

The Enduring Legacy

The Allen Goodger Story - Part 5 - by John Capel



Top Left: Gay Pied SA-96-52441, a producer of distinction. Top



Right: Paul Arneric's SA-98-777 the second place-getter in the Coober Pedy event won by John Pryor. 2nd on Left: Con Moukas' 1st SAHPA Sires produce hen. 2nd on Right: Bob and Bev Seedsman's SA-02-11131, winner of 6th Temora, 820km. 3rd on



Left: SAHPA fancier Paul Arneric's winner of 6th and 18th Alice Springs from her three trips. 3rd on Right: Jim Marafiote's Gilgandra winner 1000km Bottom Left: Curly Maricic's grandson of Pryor's Temora winner produced 7th, 11th and 18th Alice Springs 1320km Bottom Right: She won 2nd VHA Dubbo 700km, and 4th National Riverton 700km.



On the final Saturday of June this year, the VHA contested its first race of the season, a club event from a relatively short distance. The winner couldn't have been more deserving, for Arnold Kearsy has recently endured what we colloquially call 'a rough trot.' The octogenarian former serviceman has recently relied on his grandson Nick, to visit each day to exercise and feed his birds, and Arnold and Nick were duly rewarded when they revealed the best velocity in the whole of the VHA.

The winner was a granddaughter of Arnold's son (and Nick's dad) Stephen Kearsy's winner of the VHA's prestigious 'Produce' (600km) race in 2005. The Produce winner is a dark chequered cock, carrying the typical Goodger 'charcoal' colouring. But it's the Produce winner's sire that becomes the real story, because he'd already bred the Kearsys' VHA winner from Carrieton, 836km in 2001. Not many cocks can breed two VHA winners to different hens, so this fellow's story is worth telling.

Stephen purchased him at a Melbourne sale of young birds conducted in 1999 by SAHPA fanciers Ray Fewings, Bob Seedsman, and Ross Chapman. One of the reasons he chose the Fewings-bred 32511 was the unique and demonstrable quality of the four-underwing feathers, a feature Stephen's great friend Silvere Toye has emphasized on so many occasions. The cock is the genuine Goodger article, and here's his pedigree:

Pedigree: Champion Producer Cock SA98 32511. Sire 1st VHA 'Produce' 600km 3937 birds, and 1st VHA Carrieton 836km 2103 birds.

Sire: BCPC SA90 49180 Grandsire of 4th SAHPA Morundah (700km), 4th SAHPA Farina, 4th Adelaide \$10,000. 13th Temora 820km, 18th Boorooban (544) 24th SAHPA Benalla 690km	GS: Son of Allen Goodger's famous hen 1st SAHPA Cook	BCPH SAD71 22703. 1st SAHPA Cook.	SAD70 16030 (Son of the Elliott hen) SAD70 15991	
	GD: 2nd SAHPA Cobar (Granddaughter of the famous Elliott hen.)			
Dam: BCPH SA90 50313 (O/R 1995) Bred by Alan Thede.	GS: SA81 289 Sire 4th Nundroo, 10th Coober Pedy (745km), 23rd Marla (1000km).	BCC SA89 32347	*SA78 1689 (a) Won 4th SAHPA Mitiamo Son of '51397' SA78 1666 3rd SAHPA Young	
		BBPH: SA79 18 18th SAHPA Nullabor Brother bred 3rd SAHPA Temora 820km.	*SA78 1688 (b) Mitiamo Son of '51397' SA76 11077 44th SAHPA Nullabor.	
	GD: BCH SA86 35477	SA81 289 Sire of 4th Nundroo, 10th Coober Pedy (745km), 23rd Marla (1000km).	BCC SA80 32347	BBPH SA79 18
		RCH SA81 26550	MC SA79 18777 Grandson of the 'Ford' cock SA79 606 (Lot 167 Goodger Sale)	

It's a pedigree worthy of examination. On the sire's side, note that 49180 (a prolific producer himself) was bred from a son of the Cook winner (a granddaughter of the Elliott hen) when mated to another granddaughter of the

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Top Left: Stephen Kearsy's Produce winner against 3937B in 2005. Top Right: The remarkable 'Ruby,' granddaughter of Lot 60, and still in full production at Keith Sagers' Hillcrest Stud. Below: Stephen Kearsy purchased this excellent pied cock at a Melbourne sale of birds bred by Ray Fewings (SAHPA). The cock has since produced 1st 'Produce' (580km) and 1st 800km in the VHA, to different hens.



