

It is often said that the best stock pigeons many fanciers have come by, are those that have been gifted to them. Allen Goodger's "Elliott hen" most certainly fits into this category.

Another case of an outstanding "gifted' pigeon is John Pryor's "Reference A," (BCC SA82 11829). The story begins at Allen Goodger's auction in 1982 when Ray Rowe, a fellow Hampstead Club member, purchased a number of pigeons suggested by Grant Paterson. Included among these purchases were Lots 53 and 60, who were in future years to become prolific breeders of producing pigeons.

Ray mated 53 to 60 in late 1982 and they produced several pigeons including 11829. The offspring of 53 and 60, together with other birds purchased at Allen's auction completed the 1983 SAHPArace program with a good number being present in Ray's loft at the conclusion of that season – SA82 11829 being one of them. Ray, like many South Australian fanciers, had a strong preference for racing hens - and little desire to race second year cocks.

He generously agreed to gift several of these yearling cocks to some industrious SAHPA honorary workers. Grant Paterson collected the yearling cocks from Ray and took them to his Manningham home where the delighted recipients decided upon their distribution. John Pryor selected a Blue Barred cock from which he bred his Booroorban (560km) winner, and 11829, which was instrumental in raising John's status from a good pigeon fancier to an outstanding fancier.

For the record, SA82 11829 produced 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Alice Springs (1320km), 1st Benalla (690km), 2nd Pakenham (700km), 3rd Temora (820km), 3rd Farina (535km) plus another eight SAHPA positions. This goldmine pigeon also proved to be a wonderful grandsire.

Another pigeon in the basket was a brother to 11829. Selected by Alan Thede he produced 15th Gosses and 17th Coober Pedy (745km) in his first season at stud. Obviously not all gifts are this successful - being in the right place at the right time also helps!

John Pryor is something of an enigma: it's hard to know if anybody really understood him fully, because he was almost in a league of his own. For a period in excess of a decade he blitzed racing within the SAHPA in a manner rarely seen anywhere within our sport. Yet there were close friends who had a wonderful chance to learn from his enormous understanding and study. John could be dogmatic to a degree that annoyed some people. He could make comments which were unkind and upsetting to close friends who thought him sometimes less than generous. But much of this started with his intensity, because John drove himself relentlessly toward continuing success. And through it all he shared a wonderful philosophy with friends.

"Pigeon racing is like watching mushrooms come up," he'd tell them. "Get the right conditions, and the predictable must happen."

Think about it and it all sounds right: learn the trade, stick to winning principles, and certain foreseeable things must happen. He feared none of his competitors, in fact he told one friend:

"I've got the best pigeons, I can train them better than anyone else, and I know how to feed them to get the best results."

It sounds somewhat bombastic, yet John was widely admired as a man who made a significant contribution to the sport, and its worthwhile to study how he took **three Goodger cocks and built an enduring family around them.** The first cock rarely figures in anything we find in the 2000 sale catalogue, mainly because the formidable 1982 bred 11829 eclipsed anything seen before... and then his son 24469 came along, son of the two Goodger-line champions 11829 x 51397, Grant Paterson's ace producing hen of extraordinary capacity. John Pryor's breeding methods.

It is interesting to note that John's stockloft comprised just twenty cocks, and ten hens, and the numbers were strictly maintained. In order for a new bird to enter the stockloft, one had to go. There was no compromise, and it explains how people could easily buy stockbirds from John - and these usually improved their own teams.



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Top Left: The famous winner from Coober Pedy in extraordinary circumstances. Top Right: The Coober Pedy winner's magnificent wing. Second on Right: The Temora winner. She was an appropriate demonstration of John's wing theory. Third on Right: The wing of the Benalla winner. Class and ability combined in this magnificent champion. Bottom Right: Michael Lucas's VHA 600 mile winner of 2003, a magnificent hen which homed in darkness after almost sixteen hours. She carries three crosses of the Morundah winner. Bottom Left: The Emmdale winner. Like the Coober Pedy and Temora winners, she came from a meeting of the two sides of the 11829 family.





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When the breeding season came, the ten stockhens would be mated to their chosen mates, and the remaining ten cocks would meet with hens directly from the racing loft. Many of the best young pigeons were bred from these yearling hens, and it provided several benefits:

1. John didn't have to maintain a large team of stockbirds.

2. The yearling hens used could race again as two-year-olds.

3. If these young hens produced superior racebirds, they could then be quickly identified as producer hens... and would then permanently move to the stockloft, usually dislodging an older hen.

