven years old) and there was already evidence of her children breeding well also. Let's take a look at her formidable pedigree, because you will immediately see the presence of the 2nd Oodnadatta-Hen as her grandmother, but there's a bonus waiting for us.

Australian Racing Pigeon Journal

Pedigree: SA76 51397 Bred by Grant Paterson. Ace Breeding hen.

Sire: BCPC SA75 43549 <u>Ace breeding cock</u> for John Van Beers	GS: BCC SA72 17392. 10th Benalla 600km	SAD 71 33857 Sire 10th Eucla, 7th Bathurst	SAD68 13661
		BCPH SAD71 22703 1st Cook	SAD69 13244 9th Finke
		SAD67 8484	SAD70 16030 Son of Elliott Hen
	GD: BCPH SA68 13716 2nd Oodnadatta Hen	SAD63 16710	SAD70 15991
		SAD70 16030	SAD66 12414 The Elliott hen
		SAD70 15991	SA62 10961 SA62 13114
Dam: SA72 7535 16th Finke 1100km	GS:SAD71 22704 Nestmate to 1st Cook		SAD69 13279 G/Son Elliott Hen
			SA64 16016 The Elliott hen
			SA64 23864 The Ford Cock
	GD:SAD71 13771 24th Cook		SAD69 13244 9th Finke
		(All Kaffir bloodlines)	

One of her first sons had won 4th Mitiamo, produced 2nd SAHPA Penong, and then produced a cock which bred 3rd Temora. Another son had bred 3rd from Boorooban, so it doesn't take membership of Mensa to work out that she had special qualities. Con Moukas paid \$500 for the quality hen at Grant Paterson's sale in 1983. When she was ten-years-old he arranged a mating for the hen with John Pryor's famous 11829, the son of Lot 60..... *and then the fireworks really began*. Three cocks were mentioned during the earlier 'Lot 60' depiction – 24469 and 24405, and 1062, but there were others as well, though none as prolific as these three....but then not many cocks ever reach these heights.

Recently I was holding Michael Lucas' wonderful blue pied hen with which he won the VHA's 1000km race in 2003, homing after 11pm to be the only bird on the day, thus mirroring John Pryor's wonderful Coober Pedy winner. That hen had been the SAHPA's only bird on the day from a tough 700km race. I wondered why these two great hen looked so much alike until I was shown the pedigree, and realised that they're so closely related..... both having dual crosses of 51397 through her son 24469's champion daughter 16453 (the famous Morundah winner) and his champion son 17175 (the equally famous 6th Mt Willoughby cock, clocked from that arduous 880km racepoint in the dark at 10pm). Remember, it was made clear earlier that we're dealing with the top shelf here: it doesn't get better than this!