Elliott hen.

On the dam's side, note that '289' is both sire and grandsire of 50313, the dam of the Kearsy's cock. Furthermore, 289's two grandsires were *nestmate brothers*, both being sons of the great stockhen '51397,' (see her chart of influence, APRJ May 2007, Pp 54-55), the hen which was to breed John Pryor's famous 'Reference 'B.' *The people who best exploited the Goodger genes were never afraid to inbreed and linebreed!*

Here's further proof. Popular SAHPA fancier Bob Seedsman had joined Ray Fewings (along with Ross Chapman) in the provision of birds for the sale at which Stephen Kearsy had purchased 32511. When Bob dispersed his entire team of birds in June 2006, they attracted a very satisfactory sum of money. Bob, and his delightful wife Bev, had developed a most competent team of pigeons, having finished 4th (1994), 8th (1995), 14th (1996), 13th (1998), 1st (1999), 9th (2000), 23rd (2001), 5th (2002), 10th (2003), and 21st in 2005 in the SAHPA's aggregate against an average 390-member competition. That's top-level participation.

The Seedsmans had been the recipient of numerous top class Goodger pigeons, with their Reference 'A' being the blue chequered pied cock SA81 474, a grandson of the Elliott Hen, and Lot 204 in Allen Goodger's sale. An even more influential cock from the same sale was SA81 477, (Lot 126), a son of Bill Walford's SA80 37337 - (see the chart on page 59 in the May edition). The prepotent 477 became a miraculous producer, first for Graeme Eitzen, and then for Bob and Bev. His son 14182 produced two excellent producing cocks, and the following pedigree will show the way in which Bob was able to linebreed to 477, *incorporating him four times in the one pedigree.*

Pedigree of SA-00-39422 Sire of 1st SAHPA Emmdale and SA-98-47827 Sire of 6th SAHPA Temora

Sire: SA89 43416 Sire 5 th Marla 1100km 2 nd Lyndhurst, 9 th Boorooban Brother (SA95 45383) bred 1 st Morundah, (700km) 12 th Temora. (820km) 7 th Glendambo (520km) Bro to 3 rd Topar (480km)	GS SA87 14182 (See photograph) Sire 3 rd Little Topar Outstanding sire of sires.	SA81 477 (A Goodger sale, Lot 126)	37337** GD of 1 st Cook
		SA82 12144 (G Paterson)	436 (Bro to 477) *9580 (Sister to the \$1900 cock)
Dam: SA91 46263 Dam 11 th Marla (1100km)	GS: SA90 44867 Bro to 1 st Emmdale (G Eitzen)	SA85 6823. Brother to 8 th Rosedale 825km (C&J Forbes)	SA81 477 (A Goodger sale, Lot 126)
		SA83 12638	SA81 479 A Goodger sale, (Lot 89), GD of the 'Elliott hen.'
Dam: SA91 46263 Dam 11 th Marla (1100km)	GD: SA89 43405 9 th Mitiamo	SA87 40834 Sire 1 st Emmdale G/Sire 3 rd Bathurst, 8 th Boorooban	12690 (Bob Marchant)
		SA88 19304 Dam 1 st Emmdale	SA86 3444
		SA76 51459 (G Paterson)	SA81 477 SA82 12144 (G Paterson)
		SA83 12638	BBC SA74 50730 (Harold Webber) RCH SA77 6336 5 th Boorooban
			SA81 477 SA81 479