4. The process enabled John to keep the average age of his stockbirds (stockhens in particular), low.

5. John placed a premium on the first eggs a hen ever laid, referring to them as 'Golden Eggs.'

The actual pairing of the birds could be a somewhat tortuous affair for John. He would agonise over the selection of the pairs, and even after pairing it wasn't unusual to find a hen suddenly removed from the stockpen to be replaced by another hen subsequently deemed more suitable. It's a feature of the behaviour of many top fanciers, in that they spend many, many hours arranging their pairings. As the famous international racing pigeon scribe Piet de Weerd was to write:

The most important thing, as I have never ceased to stress, remains that an owner must be able to form worthwhile pairs of breeders, or else he is doomed to failure. *Source: Piet DeWeerd Natural Winning Ways Vol 20 Pp25.*

Friends remember John being a meticulous note-taker, keeping record of almost everything that happened in and around his loft, or to any of its inmates. He had a great appreciation for wing-theory, and placed much emphasis on it. He believed strongly in birds with 'large wings and small bodies', as one person put it, emphasising what he termed their 'power-weight' ratio. Greg Kakoschke remembered that John preferred "small hens with tight feathering." No wonder he was successful with Goodger pigeons, for they were just made for him....small, and silkily feathered. John believed that any pigeon to be brought into the family needed to have similar attributes.

It was evident in writing the story of the Goodger birds that many fanciers lost this family's racing prowess when they tried to make the Goodger birds conform to their idea of what a 'good pigeon should look like.' These small racing machines were ideal for what John proposed.

When it came to breeding, John was a keen advocate for what he called the 'diamond' method. It is not known if John learned the technique of the 'diamond' from Allen Goodger, however it is distinctly possible. Barney Horsman was a respected fancier at the time, and was known to be a follower of the practice. Allen Goodger apparently used it, and Bill Walford was to relate that he thought both men may have learned it from Old Hand books, plus the great knowledge possessed by Allen and John's clubmate Harold Webber. Harold was one of



those men who had an enormous understanding of animal husbandry, the ability to 'handle, understand, and use' animals in ways other didn't find so easy.

John, who had spent a lot of time at the Goodger premises, made no secret of the fact that he favoured the matings of Uncle-Niece, and Nephew-Aunty... just as Allen Goodger and the Kakoschke brothers did when mating their pigeons. John had an excellent knowledge of the flow of chromosomes within any pairing, and paid particular attention to the pathway of the Y chromosome, which of course can only come via the hen. On occasions he might put together a pair which produced excellent sons but poor daughters, and he'd go over and over their pedigree until he'd identify what he thought was the contributing factor to his dilemma. He'd tell friends:

"Breeding pigeons is a bit like driving a car, in that sometimes you find yourself going down a dead-end, and you have to do something about it!"

His diamond method is particularly difficult to describe in detail, however it would be laid out as in the chart shown alongside (see diagram). It would allow John to purposefully, and deliberately design his matings with the aid of considerable information

In all cases, the diamond would allow John to utilise one of his champion Goodger cocks, or a chosen descendant. The chosen pigeon (on the left, joined to the diamond along the dotted line) would most likely be an uncle, great-uncle, nephew, half-nephew etc in relationship to the featured hen (or cock) shown alongside the straight line on the right-hand side. After two generations of such breeding, an outcross would be sought. Greg Hamilton, who had spent a lot of time in consultation with the late champion, told me:

"It could also be a cock but the Y chromosome will not follow that line and case studies through the Pryor family will show that the performance by-product is not as good. You obviously will still get some good ones along the way but not as good as following the hen line where ace pigeons are expected in every generation once the producer hen has been identified. Having said that, don't under estimate the importance of the cock on the broken line side of the diamond. (11829 son of Lot 60). The cocks used were often sons of a proven producer hen, minimising the risk of breeding in a weak link."

John wasn't alone in his emphasis on the female line. The famous author "Old Hand" was to write at one time: We know, and none better, how much the team depends upon the genetic influence of the hen. We have heard fanciers opine that the sire and dam of progeny exercise a 50-50 influence over their progeny, but I have never once found such a premise tenable. In fact it isn't even a small consideration, Source: 'Old Hand' BHW Gazette, Dec 1981.

