

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

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PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW INC

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NEWSLETTER 2016

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THE PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NSW SOUTH WALES INC.

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<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 \$2.50 POSTAGE.

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



"Great as are the differences between the breeds of the pigeon, I am fully convinced that the common opinion of naturalists is correct, namely, that all are descended from the rock-pigeon (*Columba livia*)."

—Excerpt from Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species* (1859)



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PRESIDENTS REPORT

John Hickman

Welcome to the 1st edition of our newsletter for 2016. I sincerely hope you and your families have had a peaceful and rewarding festive season. At our last Annual General Meeting we voted in some familiar members into our Executive Committee. Thank you to all our volunteers for stepping forward to tackle the challenges we face this year.

Our committee for 2016 is: Patron: John Hanson, President: John Hickman, Vice Presidents: Fred Frendo and Walter Hitchell OAM, Secretary: Walter Hitchell OAM, Treasurer: Jim MacKay, Membership coordinator and Ring secretary: Derek Garland, Show Secretaries, Publicity and News Letter Editors: Lisa & Catherine Weekes, Pavilion Managers: Anthony Duncan, Jacob Duncan and Peter Ryan.

The PFS are looking forward to a big 2016. This year we celebrate 100 years of existence at our Eastern Classic. Please come along and exhibit your birds and celebrate this great milestone. We are planning on having some outstanding overseas judges attending. You will be informed of their names in another newsletter. I would also like to invite any State and Interstate Specialist Pigeon Clubs to join us at the end of June 2016. We hope to make it worthwhile if you join in our celebrations.

To our PFS members thank you for all your support in previous years and if you can send me an email or ring me with any of your suggestions for making it the best show ever, it will be greatly appreciated. If you have any old photos or articles relating to the PFS from past years feel free to send them to Lisa Weekes at email: mweekes@bigpond.net.au if we have sufficient material we may make up a catalogue and include them in a later newsletter. Any members from the past or memorable occasions are most welcome.

Unfortunately there have been two more Virus notifications in the west of Sydney. So remember to give a booster vaccine to your older birds and 2 vaccines for your young birds.

I hope your breeding season has been successful and remember to come and celebrate this exciting year with us at the Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW. John ☺

SHOW HOMER

~

OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLES.

By: Jos de Poel



In recent years the standard drawing of the Show Homer has changed.

Not that the breed has suddenly modernized, but the bird depicted in the drawing no longer corresponds with the current state of the breed in the Netherlands.

Below: Show Homer, indigo. Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).



Left: 'Hot off the press' - This blue black barred Show Homer won "Europa Meister" at the European Show in Metz in 2015. The owner/photographer is Marc Weber (F).

The differences are actually in the head-line and a shorter rear section. We are silently hoping that through this modernization, the number of fanciers wanting to start with this breed will increase. Fortunately, this has recently been the case in the Netherlands. Let's hope they manage to reach the level of the old reputable breeders; I'm confident they will.

The obstacles you encounter with this breed should be a challenge, but it is deterring breeders from beginning.



Left: Blue chequer Show Homer. Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).

Whether or not this number will increase in the coming years, is difficult to say. Given the marked decline in recent years, this seems unlikely.

I would like to see a change in fortunes for this impressive breed and start looking for fanciers who are searching for a second breed, not just the Show Homer specifically, but the Homer Breeds in general.

Still the show Homer is a big wide pigeon, which radiates power. For a significant part this is attributable to his raptor-like appearance, partly due to its white iris, making it seem like they look through you. The clearly drawn head shape required without any flattening in the forehead - something that quite easily sneaks - coupled with a beautifully rounded back head. Viewed from the side the head shape runs slightly bent with the highest point just above the eyes. The skull is required as broadly as possible and there is plenty of padding to be present between the eye and the skull.

The back is plain sloping, with the wings should covers the back well; the tail passes through the in line with the back. It is utopian to expect a breed with such a head length will have a short rear section. You can expect any leniency from the judges in their judgment. Which in no way means that we are no longer try to find a short type. As so often, the middle way is the best way.

A good rule of thumb in should be marked down to 93 points. Even birds that stand horizontally (which is not rare) should not be awarded more than 93 points.



Right: Show Homer, blue grizzle. Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).

The wings are carried on the tail, although in practice this is also often not the case. The covering of the back is and will be a difficult issue, not only in this breed, but also in other large broad breeds. It is simple to mark those points - as well as a heavy or loose tail – as a defect or fault, because it detracts from the overall picture.