Here is yet another demonstration of the 'multiplying effect' within many of the excellent Goodger-line pedigrees. Note that both sire and dam enjoy the same grandmother (12638), while the excellent producer cock 477



appears four times within the pedigree. Every grandparent carries him in their near ancestry. Take note of the hen SA76 9580, a sister to the Goodgers' \$1900 cock. Grant Paterson borrowed this hen from Allen, and in her first year at stock she produced 2nd Cobar (770km), and 3rd Temora (820km). In this pedigree she's produced the dam (12144) of both the mother of the Emmdale winner, and the excellent sire 14182. Another pigeon worth examining is the Seedsman's Reference 'D', a blue chequered hen rung SA90 37814. She was a direct daughter of the prepotent "Port Lincoln Cock" (PTL84 1062), and if you've followed this series you'll know that he was a son of John Pryor's Reference 'A,' 11829 (son of Lot 60) and the incredible '51397,' the dam of a series of great producing pigeons, one of which was John Pryor's Reference 'B,' sire of two of the best pigeons ever to race to the Pryor loft.....the Morundah winner, and the 6th Mt Willoughby cock. It requires the attached chart to show the effectiveness of the Seedsman's Reference 'D,' (37814), but it also allows an opportunity to observe just how Bob criss-crossed the descendants of this great hen. Her influence in that one loft was simply phenomenal.

When we talk about the various Goodger champions such as 11829, Lot 60, 51397, The 2nd Oodnadatta hen, The Cook Winner, The Port Lincoln cock, Grant Paterson's Temora winner...and all the others, they bring to mind the words of a great European ace who once wrote, "You can only breed great pigeons from great pigeons." And the Goodger-family had an abundance of great champions, birds that not only won top-class races, but then produced top-class racebirds in their own loft, and elsewhere.

Is that the reason for the Goodger succession? Probably, for these weren't ordinary pigeons. They were *extraordinary* pigeons, and they could win races when other birds simply failed to be able reach home at all. Here's some examples:

- Jim Marafiot's Gilgandra (1000km) winner in the SAHPA, clocked in the dark at 10.15pm. She was bred from a son of Allen Goodger's famous Nundroo winner, whilst her dam was a daughter of John Pryor's Alice Springs winner of 1984 (her photograph appeared last month). Ironically, the only other bird to arrive in Adelaide that night was the winner's loft-mate, clocked at 10.45pm, and similarly bred. Nice pedigrees, nice results.

- Keith Saggars' red chequered hen "Ruby," a granddaughter of Allen Goodger's 'Lot 60,' homing in the dark to take 3rd National....and then producing three Federation winners. And the good news is that we can still acquire stock from her.

- Curly Maricic's pied cock, a grandson of John Pryor's wonderful Temora winner. He's bred 7th, 11th and 18th from Alice Springs...that's an extraordinary cock, and the good part is that if we want to, we can still acquire youngsters from him.

Here's yet another particularly fascinating Goodger-hen, the blue chequered pied SA80 42297, dam of the winner of the SAHPA's race from Sydney to Adelaide in 1983. (See photograph). She was one of the greatest demonstrations of the power emanating from the Venus theory of using great pigeons to breed great pigeons. 42297 was a young-bird Allen Goodger had donated as a squeaker to the SAHPA's sires produce sale. Rung SA80 42297, this blue chequered pied hen won 15th from Lyndhurst (510km) for Greg Kakoschke, and then in her first year in the stockloft produced the pied hen which won the terrible race from Sydney, when only three birds homed on the second day, and another homed on the third day....and that was it!