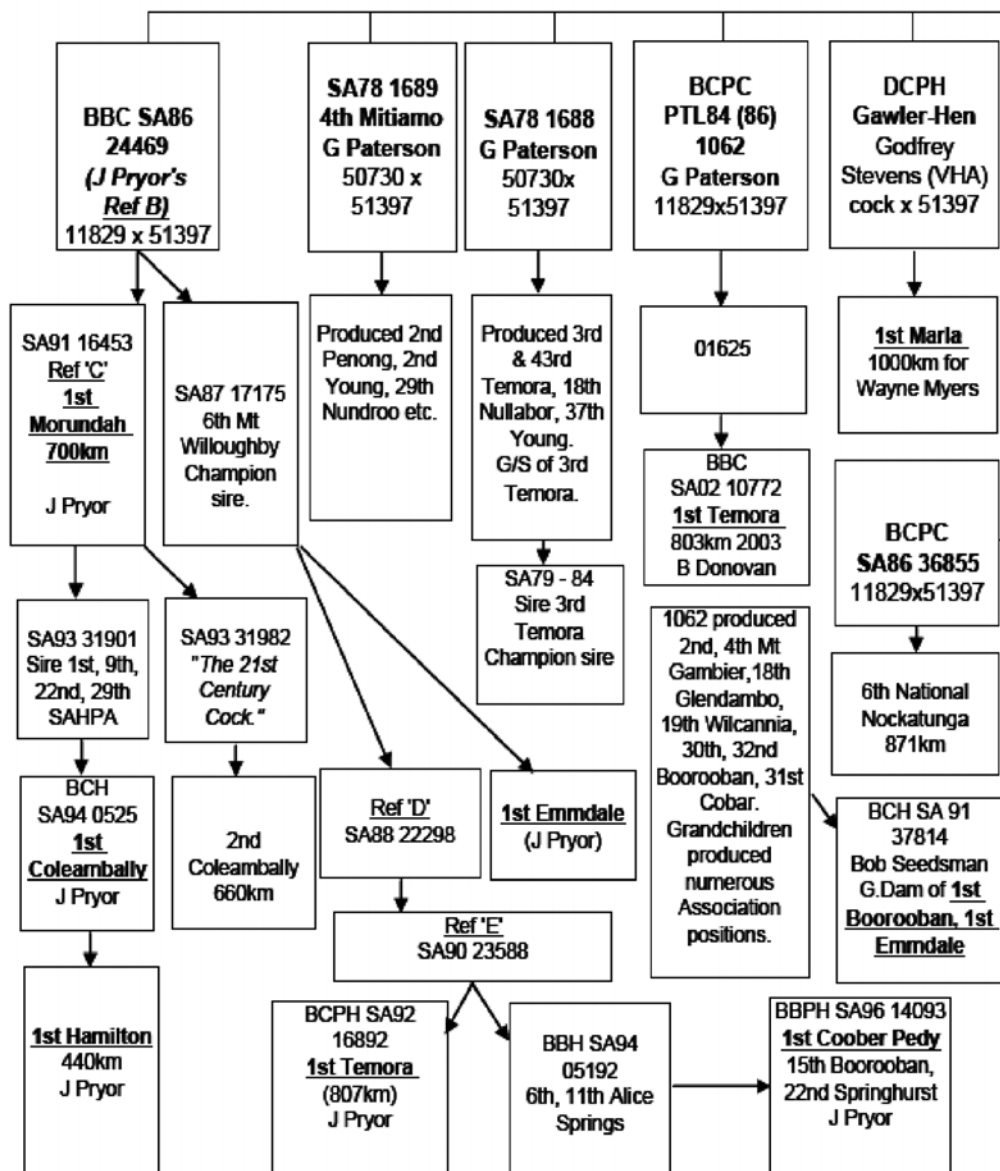
In the article 'Usual Suspects' (March 2007), mention was made of the incredible influence of 51397. She had a substantial role in the breeding of Brian Donovan's excellent SAHPA Temora winner of 2003, where her famous son, the 'Port Lincoln cock' appears on several occasions. When I spoke with Brian, I made mention of the fact that I'd heard that 51397 was visible in the pedigrees of twenty SAHPA winners. Brian's retort was that 'he'd first heard that claim eight years ago.' There had to be more by now, so it was decided to attempt to locate and identify some of these great winners, and the chart shown on the next page will give some evidence of her enormous prepotency.

So why was she so good? There isn't an easy answer. Con Moukas told me she possessed no eyesign worth

