

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

PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW INC

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018



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

THE PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC.

<u>PATRONS:</u>	JOHN HANSON
<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	VACANCY
<u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u>	WALTER HITCHELL AND FRED FRENDO
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<u>RING SECRETARY/ MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR</u>	ROBERT JAKOVLJEVIC & ROB GOLIC
<u>EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER:</u>	LISA & CATHERINE WEEKES, P.O.BOX 28, TOWN CENTRE, MT DRUITT NSW 2770 PHONE: (02) 9628-1081 Email: mweekes@bigpond.net.au
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<u>YOUNG BIRD SHOW SECRETARY:</u>	VACANCY
<u>ANNUAL SHOW SECRETARY:</u>	CATHERINE WEEKES – P.O.BOX 28, TOWN CENTRE, MOUNT DRUITT NSW 2770 PHONE: (02) 9628-1081 Email: mweekes@bigpond.net.au
<u>AWARDS COMMITTEE:</u>	JOHN HANSON, WALTER HITCHELL (OAM)
<u>PAVILION MANAGERS:</u>	FRED FREN
<u>PUBLICITY OFFICER:</u>	LISA AND CATHERINE WEEKES
<u>CHIEF STEWARD:</u>	FRED FRENDO
<u>MEMBERSHIP PARTICULARS:</u>	NEW MEMBERS - Emailed - \$20.00 or Printed - \$35.00 JUNIOR'S (UNDER 16'S) – Emailed - \$5.00 or Printed - \$20.00 RENEWAL – PENSIONER – Emailed - \$8.00 or Printed - \$23.00 RENEWAL SENIOR & COMBINED FAMILY RATE – Emailed \$15.00 or Printed - \$30.00

Please note that the renewal of membership falls due on the 1st July each year. Cheques and money orders must be made payable to the PFS of NSW Inc. and can be mailed to the Membership Co-Coordinator, Derek Garland, address as indicated above, New Membership enquires and membership forms can be obtained from the secretary, either show secretaries or from the PFS website – www.pfsnsw.com

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 \$5.00 POSTAGE.

**THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS HEREIN ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE PFS OF NSW INC.,
IT'S COMMITTEE OR THE EDITOR.**



PRESIDENTS REPORT

John Hickman

Welcome members to our 2018 Spring Newsletter. It has been generally more quiet than usual through winter, especially when we have not held shows for the past two years. Ipswich and a Victorian pigeon club have conducted successful shows without any outbreaks of the pigeon virus recorded, which is very good news. Our committee strongly believes will attempt to hold two shows next. We are aiming for a Young Bird Show on Sunday 26th May 2019 and our Annual Show on Sunday 30th June, 2019. We wish to point out if you attend our shows and exhibit birds, that you will do so at **YOUR OWN RISK** and our Club cannot take responsibility for the health of your birds.



On **Tuesday 16th October**, we held our Annual general Meeting. I would like to thank Walter Hitchell, Lisa and Catherine Weekes and Dennis Murphy for the splendid work they have done this year. It is very pleasing to be able to welcome Mark Wilson as our new Treasurer and Robert Jakovljevic and Rob Golic who will combine to carry out jointly the Ring Secretary and Membership Co-ordinator duties for the coming year. We are setting up a Post Office Box for all correspondence for these gentlemen. When this is available we will advise you on our website and the updated forms will also be on the web for you to use. We will have this organised by our next Meeting Night in November. The two Robs have also indicated that you can organise to order and collect Rings at our Monthly Meetings at 7.30 pm. in the Pigeon Pavilion, at Fairfield Showgrounds.



Pictured: English Modena (locksmith pt 97) of Italian Mauro Goletto Champion 2017 and European Champion Photo: R.Comi

I am reviewing our membership list and will start to delete names of members who have not renewed their memberships to the Club after this Newsletter. Thank you to the members who have rejoined for 2019. I am standing down from the position of President and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of holding this position for the past six years. Also for the support I have experienced from our hard working committees.

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PIGEON FANCIER SOCIETY OF NSW INC – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

PFS Annual General Meeting: Tuesday, 16th October, 2018.

Meeting Opened: 7.30pm.

Attendance and Apologies: As per attendance book.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Minutes were read and voted on as a true and accurate account of AGM.