Her pedigree is fascinating, and by now you'll understand the significance of certain things Allen was doing. First, she was a daughter of that champion producing cock SA75 43549 which had bred Grant Paterson's ace producing hen 51397, and then following the Goodger sale went to John van Beers' loft to exert an enormous impact43549 of course being a son of the wonderful '2nd Oodnadatta hen'. *There's an accumulation of 'great' pigeons!*

But her mother was also of interest, for she was nothing less than the famous 'Cook Winner' (BCPH SAD71



22703), granddaughter of the Elliott Hen (Goodger's Reference 'A') on her sire's side, and great granddaughter of the '2nd Oodnadatta Hen,' Reference 'B' (also a granddaughter of the Elliott Hen) on her dam's side. Allen bred this donated youngster when the Cook winner was nine years old, again supplying adequate proof that he continued to use his grea/hens well into their latter years. Forget all that nonsense about Allen not breeding off a hen after she was five! Take a look at this pedigree to see how the dam of a great long distance champion was fashioned:

BCPH SA80 42291. 15th SAHPA Lyndhurst. Dam 1st SAHPA Sydney 1190km for Greg Kakoschke.

Sire: BCPC SA75 43549 Major stock cock for John Van Beers. Sire to the great stock hen '51397'	GS: SAD72 17392 10th Benalla	SAD71 33857 Lot 180. Sire 7th Bathurst 1030km, 10th Benalla 690km	SAD68 13661
		BCPH SAD71 22703. 1st SAHPA Cook.	SAD69 13244 9th SAHPA Finke
	GD: BCPH SAD68 13716 2nd Oodnadatta. Ace Producer hen	SAD67 8484	SAD70 16030 (Son of the Elliott hen)
		SAD63 16710 17th, 24th Maryborough	SAD70 15991
Dam: BCPH SAD71 22703. 1st SAHPA Cook.	GS: SAD70 16030	13279	12414
		SA64 16016 The Elliott Hen Family Matriarch	The Elliott Hen
	GD: SAD70 15991	23864	Blanden/Delsar
		13244	13721 13716 Ace Producer Hen

Notice any 'great pigeons'? This is the legacy of the Goodger family – they produced, and still produce *great* pigeons.

I was intrigued by a comment George Vella made, at about 5.30pm on the day of his recent sale. Because of the fierce and sustained bidding taking place, the sale (which had commenced at 1pm), was showing no signs of faltering as we reached the latter Lots. Suddenly George said to me:

"Do you know what I'm most proud of? Look, they're all still standing up! Hardly any of them have sat down, even though they've been in their pens for such a long time."

And he was right. These were strong pigeons.. with great character, a result of many years of selective breeding by a great fancier....as was the case with Allen Goodger and his racing pigeons.

Among the birds about which George was speaking stood the wonderful thirteen-year-old hen in sale-pen 27, her smokey blue colouring, and the pied feathering betraying her Goodger heritage. This hen won 4th National Riverton 700km 898mpm against 1090B (only six birds home on the day of release) as a yearling and then 2nd VHA Dubbo 700km, 1552mpm 2699B, a rather special set of performances, especially when considering that when she won 2nd Dubbo her brother arrived with her! She later bred several top class pigeons for George, including 12th Fed in a tough 1000km race at 766mpm. The smokey blue pied hen came with an interesting story, which commences with a young cock bred by George's longtime friend Robert Saggars.

Both Robert and Keith Saggars had sought the best Goodger pigeons they could find, and they still hold

wonderful collections of this family. Keith had the famous 'Lot 60' lay her final eggs in his loft, and her extraordinary granddaughter 'Ruby' has already been mentioned. However one of the most interesting Goodger-line birds to enter Robert's loft was bred by Ross Hocking: SA82 6368. Ross was a significant buyer of Goodger pigeons at Allen's sale, and this young cock was to sire for Robert an excellent 700mile Open (1120km) winner into Melbourne, and then become the grandsire of the magnificent hen in pen twenty-seven, through a son rung WPF 88 83. But first, the pedigree of 6368:

BCPC SA82 6368. Champion producer cock (R Saggars) Bred by Ross Hocking.

