

PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW INC

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NEWSLETTER 2016

SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC. - PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

THE PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC.

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CLUB MEETINGS: ARE CONDUCTED ON THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, VENUE BEING THE PIGEON & POULTRY PAVILION, FAIRFIELD SHOWGROUNDS, SMITHFIELD RD, FAIRFIELD. VISITORS ARE WELCOME.

CLUBS NEWSLETTER: THE EDITOR INVITES SUBMISSIONS AND ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS, INCLUDING REPORTS, ESPECIALLY FROM COUNTRY AREAS.

RINGS: PIGEON RINGS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM OUR RING SECRETARY FOR \$0.45 EACH, ONLY AVAILABLE IN LOTS OF TEN. (COST \$4.50 FOR TEN RINGS) PLUS \$2.50 POSTAGE.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

John Hickman

Hello everyone, welcome to our Centenary Newsletter and last for 2016. As usual Lisa and Catherine Weekes have worked hard to produce this edition. I hope you enjoy the material presented and the reports from our International Judges Paul Littlewood (England) and Charlie Rowe (USA).

It was my pleasure to meet these two judges in June, to work with them and learn from them. Thank you Paul and Charlie for taking the time and effort to attend and judge at our Centenary Show. You both played a large part in making this show a success. I would like to publicly apologise for the appalling behaviour to you from the Queensland judge. He has been banned for a long time from attending any future shows.



In our Centenary year, I was pleased that our members and pigeon fanciers from other states strongly supported our shows. Our Young Bird Show had 700 exhibits, shown by 35 fanciers. We are slowly building up our exhibit numbers after the large drop off we experienced after the PMV 1 virus was discovered.

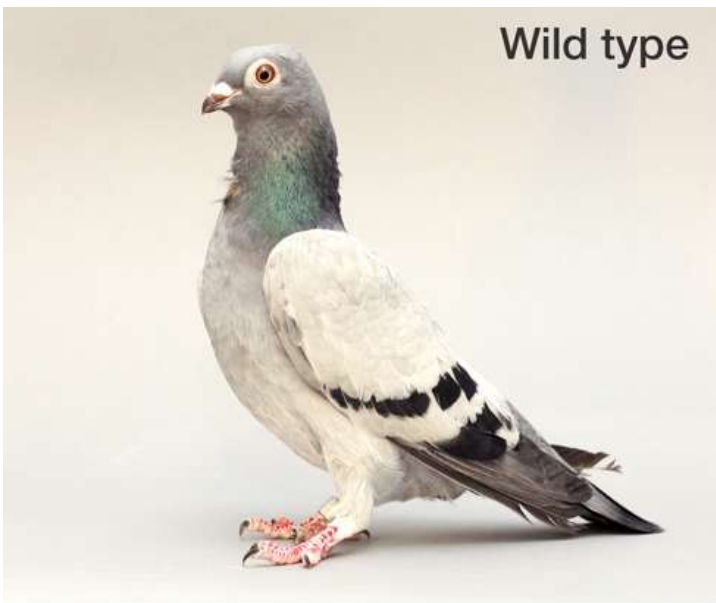
The Centenary Show was very well attended with over 1200 exhibits from 50 fanciers. These numbers have not been seen for quite a while. We were fortunate to have 2 International judges, 4 Interstate judges and 4 NSW judges officiate at the show and they all did a fantastic job. The quality of the judges makes our club very proud of the reputation that we provide one of the best shows in Australia.

For this Centenary Newsletter edition, I would like to mention some special people that I had the pleasure to meet and had some influence on me and this great PFS Club. I still have my first Champion Card from the 1987 PFS Annual Show. It was for a champion white King. I started in the pigeon fancy in 1986 with Carneaux form Reg Varley and Kings from Paul Walker. My father Syd always had pigeons but when visiting the lofts of Reg and Alex Xavier (Carriers) it is when it sparked my interest to start in fancy pigeons.

There have been some great contributions and friends in the PFS Club since I joined 30 years ago. I would like to mention a few but sadly many have departed. Barry Shepherd, Ben Dew, Darcy Cook, our highly regarded past president Bob Weekes and of course Jim Mackay. These members were characters and good pigeon fanciers who helped develop this great club.

Of course we still have living members who are doing and have done good work for the club like Trevor Joseph. I must also mention and thank Lisa and Catherine Weekes for their tireless efforts to promote and help run the PFS. Last but not least we have two fantastic fanciers who have worked tremendously hard for many years. They are Walter Hitchell our hard working Secretary and John Hanson our Patron and Major Sponsor. They work very hard behind the scenes are both very knowledgeable fanciers and top class judges at home and overseas. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your contributions to the PFS of NSW and the pigeon fancy overall.

Thank you also to our new Committee and team who were elected for 2017. They are John Hanson, Walter Hitchell, Derek Garland, Lisa and Catherine Weekes. A gentle reminder that we still require a treasurer to come forward to help us maintain our strength in the pigeon fancy. Have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and I hope to see you all next year with good health and your champion birds at our shows.