The overall impression of this variety is also given by the strength of the beak, which must be strong with both mandibles of equal strength; logically, is they should fit closely together.



***Above: Show Homer, blue black bar.
Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).***

To achieve the latter, the breeder regularly has to clear the beak of old horn with a small file, otherwise new horn growth will turn be insufficient. Also, in this way, the natural difference in strength between the upper and lower beak mandibles is somewhat reduced. Do this throughout the year and it will create the best results and prevent too much having to be taken off at any one time. The imaginary line of the beak (between the two mandibles) runs through the middle of the snow-white eye. The wattles are V-shaped and fine in texture.

The face (head) of a Show Homer is never too long. Frequently the face length (forehead) measures over 5 cm. / 2 inches. The face length refers to the distance from the tip of beak to the centre of the eye.

The stance – though I prefer to use the term carriage because it better highlights what is being sought - is bold and upright. We prefer to see the Show Homers with hard and close fitting plumage, making them appear considerably more vital than if they have loose feathering. Unfortunately we still see a lot of birds with this loose fault. A perfect breastbone is difficult to achieve, but with current knowledge about nutrition it should be possible to improve on this. It is therefore out of the question that pigeons with this fault should be awarded high points.



***Above: Show Homer, Andalusian blue.
Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).***

The fecundity of Show Homers is somewhat lower than that of many other breeds in the Homer group. In an early starting breeding season they will produce 4 to 6 youngsters. Prior to the breeding season, the tail feathers of the cocks are shortened in order to improve fertilization, and the feathers around the cloaca are clipped away.

The Show Homers are quite able to rear their own youngsters. In the recent past there have been several breeders who started with the Show Homer, only to run into problems with moderate fertility. An even greater deterrent was the great difficulty in controlling moisture in the loft - wet droppings and the resulting wet spots in the loft made them decide to stop with this breed.



**Left: Show Homer, black.
Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).**

When I talk to German breeders about this problem, I am told that they select against it - the greatest 'sprayers' go out first, etc. But if just twice a week probiotics are added to the drinking water, the drinking water, this problem will soon disappear. The breed deserves more than just two or three breeders in our country. We can say that our eastern neighbors have again succeeded in reviving an (almost) forgotten breed, by taking the Show Homer under their wing and carrying it to great heights. At one of the German exhibitions I saw an aviary with white Show Homers (white by the grizzle factor); not all top animals, but a fine collection that much more attention should be given to.



**Right: Show Homer, blue grizzle. Owner/Photo:
Marc Weber (F).**

My colleague Marc Weber, from the French club Téterchen, won meritorious 'Deutsche Meister' (German Master Breeder) at the European Show in Metz with a blue blackbar Show Homer cock. On 23-24 January 2016, Marc is organizing an International Homer Show in St. Avold, France. It would be nice if there was a good delegation of breeders from the Netherlands and Belgium at this international affair.



**Right: Show Homer, ash red bar. (Creamy).
Owner/Photo: Marc Weber (F).**

PIGEON BREEDING: GENETICS AT WORK

CREST - Some pigeons have smooth heads, like their wild ancestors had. But on some domestic pigeons, the feathers on the back of the head and neck stand up to form a crest. Both of the pigeons pictured to the right are colored spread blue. The one on the right has a small crest, while the one on the left has no crest.

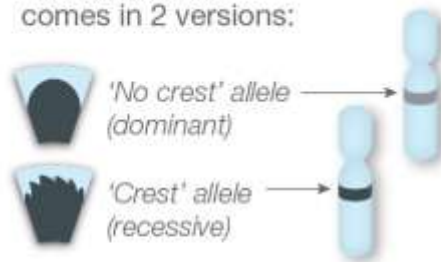


“ALLELES & INHERITANCE” - In pigeons, one gene controls the presence or absence of a crest. This gene comes in 2 different versions, or alleles: ‘crest’ and ‘no crest’ (‘no crest’ is also called wild type).

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

The ‘no crest’ allele is dominant to the ‘crest’ allele. To have a crest, a bird must have two copies of the ‘crest’ allele.