Sire: SA79 603 (Lot 66 A Goodger)	GS BCPC SA78 40864 12 th Ceduna 550km (Lot 92 A Goodger)	BCPC SA77 5604 (Lot 74 A Goodger) "The Darwin Cock"	SAD66 11755, Sire 8th Finke, 13th Temora. SAD73 25583 (Lot 172 A Goodger) 1st Oodnadatta 867km Granddaughter of Elliott Hen	
		Unrung BCH (1976) (Lot 115 A Goodger)	SAD73 25523 SA64 16016 "The Elliott Hen"	
	GD: SA77 41299 1st Nundroo 687km (Lot 75 A Goodger)	SA74 50643 Son of the Webber Ace Pair.		
		SA75 43596 7 th Nullabor 810km (Lot 189 A Goodger)	SA74 56922 (Verco) SAD70 16063 1st Tarcoola 620km Granddaughter of Elliott Hen	
Dam: BCPH SA79 629 4 th Eucla 880km (Lot 93 A Goodger)	GS: SA76 9548 (Lot 51 A Goodger) "The \$1900 cock."	SAD69 13279 Sire to 9 th Finke 1100km, etc	SAD68 13718 Son of Elliott Hen SA65 16759 Dam 8 th Finke 1100km	
		SAD71 22674 6 th Morundah 700km		
	GD: BCH SAD73 25504 7 th Finke 1100km (Lot 202 A Goodger)	SAD72 17392 10 th Benalla 690km		
		SAD72 17449		

From 6368, Robert bred a young cock rung WPF88-83, and gave the squeaker to his longtime-mate George Vella. George raced the young cock in the VHA, and won 3rd at 480km against 4498B at 1505mpm against 2866 birds, earning him a chance to enter the Vella stockloft for that year. George entertained thoughts that the young cock and his family may have had distance-limitations, but this was quickly dispelled when 83's brother won a position for Robert's brother John in that year's 1000km event.

So, next year the cock went up the track again, and late in the season the VHA encountered a difficult 800km races. Liberated at Coonamble in New South Wales, only six birds arrived in Melbourne that night, and George's two-year-old cock, 83, took second place at 963mpm against 4023 birds. To produce a cock which can win 2nd and 3rd in the VHA is considered a classy effort, especially when one is at a fast 1505mpm, and the other at a hardworking 963mpm. **That's a great pigeon!** No wonder he was able to sire such outstanding pigeons...including the Double-Fed winning champion hen in pen twenty-seven.

Another Goodger-line cock from Ross Hocking's stock was bred in Robert Saggars' loft, and rung WPF91 5514. We include him for *a very special reason* - he was to win his Federation's 480km 'smash' event, when he became the only bird to home on the day. First his pedigree:

Pedigree: BCC WPF91 5514 Only bird on the day, Hillston (480km) smash. (R Saggars)

Sire: SA89 11624	GS: BCPC SA85 9184	BCC SA78 1530 (Lot 160 A Goodger)	SAD68 13718 Champion sire of 1st Tarcoola, 1st Oodnadatta Son of the Elliott hen	
		BCPH SA82 6381	SAD68 13716 (Ref 'B') 2 nd Oodnadatta 867km Ace Producing hen. Grand-daughter of the Elliott hen	
			BCPC SA73 25517 (Lot 199 A Goodger) 3 rd Mittyack 400km Grandson of the Elliott Hen	
		GD: SA80 19299 2 nd Boorooban 560km (AG Lot 34)	SA78 1533 (Lot 59 A Goodger)	SA71 27703 1 st Cook. (Ref 'C') Grand-daughter of the Elliott hen
				SA71 26769 (Blanden)
				SA76 9520
SA77 7233				
Dam: BCPH SA86 16843 "Eyes"	GS: BCC SA84 23904 12 th SAHPA North Derby 7013B	SA78 1635 (Lot 52 A Goodger)	SAD73 25504 7 th Finke 1100km	
		BCPC SA77 7233 (Lot 114 A Goodger)	SA75 43524	
		BCPH SA76 9569 (Lot 194 A Goodger)	SA74 50650 (Webber)	
	GD: BCH SA84 23815 11 th SAHPA South Derby	BCC SA81 483 (Lot 37 A Goodger)	SA70 16030 Sire of 1 st Cook Son of the Elliott Hen	
			OSBN 1750 (Webber)	
		SA80 19231 9 th Nullabor 810km (Lot 15 A Goodger)	BCPC SA80 35673 (J Marafioti)	
		SA80 19299 2 nd Boorooban 560km (AG Lot 34)	SA76 9548 (Lot 51 A Goodger) "The \$1900 cock"	
			SA77 5649 9 th Nyngan 880km Lott 44 (A Goodger) Daughter of 1 st Cook	

