



## THE IMPACT OF HOUBEN PIGEONS IN AUSTRALIA-PART 1 (The Sydney Experience) By Tim Fawcett

Sometime back I emailed Luc Houben with the promise to update him on the status of how his family of birds had performed in Australia over the last 15-20 yrs since their introduction.

As I only house a few pair in my own pigeon breeding operation Pigeonsales Australia I felt I could give a relatively unbiased view on this remarkable family of birds. I thought I would start with the experiences that I know of from NSW fanciers.

I first started visiting Sydney about six yrs ago and was told repeatedly at almost every loft I visited the astounding results they had achieved with the Houben birds. I was intrigued as I am always on the look out for birds to improve my own colony and felt these could be one such family that could add value to them from a racing view point. The other thing that kept coming up was the source of most of the top Houben birds in Sydney seemed to come from John Hanson's Blenhaven Stud. I did know John although not very well through his good results within the Adelaide Pigeon club of which I was an administrator for six yrs. So naturally when I first acquired some of mine which as I said is not many I also approached John.

The Blenhaven Houben birds first came into Australia in the early 1990s via Mick Osborn in the UK, Mick was a dominant fancier in the Leicester area so dominant in fact the club moved the boundary around him so he had to travel 32 km to basket his birds and eventually got fed up and left the sport. The first pigeons that John introduced of this line are somewhat household names in our country now birds of the like of **Aces Jewel, The 687, Houbs Lines, The Goods, Mr Houb, Charles D etc.** These birds had an immediate impact and John would rate the Houben's as the best pigeons to ever come into this country. These birds one pair in particular Houbs Lines & The Goods producing 6 x 1<sup>st</sup> Central Coast Fed winners and 1<sup>st</sup> Fed Q.P.F. and the Adelaide Pigeon club Bird of the year Adelaide Queen, they somewhat dominated competition and saw fanciers who acquired them achieve outstanding results.

Picture of Adelaide Queen-Adelaide Pigeon club Bird of the year in 2005 winning 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and a cool \$7200 in prizemoney along the way, she is a dtr of Houbs Lines & The Goods.



Adelaide Queen also became an immediate success in the stock loft producing 1<sup>st</sup> prizewinners for top Sydney CCF Fancier Steven Eggleton who rates the Blenhaven Houbens highly and responsible for a number of his high successes in the past few seasons. In fact his top producing hen is a combination of the original Blenhaven Family of Houbens when crossed with the modern day lines (from the Lu Bros Auction).



John Hanson provides the Sienkewicz family who would be rated in the top echelon of Sydney CCF fanciers with birds every year to race and race in special ring races and the partnership has had some great successes over a number of yrs seeing many Fed topping and ring race winning results.

**The Green One** as named by John took out the Rooty Hill Green Ring race for Luke Sienkewicz in 2009 which is Sydney's highest prizemoney winning race; he is a combination of both of John's Houben families. His sire being from Mr Houb & The Goods (the UK Houbens) and the dam a direct daughter from the ace pairing Cinaloha & The Champion Producer. A young hen breeding her first offspring from the mating. In discussion with Luke Sienkewicz the Blenhaven Houbens have been sensational for Luke & father Tony over a number of years. Some of the best successes include 1<sup>st</sup> Blacktown Blue Ring Race for John Oh (who flew to Luke's loft), 2 x 1<sup>st</sup>

Wentworthville Squeaker sale race wins, The Seven Hills cock who was bred for the Seven Hills Squeaker sale but actually gained 1<sup>st</sup> Federation in the CCF at 350 miles, The RHD Green Ring race win of 2009, and also a double fed hen who won the CCF and Wentworthville squeaker sale and would have topped again but was entered as surplus, in addition to this there have been countless other top fed positions from this outstanding family from John Hanson.

**Picture of The Green One, at the Sienkewicz lofts**



Incidentally the Sire of the Rooty Hill winner is a full brother to another famous Blenheim Houben 1104 BCC who was purchased by Joe & Jason Payne former top fanciers in the QPF who sold out in 2009 and had some great results with the Blenheim Houben birds, 1104 bred from memory 2 or 3 open QRPF 1<sup>st</sup> prizewinners, pigeons like this tend to get the “freakish” type status applied and don’t come along often.

As I have traveled to NSW on “pigeon trips” annually for the last few yrs I tend to see this sort of “freakish” ability often associated with a lot of these birds it is not uncommon to visit a Sydney loft and find some of the top producers in the top lofts originating from Blenheim stud and getting comments like these have bred Fed winners or in many cases multiple top ten Fed positions and given the CCF is our biggest Fed in Australia there is something in it. One

other top CCF fancier that I know well Steven Eggleton has also had some outstanding successes with the Blenhaven Houben's his best producer being from Cinaloha and Aces Jewel and Steve has found this family cross very well with excellent success to his imported Wildermeesch and Williamson families.