Wild type

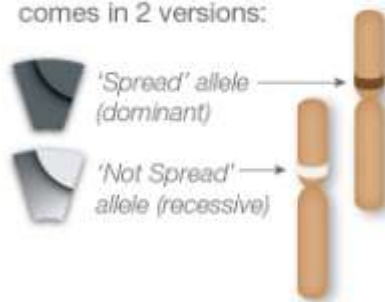


Spread

SPREAD

Birds with a "wild-type" pigment distribution have medium-toned heads, gradually fading to a lighter shade on the body and legs. In birds with the spread phenotype, the major colour is evenly distributed across all of the feathers. In the photos to the right, both birds are blue. The one on the right is also spread.

The *Spread* gene comes in 2 versions:



Genotype	Phenotype
	Spread
	Spread
	Non-spread

ALLELES & INHERITANCE

In pigeons, one gene controls whether a bird is spread or not. The *spread* gene comes in two versions, or alleles: 'spread' and 'not spread.'

Pigeons inherit two copies of the *spread* gene, one from each parent. The two alleles together make up a bird's genotype. What we see, or the phenotype, is the physical outcome of these two alleles.

The 'spread' allele is dominant to the 'not spread' allele, so a bird with even one 'spread' allele will have a spread phenotype. The 'not spread' allele is considered wild type: it's the allele that the wild ancestor to domestic pigeons had.

The 'spread' allele came along later as a natural genetic variation, and it was selected and propagated by breeders.

SPREAD IS EPISTATIC TO PATTERN

The 'spread' allele masks or hides wing pattern. All birds have two *pattern* alleles, but a bird with a spread phenotype has no visible pattern phenotype. This masking is called [epistasis](#), and we say that spread is epistatic to pattern.



Parents



Possible combinations of *spread* and *pattern* alleles in offspring

Even though a spread bird has no visible pattern, we can show that the *pattern* alleles are still there. In the example to the right, a bird that has one 'spread' allele (right) is crossed to a non-spread bird (left).

The hidden *pattern* alleles—'t-check' and 'check', outlined in blue—are revealed in two of the possible offspring.

SPREAD INFLUENCES COLOUR

Spread doesn't hide colour the way it does pattern (see above), but it does influence the expression of the *colour* alleles. So a spread bird isn't simply spread, it's spread plus a colour: spread blue, spread brown, or spread ash-red.

You can think of the 'spread' allele as taking the colour of the tail bar and spreading it across the entire bird. So while spread ash-red may seem like an unexpectedly light shade, the phenotype makes sense when you realize that ash-red birds have a light-coloured tail bar.

Breeders are often inconsistent in how they name different colours of pigeons. For instance, spread ash-red is sometimes called "solid mealy," and spread blue is often called "black."



The colour-naming inconsistencies probably date back to a time when we didn't understand the genetics of colour and pattern as well as we do today. To add to the confusion, some colours are difficult to tell apart, and colours that are the same genetically can look different phenotypically in different breeds.



EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULES

While the dominance and epistasis patterns described above generally hold up, sometimes a bird with one 'spread' allele and one 'not spread' allele will have a hint of a wing pattern—especially ash-red birds. And male spread birds that have two different *colour* alleles may show flecks of the more-recessive of the two. For instance, a spread bird that has 'ash-red' and 'blue'*colour* alleles may be mostly ash-red but with flecks of blue.

This variability—often termed “variable expressivity”—is not very well understood, but it is typical of many traits. In human eye colour, for example, we understand that the 'blue' allele is recessive to the 'brown' allele. But blue and brown eyes come in many shades that do not follow dominant or recessive inheritance patterns.

Variations like these may come from individual differences in gene activity or from the influence of other genes.

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RECESSIVE RED

Birds with recessive red colouring are a solid shade of reddish-brown.

Recessive red looks very different from the ash-red phenotype caused by the *colour* gene. Recessive red is also genetically different from both *colour* and *spread*.

The bird to the right is not only recessive red, it also has a [crest](#) and a [muff](#). If you came across it in your neighborhood, you may not even recognize it as a pigeon—but it is.

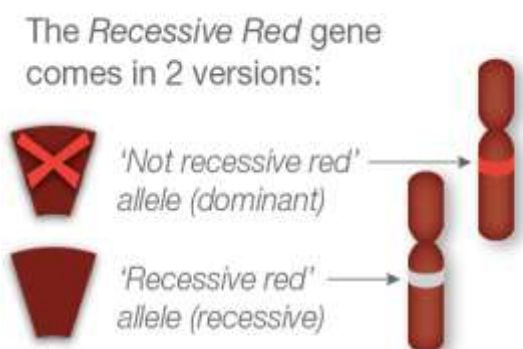


ALLELES AND INHERITANCE

In pigeons, one gene controls the presence or absence of recessive red colouring. This gene comes in 2 different versions, or alleles: 'recessive red' and what we call 'not recessive red,' which is also considered 'wild-type.'

Pigeons inherit two copies of the *recessive red* gene, one from each parent. The two alleles together make up a bird's "genotype." What we see, also called the "phenotype," reflects the interactions of these two alleles.

As the name implies, the 'recessive red' allele is recessive to the 'not recessive red' allele. To have recessive red colouring, a bird must have two copies of the 'recessive red' allele.