Note in particular the following:

- a) The dual use of the 2nd Boorooban hen 19299 – she was dam of the sire, and great-granddam of the dam of 5514.
- b) The BCPH 6381, daughter of 25517, and the famous Cook winner. This is a half brother-sister mating, both being grandchildren of the "Elliott hen" through their father 16030, son of the "Elliott Hen." To assist matters further, 25517's dam was the champion racing/producing '2nd Oodnadatta Hen,' yet another granddaughter of the Elliott hen!
- c) The proliferation of the Elliott Hen's influence at the root of the pedigree.

And the moral of the story? You can breed closely within the Goodger family and enhance the characteristics of these fine birds. But we'd already discovered this in earlier articles.....consequently there's another, more important reason for including this cock, because he is ample demonstration of the singular toughness – let's call it tenacity – inherent in this amazing Australian family of racing pigeons. Grant Paterson told me recently of the time he enquired of NSW officials about holding the late John Pryor's dispersal-sale in Sydney. One authority told Grant that he didn't think it would be successful, because these birds were considered to be '*disaster-pigeons!*'

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Apparently the view of some people was that these birds only excelled when the race became a *disaster*. Nevertheless the sale proceeded, and the result was testimony to the greatness of the Goodger-line champions from the Pryor loft.

Ruth Pryor recently told me that John called his pigeons 'pocket-rockets,' a fair description of their size and capacities. They simply wouldn't quit! However, they also won faster events, for like the family from which they came, they were 'great' pigeons.

It was simply confirmation of the word's of that European champion: "***You can only breed great pigeons from great pigeons.***"