Election of Office Bearers for 2018 – 2019:

Patron: John Hanson

President: “Vacant”

Vice Presidents: Walter Hitchell and Fred Frendo

Secretary: Walter Hitchell

Treasurer: Mark Wilson

Ring Secretary and Membership Co-ordinators: Robert Jakovljevic and Rob Golic

Young Bird Show Secretary: Vacant

Annual Show Secretary: Catherine Weekes

Publicity Officers: Lisa and Catherine Weekes

Newsletter Editors: Lisa and Catherine Weekes

Website Supervisors: Lisa and Catherine Weekes

Awards Committee: Water Hitchell, John Hanson and Fred Frendo

Pavilion Manager: Fred Frendo

Chief Steward: Fred Frendo

General Business:

Welcome to our new committee members, we hope you have a successful and enjoyable year. Our Ring Secretary will be will be at our Monthly meeting for our members to buy and collect rings. Fred Frendo thanked John Hickman for his services to the club for the past 6 years.

Meeting Closed: 7.45 pm





PIGEON FANCIER SOCIETY OF NSW INC – MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 2018

PFS General Meeting: Tuesday, 16th October, 2018.

Meeting Opened: 7.45 pm

Chairperson: John Hickman

Attendance and Apologies: As per the Attendance book.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Read and agreed to as a true and accurate account.

Moved: Fred Frendo, Seconded: Rob Golic.

Business Arising: Nil.

Correspondence: Vaccine Survey from Lisa Weekes. Letter from Walter - RE: Virus. To general business.

Moved: Fred Frendo, Seconded: Robert Jakovljevic.

New Members: Nil

Financial Statements: Nil

Accounts: Nil

General Business:

- Survey results about members intentions about Virus Vaccine usage, 17 respondents, a very good first step in communication with our members.
- Walter's article about the stage of development of the Rota Virus and our Shows for next year were discussed. This should be included in our next Newsletter.
- Robert to start a Post Office Box for member to send Ring Orders and Membership applications.
- John Hickmans to collect the rings and all the information from Dennis and deliver them to Robert Jakovljevic.
- John Hickman also give Rob Golic my information on members information for him to continue to the process.
- These will start when a Post Office Box is acquired and the Rings are collected from Dennis.
- Then we will have to update our Website and application forms after these actions have been completed. Hopefully, this will begin at the November meeting.



Meeting Closed: 8.15 pm

PFS SHOWS IN 2019 UPDATE

Walter Hitchell

Background: At our 1st meeting this year the development of a Rota vaccine had not advanced to a stage where shows could be held this year. It was decided that we would have our two shows this due to the damage to the Fancy by not holding shows. We planned these to be 1 day shows (to minimise chances of infection) and held at exhibitors risk. Within a couple of weeks from information available it appeared that a vaccine had been developed and should be available. We cancelled the planned Shows and decided to wait on further information before holding our shows. This went on and on with no real progress.

While there is a vaccine for PMV1 it needs to be administered on a yearly basis and exhibitors are to certify that this has been done. Exhibitors who have vaccinated have coverage for their birds and obviously those who haven't are at risk if any infected birds are shown. It appears that many racing federations are flying and of course their birds are at significant risk while being transported.

There are many racing pigeons lost in the course of a season and it doesn't appear that losses have been greater than normal but this would be difficult to quantify.

The feeling from ANPA is that the Fancy is being damaged by not holding Shows and have scheduled their own Annual Show for July 2019 in Adelaide. There is a chance of a vaccine being released subject to Government approval. There have been many negotiations going on between various parties and we can only hope. If this doesn't occur the Show will still be held.

We are planning our Young Bird Show on Sunday 26th May 2019 and an Annual Show for Sunday 30th June 2019.

Due to no guarantees that exhibitors have vaccinated their birds and at this point in time no vaccine for Rota virus, we will not be asking for a declaration but emphasise that birds are **exhibited at owners risk**.

This decision was reached due to Fanciers leaving the fancy and this is very dangerous to the future of the Fancy.

The following was released to ANPA Committee for their information from "David Lewis - Oct 2 at 7.10am".

I spoke with Mark White yesterday from Treidlia Vet. It is hard to get an exact read on everything but I did glean some things. He is beginning to make the vaccine in commercial volumes, It does not seem he will do more testing except blood tests to see the antibody scores.

"It still requires approval from the government. He does not have a time frame on this but is hopeful it is soon".

His first release of the vaccine will be app 100,000 doses. We will be able to purchase direct from him but he is keen to deal with large associations or clubs rather than individuals. ANPA may need to play a role in this to coordinate orders or it is done at a state level.

"From all of this it give you some hope the key is the Govt approval".

Have you completed the Vaccine Survey yet?