Some of the main successes Steven Eggleton has had with this family include over the past seven seasons- 53 x 1<sup>st</sup> club, 36 x 2<sup>nd</sup> club, 12 times 1<sup>st</sup> place in NE Section in the CCF up to 90 flyers, 18 times placed in the top ten of CCF (Federation) with in excess of 7000 birds. Steve has also been placed in the first 30 flyers in the CCF in the past five consecutive seasons. Of the 53 first club places, there are in excess of 30 of these winners which are Houben or a cross of the Houben birds with Wildermeesch and top Northern Ireland fancier Ron Williamson's family of birds. Steven states the 4 key Houben birds are two sisters from Cinaloha and Aces Jewel. Also a cock purchased from Lu Brothers sale was from Carandra & Champion Producer (who were then purchased by John Hanson's Blenhaven stud), also a hen from Young Wittenbuik (Gaby Vandenabeele) and Champion Producer hen. Steve also stated he has won the club derby in the last 4 consecutive yrs with the Houben birds crossed with his Wildermeesch lines, this includes 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild of the famous Aces Jewel.

In 2003 John Hanson attended the Melbourne Auction of ace flyers and breeders the Lu Brothers whose name is also synonymous with outstanding results and birds across our country. At this auction John outlaid in the cool sum of \$34000 for five birds all bred directly by the Houben Family and imported by the Lu Bros who are known as **Santi-Lot 1 G/son of Jonge Artiest, Glorious Lot 15, Carandra-Lot 58, Cinaloha-Lot 117 & The Champion Producer hen known also as Blue 851-Lot 11**. It has been the impact of these birds particularly when mated to the original lines imported from the UK which have seen some huge successes across Australia in all states but predominantly in NSW. These birds all trace back to or are directly from the Houben Family's National winning birds and are birds of the highest caliber around.

**The Famous Cinaloha-Lot 117 Lu Bros Auction. A Grandsire of 1<sup>st</sup> Rooty Hill Green Ring Race for Luke Sienkewicz in 2009 and winner of \$30000 and also 1<sup>st</sup> Blacktown Blue Ring Race for John Oh and another \$8000 and the list keeps on growing. A direct son of Aloha & Cindy-1<sup>st</sup> National competing against 14105 birds. Another grandson of the famous Jonge Artiest.**

Picture of the Magnificent Cock Santi-Lot 1 in the Lu Bros Auction already a top producer when entering Blenhaven stud, his children have been outstanding breeders.



I also recall prior to visiting Sydney reading an article about two fellows named Mick & Tim Marchment who I believe are now out of pigeons and the successes they had with the Blenhaven Houbens the birds M&M Girl, Double Hat trick and Minute Man spring to mind as some of their top racers who also now appear in the pedigrees of many of the top Houbens at Blenhaven. M&M Girl being an outstanding racer and breeder having won 1<sup>st</sup> Blacktown Squeaker sale race (a common theme with these birds) she then produced Double Hat trick and Special Girl who was the dam of 1<sup>st</sup> Newcastle Hunter Classic. M&M Girl is a direct daughter of Charles D from a daughter of ace pair The 687 & Aces Jewel



Picture of Minute Man-Raced by  
The Marchments.



Picture of Double Hatrick, also raced  
By the Marchments.

**Blue Checker Flighty Cock 02 1171 (Minute Man) Houben**

**Places Race Race Point Date**

1st Club Derby Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 2nd B Section – All Age Derby CCF Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 8th All Age Derby CCF Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 2nd Parramatta Roto 30.08.03  
 2nd Bossley Park Squeaker Roto 30.08.03  
 3rd Anniversary Race CCF Roto 30.08.03  
 1st Parramatta Gunning 29.05.04  
 12th B Section CCF Gunning 29.05.04  
 1st Parramatta Gunning 5.06.04  
 9th B Section CCF Gunning 5.06.04  
 1st 4 x 1st Club 2 Birders  
 1st CCF 2 Birder 2nd leg Won pools \$20,  
 \$50, \$100, Combine  
 Milvale 21.06.04

**Blue Bar Cock 02 1951 (Mr Double Hat Trick) Houben**

**Places Race Race Point Date**

3rd Seven Hills Squeaker Race Roto 30.08.03  
 Equal 1st Club Derby Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 Equal 2nd B Section – All Age Derby CCF Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 Equal 8th All Age Derby CCF Ivanhoe 20.09.03  
 1st Parramatta Marulan 1.05.04  
 3rd B Section CCF Marulan 1.05.04  
 1st Parramatta Marulan 15.05.04  
 2nd B Section CCF Marulan 15.05.04  
 1st Parramatta Milvale 21.06.04  
 1st Interclub 5 Clubs 1541 birds Milvale 21.06.04  
 1st CCF B Section Milvale 21.06.04  
 7th CCF Combine Milvale 21.06.04  
 1st Section & Fed Fasters 2Birder Milvale 21.06.04  
 1st CCF 2 Birder Won Pools all to \$10 Milvale

The Magnificent Hen M&M Girl-1<sup>st</sup> Blacktown Squeaker sale and outstanding producer and producer of producers, she contains the blood of the original Houbens introduced by John to Australia.



In chatting with John he is very passionate about how good these birds are and gets regular calls and sales of these outstanding birds and I know personally I also recommend people to seek him out if they are looking for top Houbens. John gets reports from all states regularly with reports of Fed toppers, one loft race winners and also from close friends he supplies birds with as to the regular and consistent success of this family.