The *Crest* gene comes in 2 versions:



Genotype	Phenotype

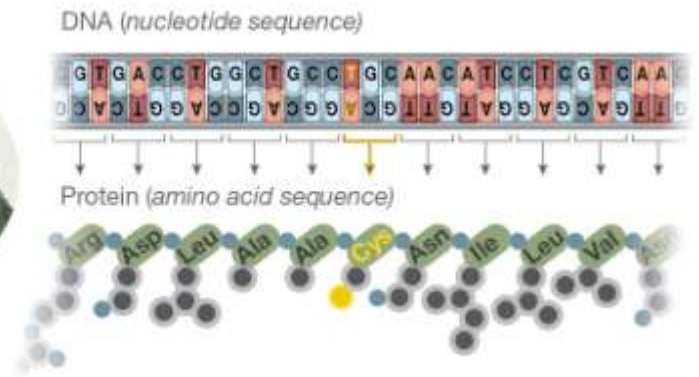
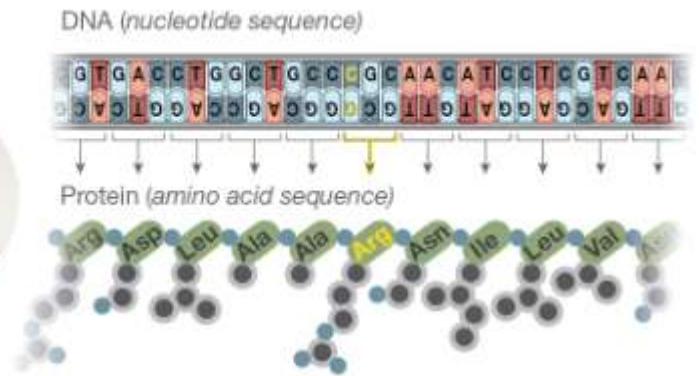


Left: Short Faced Crested Helmet

The Short Faced Crested Helmet is characterized by a white body with a colored tail and colored cap on the head

“FROM DNA TO PROTEIN: FINDING THE GENE FOR THE CREST”

Inherited characteristics are the products of proteins, and proteins are coded for by genes. Ultimately, the differences in our (and pigeons’) inherited characteristics arise from differences in the DNA sequences of our genes. DNA differences can affect how a protein functions, or when and where a protein is made. In 2013, a group of researchers at the University of Utah, led by Professor Mike Shapiro, identified the genetic variation that causes the crest phenotype.



To find the *crest* gene, the research team looked at the genomes of 42 pigeons (representing 37 breeds, plus 2 feral birds and a closely related species) some with crests and some without. They compared the DNA sequences, and they found a region of DNA that was different between crested and non-crested birds. The region contained one gene, called *EphB2* (short for Ephrin receptor B2).

When the researchers looked at another 130 birds, they saw a 100% correlation: all birds with crests had two copies of the ‘crest’ version of *EphB2*, and all birds without crests had at least one copy, and more often two, of the ‘no crest’ version of *EphB2*.

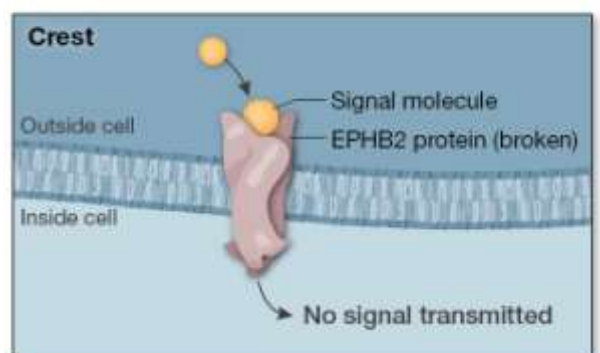
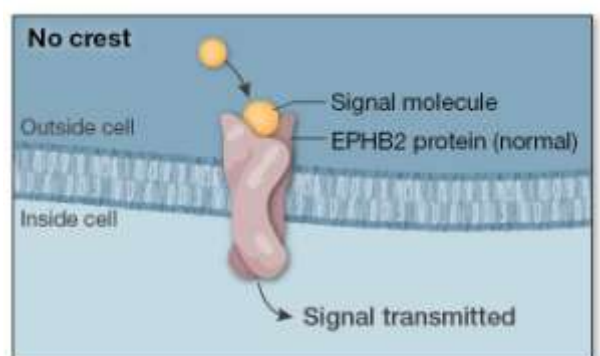
Groups of 3 nucleotides along a stretch of DNA code for specific amino acids in a protein. The protein-coding portions of the ‘crest’ and ‘no crest’ alleles differ by just one nucleotide, and they code for proteins that differ by just one amino acid. A small portion of the DNA and amino acid sequences are shown on the right.

“CREST” & “NO CREST”

ALLELES CODE FOR SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PROTEINS

The crest phenotype is visible very early, while a chick is still developing inside the egg. As soon as neck and head feathers appear, they start to grow “backward.” Instead of pointing down toward the tail, the feathers point upward toward the top of the head. The *EPHB2* protein appears to have something to do with setting up feather orientation even earlier in development.