GENES AND EPISTASIS

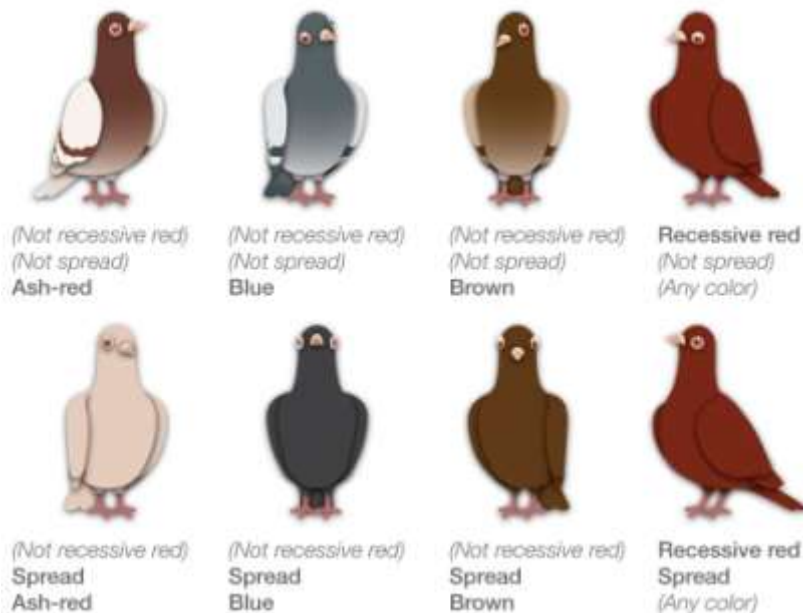
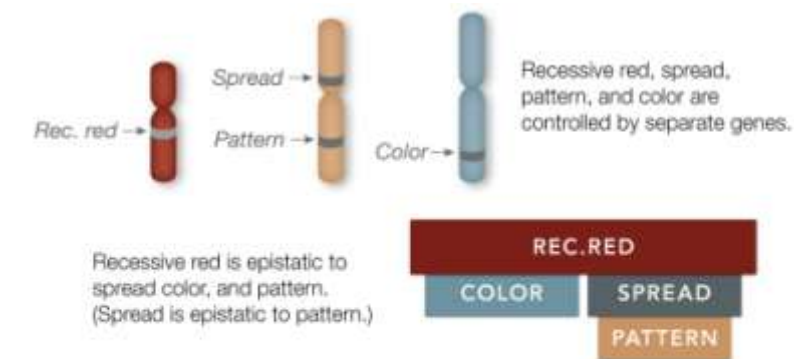
The gene that controls recessive red is separate from the gene that controls *colour*. For one, *colour* is sex-linked and recessive red is not. Also, recessive red is *epistatic* to *colour*. That is, whatever the underlying *colour* alleles, a bird with two *recessive red* alleles will always have recessive red colouring.

You may have noticed that the recessive red colour distribution looks similar to the [spread](#) phenotype. While the two look the same, they are controlled by separate genes. In fact, the recessive red phenotype is different from any of the spread phenotypes, regardless of the underlying colour—even ash-red. (Spread ash-red birds are a very light reddish shade; recessive red birds are much darker.)

Recessive red is also epistatic to *spread*. Notice the illustration to the right: both of the recessive red birds look the same, regardless of whether they have a *spread* allele or not.

Genotype	Phenotype
	Not recessive red
	Not recessive red
	Recessive red

Also shown on the right, recessive red is epistatic to [pattern](#). Because pigment in recessive red birds is distributed evenly in all feathers, any underlying pattern is hidden.



It is important to remember that even though recessive red birds show no colour, spread, or pattern phenotype, they always have two alleles for each of those genes (except remember that females have just one colour allele).

The genes that control recessive red, spread, colour, and pattern all affect the synthesis and distribution of pigment molecules called melanins. The interactions among these genes are what cause their epistatic relationships. Genes that interact epistatically are often parts of the same biochemical pathways.

FROM GENE TO PROTEIN: HOW RECESSIVE RED WORKS

On the surface, we can see two things are happening with the melanin pigments in recessive red birds.

First, the feathers have mostly red melanin, with very little black and brown. Second, the melanin is distributed evenly in all feathers, disrupting any underlying *pattern* or *spread* genotype.

Inside a bird's cells, the molecular mechanism of recessive red is fairly complex and not completely understood. But the parts we do understand are interesting and worth the effort to learn.

The *colour* and the *recessive red* genes both affect the synthesis of pigments called melanins, which are made in structures called melanosomes in cells called melanocytes. But the two genes code for proteins that work on different steps of melanin synthesis. The *colour* gene is *Tyrp1*, and it codes for the TYRP1 protein. The *recessive red* gene is called *Sox10*, and it codes for the SOX10 protein.

The SOX10 protein's normal function is to switch other genes 'on,' including *Tyrp1*. When genes are switched on, proteins are made from them, and the proteins are available to do their jobs.

The 'not recessive red' allele is a "normal" version of the *Sox10* gene. The gene is normally turned on in melanocytes. The SOX10 protein that's made from it switches the *Tyrp1* gene on, and TYRP1 protein is made (or in the case of the brown allele, not made). TYRP1 then goes off to do its job in the melanin synthesis pathway.