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The Power of One : 1

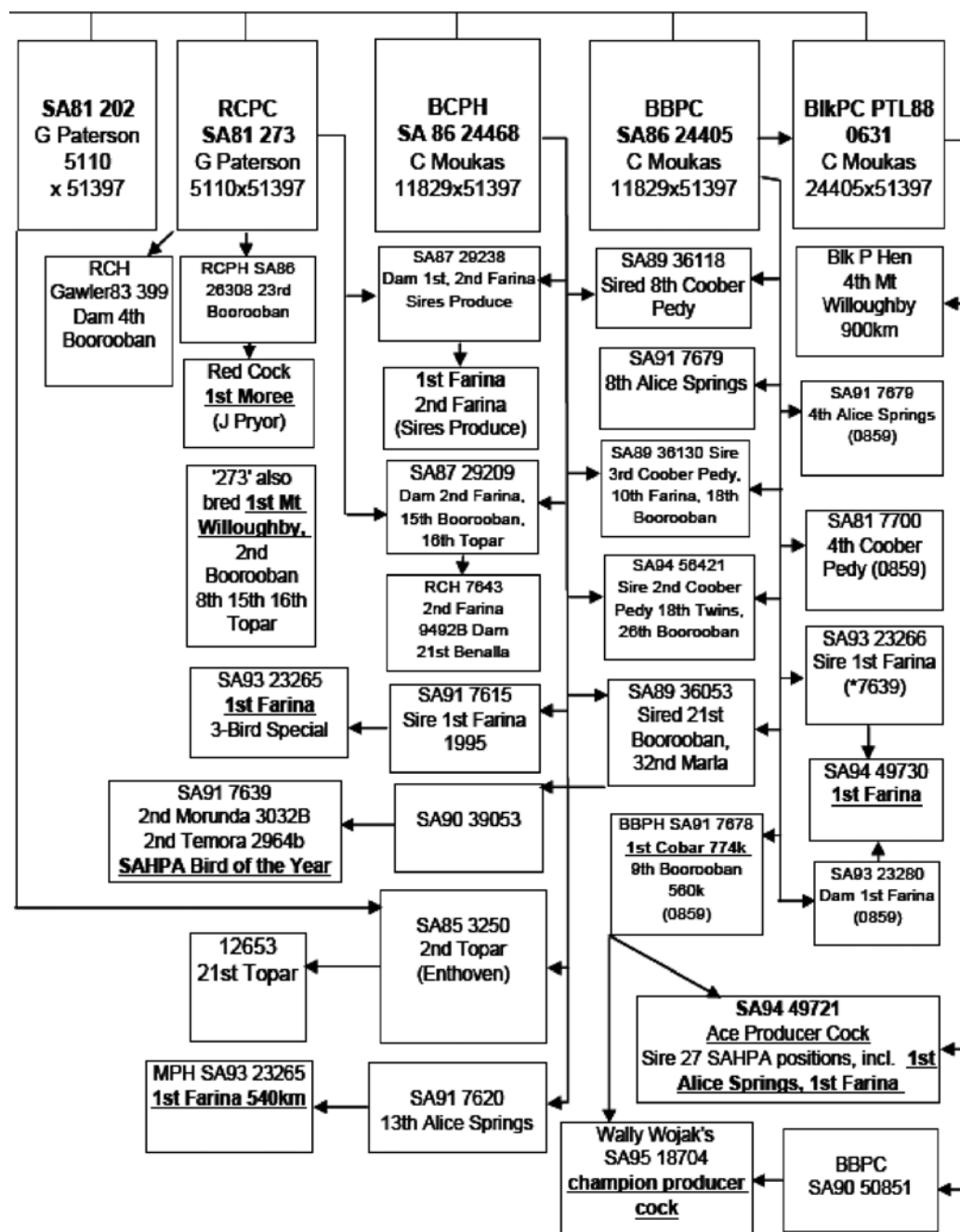


All results shown are SAHPA positions. No club results are shown





he ' 51397' Dynasty



talking about. ... She was simply a sensational producer. Look at the photograph of her and you'll see a hen typical of the Goodger family, and like the other great stockhens from within this family her children became champion producers of racing champions and champion stock birds as well. They could race to the longest and hardest racepoints with distinction. They could be crossed with each other and lose neither potency nor performance. Whatsmore, it didn't seem to matter where they went - under all sorts of differing systems of management they remained excellent. And in 2007 they still win with consistency.