The ‘no crest’ allele codes for a protein that functions normally. It sits in the cell membrane, and when a certain signal from outside the cell attaches to it, it transmits a signal to the inside of the cell.



The 'crest' allele codes for a protein that is broken. The one amino acid difference changes the shape of the protein, making it unable to transmit the signal.*

A bird with two normal alleles makes only normal EPHB2 protein. When a bird has one normal (i.e., 'no crest') and one broken (i.e., 'crest') allele, its cells make both normal and broken protein. There still is enough of the functioning protein around to transmit the signal. But a bird with two broken alleles makes only broken EPHB2 protein, which can't transmit the signal. We don't understand exactly how, but when the signal can't get through, the neck feathers grow upside-down—and the bird has a crest.

*This is the most likely explanation, based on DNA sequence and what we know about related proteins. However, we would need to do more experiments to know for sure.



“OTHER GENES INFLUENCE CREST SIZE AND SHAPE”

While one gene controls whether a pigeon has a crest or not, a variety of other genes influence crest size and shape. These genes are often called “modifier” genes—you can think of them as genes that modify the basic crest phenotype.

All of the birds shown on the right carry two copies of the 'crest' allele. Some of the crests are subtle, and others are quite extreme. The differences are due to different modifier alleles. There are probably several modifiers, each with slightly different effects. These genes were likely selected for by multiple breeders who were working with different breeds.

We don't understand the inheritance of these modifier genes, or exactly how they affect crest. If they behave like other modifiers, they may code for proteins that interact directly with EPHB2 or other proteins in the same molecular pathway.



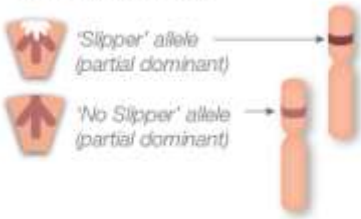
“FOOT FEATHERING”

Most pigeons have scales on their feet (and not feathers), the same as their wild ancestor. But some carry a genetic variation (or two) that gives them feathers on their legs and feet.

Feathering can be subtle, with just a hint of fuzz on the feet. It can also be so extreme that the feet look almost like an extra set of wings. And it can be almost anywhere in between.



The *Slipper* gene comes in 2 versions:



Genotype	Phenotype

“GENES AND INHERITANCE” - Foot feathering comes from variations in two genes: *slipper* and *grouse*. A bird that has the feathery versions of both *slipper* and *grouse* have an extreme form of foot feathering, called muff.

Slipper

The *slipper* gene comes in two versions, or alleles: ‘slipper’ and ‘no slipper.’ Pigeons inherit two copies of the *slippere* gene, one from each parent. The two alleles make up the bird’s genotype. What we see, or the phenotype, is the product of both alleles.

The two alleles, ‘slipper’ and ‘no slipper,’ are partial dominant (sometimes called incomplete dominant). That is, both alleles always influence the phenotype. So each allele combination, or genotype, has a different phenotype.

The *Grouse* gene comes in 2 versions:



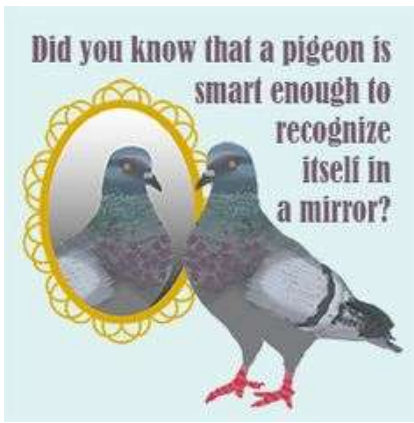
Genotype	Phenotype

Grouse

The *grouse* gene is completely separate from the *slippere* gene. It too comes in two versions: ‘grouse’ and ‘no grouse.’ And as with *slipper*, pigeons inherit two copies of *grouse*, one from each parent.



The ‘no grouse’ allele is dominant to the ‘grouse’ allele, and the ‘grouse’ allele is recessive to the ‘no grouse’ allele. To have the grouse phenotype, a bird must have two copies of the ‘grouse’ allele.



“MUFF” - *Grouse* and *slipper* work synergistically to make an extreme form of foot feathering, called muff. The largest muff (shown at the far left) comes about when a bird has two copies of the ‘slipper’ allele and two copies of the ‘grouse’ allele. Different allele combinations of *slipper* and *grouse* make birds with in-between amounts of foot feathering.