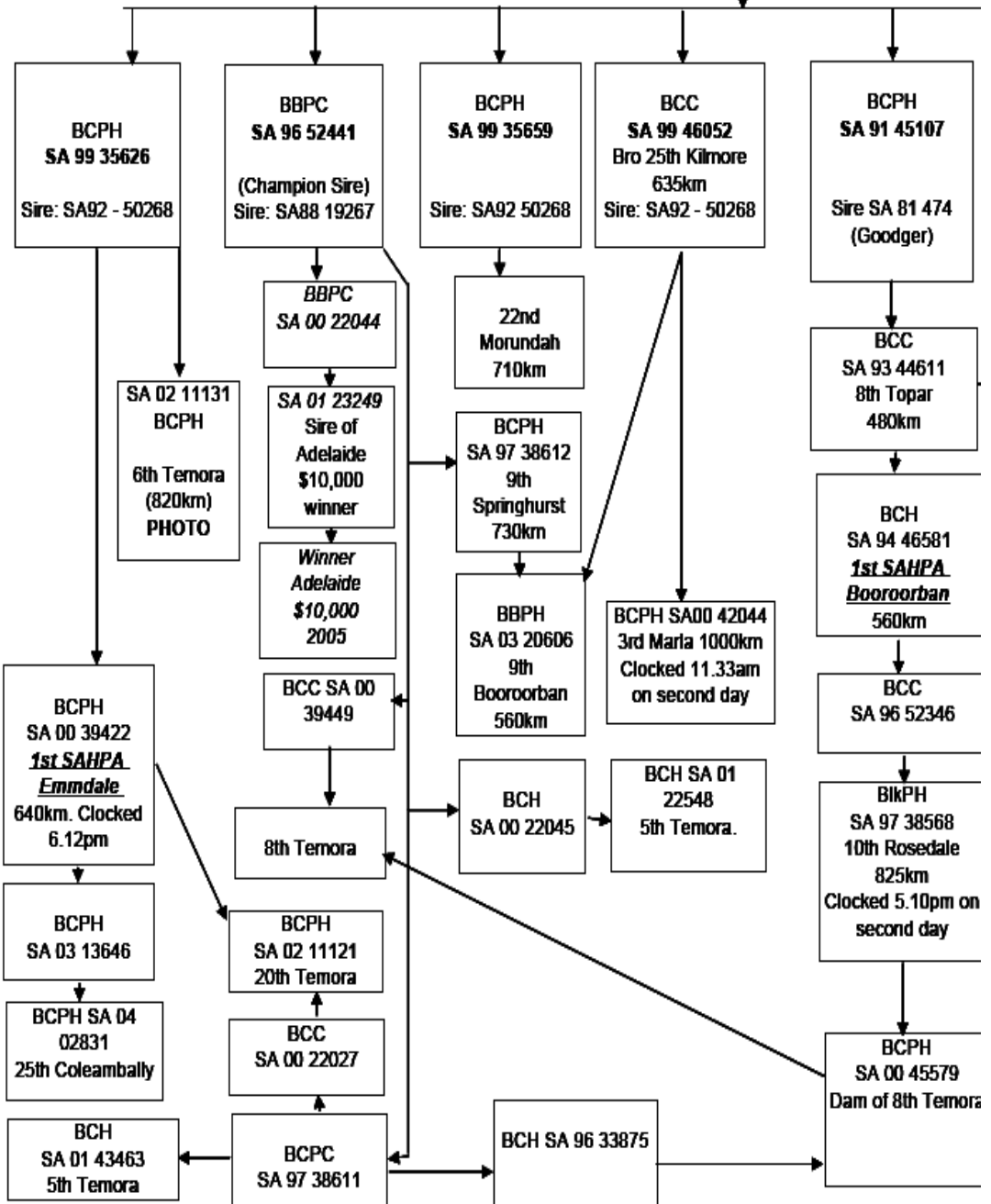
And how better to finish this series than to tell you of a story first heard when I received an unexpected phone call recently. A fancier in Adelaide called one night and suggested that I should be aware of the exploits of a certain Goodger-line hen flown by SAHPA fancier Paul Americ. I hadn't heard of Paul prior to the call, however in subsequent conversations I was to learn that a few years ago, he had invested in some top-line Goodger pigeons. He told me;

"I knew that such a line of pigeons was ideal for the longer, harder races, and I purchased a pair from Con Moukas. I also bought two nestmates from Grant Paterson. These purchases have been worthwhile; I have not been disappointed."

Indeed he hasn't. If you can recall the story of the Coober Pedy race, where John Pryor had the only bird on the day (at 10.37pm), then consider the hen that finished second, for Paul Americ, (see photo) rung SA98 0777. She was clocked at first light on the Sunday, having only just failed to find home on the day of the race. She was a granddaughter of Allen Goodger's Lot 53 on her sire's side, and her dam's side comprised a hen from Ivan Wareing which contained Lot 53 and 60. Should we be surprised?

