

Qld 10,000 One loft race Gympie 2010

By Bruce Oakley

It's that time of year again when numerous clubs around Australia are conducting their breeders plate races, one loft races, sires produce and the like, and I have just completed a report on one such event the Qld 10,000 hosted by loft manager and trainer Jim Smith.

This year's race has been the most difficult since the running of this event and has tested the ability of all birds that were entered.

Before I go into details about the main event there are people that Jim would like to acknowledge that have assisted with the running of the race and without their input and help would make Jim's task so much harder.

Firstly, Jim would like to thank Des Moore for the operating of the web site and the updating of information re tossing, birds in loft etc which is vital if you want to keep the ever growing computer literate punters happy.

Secondly, Chris Thomas from Cessnock for his efforts in picking up birds from various points in N.S.W and delivering them in sound condition to the race loft and also for his skills in organizing the loft pools and loft auctions not to mention the popular pick the time (race bird arrival). Chris also had a very creditable bird in the clock in this year's very hard race (17th).

Thirdly, Bruce Kehlet a popular pigeon flyer in the area that ensured the timing system was functioning and loft read outs if required were on hand almost immediately, the pics that accompany this report were taken by Bruce.

Jim would like to thank Allison Kortholt for the conveying of the birds to the race point which she has done since the races inception.

Finally there is a family group that are the silent achievers, in this case Jim's partner Andrea and Bianca, Jim's daughter, that assisted in the preparation of this event long before the main day, and better not forget Nick that kept the B.B.Q hot plate full and the pigeon flyers contented.

There will be persons that Jim has forgotten to acknowledge but with a busy concreting business and the running of the Qld 10,000 he thanks each and every one of you.

After all nominations were received the final count was 458 birds from 99 breeders from most states of Australia, the loft accommodating the birds with ease as can be seen by the loft pics. Jim had the birds working well after the moult had subsided, working them one hour plus a day and had them ranging well.

Tossing started on a regular basis from Boonooroo (60kms) and Burrum Heads (105kms) and as to be expected the peregrine falcon decided to give the birds a touch up every now and then earlier in there training but considering the amount of birds being tossed the losses were very minimal.

The first race was from Agnes Waters, a distance of 150ml but due to a malfunction with the timing equipment it was impossible to pick a clear winner as to many birds had gone over the timing antenna so it was decided that the money from the race would go over to the Emu Park race creating 10 paid places. The race was a good run for the birds and the returns were excellent

The second race from Emu Park saw the birds up on the 8/8/10 at 8.00am a distance of 250 ml the race certainly toughened the birds up as they had to contend with a southerly on the nose with the winning velocity down to 1089 mpm. There were 180 birds on the day with the last being clocked in the dark at 6.05pm. The following day saw another 60 odd birds come through. First place went to R & D Jennings from Rockhampton, second was Ross Woods from Bundaberg and third placing to Mark Bullock from Maryborough.

Jim had prepared the birds well with 243 birds being recorded and basketed on Friday 27th of August for a Sunday release at St Lawrence a distance of 528 Kilometres. At the liberation point Allison had reported that there were a few showers about with broken cloud with the prediction that the showers were clearing through the morning. The birds were released at 7.30am into a light east south easterly. The birds were reluctant to leave the point, heading off and then returning, after 20 mins they left heading in a south easterly direction.

A healthy crowd was starting to gather at the race loft in Gympie and Bruce Kehlet had the timing system in place with the printout set up externally so as not

to enter the loft to check arrivals and his camera was getting a work out as well. Chris Thomas had the lap top fired up and was taking pool and loft auction money as well as the side bets on the winner's arrival time, Andrea, Bianca and Nick were firing up the barby and cooling the liquid refreshments. All was in place for an enjoyable afternoon. The southerly started to freshen up as the day went on and a few of the tipsters times went by, the expected time that was popular with the betting was between 4.00pm and 5.30pm, there were a few cries of here she comes but they were Jim's pigeons from a race the previous day and landing on the board of a separate loft but it certainly got the blood pumping.

As time crept on the word was that it may go into the second day and come 6.00pm the lights went on in the trapping area and the gathering started to dwindle, for the first time since its beginning the race was going into the second day. A few of the boys from the Mackay region camped in Jims shed overnight the likes of renowned flyer Russell Beetham, Ted Lewis, Koke Testanovic and Harry Styliandu and because of that they had the privilege of seeing the first of the birds arrive early on Monday morning.

The first bird arrived at 6.56am this being a Bluebar hen SC-09-00167 bred by Ross Brogan from the Nambour club on the Sunshine Coast, the breeding of this hen is based around Ross's old family of Barker and Janssens. The sire of 00167 is 11 years old and he also won a race from St Lawrence many years ago. This side of the family certainly breeds them tough as he got two birds from a smash race whilst flying in Canberra; these 2 birds were brother and sister and came in the dark. The 11 year old cock bred a hen that flew a hard Mackay race (500ml) and the following week flew Bowen (600ml) both 2day races. A sister to the old cock bred 2 that were sent to Ingham (700ml) and they were the only 2 back but out of race time certainly tough pigeons the dam of 00167 was bred by Brian Fretter manager of the Adelaide pigeon club lofts and is off his Twins fed winner (SAPHA), Ross was not sure of its ancestry. Ross also took out 7th place "00184" arriving some 2 hrs later and the breeding being a Fabry x Janssen from David Leaders sale.

Second bird a Bluebar Pied cock GYMPIE-09-00304 clocked in at 7.14am was bred by Gympie flyer Lee Beattie with the sire being a Goodger based pigeon that was bred by the late Graham Percival who was placed 3rd in last years Qld 10,000, the dam was a Grooter that was bred by Pat Murphy from Toowoomba, it is also interesting to note that a brother to "00304" ran 3rd in the raffle ring race

from Camilla (400ml) on Saturday homing at 7.10am on Sunday morning. Lee is having a few health issues at the time of writing; I and all that know Lee wish him all the very best and a speedy resolution to procedures.

Third bird to the loft timing in at 8.51am was COFFS-09-00702 bred by Born to Fly (2) Syndicate alias Brian Lacey, this bird has all the best of the European blood being Brasspenning Janseen x Marilyn line, Brian states that he has had a good strike rate with this family and when the flying velocity drops these birds come to the fore.

As you can see by the times of the first 3 birds that they were well scattered with well over 2 hrs from 1st to 10th position, as we are all well aware pigeon racing can change from week to week being heavily dependant on weather conditions, the birds that have returned to the loft have proved there worth .

It would be remiss of me not to mention the expertise of the loft manager and trainer Jim Smith to have these birds in top racing condition and ready to race in all elements, the 3 place getters I spoke to praised Jims professionalism and his easy going nature, that was one of the reasons they will continue to support the Qld 10,000. To all the contestants that supported the 2010 Qld 10,000 I thank you on behalf of Jim and hope to see you in 2011. Jim will be taking birds from November up until the end of January so don't be late as the bird intake fills very quickly.

The pool result's as I'm led to believe are as follows

\$5 pool = Barry Johnson

\$10 pool = Koke Testanovic

\$20 and \$50 pool = Colgate & Ward

John Simpson won the trainers race

The loft auction was taken out by Ross Brogan who only paid \$2 for his loft.