“MOST TRAITS ARE CONTROLLED BY MULTIPLE GENES” - When we learn about genetics, we commonly see lots of examples of inherited characteristics that are controlled by a single gene. Often with these examples, the genes come in just two versions (yellow or green peas; blue or brown eye color). However, single-gene either/or traits are actually quite rare.

Single-gene traits are useful for teaching the basics of inheritance. They emphasize that we inherit two copies of every gene, one from each parent, and the two copies together contribute to inherited characteristics. But such simple examples—which textbooks often oversimplify—can lead us to believe that all inherited characteristics work this way.

In Pigeonetics, we’ve tried to include some examples that show how multiple genes work together to form physical characteristics. Foot feathering, for instance, is an example that shows *slipper* and *grouse* (probably with small contributions from additional genes) working together to influence a single characteristic. But even this is a simple example.



Most of our traits are what we call “complex.” They involve the interactions of multiple genes, as well as the environment. Height, for example, clearly has a genetic component: tall parents tend to have tall children, and short parents tend to have short children. But the inheritance of height is unpredictable, and height is also influenced by what we eat. Children who are malnourished will not grow as tall as those who eat a healthy diet. Most traits work this way. Even traits controlled mainly by genes—including eye color, skin color, hair color, and hair texture—tend to involve multiple genes. And most traits—like risk of diabetes, cancer, or heart disease—involve multiple environmental factors as well.



2016 PIGEON SHOW CALENDAR

MAY 7-8: Summerland Pigeon Club Annual Show at Lismore Showground's. Contact Dwight Wyatt, 0418 628 157, email wyattab@bigpond.net.au

MAY 7: Riverina Pigeon Society Annual Show, Wagga Wagga Showground's. Contact John Hughes, 0447 686 201

MAY 21: Queensland State Pigeon Show, hosted by QPFS. Caboolture Showground's. Contact Barry Ross, (07) 3358 3677, email barrypigeons@bigpond.com

MAY 21: Meander Valley Pigeon Society (Tasmania) Show at Longford Showground's. Contact Matt Hay, 0427 509 943, email matthay26@bigpond.com

MAY 22: South Australian Canary & Pigeon Society, Young Bird and Yearling Show, Adelaide Showground's. Contact Ray Gutsche, ph 0418 828 582, email nadine.ray@internode.on.net

MAY 28-29: Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW Young Bird Show, Fairfield Showground's. Contact John Hickman, (02) 4384-3460 or 0458 036 074 email: john.hickman@y7mail.com

MAY 28-29: Modena Club of Queensland Northern Classic at Ipswich Showground's. Contact Warren Osborne oz1948@gmail.com (07) 54972063.

MAY 29: Fancy and Utility Pigeon Society (WA) table show, Brae Road, High Wycombe. Contact Dick Milner, 0439 831 760, email mrpigeon@bigpond.com.net.au.

MAY 29: Dandenong Fancy Pigeon Society Annual Show at Dandenong Showground's. Contact Evan Sculley, demonlion@bigpond.com

MAY 29: Ipswich Pigeon Specialist Club General Show at Ipswich Showground's. Contact John Wiseman, (07) 54643784, email john224@bigpond.com

JUNE 11-12: Twin Cities Fancy Pigeon Club Annual Show (Queens Birthday long weekend) at Albury Showground's Includes interstate judges. Contact Bill Vost, 0417 990 010, email homerbuild@bigpond.com

JUNE 11-12: Eyre Peninsula Fancy Pigeon Club Show (South Australia). Contact Michael Lanyon, 088649 2138.

JUNE 18: Meander Valley Pigeon Society (Tasmania) Show at Longford Showground's. Contact Matt Hay, 0427 509 943, email matthay26@bigpond.com

JUNE 18-19: Hunter Valley All Variety Pigeon Society 50th Anniversary Annual Show, at Maitland Showground's. Contact: Ron Wilton, email ron_wilton@hotmail.com or Gwen Wilton on (02) 4934 2329.

JUNE 18-19: South Australian Canary & Pigeon Society Annual Championship Show at Adelaide Showground's. Contact Ray Gutsche, ph 0418 828 582, email nadine.ray@internode.on.net

JUNE 18-19: Modena Club of South Australia Annual Show, Adelaide Showground's. Contact: Gavin Pearce, (08) 8278 3965.

JUNE 25-26: Modena Club of Queensland Annual Show, at Warwick Showground's. Contact Warren Osborne oz1948@gmail.com (07) 54972063.