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SX858TF>



**TWO
PROFESSIONAL
PIGEON RACERS
IN CHINA ARE
GOING TO
PRISON FOR
SMUGGLING
THEIR BIRDS TO
THE FINISH LINE
ON A BULLET**

Two professional pigeon racers in China were sent to jail for three years after they were found guilty of cheating in the 2017 Shanghai Pigeon Race.

The racers trained their four pigeons to meet near the start line after the race began. Then they smuggled the pigeons into a box labeled as "milk," then transported them to the finish line via bullet train. A Shanghai court later found them guilty of fraud. Pigeon racing is popular and lucrative in China. The winner of the Shanghai Pigeon Race can get \$160,000 in prize money.

Two professional pigeon racers in China were given three years in jail on Tuesday for cheating in a 466-mile race - by smuggling their animals on a bullet train to the competition's finish line.

The men, named Gong and Zhang, won the 2017 Shanghai Homing Pigeon Race last May, which involved racing pigeons across 750 km (466 miles) over a number of days, China's state-owned tabloid Global Times reported on Tuesday. The race's winners can get 1.09 million yuan (\$160,000) in prize money. Gong and Zhang had secretly trained their four pigeons to fly to a rendezvous point near the start line in Shangqiu, east China, shortly after the beginning of the race on April 29, the Global Times said. The men then smuggled the birds into boxes, labelled as "milk," and took them onto a high-speed train to the finish line in Shanghai, where they released the birds, the newspaper reported. The birds arrived at the finish line on May 1, the tabloid reported. The length of the train ride was not clear.

When Gong and Zhang's pigeons claimed all four top spots in the race, other competitors challenged the race times, the Global Times reported. It's not clear how long pigeons typically take to reach the finish line in this race. The men also turned down the prize money after being accused of cheating, prompting the race organizers to file their own charges as well, the Global Times reported. A district court in Shanghai later found both men guilty of fraud, the newspaper said. The distance between the pigeon race's start line in Shangqiu and finish line in Shanghai is about 750 km (466 miles). Pigeon racing has boomed in China over recent years, and appears to be a lucrative trade. Earlier this year, Xing Wei, a property tycoon in China, paid \$490,000 for a Belgian pigeon named Nadine to win pigeon races, [the Financial Times reported](#). An unnamed Chinese businessman [also bought a pigeon named Bolt](#) - named after the Olympic runner Usain Bolt - to take part in races for \$400,000 in 2013.

THE JOHN DECARLO JR STORY

“I just keep breeding, you know. I will probably never be without pigeons”.

Speaking to a world class pigeon breeder like John DeCarlo Jr. was not as nerve-racking as I thought it would be and it was not because he acted discouragingly considering his status is life but rather because his humility despite fame and success, “Just normal, easy going – like I don’t get too upset, I like pigeons, baseball and of course, my family – number one” he starts off in the interview and everything was smooth thereafter. DeCarlo was with his charming wife, Angie, who had been all-smiles to us throughout the evening while he was sharing his vivid stories on the fancy pigeon hobby.

Several months earlier, Rico Nabong of the National Pigeon Association (NPA)’s affiliated club, the Philippine Nations Association (PNPA), announced to us that their grand show would be very special because John Jr, will be the one judging it.

DeCarlo and his wife had arrived from the United States when we met them for the interview a five-star hotel in

Pasay City. The couple only took a short nap and immediately headed to meet us for the interview in the evening with some of his close friends from PNPA – Rico Nabong, Rafael Melendres and Jason Bacosa who came from Palawan and had been very accommodating too throughout that night.

John DeCarlo Jr. is everyone’s idol breeder but not all know his background.



HIS YOUNGER YEARS - Following his dad’s order, young John Jr. began his interest in pigeons at five. John DeCarlo Sr., his dad back then had 1500 to 2000 birds being controlled by everything automatic except when all are in their individual pens. Every day, after school, at around 2:30 in the afternoon, while his dad was away working, it was his job to attend to the birds, making sure they were well. *“So when I got home from school like 2:30, I would come in, drop my backpack, and ran at the back for the birds,”* he shares.

In charge of his dad’s pigeons starting at the young age, John Jr, cultivated his liking of birds and developed his own choice of breeds. His dad used to have 80 different breeds, but he retired with English Trumpeter.

His dad became known as an all-time breeder for that breed (English Trumpeter). The young John Jr. had already his favorites’ – *the African Owls and the Chinese Owls. “I just love them since I was a kid. You know they were separate from anything that my dad had. And he always wanted me to have my own breed. And so you know, you don’t want to breed the same thing as your dad. So I wouldn’t be in his shadow”,* he says. And though his dad trained him on almost everything about the hobby, John Jr. admits that for this African Owls and Chinese Owls, other people influenced him on these breeds. *“My dad trained me but not on those breeds. They are not his,* he says.