Anyone who studies the Goodger line will probably notice that the great producing cocks are usually sons of great hens. Remember, it was the famous Morundah winner whose three different sons provided 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in that race from Coleambally, and Lot 60's three sons who provided 1st, 2nd and 3rd in that race from Temora. From the proximity of the diamonds to each other, you'll see that a formidable chart of the various relationships could be tabulated, and John would spend many hours planning these mating in an attempt to avoid the possible 'dead-ends.'

John was said to have fixed rules about the manner in which he thought top pigeons should be bred. His 'Golden Rules of Breeding' were based upon his study of many SAHPA winners from long distance, or difficult races where the conditions were not favourable....that is, pigeons that did something special...clear winners etc. People close to John said that he was adamant as to the accuracy of his analysis.

Rule 1A: 80% of all champion race-winners are bred from parents aged four years or less.

Rule 1B: 15% of all champion race-winners are bred from an older cock when mated to a hen aged four years or less. 5% of all champion race winners are bred from parents older than four years of age. *Rule 2A* 80% of all champion race-winners are the result of an outcross.

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Rule 2B 15% of all champion race-winners are the result of a cross within the family. 5% of all champion racewinners are bred from closely related birds.

We can quickly test his theory on the Association champions within the sale:

Winner Racepoint		Age of Sire	Age of Dam	
BBPH	1 st Coober Pedy 1999 745km 783mpm. Only bird on day.	1yr	2yrs	
SA96 14093		-	-	
BBH	6 th , 11 th Alice Springs 1320km	4yrs	3yrs	
SA94 05192		-		
BBH	1st Morundah 1993 701km 3032B 882mpm. Only bird	5yrs	1yr	
SA91 16453	before dark.	-		
BCH	1st Coleambally 660km, 1997 2067B 1347mpm, 9th	1yr	1yr	
SA94 05275	Farina 535km, 22 nd Temora 820km, 29 th Mt Gambier	-	-	
	380km			
BCH	2nd Colearnbally 660km, 1993, 15th Coober Pedy 745km,	1yr	1yr	
SA94 05273	16 th Morundah 700km	-	_	
BCH	1 st Benaila, 1988, 690km 1012mpm	5yrs	4yrs	
SA87 17108	_	-	-	
BCH	1 st Alice Springs 1320km 1998	lyr	1yr	
SA95 12147	507B, 951mpm. Only two birds on the second day.		_	
BCPH	1 st Temora 820, 12 th Little Topar 480km	2угз	lyr	
SA92 16892		_	_	
BBH	1 st Coleambally 660km 1997	lyr	1yr	
SA96 14045	2432B 1107mpm		_	
BCH	1 st Alice Springs 1320km, 1992, 918mpm. 4 th Emmdale	3yrs	lyr	
SA89 18635	635km, 31 st Bathurst 1030km	_		
BCH	2 nd Alice Springs 1320km	9yrs	1yr	
SA91 16422		-	-	

One of the most interesting pigeons on the list is John's Alice Springs winner (\$A95 12147) of 1998, for she allows us the chance to examine the manner in which he must have planned her deliberate pairing. We know that John would spend many hours planning these matings, so we can be sure that *few things that happened at Pryorsville, occurred by accident*.

John's blue chequered victor in 1998's 1320km event, was bred from a grandson of the champion pair 11829 and 39313.

Her dam, however, was bred directly from 11829, thus allowing us the classic aunty-nephew mating... however the principle behind this type of mating is not quite as simple as it sounds, because there are two ways in which it is practiced.

* First we have the classic uncle/niece, or aunty/nephew mating.

* Secondly we have the half uncle/niece, and half aunty/nephew mating.

It was perhaps best outlined in Neville Kakoschke's catalogue for his sale in 1996, where he wrote within the preview: "Our family of racing pigeons have been linebred and inbred for a very long time (35-40 years), and at times in their purest form are possibly too interrelated to breed race winning pigeons when mated together. By far the best results for racing purposes will then be achieved by the mating of aunty and half-nephew, and half-uncle and niece. The prepotent bird being the common ancestor in all cases."