The Magnificent Charles Pea- Son of Ace cock Charles D. Charles Pea sired 1<sup>st</sup> CCF Any Aged Derby at 400 miles for Tony & Luke Sienkewicz and also 1<sup>st</sup> Seven Hills Squeaker sale another son was also a triple first prize winner and 4<sup>th</sup> CCF Young Bird Derby.



A common theme I also note amongst the Blenhaven Houbens is the impact that the Champion Producer hen has also had since being introduced into the stud. The title Champion Producer given so as she was the dam of 2 x 1<sup>st</sup> VHA winners for the Lu Brothers prior to their sale amongst others, she is the grand dam of 1<sup>st</sup> CCF Byrock, 1<sup>st</sup> Rooty Hill Green Ring Race in 2009, she has and continues to leave her mark in the Blenhaven Houbens.

**Miss Producer one of the last progeny from The Champion Producer-  
She bred 1<sup>st</sup> Rooty Hill Green Ring Race in her first yr breeding a  
magnificent hen typical of the family.**



Also in very recent times top Central Coast Fancier Mick Scroggy has also performed exceptionally well with the Blenhaven Houbens presented to him from John Hanson, in particular two children from "The Ripper" & "Char Jewel" one cock in particular NCF 08 255 BCC topped the Fed from Stuarts Point and gained 3 other top ten Fed prizes and then first year in stock produced 1<sup>st</sup> Fed Old Bar, again demonstrating some of the freakish abilities some of these birds can have. In addition to this a full sister of 255, AUST 07 17632 BCH demonstrated similar "freakish talents" gaining 1<sup>st</sup> NCF Taree, in addition to this also gained 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in other Fed races. Wow what a pair! In reviewing the pedigree of this top pairing i note that ace cock Cinaloha is again the Grandsire when paired to Wonder Woman-dtr of Aces Jewel, the dam Charjewel being a direct daughter of the ace breeder Charles D when paired to Miss Jewel, sister to the champ Aces Jewel. Some of the other great results Mick has had with the Blenhaven birds include a Houben x Thone cock gaining 2<sup>nd</sup> Cent Coast Fed in 2011, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fed in 2011 with a grandson of Cinaloha & Aces Jewel. Another grandson of Carandra, Glorious, Charles Pea & Peters Pet winning 1<sup>st</sup> Fed & 5<sup>th</sup> Fed in the same season. A granddaughter of super pair Houb's Lines & The Goods gained 4<sup>th</sup> Fed, with another granddaughter of Santi, The Champion Producer and 687 Aces also scoring twice for 4<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Fed. In fact such has the impact been in Mick Scroggy's loft with these birds one hen topped the Fed 3 times for him, including back to back wins as a baby and then to prove it was no fluke came out as a two yr old and did it again, this hen is a granddaughter of Montcilla and Aces Jewel, being from Cilla Jewel a top producer and the dam being Hiros Linda, this pair also proved it was no fluke with a younger brother to the triple Fed winning hen gaining 1<sup>st</sup> Fed in 2011 for Mick Scroggy.

One pigeon that did catch my eye when reviewing pedigrees was AUST 07 17565 BBH- being a direct daughter from Cinaloha & The Champion Producer hen, one would have thought she would have only headed straight from the stock loft back into the stock loft, given the Champion producer hen was 8 when she bred her. However, not so she was also sent to Mick Scroggy's to race and that she did gaining 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Fed before yet again another Fed win gaining 1<sup>st</sup> club & Fed Gundagai 391 km so yet another Fed winner from the Champion Producer.

**Picture of Super cock NCF 08 255 BCC, bred by Blenhaven Stud and raced by Mick Scroggy, this star was 1<sup>st</sup> Fed and produced 1<sup>st</sup> Fed in his first year, no mean feat.**



In addition to the great exploits that Mick Scroggy has had in the Central Coast along with countless Sydney CCF Fanciers, John also reported to me during the interview that he has had lots of reports from WA where there have been lots of Fed wins recorded with the Blenhaven birds & also in QLD where the top fanciers J&J Payne had a lot of success and numerous Fed wins from the birds, John also reported to me that the partnership Midgley & Grummitt had a super hen who gained 10<sup>th</sup> Fed from Roma Derby and then called it to John that this hen would win the Fed next start and guess what she did...3 weeks later gaining 1<sup>st</sup> Fed Morven, what a super talent this hen AUST 09 18625 BCWFH is. This champion hen contains again a lot of the top birds being from a daughter of Montcilla & Aces Jewel with Kapeviti, Merlin and the 687 appearing in the sires pedigree. I hate to coin the phrase but “freakish talent” is what a lot of these birds seem to contain.

I must thank Mr John Hanson from Blenhaven stud [www.blenhaven.com.au](http://www.blenhaven.com.au) for his time and information in compiling the article and to other fanciers in Sydney in particularly Luke Sienkewicz & Steve Eggleton in supplying of time and information. Part 2 of the series at a later date will feature the impact of the Houben birds in Victoria (Melbourne in particularly)

Cheers Tim Fawcett