When she was sixteen years of age, Con sold the still-fertile hen! I have no idea where she finished her life, but what a legacy she left..... and its still fresh, current *and available!*

3. Bill Walford's two ace producing hens SA74 44735 and RCH SA81 494

Now let's look at the two ace producing hens which went to the loft of Allen's good friend, Bill Walford. Bill and Allen had much in common. The two friends lived not far from each other, were members of the same club, and both held management positions within the SAHPA. When Allen's hen SA74 44735, a full sister to the Tarcoola winner, (but hatched four years after that hen) had completed her third year of racing, Allen presented her to Bill.

She had been clocked on numerous occasions, but hadn't won anything. But she did have one major distinction: she was a daughter of Allen's 2nd Oodnadatta hen (13716) a granddaughter of the Elliott Hen. The father of Bill's new hen was 13718, a direct son of the Elliott hen, so as discussed earlier, this was an Uncle-Niece mating, with the common ancestor being the famous Elliott hen.

Here's how she was bred.

Ace Breeding hen: BCPH SA74 44735. Bred by Allen Goodger. Sister to 1st SAHPA Tarcoola.

Sire: BCC SA68 13718 Sire 1st Tarcoola, 1st & 10th Oodnadatta, 7th Alice Springs	GS: BCC SA64 13655 (The Smallacombe Cock) Son of 2nd June. Brother bred 1st Maryborough Derby	
	GD: SA64 16016 The Elliott Hen	
Dam: BCPH SAD68 13716 2nd Oodnadatta. Dam 1st Tarcoola, 9th Finke, 10th Oodnadatta, 8th Alice Springs (See Pedigree 2)	GS: RCC SAD67 8484	RCC SAD66 12414 Bro to 4th, 16th Benalla
		GD: SA64 16016 The Elliott Hen
	GD: BCH SAD63 16710 17th, 24th Maryborough	SA62 10961 (Gay Pied Cock) Bred by Vin Blanden
		BCH SAA62 13114 Bred by Fred Delsar.

In her first year in Bill's loft she produced birds which won nine SAHPA positions for him.....*in her first year!* One hen won four positions on her own. In a 3-Bird race from Mitiamo (530km), Bill clocked three of her daughters to take three SAHPA positions within the top 25! Mention was made last month that Bill regarded her mother 13716 as the ace producer hen in the Goodger loft - even more so than the Elliott hen. It is a summation not to be taken lightly, because it would have been made after many, many visits to the Goodger yard. In gaining the 2nd Oodnadatta-Hen's daughter 44735, Bill soon found that he had an ace producer of his own, a daughter of the hen he most admired at Allen's.

Bill was to tell me "44735 had perfect conformation, her strength of body almost cock-like. Her eye was what I



call a *spoken-wheel-eye*, and almost violet."

Allen was no follower of eyesign. Doris told me one day that she had promised to buy Allen an eye-glass 'so that he could look like a proper fancier!' But Bill certainly was both a student and proponent of eyesign, and this hen's particular eye heightened his interest in her. It seems that history proved him right.

She was to have three different mates at Bill's loft, and *produced thirty-two Association positions, including an Association winner for her owner.* And her children were also to become excellent producers.

Her son 37337, was to prove of enormous interest, because he was loaned to Allen Goodger and his youngsters appear in the 1982 catalogue, when he was mated to a granddaughter of the Cook winner. One of the pair's sons was SA81 477, taken home from the sale by Ron and Graeme Eitzen. He became father to the excellent hen which produced 1st SAHPA Emmdale (635km, 960mpn, 4431B). Her brother bred 3rd Bathurst (1030km) for another fancier. This cock 477, was to become well known within South Australia for his passing-on qualities. Much more about him later.

But it was the ability of Bill to utilise the *other* ace producing Goodger hen he possessed which in tandem with 44735, produced something absolutely special. Bill, as mentioned earlier, had taken home from the Goodger sale the red chequered daughter of Lot 60. When Allen learned of Bill's selection he was heard to say, "That's a very wise choice."