The 'recessive red' allele is a "broken" version of *Sox10*. The allele is missing a large chunk of DNA that allows it to be switched on in melanocytes. While it can still be switched on in other cells, its activity is very low in melanocytes. When a bird has just one broken *Sox10* allele, the other allele still makes enough SOX10 protein to switch on *colour/Tyrp1* (and other genes). But when both alleles are broken, little SOX10 protein is made, and the genes it regulates stay switched off. This mechanism explains the recessive inheritance pattern of recessive red.

The reason recessive red is epistatic to colour is because recessive red works "upstream" of colour. If you think of melanin production as an assembly line, the 'recessive red' allele shuts down the assembly line at an earlier step, prior to the step that TYRP1 protein carries out.

We can deduce that SOX10 works on additional genes beyond *Tyrp1*, because removing just TYRP1 activity causes the brown phenotype. Brown differs from recessive red in both pigment colour and distribution across the body.

While we don't understand molecularly why recessive red birds also have a spread-like phenotype, a reasonable guess is that SOX10 protein operates upstream and in the same molecular pathway as the *spread* gene.

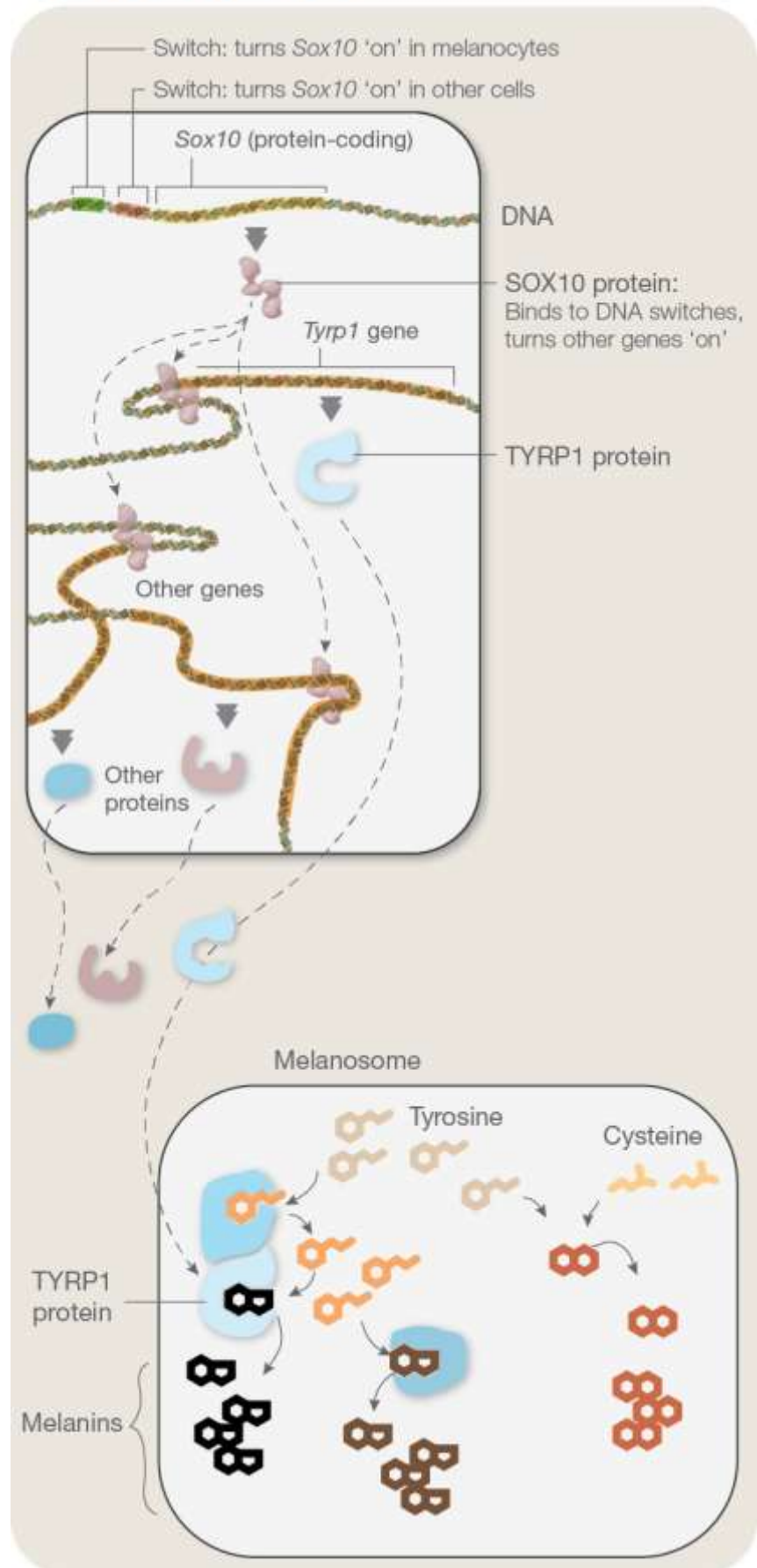
Changes to DNA sequence in a gene's regulatory switches can affect when, where, and how much protein is made from that gene. Changes to switches are important drivers of evolutionary change.