When we look at what John Pryor was doing within his pairings, we can see him incorporating both methods of pairing his birds, however it was undoubtedly 11829, the son of Lot 60 which took the pivotal role in almost any pairing, nearly all of them a form of linebreeding to this cock.

Now examine the pedigree of John's Alice Springs winner of 1992, SA89 18635, in particular the way the John had bred the dam of this absolute champion...in this case using 11829 in *linebreeding to the famous Lot*



Australian Racing Pigeon Journal 60... a dominant Goodger hen, a point not to be overlooked: Allen Goodger's Lot 64 Allen Goodger's Lot 60 Sire: SA86 SA88 22282 38566 Dam of champion hen SA89 18635 Dam: SA87 Reference 'A' Allen Goodger's lot 53 17108 John's SA82 11829 Allen Goodger's lot 60 Benalla winner SA83 39313 The Ace producer hen It is of course, a *classic Uncle-Niece mating*, with the difference being that her sire was a *half-brother* to her Grandsire....the half-Uncle/niece pairing which Neville Kakoschke wrote about. Such a pairing would have been planned with great deliberation! It also provides an opportunity to show John's No2 cock 38566, also a son of Lot 60. He sired numerous top pigeons, including the hen which finished 2nd Temora when 11829's daughter finished 3rd. Again, it's a demonstration of using a powerful, prepotent hen. To best demonstrate the ways by which John bred his champions, we might do well to look at his reference birds. Reference 'A' SA82 11829, son of Allen Goodger's Lot 53 and Lot 60, the famous producer hen, and matriarch to a long line of champion racing pigeons. Reference 'B' SA86 24469, son of Reference "A" when mated to the outstanding Goodger producer hen 51397, dam (like Lot 60) of a long line of important winners through various partners. So far we haven't strayed from the Goodger family. Reference 'C' <u>BBH SA91 16453</u>, the famous Morundah winner, and producer extraordinaire. She was a demonstration that after two generations John would look for an outcross, and in this case he'd used the unrelated 'Richardson Hen' to mate to Reference B (24469) in order to produce this champion. Reference 'D' BBPC SA88 22298, accurately described in the catalogue as " a pedigree full of successful long distance pigeons, and excellent breeder, and a potent grandsire." He was a son of the '6th Mt Willoughby Cock," (17175) probably the best cock John ever raced, being a half-brother to the Morundah winner, and thus a grandson of Reference "A' (through his son Reference 'B'.) Reference 'E' BCC SA90 23588, a son of Reference 'D' when mated to a related hen which had won 2nd from Alice Springs. It was a line of pigeons originating from Reference 'A,' and just as the Janssen Brothers had several linebred streams within their family, so John Pryor had a second stream through the mating of 11829 to his other great mate 39313. In order to demonstrate just how John used them, examine the chart included within this article. It contains two of the best racing hens to fly to the late champion's loft, and they're virtually a textbook-study of how John planned to breed his champion racing pigeons, clearly showing the way in which he utilized the two streams of his linebred family. Example 1. The Temora winner. Here is a wonderful instance of breeding to incredibly stout pigeons. When the days become long, and the daylight is fading from the sky, and a hopeful fancier is trusting that his birds are still trying to reach home, then its pedigrees like this one which provide confidence that the race entrants may be able to follow the behaviours of those within the pedigree - and keep going. The past foretells the future. It's quite a challenge for the majority of fanciers to look at this pedigree and consider that their own birds may be competing with a bird of this quality. No wonder John could become confident! In this instance we see a classic (Temora) winning hen whose mother and father were both grandchildren of a champion hen which had won from Alice Springs (1320km) and then bred a hen that had finished second from July 2007 Vol 15 No 7 - Page 8

the same racepoint. Such genes are priceless.