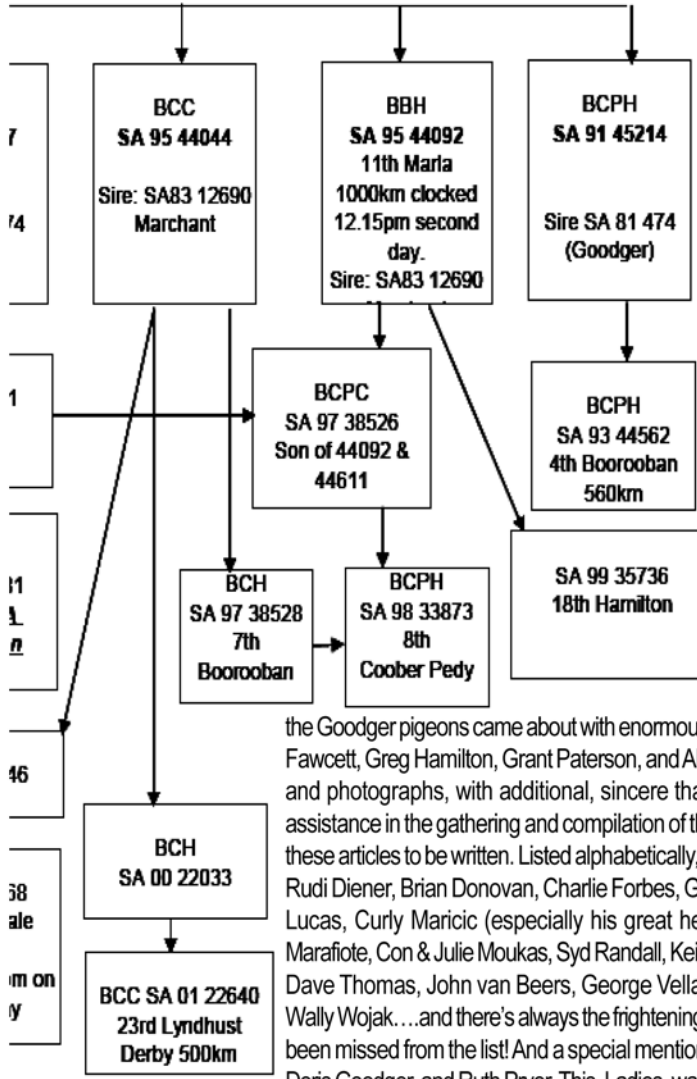
But she's not the main story from the Americ loft. Paul raced the extraordinary hen rung SA01 21355, which won 6th from the marathon 1320km racepoint Alice Springs in 2004, when only nine birds were home by the end of

BCPH SA 90 37814 Bob Seedsman's Reference 'D'
 Daughter PTL 84 1062 (The Port Lincoln Cock) x SA 85 910





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the second day. That's a tough event. In 2005, she was sent again, this time finishing 18th, with only 26 birds home by the end of the third day. So she was sent again in 2006, and duly set about completing her difficult task. What a pigeon! Three times from Alice Springs – 1320km – twice placed, and three times home! Would it surprise you to learn that her dam (bred by Grant Paterson) has Lot 53 and Lot 60 as grandparents, and is a niece of John Pryor's ace cock 11829? When I spoke with Paul recently he agreed to send the details of his wonderful hen, and after describing the massive Goodger influence, he wrote, "So the story goes on and on." And so it does. And so it will: it almost seems appropriate to describe the Allen Goodger family of racing pigeons as *The Neverending Story*."

But it's more than that: for those of us engaged in this fascinating sport, the Goodger family remains an enduring legacy. The five part series regarding

the Goodger pigeons came about with enormous assistance. Particular thanks is due to Tim Fawcett, Greg Hamilton, Grant Paterson, and Alan Thede, my major sources for information and photographs, with additional, sincere thanks to a wide group of people who gave assistance in the gathering and compilation of the information which subsequently enabled these articles to be written. Listed alphabetically, they include – Paul Americ, Brett Caracella, Rudi Diener, Brian Donovan, Charlie Forbes, Greg Kakoschke, Stephen Kearsy, Michael Lucas, curly Maricic (especially his great help during the Pryor sale in Sydney), Jim Marafioti, Con & Julie Moukas, Syd Randall, Keith & Robert Saggars, Bob & Bev Seedsman, Dave Thomas, John van Beers, George Vella, Bill Verco, Bill Walford, Ken Waters, and Wally Wojak...and there's always the frightening possibility that someone has unintentionally been missed from the list! And a special mention to those extraordinary 'First Ladies' of racing: Doris Goodger, and Ruth Pryor. This, Ladies, was for you.