Ed Pointer, a famous pigeon breeder in US and also one of his best friends, is probably the greatest breeder of all time of African Owls by far , says John Jr.. *“Every bird I’ve got is from him and he had taught me everything a person should know,”* he says. And then for Chinese Owls, he admits that there were difference people who also guided him on the bird.

Beside breeding and breeds, John Jr, would help is dad together with some breeders set up the paraphernalia of the Great Western Pigeon Show – the fourth (4th) biggest show in the country that was founded in the 1960’s which his father had taken over the years. *My dad had been involved with it since about 1965. He was always president when I was a kid. It was in the San Jose area. The meetings were held the first Saturday of the month and we go every month. I don’t know who the founding members were. I was not born yet when the show started but we’ve kept it going – dad and I, Angie and a few other members locally, John Heppner, Russing Crowell and Roger Curl,”* he shares.

John Jr. joined the National Pigeon Association (NPA) too still very young. When he was a kid, his dad would even pay their dues in the club. *“We were just members. I mean it’s a little different in America*

that in the Philippines. You can just join a club. You send in twenty (20) dollars when you’re a member and you’re done your part”, he recalls.

When John Jr, reached 20’s, he started traveling a little more and acquiring more than he only has as a kid.

GROWN UP - For 32 years, John Jr. stretched way far! From a five-year old kid, now, he’s 37 with a couple of high-end recognitions as a pigeon breeder under his belt.

This year, he officially sits as the new president of the umbrella club of all 50 states in America – the National Pigeon Association (NPA). He has served the club as an officer for years. *“I was a director for probably six (6) years and was the vice president for maybe four (4),”* he points out.

From a simple liking of the breeds, now, John Jr. master breeder of African Owls and Chinese Owl and he keeps 20 more breeds. *“I have Budapest, Short Face, Norwich Cropper, Reversewing Pouters, Hungarians, and I have different types of coloured pigeons like Komorner Tumblers, German Long Face plus I have imported some birds recently from Europe,”* he reveals with a smile.

But for breeding, he does not set himself as the standards; rather, the secret to his success in breeding is to breed towards the standard. *“I don’t incorporate my own. The standard is what I try to breed towards. I don’t try to change it”*. He says, having the same principle in judging.

For judging, the biggest challenge for him will be – having to pick between the best two or three and some of the larger breeds, because you will have to start sneak-peeking at that time so you have a lot of really nice birds and you can only pick one per breed. *“I don’t have a standard. There’s a standard that each breeds has, so you can just try to find the birds that’s closest to that standard. You just try to find the best bird that encompasses the best bird within the breed. Taking into consideration all of the features,”* he says.

He adds that NPA sets this “standard” and they revise and update it as often as it needs to. *“The standards get revised constantly, too, I mean but most standards are fairly old. The specialty clubs is what we call the club for each breed. They are in charge of the standard. Usually those clubs will vote amongst each other if they want to make a minor change,”* he shares.

John Jr. explains that the NPA is like an umbrella club for everyone for almost all breeds has their own club. For example, there is a

special club for Chinese Owls, a special club for African Owl and others.

John Jr. traveled a lot through time judging various pigeon shows. He has been to Australia where he judged in a couple of shows for two (2) weeks and also in Canada, in Mexico and also in the US. He also acted as judge in the recent President's Cup in the Philippines, hosted by PNPA, *"The state of fancy pigeons seems to be very good here. Fortunately here are the Philippines, there are quite a few young people that breed pigeons – and the pigeons are nice! They'd done well – importing birds, racing good birds out of them. So, by the looks of it, the pigeons are very nice,"* he says.

The presence of young breeders in the event also pleased John Jr, and he is encouraging everyone to keep up the hobby. *"You have to care for something; this hobby will teach you how to be responsible."*

It'll keep you out of trouble. I've had them my whole life. My dad has them, my grandfather had them – it's a very rewarding hobby," he admits.