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"Normal" Sox10 gene (Not recessive red)
[Click to see Recessive Red](#)



Variations in the *Sox10* gene affect colour in other animals, including mice and chickens.



Champion Bird of Show – British Show Racer – F.Frendo

ANNUAL BIRD SHOW AWARDS 2016

Fantail: Champion (53)
 Reserve Champion Fantail:
 Lace Fantail: (2)
 Saddle Fantail: (6)
 Jacobin: (12)
 English Trumpeter: (16)
 African Owl : (1)
 Barbarisi Syrian Turbitteen: (1)
 Chinese Owl : (54)
 Reserve Ch. Chinese Owl:
 Turbit: (2)
 Gimpel: (8)
 Polish Barb: (15)
 Carrier : (12)
 Damascene : (1)
 Alternberg Tumbler (12)
 English Dragoon: (55)
 Res. Ch. English Dragoon
 English Show Homer: (6)
 Exhibition Homer : (6)
 Genuine Homer: (4)
 German Beauty Homer: (6)
 Show Racing Pigeon: (40)
 Show Racer : Res. Champion
 British Show Racer : Champion (230)
 British Show Racer : Reserve Champion
 Australian Showpen Homer: (194)
 Aust. Showpen Homer : Res. Champ
 Modena Gazzi : Champion (1)
 Modena Schetti : (5)
 Brunner Pouter : (18)
 Norwich Cropper: (6)
 Holle Cropper : (6)
 Pigmy Pouter : (13)
 Reversewing Pouter: (2)
 English Clean L.L.F Tumbler: (10)
 Felegyhauser Tumbler: (6)
 Medium Faced Helmet, Plainhead: (6)
 Medium Faced Helmet, Crested: (2)
 Nun : Champion: (35)
 Nun: Reserve Champion
 Vienna Long Faced Tumbler: (6)
 Australian Performing Tumbler: (40)

Mal Davis
 Mal Davis
 Steve Pithers
 Steve Pithers
 Anne Henderson
 Alan Watts
 Blenhaven stud
 Derek Garland
 Phil Cleghorn
 Phil Cleghorn
 Blenhaven Stud
 Frank Hayes
 Peter Ryan
 John Hickman
 Derek Garland
 Jamil Lofts
 Tim Fairfax
 Tim Fairfax
 Blenhaven Stud
 Blenhaven Stud
 Blenhaven Stud
 Showman Lofts
 Fred Frendo
 Fred Frendo
 Fred Frendo
 Anthony Duncan
 Dennis Murphy
 Geoff Nelson
 Wayne Parnell
 Wayne Parnell
 Blenhaven Stud
 Anne Henderson
 Mark Wilson
 Blenhaven Stud
 Anne Henderson
 Alan Watts
 Derek Garland
 Phil Dew
 Phil Dew
 Trevor Joseph
 Trevor Joseph
 Derek Garland
 Phil Dew



Res Champ of Show – Brunner Pouter – Blenhaven Stud



Aust. Performing Tumbler : Res Champion
 Show Birmingham Roller: (4)
 Exhibition Flying Tippler : (8)
 West of England Tumbler : (32)
 West of England Tumbler: Res. Champ
 Carneau : Champion (32)
 Carneau : Reserve Champion
 King : Champion (116)
 King : Reserve Champion
 Polish Lynx : Champion (8)
 Lahore : (2)
 Shakhsharli Tumbler: (11)
 Racing Pigeon, Flown: Champion (46)
 Racing Pigeon: Reserve Champion

Mark Wilson
 Jacob Duncan
 Derek Garland
 Barry Shoobridge
 Barry Shoobridge
 John Hickman
 John Hickman
 Wayne Parnell
 John Artuso
 Neville Jenkins
 Jacob Duncan
 Derek Garland
 Blenhaven Stud
 Blenhaven Stud

JUNIOR TROPHIES

Fantail : (4)	Roden Dew
Jacobin : (4)	Roden Dew
Satinette : (2)	Bryce Bachner
Show Racer: (19)	Joel Carder
Pigmy Pouter :	Roden Dew
Domestic Show Flight Plainhead: (12)	Bryce Bachner
Junior Reserve Champion of Show :	Roden Dew - Jacobin
Junior Champion of Show:	Bryce Bachner – Sattinette



Vaughan Kelly Judging the APT's at the 100th Annual Show 2016

MEMORIAL AND PERPETUAL TROPHIES 2016

The Bunno Labowski Memorial Trophy for Best Satinette :	Bryce Bachner
The Darcy Cook Memorial Trophy for Best Jacobin:	Anne Henderson
The Bill Turner Perpetual Trophy for Best Lace Fantail:	Steve Pithers
The Phil Peters Memorial Trophy for Best Gimpel:	Frank Hayes
The S. C. Hickman Memorial Trophy for Best Utility:	John Hickman
The Jules De Brenni Trophy for Best Pouter / Cropper:	Blenhaven Stud, [Brunner Pouter]
The Dr. Hannaford- Schaefer Memorial Trophy for Best Trumpeter	Alan Watts
The Reg Varley Memorial Trophy for Best Exhibition Flying Tippler	Derek Garland
The Don Selth Memorial Trophy for Best Modena	Wayne Parnell
The Dave O'keefe Memorial Trophy for Best Bird of Show	Fred Frendo, [British Show Racer]