JUNE 25-26: Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW Centenary Eastern Classic Show, Fairfield Showground's. Contact Cathy Weekes, PO Box 28, Town Centre, Mount Druitt, NSW. 2770. Email mweekes@bigpond.net.au

JUNE 26: Fancy and Utility Pigeon Society (WA) Championship show, Brae Road, High Wycombe. Contact Dick Milner, 0439 831 760, email mrpigeon@bigpond.com.net.au.

JUNE 26: Geelong & Districts All Breeds Pigeon Club Annual Show at Geelong Showground's. Contact Stephen Ferry, ferry.family@bigpond.com

JULY 3: Ipswich Specialist Pigeon Club Annual Show at Ipswich Showground's. Contact John Wiseman, (07) 54643784, email john224@bigpond.com

JULY 16: Meander Valley Pigeon Society (Tasmania) Show at Longford Showground's. Contact Matt Hay, 0427 509 943, email matthay26@bigpond.com

JULY 22-24: 33rd ANPA National Show, hosted by VSPF, at LaTrobe University, Melbourne. Contact Michael Spadoni, 0402 078 695, spud373au@yahoo.com

JULY 31: Fancy and Utility Pigeon Society (WA) table show, Brae Road, High Wycombe. Contact Dick Milner, 0439 831 760, mrpigeon@bigpond.com.net.au

BLENHAVEN STUD

INTERNATIONAL BREEDING CENTRE

AUSTRALIAS FOREMOST RACING PIGEON STUD

ABN: 97 154 572 820



Centenary Show – It's time to celebrate the Pigeon Fanciers Society of New South Wales 100th Show in June and we need you! The time is now, I am sure that you all have a picture, story, article, old show card, ribbon, medallion, trophy, rosette, certificate, catalogue or memento, anything that relates to the PFS, why not share it in our 100th for our catalogue that will tell the journey of our club!

All contributions are welcome, remember it can only happen with your support, why not get your name in print, and get involved, we only have a 100th show once, so why not be participate in the history the club, anything would be gratefully appreciated, all items will be returned, it would be great to see what we all can come up with. feel free to contact Catherine/Lisa Weekes on 02 96281081 or email: mweekes@bigpond.net.au we would love to hear from you all.

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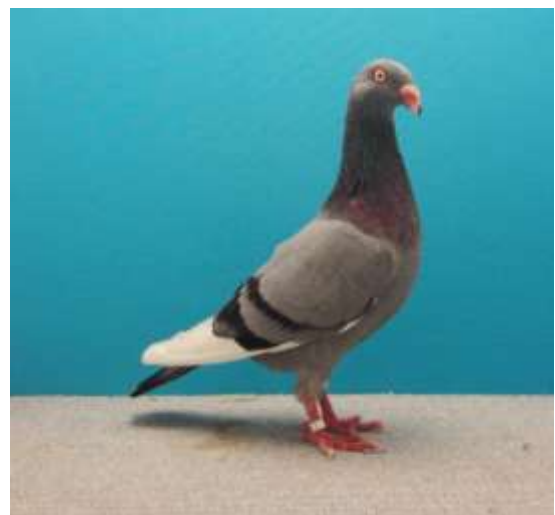
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TRUMPETERS AT THE DANISH NATIONAL SHOW

8 - 10 JANUARY 2016

Photo: Poul Erik Helweg/Frank H. Kristensen





PIGEON FANCIERS SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

EST. 1917
of NSW inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I hereby apply for membership of the Pigeon Fanciers Society of New South Wales. In support of such application, please supply the following information.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:..... Mobile:

Date of Birth (Juniors):.....

Email:.....

1. Do you belong to any other pigeon, poultry or cage club? [YES/NO]

If yes, please state the name of the club?.....

2. Have you ever been disqualified or refused membership to any other club or society?

.....

4. I am interested in or already keep the following breeds of pigeons:

.....

If my application is successful, I agree to abide by all the rules, regulations and by-laws of the Pigeon Fanciers Society of NSW Inc.

Signature:..... Date: ____/____/____.

Please complete the application form in full and forward together with applicable fees to:

RING SECRETARY/MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR
 Derek Garland - P.O.Box 685 Hoxton Park 2171
 Phone: 0431262997 EMAIL: legion@draxsen.net

Please make cheques or money orders payable to the “PFS of NSW Inc”

Membership Rates: **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

Renewal of membership falls due on 1st July each year. All new members that join thw society after 1st April and before the 30th June in the same year, their subscription is valid for the following year period.