John Jr. is grateful for being invited by his good friend Rico Nabong to come over to the Philippines and judging in the years' grand show of PNPA. *"I am really happy he did. We had a great time, it's been a blast here in the Philippines",* he says. (Jhestine Ebron)

WHAT DOES JOHN JR. THINK ABOUT SOME BREEDS AND OTHERS? Chinese Owl and African Owl

"I like the station and the round head of course," he says. *The round head is the most important thing they should also be small and they should stand properly. There is quite a few points in the head but the problem is a lot of people just look at the head when that is not all, there is a lot of different features to the breed. And the Chinese Owl obviously has a huge frill in the front and they have a collar. They have pants (pantaloons) but they should also station and make smooth over the back. There are so many things that encompass what the proper birds should look like,"*

FAILURE - *"Every year I experience a lot of failures,"* he admits. *"I mean you don't win every time. You know, it's good that one person doesn't win every time so you can spread around. That just goes with the hobby."*

DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE ADVICE? Firstly, don't overcrowd the birds because they'll be healthier, they'll look better and they'll breed better if not overcrowded, second, the main thing is to have a system. You have to go every day – check the eggs – make sure the birds are okay. I swore to have a routine every day in what I do. You've got to be on top of it in order to succeed. Third, there is always health you know but with a good vaccination program.

THOUGH BUSY, the three - Rico Nabong, PNPA club adviser (left) and Rey Macam, PNPA VP-External (3rd right) and JDC (center) still find time to laugh. The three obviously love what they do. Photo by Ferdz Yanga



EMBRACING THE HOBBY. JDC's wife Angie DeCarlo enjoys herself around while the show - the 2015 PNPA President's Cup goes on. Photo by Ferdz Yanga

BRUNNER POUTER NEWS FROM THE USA

Layne Gardner

My wife, Kenna, and I had some big changes this past June when I retired from teaching music and moved from California to Utah. The move necessitated moving our pigeons in addition to our household goods. We were fortunate to have a friend with a trailer in which we were able to load the birds, pigeon supplies, and other related items. I joked that we looked like the Beverly Hillbillies driving down the road. Fortunately, all the birds made the trip just fine and none of them developed any sickness or had any problems.

I had two buildings we had built previously but they were just empty buildings without any nest boxes or roosts. I've spent the entire summer dividing the lofts, putting up roosts, nest boxes, and building an additional building. I've joked that I've never worked so hard—even when working full time! But things are getting closer to being finished so I'm glad for that. One of the things I'm trying is using the nest boxes as show prep cages.

The birds are isolated, which makes them perform considerably better in the show pen. Speaking of shows, I'm excited to exhibit at the Utah Premier Show at the beginning of November, the Pageant of Pigeons toward the end of November, the Myrtle Beach Grand National in January, and finally at the Grand Circle Pigeon Club's Hurricane, Utah Show in February. It looks like I won't be able to make the Great Western Pigeon Show in Watsonville, California. I'm very disappointed at this as it's an excellent show.



Layne's New Lofts and Nests!!

I hope that at the shows you attend, you pay close attention to the judging. We've been fortunate to have judges who point out both good and bad points on our birds to help give us direction in our breeding programs. When a judge notes that a particular bird is rather thick in the shoulders, compare it to a bird that is slender and refined in Brunner Pouters. When comments revolve around needing a round globe, contrast that bird with one that has a globe that springs out and is round. Sometimes, we hear comments but don't pay enough attention to help us solidify our understanding of the standard and help us in moving our breeding program forward. These are some of our main goals and I hope we'll all be a bit more engaged in judges' comments.

Here in Utah I've had the opportunity to show birds at two Fairs: our local county Fair and the Utah State Fair. What a great way to get our birds in front of the public! I urge everyone to consider what can be done to increase interest in the pigeon hobby in your area.

Sometimes I get a bit busy at shows. If I don't get a chance to chat with you at one of our shows please see that you speak with me. I'd like to meet everyone and our share a passion for the Brunner Pouter.

Wishing everyone a super show season filled with success and above all, a renewing of friendships of the making of new ones!

GRANSDEN SHOW UK 2018

Below: Section winner – Black West – Owned by Andrew Lowe



Above: Andrew Lowe, young Pom showing off on Brian Joyce's hand



We are trying something new, from time to time members who have supplied us with a valid email address may be contacted with some digital news, with club updates, happenings within the club,

This might include important information that we will need you to respond to. Sometimes it might be a simple reply of Yes or No, or recently those who have participated in the recent survey we sent out about vaccinating your birds.

This will also be a way to communicate feedback to members with what has been happening between our monthly meeting, newsletters and notices on the website and Facebook.

<https://www.pfsnsw.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PigeonFanciersSocietyOfNswInc/>

Remember you can always keep up-to-date, by looking at the club website or visiting us on our Facebook page, or dropping an email to one of our committee members, they are more than happy to help you with any questions or even a chat over the phone. Hey, who doesn't love to talk about your birds.

So If you haven't supplied a valid email address to us, get working and correct it by dropping a email to our committee members.