	,		ora (820km) 12 th Topar 480km
		BCPC SA87 17175	Ref "B" SA86 24469
		6 th Mt Willoughby	(11829 x 51397)
		clocked 10pm.	DODI 0401 2/100
Sire: Ref "E"	GS: BBPC Ref "D" BBPC SA 88 22298	Champion sire	BCPH SA81 36190
SAFE: REF E SA90 23588	BBFC 5A 88 22298	BCPH SA85 40748	BCC SA82 10860
Sire to more than		3 rd & 17 th Alice Springs	DODIT 0 4 0 4 10000
fourteen SAHPA		(1320km). Dam of 3 rd and 4 th Alice Springs.	BCPH SA84 13032
placings. Sire 1 st		BCC SA85 22643	SA80 42263
Temora, Grandsire	GD: SA88 22310	5 th Alice Springs	SA80 42203 SA79 467
1 st Coober Pedy		BCH SA82 31363	
r could ruly	2 nd Alice Springs (1320km) 1990, 18 th		BCPC SA78 2472
	Little Topar 480km	1 st Alice Springs 1984. Dam of 2 nd Alice	BCH SA80 20052
	TIME LODAL 400KII		BCH 5A80 20032
		Springs, 17 th Young, 20 th Kulgera.	
			BBC SA83 7116
			G Kakoschke
		BCPC SA87 18970	Son 1 st Rawlinna 1320km
		Brother to 1 st Alice	Sire 1 st Creswick (560km)
	GS: BCPC SA89 18710	Springs for R	BCPH SA82 29954
		Kakoschke 1989	1 st Alice Springs 1983 for
			Keith Pryor.
		BCH SA82 31363	BCPC SA78 2472
		1 st Alice Springs 1984.	
Dam: SA91 16426		Dam of 2 nd Alice	BCH SA80 20052
		Springs, 17 th Young, 20 th Kulgera.	
	GD: BCH SA87 17155 1 st Alice Springs 1990		BCC SA 81 428
		BCC SA82 11829	Lot 53 Allen Goodger
		Pryor Reference "A"	DCPH SA78 1593
			Lot 60 Allen Goodger
	15 th Mitiamo (530km)		
	(11829 x 39313)	SA83 39313	
		Ace Stock hen	

Note that both sire and dam are grandchildren of the 1984 Alice Springs winner, yet the pedigree is very similar to that of Allen Goodger's exquisite Nundroo winner, whereby the inner corridor (dam of her sire, and sire of her dam) are from a somewhat outcross to the Goodger family.

The use of the champion Goodger line producers thus becomes evident. Through the sire we have the champion line of Ref 'A' – his son Reference 'B' – his son 17175 (the 6th Mt Willoughby Cock) – his son Reference 'D' – his son Reference 'E'. That's a straight line of champion producer cocks, all starting with reference 'A.'

Now look at the female 'tail-line' of the Temora winner. Her dam is daughter of the Alice Springs winner of 1990, daughter of Reference 'A' (11829), the ace son of Goodger's Lot 60.

Reference 'A' appears twice in the pedigree – once in the sire's line when mated to the ace producing Goodgerline hen 51397, when they produced the champion Reference 'B'.

Then on the dam's side, Reference 'A' appears as father of the Alice Springs winner of 1990, when mated to the *other* ace producing hen 39313. We must never underestimate 39313's role, for she had already bred a Boorooban winner (when mated to another Goodger-line cock) before her mating with 11829 with whom she



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tamily, · Reference "A" and his *Goodger-line* ace producing hen 51397 on the cock's side, and

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• Reference "A" and his ace producing mate 39313 on the female side. Here's how she's bred:

Pedigree BBPH SA-96-14093 1st Coober Pedy (745km) clocked 10.37pm, only bird on the day of release. Also 15th Boorooban 560km, 22nd Springhurst 725km.

		BCC SA 81 428	
	GS: BCC SA82 11829 Pryor Reference "A"	Lot 53 Allen Goodger	
Sire: BBC	Ace Producing Cock	DCPH SA78 1593	
SA95 12111	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Lot 60 Allen Goodger	
		Ace Producing hen	
	GD: SA83 39313		
	Ace Stock hen		
			BCPC SA87 17175
			6 th Mt Willoughby
			clocked 10pm.
		BBPC Ref "D"	Champion sire
	GS: Ref"E"	BBPC SA 88 22298	G.Son of Ref 'A'
	SA90 23588		BCPH SA85 40748
	Sire to more than fourteen		3 rd & 17 th Alice Springs
	SAHPA placings.		(1320km). Dam of 3 rd
	Sire 1 st Temora,		and 4 th Alice Springs.
Dam: BBH	Grandsire 1 st Coober Pedy	SA88 22310	BCC SA85 22643
SA94 05192		2 nd Alice Springs	5 th Alice Springs
6 th & 11 th Alice		(1320km) 1990, 18 th	BCH SA82 31363
Springs (1320km).		Little Topar 480km	1 st Alice Springs 1984.
			Dam of 2 nd Alice
			Springs, 17th Young,
			20 ^{fli} Kulgera
		BBC SA86 24469	Ref "A" 11829
	GD: BBH SA91 16453	Reference "B"	BCPH SA76 51397
	1 st Morundah 700km	Ace producing Cock	Ace Producing hen
	Ace producing hen	BCH SA90 13649	BBC SA85 8860
		5 th Sires Produce.	RCH SA85 8815
		'The Richardson Hen'	'The Pakenham Hen'