She carried the ring SA81 494, and its accurate to say that fanciers in South Australia were always keen to get their hands on any offspring from this wonderful hen. Bill Walford was similar to Allen Goodger in his generosity. He came from a group of fanciers who enjoyed sharing with, and competing against both close and distant colleagues. Borrowing a good pigeon from Bill Walford was never hard to achieve.

494 was a pigeon of absolute class and beauty: those who saw her will tell you it was so. Here's how she was bred:

Pedigree: RCH SA81 494. Bred by Allen Goodger. Ace breeding hen for Bill Walford.

Sire: RCC SA78 1533	GS: SA71 26769 (Vin Blanden)		
	GD: SA76 9520	SA71 22716 Son of 1st Maryborough SA74 44662	
Dam: Black Pied hen SA78 1593: <u>Ace breeding hen: The Famous 'Lot 60'</u>	GS: Black PC SA77 5622 Half brother to the Cook winner	SAD70 16030	
		OSBN 70 1750	
	GD: BCH SA77 41299 1st Nundroo <u>Ace breeding hen</u>	RCC SA74 50643 (Webber)	Harold Webber's Reference 'A'
		SA75 43596 7th Nullabor 814km	Harold Webber's Reference 'B'
			BCC SA74 56922 The Verco cock BCH SAD70 16063 1st Tarcoola From a son of the Elliott hen x a granddaughter of Elliott Hen

494 was to live until she was 23. She had inherited all that was good about the family from which she had earned her wonderful genes, and following the sale she was lucky enough to find herself in the hands of someone who





had the knowledge and complimentary tools with which to bring out the best in her.

Following the Goodger sale, the yearling 494 entered the Walford stockloft for the breeding season commencing in spring 1982. In her first year she was mated to the other ace stockhen 44735's son 37337, and bred five cocks and just one hen! One cock was clocked five times, and contested both difficult races from Young (896 km) during season 1983. A later son (bred in 1985) was to produce Bill's winner from a difficult SAHPA Emmdale (635km) race. It was an auspicious start by the daughter of Lot 60, and her own dynasty began to grow through those who were lucky enough to take home her children, and the merit of this ace hen only increased as her influence grew. One grandson of his red hen won 23rd, 4th and 5th in the SAHPA in consecutive races from Little Topar! The chart on the next page shows how the two Goodger hens combined at the Walford loft:

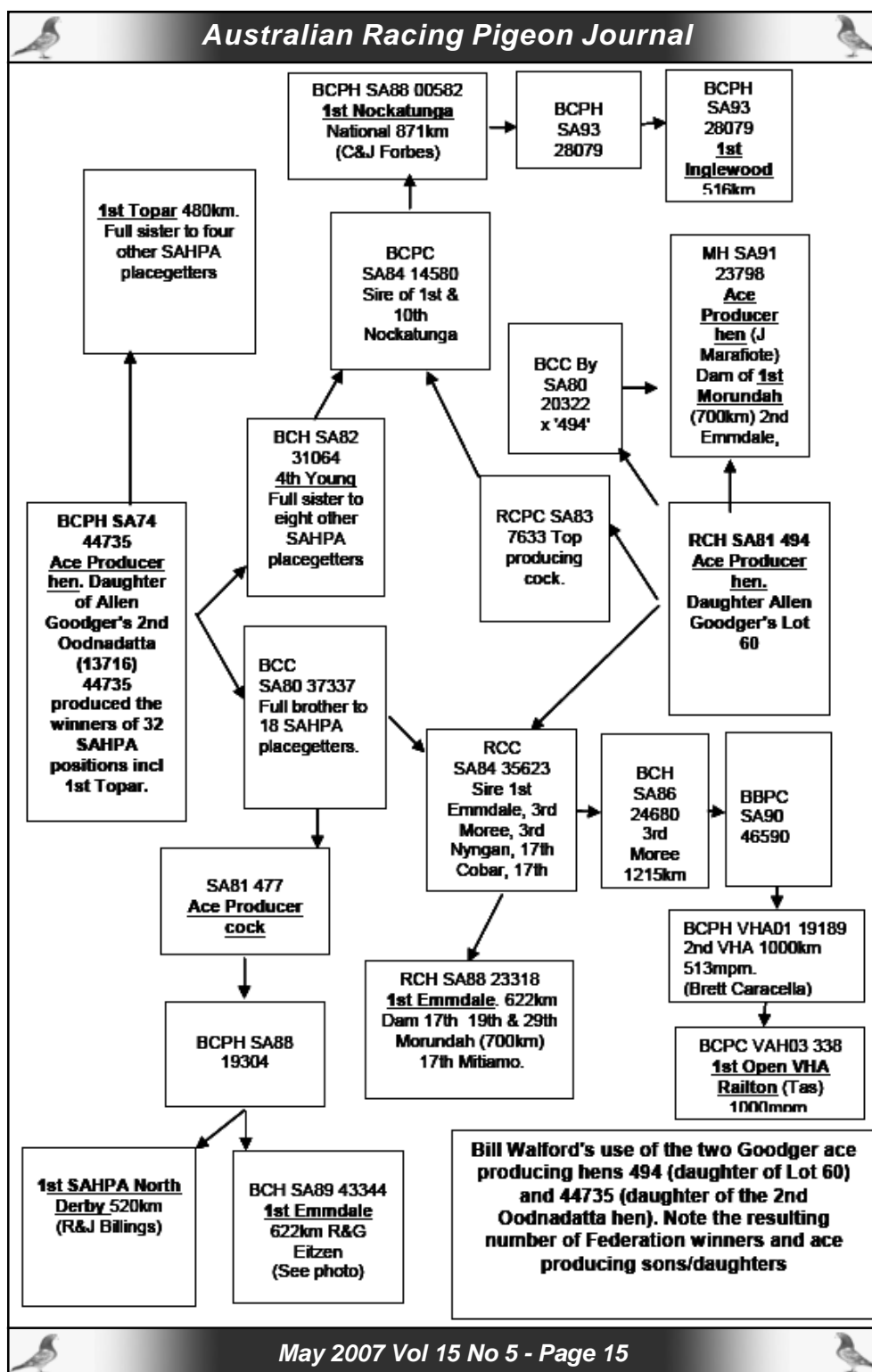
Note: Bill's 37337 was to have a brother which when mated to the red chequered 494 produced the sire of the mealy ace producer hen SA91 23798, which went as a gift to Jim Marafioti. And who was this cock (37337 x 494) mated to in order to produce this champion mealy hen? None other than his own mother, 494! Again, we see clear evidence of those who performed best with the Goodger birds never for a minute being afraid to breed closely to any particular champion producer.

Jim Marafioti's mealy hen is also described as an ace breeding hen, a term not used lightly, because she left 1st SAHPA Morundah (700km) 2nd Emmdale (635km) 4th Boorooban 560km (twice), 7th Boorooban etc. In her you can see clear and unambiguous evidence of the



Les Caracella (left) holds the young pied cock which won the VHA's event from Railton (Tasmania) while John Brislin holds his mother, winner of second placing in the VHA's 1000km event at 513mpm. She descends from the two Walford-Goodger hens (see chart).





Diaspora taking place. *These birds clearly demonstrated that they were able to move between lofts and take their winning genes with them, to be re-established in new locations.* And its that factor which makes the Goodger pigeons special, even today, because they still transfer their winning genes so easily.

One fancier commented as to how easily, and how successfully they crossed with the Janssens. And why not? They were bred along almost identical lines – two heavily inbred families coming together to create that much sought hybrid vigour.