Pictured: Champion Australian Performing Tumbler – Phil Dew



Pictured: An amazing bird, Judge Vaughan Kelly, gave a special award to this bird – well done! Phil Dew

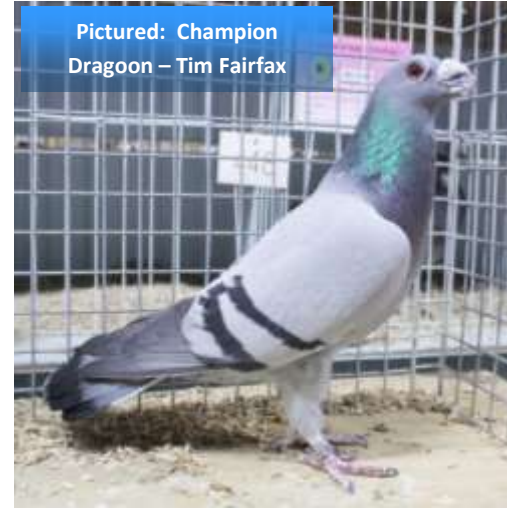
Pictured: Champion
Show Birmingham Roller -
Jacob Duncan



Pictured: Champion
Tippler – Derek Garland



Pictured: Champion
Dragoon – Tim Fairfax



Pictured: Champion
Exhibitor Homer –
Blenhaven Stud



Pictured: Champion
Carrier – John Hickman



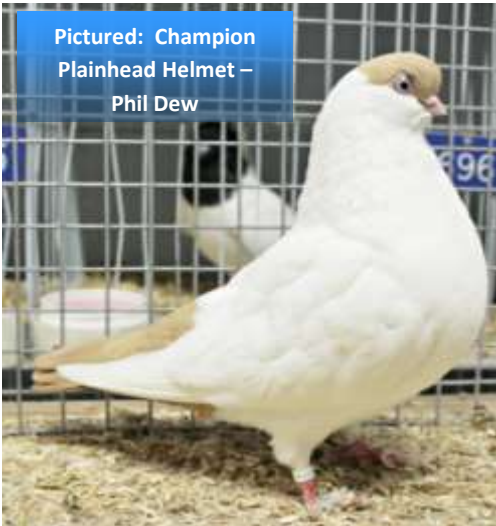
Pictured: Champion
Genuine Homer –
Blenhaven Stud



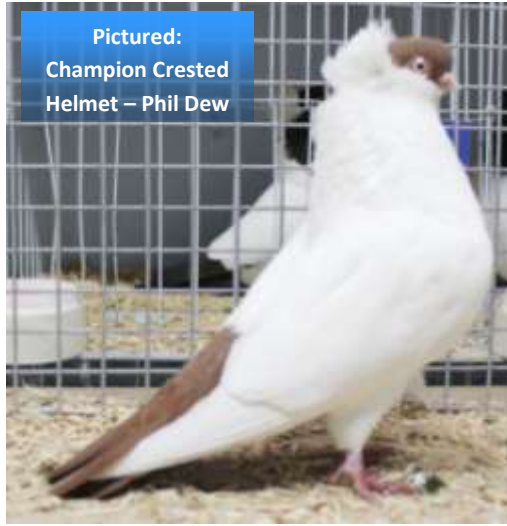
Pictured: Champion
Racing Pigeon –
Blenhaven Stud



Pictured: Champion
Plainhead Helmet –
Phil Dew



Pictured:
Champion Crested
Helmet – Phil Dew



As Pictured: PFS 100th Show Judges – Left - Paul Walker, Dennis Murphy, Ray Gutsche, Terry Stephenson, Paul Littlewood, John Hickman, Charlie Rowe, John Hanson, Graeme Jubb, Walter Hitchell, Vaughan Kelly.

PFS 100TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW – AUSTRALIA 2016

By Charlie Rowe USA

What an amazing six days in Australia. After a long 15-hour flight I was picked up at the airport by John Hanson and met fellow judge Paul Littlewood, of England. Both Paul and I were hosted by John for the first two nights Australia and were treated to wonderful views and perfect weather. Relaxing was first in order for us to recover from the flights. On Thursday I took a walk down to a nearby lake and got some wonderful pictures of the morning sky and pristine lake. With beautiful weather it was a real treat to sit out on the patio and enjoy the native birds and wildlife coming in and out of the yard. Friday morning we were off to the show hall.