At the Pryor sale on 6th August 2000, the Coober Pedy winner (as she was known) was Lot 2 in the sale, and duly sold for \$5,500, and set the tenor for the remainder of the sale.

The pedigree clearly shows three significant 11829-line cocks mated to three incoming hens: 39313 (dam of three SAHPA winners), the hen 22310 (2nd Alice Springs), and 13649, bred by Alvin Richardson for a Sires Produce sale, to be bought and successfully raced by John to win 5th in the SAHPA's Sires Produce race, a difficult two day event. They were three pretty handy hens, so again it can easily be said that John was breeding with very high class, successful pigeons.

Note the presence of the Morundah winner, and her daughter which classily won 6th & 11th Alice Springs (1320km). At John's sale the nine-year-old Morundah winner brought \$3,500, and her dual Alice Springs placed daughter \$4,000. They were special hens!

Mention continues to be made that 11829 was the pivotal bird in the breeding program. However, 11829 wasn't going to last forever, so to which bird was the baton going to pass after he was gone? Remember that 11829's prepotent son Reference 'B' was fourteen years old at the time of the sale, so it was unlikely to be him. Reference



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B's son 17175, the wonderful 6th Mt Willoughby cock had been sent to Holland years earlier, and had bred birds of high class in his new country, so he wasn't going to be available.

John told Greg Hamilton that the mantle would fall to his "Morundah winner," his wonderful race and breeding champion, as the pivotal bird in the future, just as Allen Goodger had used the 'Elliott Hen' and the '2nd Oodnadatta Hen' in similar roles. Keith Wickham had done the same thing with his incredible red pied hen '449'. There is plenty of evidence that a great hen can be used just as easily as a great cock, even though the textbooks often seem to indicate otherwise.

The new pivotal pigeon: The Morundah winner

If the Morundah winner was to have been John's new pivotal pigeon, it would seem appropriate to look to see if there was any evidence that this could in fact have occurred had John been able to extend his years with these fabulous birds.

If I needed proof of this dual use of the Morundah winner, then it soon arrived once I'd received from Michael Lucas the pedigree of his incredible 600-mile winner of 2003. Her efforts tell a story which remains incredible, even in its retelling. Released at 6.40am, no birds were home at 8.05pm when night fell. This hen was clocked at 10.31pm, flying 15 hours and fifty-one minutes for her remarkable victory, being the only bird to return on the day of release. Her pedigree confirms the prepotency of the Morundah winner...in fact having seen both hens, they could have stood alongside each other and easily passed as mother and daughter. Here's how the Lucas champion was bred:

Pedigree: BBPH VHA-02 -27757, 1st VHA Barringun 600m (1000km) at 1047mpm for Michael Lucas, clocked after 10.31pm to be the only bird to reach home on the day of release.