Is there anything we can learn from all this? It is interesting to note that Bill Walford's hen SA74 44735 was hatched when her famous dam (the 2nd Oodnadatta hen) was six years



Peter Arriola (left) and Bill Walford were regular visitors at the Goodger lofts. The two men in the photograph have been friends for more than half a century. Bill had the two great hens 494 and 44735 with which he bred in tandem with incredible effect.

old. Note the description in the text: "she had been clocked on numerous occasions, but hadn't won anything." Yet she had flown for three years, almost certainly to 800km, and possibly further. She wouldn't have been spared a trip to a race because it looked like being *difficult*. ***Allen believed that once past five, stockhens would breed youngsters which would be clocked, but would not be as likely to win. Yet he kept the old hen in production,*** and the illustration shows that this young hen 44735 carried all the requirements to become an ace stock hen, if not a great race hen.

In her first year at stock she bred for Bill Walford the winners of nine SAHPA placings! One hen won four Association positions on her own! Mated to three different cocks, 44735 eventually produced direct offspring which included an SAHPA winner and *thirty-three placings within the top twenty* in that most competitive Association!

Continuing the theme: The year after the 2nd Oodnadatta hen bred 44735, she (at that stage seven years of age) produced the ace producer cock which John Van Beers took home to Victoria. *Age doesn't seem to weary champion producers from passing on their quality genes.*

Then there's the champion cock SA81 477 (see the Walford chart). I began to chart the various successes of the children and grandchildren of 477, but stopped when it became obvious that I had another saga on my hands. He was possibly as bountiful as those hens mentioned earlier. One of his excellent granddaughters won the SAHPA's open race from Emmdale against 4000+ birds, and her photograph can be seen on the SAHPA's website.

And so we recognise the enormous contribution of the four great Goodger-line hens. When Brian Donovan clocked his Temora winning cock, he had witnessed the winning return of a uniquely bred cock carrying both Lot 60, and 51397. In fact he carried 51397 numerous times through one particular son which recurs consistently throughout the cock's pedigree. Similarly, Michael Lucas's champion hen is bred from a cock which is a double grandson of a daughter of John Pryor's Reference 'D' (a grandson of 51397, and great-grandson of Lot 60)



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when mated to his auntie, the famous Morundah winner of the late John Pryor. That champion hen was herself a granddaughter of 51397, and a great-granddaughter of Lot 60. So the succession continues! And it gets even better from here.....!

The fanciers who succeeded with the ongoing Goodger pigeons never seem to have been frightened to inbreed. Wally Wojak purchased a young cock at a sale held by Con Moukas in Melbourne, and he has become a phenomenal producer of racing pigeons, with 25 federation placings produced... and his children have also been able to carry the passing-on qualities. The close breeding within a family carrying a heavy pied factor will often result in gay-pieds, something which should come as no surprise given that this



This red cock won the SAHPA's race from Moree, 1216km for the late John Pryor. His mother won 8th place in a 'smash' event from Boorooban. She was a direct daughter of the red chequered cock SA81 273, a direct son of 51397 when mated to the Harold Webber cock 5110.

family contains reds and gay-pieds in its ancestry. Here's how Wally's champion cock is bred:

Gay Pied cock: SA95 18704. Bred by Con Moukas. Champion sire for Wally Wojak (VHA)

Sire: BBPC SA90 50851 (Bred 1993)	G.S. PTL88 0631 Sire 4th SAHPA etc	*SA86 24405	SA82 11829
		SA76 51397	SA76 51397
	G.D. PTL88 0988	*SA86 24405	Lot 21 (AG)
		SA86 24468 Brother x sister	16th Finke 1120km (GP)
Dam: BBPH SA91 7678 1st SAHPA Cobar 774km, 9th SAHPA Boorooban 560km Sister to 8th Alice Springs 1320km	G.S. BBPC *SA86 24405	SA82 11829	SA82 11829
		SA76 51397	SA76 51397
	G.D PTL88 0859	SA82 11829	SA82 11829
		BBPC	SA76 51397
		BBH SA85 33476 16th Alice Springs 1320km	Lot 53 (AG)
			Lot 60 (AG)
			Lot 21 (AG)
			16th Finke 1120km (GP)
			*SA86 24405
			(Son of 11829 x 51397)