Pictured: Champion Jacobin - Anne Henderson

Saturday morning judging began. First judging assignment were Jacobins. There were 14 to judge and the top end of the group were exceptional representations of the breed. All three were red, two cocks and a hen. In the end I chose a red old cock as champion. He had excellent station and a full and tight mane and chain. Next up were the blowers. Brunners were first up as the largest blower entry, with over 50 birds needing to be judged I knew that they would take considerable amount of time and would be my gauge for where I was at for the day. There were several colour classes that were deep in quality from top to bottom. Ones that stood out to me were the yellows, reds and whites. Overall I found that the yellows and reds had great refinement in the legs and bodies as well as many of them having good length of neck and a round globe. The whites had more variability in globe shape and size as well as the bodies being generally heavier than the yellows and reds, but had great length of leg and station. The better birds are on par with the top birds that I have judged in the states and seen in my travels to Europe.

A trait that the breeders will want to keep an eye out for is the bending of the outside toe. This is a negative trait that detract from the bird in the judging pen and something that is persistent in the breed. Some birds were also not comfortable in the judging pen and could have benefited from more pen time. The bird of the day was a black old cock. It was an excellent representation of the breed. With a near perfect round globe, wing butts were small and the wings demonstrated the classic scissoring. He had great length of leg and a good straight setting.



After the Brunners there were Pymies, Norwich, and Hollies. With only four to eight birds in each of the breeds it was apparent that there were not many exhibitors. Some Highlights in the Pymies were the length of legs in the blues and the station. They were beautiful examples.

Not all were willing to perform for me, but I did appreciate the quality of the entire group. The Norwich group was led by a young mealy cock with a tremendous globe. He had great roundness and size in the globe. I would like to see a little slimmer waste line to accentuate the break at the bottom, but a spectacular bird.

The Holle croppers were a small group of whites. There was evidence of similar traits in the group and while form and station were good. Globes could be better developed. Best of the group was

a white old cock. I would have liked to be able to judge the birds from a single level cage where I could have seen the birds from the top as well as the front and side. The ideal judging conditions would allow the judge to look for all three circles



Pictured: Champion Holle Cropper - Mark Wilson

After the blowers I Judged Exhibition Homers and German Beauty Homers. Both Breeds had excellent representations of their breed. Exhibition Homers had excellent length and size of the head. The best German Beauty Homer was a young blue pied cock.



Champion German Beauty Homer - Blenhaven Stud



Champion English Pouter – Blenhaven Stud



Pictured: Phillip Cleghorn with his Champion Chinese Owl



Champion Chinese Owl – Phillip Cleghorn



Pictured: Some of the Chinese Owl's exhibited at the show

Last group of birds on my docket were Chinese Owls. This posed a bit of a challenge as there were two distinct types being exhibited. American and European style are distinctively different and are judged differently. With the birds being judged by colour this did not pose an issue in some of the colours and patterns.

Overall the blue based birds were of the type that I felt best represented the standard. With most of the European style birds being black or yellow I went through them to the best I could, but they are not built like an American style bird and do not station upright which made it difficult for judging.

Champion was a dark check old cock that was a great example with great station, pantaloons and collar.

Late Saturday afternoon the parade of champions were brought up for judging by Paul and myself.

As Paul and I worked our way around the champions row it was clear that every bird up there was deserving of their placement as there were great representations of their breed, however the long day meant that some of the birds were tired and not willing to perform up to the level that we had seen earlier in the day. At the end of the day we felt the British show homer was deserving of champion and the Black Brunner as reserve champion. Though this opinion was not popular with all it was a decision that both of us made and felt good about.



Pictured: PFS Centenary Show patch.



Pictured: Charlie Rowe presenting John Hanson [Blenhaven Stud] his Res Champion of show award.

With no judging assignments on Sunday I had a great time visiting with exhibitors. Your awards ceremony was first class and it was great to see that every breed champion received an award. This was something that I think helps encourage members to bring in new breeds that may not have the popularity of the established ones.

After the wrap up Mark Wilson graciously took Paul and myself to see some of Australia's native wildlife at a park west of Sydney and before my flight on Monday we went and saw some of the sights in the harbor via a harbor cruise. It was a whirlwind of 6 days, but it was 6 days I wouldn't have wished any differently.

As I mentioned at the show, I find this hobby so rewarding when we remember that it is supposed to be a hobby and it is supposed to be fun. Our birds bring us together and unite us with people all around the world. This was the most



Pictured: Paul Littlewood & Charlie Rowe, discussing best bird of show

memorable part of my trip. I have reunited with old friends and met many newer ones and for that I am truly appreciative. The hospitality, of our hosts, John Hanson and Mark and Karen Wilson was first class. It was an honor and hope that I see you all again at another show in the future. Best Regards, Charlie Rowe