ciocica anci 10.0 ipin t	clocked after 10.3 rpm to be the only bird to reach nome on the day of release.						
		BBC SA97 02270	SA95 12132 4 th St Arnoud				
			SA90 05273				
	GS: SA98 20966		= 1 st Colearnbally				
		SA97 02271	BBPC SA 88 22298				
			Pryor Reference 'D'				
Sire: BBC			Ref 'C' SA91 16453				
SA00 05925			1 st Morundah				
(G. Hodgins)			Full brother to the dam				
		SA94 01874	of Reference 'C'				
			BBPC SA 88 22298				
	GD: SA99 10867	SA97 02771	Pryor Reference 'D'				
			Ref 'C' SA91 16453				
			1 st Morundah				
		BCC	Roy Dangerfield's				
	GS: BCPC	SA87 18639	cock				
	SA94 34946	BBH					
		SA85 21774					
Dam: BCPH		2 nd Alice Springs					
SA01 34618	GD: BBPH SA00 41345		BBPC SA 88 22298				
(G. Hodgins)		BBPC	Pryor Reference 'D'				
		SA97 17516	Ref 'C' SA91 16453				
			1 st Morundah				
		DBU	SA91 23588				
		BPH SA92 16893	Pryor Ref 'E'				
		Nestmate to 1 st SAHPA	SA91 16426 Daughter				
		Temora	of SA87 17155, 1 st Alice Springs				
		ТСШКЛА	(11829 x 39313)				
(11829 x 39313)							
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Thus the Morundah winner (along with her mate ref 'D'), becomes a pivotal bird in the pedigree, and if you go back to the breeding of the reference pigeons you'll see the relationships each of them enjoyed to Reference 'A', the Goodger cock at the start of this family. Consequently, the success and succession continued, and continues to this day. The Goodger pigeons took their winning genes to the Pryor loft and installed them within the family built therein, and they have in turn relayed them further. And they're still available for our use.

I sat alongside VHA champion John Brislin for a while during George Vella's recent sale, and we noted the amount of money still being paid for good long-distance pigeons. We'd seen a similar story at another sale in the same venue, only two weeks earlier. Why is it that people still seek to buy these mercurial birds that don't stop when the going gets tough? Perhaps the ultimate comment upon which we should reflect, was provided to me by a fancier with more than fifty years' experience, in which time he'd formed close friendships with most of the great fanciers throughout Australia. He said to me, "Yeah, they'll get these great bird, but how many of them really know what to do with them?" *Maybe* the answer is that many fanciers don't have the patience, or the knowledge to put together a winning team of long-distance performers. *Maybe* there are lessons which might be taken from the story of the late John Pryor, to any fancier's benefit.

Here's some deductions/suggestions some top fanciers offered:

*Acquire top shelf pigeons which have a proven history of performing at the distances at which you want success. *There is no substitute for class*!

*Remember John Pryor's "Golden Rules of Breeding," and stay close to them, after all, they were based upon research undertaken by an intelligent man who became a *great* fancier and the word '*great*'isn't used lightly. *Breed with a determined plan, carefully identifying the *qualities* and *quantities* of birds you need. Pigeon racing success seems to come to those who plan best... *and actually expect success*. Many top fanciers, John included, agonized over the selection of the respective mates in their stock lofts.

*Put your prejudices to one side for a while. Remember that John won the SAHPA's event from Springhurst (725km) with an opal coloured hen, and from the marathon racepoint Moree (1215km) with a red chequered cock! John Pryor preferred small pigeons, yet so many of the fanciers who purchased the top Goodger birds tried to 'build them up' so they looked like their ideal for a pigeon, rather than what the champions from this family actually looked like.

*Note that the prepotent father of John's Coleambally winner (see photo) had both wings filled with white flights. If you're going to use a Goodger-based family, you're going to get pieds somewhere along the way.

*Be patient with them, thoughtfully preparing them for the races which best suit their considerable abilities. There's little to be gained from flogging them week-in, week-out in a quest to win races for which they're not suited. The Pryor/Goodger pigeons excelled in races with a considerable degree of difficulty.

*Remember, that John had a lot of his finest successes when his birds entered their second (and even third) seasons of racing. There is a skill to be understood about knowing how to exploit the great merits of a hen (in particular) once she enters her second year of racing.

*John wasn't afraid to send them again after they'd already taken positions. A feature of this family is their ability to win multi-prizes over several seasons. Such pigeons are rare.

*John had written alongside the traps within his loft "the basket is the ultimate selector." Pryor pigeons needed qualifications to get into his stockloft!

I recall an Adelaide fancier telling me the story of how the late Fin Fraser had called at Allen Goodger's residence one day, and after he'd left, Allen was heard to remark, "That fellow's going to be a great champion one day, because he's asking all the right questions." Fin lived in a location considered poor for racing into Adelaide: it rendered it difficult for him to be consistently successful on the Adelaide's north-line route, from which half the races were flown. Yet Fin was to win the SAHPA's aggregate, because he'd set out on a quest to become a top





It was a good question, but somewhere out there in readers-land someone will hopefully use this information to refine their techniques of breeding... and then, if John's eloquent analogy about the mushrooms is correct, predictable things must follow!

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