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Note the number of times 51397 appears in the pedigree, both as the dam of the champion producing cock 24405, and his sister 24468 (and note that in one case they were mated together). Then she appears again when mated to her champion son 24405. And while this was all going on, 24405's brother 24469 was in full production at John Pryor's loft.

Some fanciers complained that when they bred closely the white-factor increased dramatically. I asked how these pigeons performed, and often received a response along the lines "I don't know... I didn't keep them." Yet the photographs accompanying this article will show the gay pied son (0631) of 51397 (*a product of 51397 when mated to her own son*) producing 49721, a sensational producer of three SAHPA winners and at least twenty-eight SAHPA positions when mated to a hen which was closer than a cousin! Here are 49721's top ten performers, including the winner of the Alice Springs event (1320km) and the prestigious Sires Classic – and there are many others:

BCPC SA94 49721 (Top ten positions sired)

SAHPA Placing	Racepoint	Distance (km)	Velocity	No of birds
1 st	Alice Springs	1305	1376	552
1 st	Farina Sires Classic	514	1013	223
1 st	Dimboola 4-Bird	359	912	151
2 nd	Coober Pedy	732	1196	4991
2 nd	Glendambo	498	1019	1325
2 nd	Maree (cocks)	581	1017	363
4 th	Curtin Springs	1235	782	116
5 th	Springhurst	723	1114	2059
6 th	Glendambo	498	1019	5993
8 th	Marla	954	1881	2664
10 th	Glendambo	498	988	1325

He was bred on a similarly intense basis to Wally Wojak's excellent cock, with his pedigree incorporating the two great stockhens Lot 60 and 51397....but 51397 in particular:

Pedigree: SA94 49721. Ace producing cock. Bred by Con Moukas.

Sire: BlkPC PTL88 0631 (see chart and photograph)	GS: BBPC *SA86 24405	BCC SA82 11829 Son of Lot 60
		SA76 51397 Ace Producing hen
	GD: SA76 51397 Ace Producing hen	
Dam: BBPH SA91 7678 1st Cobar 774k 9th Boorooban 560k (See chart and photograph)	GS: BBPC *SA86 24405	BCC SA82 11829 Son of Lot 60
		SA76 51397 Ace Producing hen
	GD: 0859 (Granddaughter of *SA86 24405)	



Note two things here: 49721 is a double grandson of 51397's champion producing son 24405. On his sire's side he is bred from the excellent producer 0631, bred from a mating of 24405 *with his own mother* 51397. In this case the cock carries the pied colouring on his neck as well as some white flights in the wing, however his intense breeding has not resulted in an increase or excess of the white-factor (see the photograph of 49721) as was the case with Wally Wojak's cock, nevertheless the two cocks have the same level of prepotency.

Surprisingly, I encountered many who told me that they didn't like the Goodgers throwing piers, or being 'so small,' so they crossed them with other pigeons to 'give them the qualities they thought good pigeons should have'... and gradually lost their exceptional racing qualities. Others told me that they 'got rid of the ones with a lot of white on 'em.' Yet the originator of the family wouldn't have worried about the pied colouring or their size. Maybe he'd have just shaken his head, and recalled those prophetic words of Dr Bricoux.

Left: Julie Moukas photographed with the prestigious Alice Springs trophy, won on many occasions by the late John Pryor. It was Julie's cock which won the 1997 event, bred from a grandson of 24405, whose pedigree showed him to be a son of Con Moukas' famous 51397 when mated to John Pryor's 11829, a son of Lot 60... the two great Goodger hens working yet again in tandem.