Pictured: Champion Felegyhauser Tumbler – Derk Garland



Pictured: Champion E.C.L.L.F Tumbler – Alan Watts



Pictured: Champion Fantail – Mal Davis



Pictured: Champion Nun – Trevor Joseph

Have you moved recently,
Don't forget to update your
details



Pictured: Champion Lahore – Jacob Duncan



Pictured: Champion Turbit – Blenheim Stud



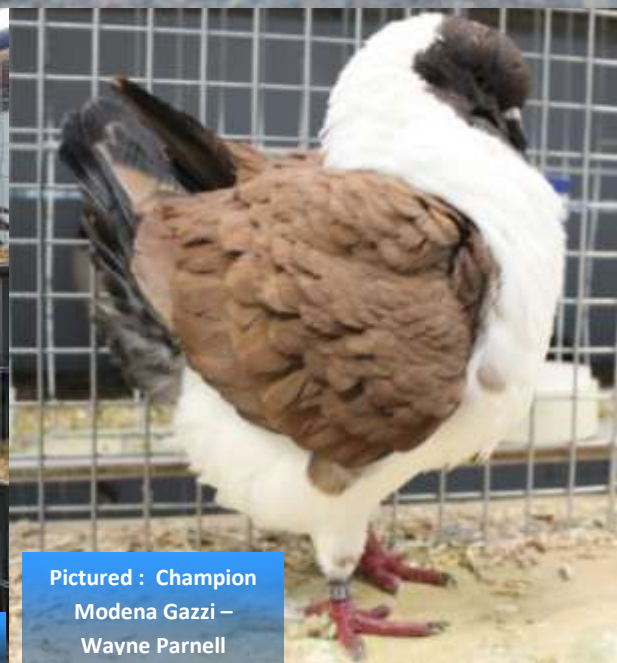
Pictured: Champion Barb – Peter Ryan



Pictured: Champion Trumpeter – Alan Watts



Pictured: Terry Stevenson, judging helmets at the show



Pictured : Champion Modena Gazzi – Wayne Parnell

AUSTRALIA 2016

By Paul Littlewood

When the call came to judge in Australia I was excited, well like a kid in a toy shop at Christmas. I was very nervous about the travel I have to say this was going to be trip I had never undertook or contemplated until the call to judge the 100th Anniversary Show of the Pigeon Fanciers of NSW. I was extremely impressed with the show hall and the shared facilities you have with the poultry club how many clubs would like to have those facilities back here in the UK.

I have to say that the hospitality afford myself was second to none and I thank you all for the invite and the hospitality shown to me.

It was good to see the sites of Sydney and I hope if there is a next time my stay can be longer than this one so I appreciate your great country.

I judged all the British Show Racers 200 plus entry and what an entry, and I have to say the majority where put down in excellent order and a credit to there owners, however some would and require better bodies and feather condition, two of the key elements of the breed are the above and a few fanciers need to take this on board. I was pleased and happy to offer advice to any body who asked and the Show Racer fanciers really are a friendly bunch who are eager to learn and improve there birds.

However I have to say Fred Frendo's team of birds would hold there heads high in the mother land, Fred put down an excellent team and should be proud of his achievements. The Best was a Red Chequer handled like silk and was all the bit a great specimen, shown to perfection. (Many could learn a thing or two from Fred on how to prepare birds for the show pen). The runner up to Best Show Racer was a Blue Chq pushed hard by a young mosaic of Charlie Portelli. The latter will really make a great adult and I expect to hear great things about in the coming show season. The Blue chequer I am told was used as a feeder, some feeder guys!!!! Well done.

The dragoons where a mixed bag and the winners all belonged to the same person. However if I could have found a way to get the winning Blue hen that went best of breed home I would have tried to get it back here, this bird had a tremendous muzzle and wattle, great out look and great eye. A real cracker make good use of her in the breeding Pen.



Pictured: John Hickman and Paul Littlewood



Pictured: Paul Littlewood & Charlie Rowe, looking over the breed champions.

Myself and Charlie Rowe then had the task of Judging Best in Show. This accolade went to the extremely well shown Show Racer of Fred Frendo, The first Time a British Show Racer has gone Best in Show in Australia I believe, well from the reaction the award got I think that was the case!!!! This bird was a worthy winner and was by far and away the fittest bird on winners row. The reserve award went to a Brunner of Blenheim Stud.

Many comments were made to me over the weekend over a range of subjects, however the following are mine, it's good to win but not all all cost's, to win with pigeons is not easy they have to be in condition and shown to win not just thrown in a pen and expect to take home the red card, nobody has a divine right to win, you win because you put the most into your show team to win. If you don't win or you don't like the judges decision just remember it's just one opinion nothing else but an opinion, if you don't like that opinion by all means express it but do it in manner that is befitting of the pigeon fancy world wide.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the majority of the members of Pigeon Fanciers NSW, I would call many of you friends now, it was good to meet up ex pat Ian Austin and catch up. But most of all it was a thrill to travel to the other side of the world to judge your show, see your birds, all with a common understanding that its our love of pigeons that brings us all together. Thank you for the invite and I sincerely hope its not the last time we meet each other.



Pictured: Peter Ryan with looking over his Champion Barbs, and others exhibited at the show.



Pictured: Ray Gutsche – judging the Showpen homers



Pictured: Champion Modena – Wayne Parnell



PFS Christmas Meeting Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW Inc. Annual Christmas Meeting! All welcome – Members and Guests! Meeting starts 7.30pm.

Tuesday 20th December 2016.

Time to catch up with fellow fanciers & talk pigeons! Bring of a plate of snacks along if you wish! So come to the next meeting and the party after! Hope See you all there!

Pictured: Champion Showpen Homer – Dennis Murphy

Next Issue: PFS Special edition – PFS celebrating 100 years.

Happy Holidays

From your friends at
the PFS of NSW Inc.



**Pictured: Joel Carder with
one of his potential 2017
Champions :)**