

# The Mackay-B-Divas

By Len Vanderlinde July 2016

Craig Porter walked down his back steps towards his pigeon loft, the house lights made it an easy walk but without the lights it would have been still too dark to transverse, dawn was still an hour or so away. The wind that had blown so strongly from the southeast the day before had died away during the night, at least for time being anyway. That strong south easterly headwind that had caused the change in the proposed release site, from Bowen back to Mackay, still at 810 kilometres Mackay was still a long way from home, especially flying into a strong headwind.

It wasn't the first time Craig had walked down those steps during the previous night, there was no chance the birds could make the trip home during day light, but maybe one pigeon, especially one pigeon, thought Craig, she might just put in that extra effort to get home during the hours of darkness. So he had got up several times during the night just in case, but there was no sign of her.

With the loft lights burning bright he fed and watered the stock and then took up his usual position on the old bench facing the loft about 20 metres away. The loft faces North, away from his house, so he was sitting with his back to the direction the birds should arrive, but that meant very little to him, as his mind drifted back to three weeks earlier.

He had been sitting on the same bench, waiting for arrivals from the same release point of Mackay, when suddenly a bird had appeared, he knew her immediately, the dark cheq pied hen, she dropped to the loft and he timed her at 6.35am on the second day to score a very good Open Federation victory with a velocity of 1014mpm. This was the very same hen he had sent back and was now waiting for in this race, could she do it a second time! She had come home the second day from a hard 450 klm race earlier in the season, and maybe she had found a point where she felt comfortable to stop overnight, but no doubt it involved some time flying in darkness to reach that point.

And then he recalled the good Blue Bar Pied hen, a full sister to the dark cheq pied that he had also clocked from Mackay at 10.43pm on Saturday night back on the 18<sup>th</sup> July during the first series, she also topped the Federation with a velocity of 917 mpm, and she was the only pigeon timed on the day of release. She wasn't in this race though, and it didn't end there thought Craig, back in 2012 he had clocked another full sister at 6.34am the second day, also from Mackay to win the Open Federation race yet again. The parents to these hens are certainly are a good pair of stock birds he chuckled, with a distinct liking for the North Queensland City of Mackay it seemed, with its mild winter climate and rolling fields of sugar cane, the Mackay-B-Divas he had decided to call them!

But had he sent the dark hen once too often he thought as the sun rose over the horizon, it's a long way and there are many dangers for the bird's to face on the way home!

Suddenly he was snapped out of his day dreaming by the flash of wings as a pigeon flew into sight, but instead of dropping to the loft, she did a couple of laps, showing off her ability in these difficult races, out came the dropper and she followed it into the trapping section, with a sigh of relief Craig timed in the dark cheq pied hen, she made it! And at 6.34am almost the same time that she had homed three weeks earlier, she must be flying on in the dark to a certain point before her early morning dash for home, he thought.



Figure 1: 10085 DCPH

As it turned out the Dark Hen was beaten into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Open Federation result by an early arrival up north, but it certainly didn't detract from her fabulous efforts in two very hard long distance races.

For the record...

In her first effort QPF 14 10085 Dark Cheq Pied Hen was clocked by Craig at 6.35am Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2015 with a flying time of 13:15:41 for 807klms at 1014mpm, next bird in the Fed was clocked by Kevin Clegg at 7.48am at 928mpm and another bird wasn't clocked until 9.07am, and 10<sup>th</sup> place in the Fed was clocked 12.13pm, so while the first two results in the Fed had made it look a fairly normal race there is no doubt in the minds of the rest of the Fed that it was indeed, a very hard one.



Figure 2: 120 BBPH

Her full sister QPF-14-120 Blue Bar Pied Hen was clocked from Mackay at 10.43pm Saturday night on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at a velocity of 917pm, next bird home was again clocked by Kevin Clegg at 7.42am the next morning, so 120 won the Fed by over 8 hours. Again the birds had to face into a southerly head wind for the trip home, although this time there was a little South West in the wind putting it a bit more on the bird's shoulder.

In that final race for the year from Mackay the birds were released at 6.40am on the Friday morning in the North Queensland city of Mackay into fine conditions with patchy cloud and a light South East head wind, which increased during the day to between 15 to 20kph for the journey south to Brisbane.

The Qld Racing Pigeon Federation removes hours of darkness from the result in these distance races. The time from 45 minutes after sunset to 45 minutes before sunrise are the hours that are removed from the flying time of second day birds in these races.

The Dark Hen was clocked in that last Mackay race at 6.34am after 14:26:23 on the wing (not counting the hours of darkness) for a velocity of 931mpm, beaten into 2<sup>nd</sup> Fed by an early bird for Brian Daley who clocked at 5.07am. There is no doubt both birds did some extra work after the sun went down the previous evening for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place wasn't clocked until 9.50am on that second morning.

The QRPF had planned for two releases, one from Bowen at 970klms and another from Townville at 1080klms but the management committee wisely brought the release back to Mackay, based on the weather forecast of strong southeast headwinds on both Friday and Saturday. There were only 9 birds home on the clock-in day and only 15 flyers managed to get a clock by the Monday night, so there is little doubt that had the birds been sent to Bowen and Townsville a complete disaster would have likely been the result.

The last sister of the Mackay-B-Divas is QPF 11 2009 BBH, who was timed from Mackay on 28 July 2012 at 6.34am the second morning at a velocity of 1224mpm for 1<sup>st</sup> Open Fed and backed that up by being placed 7<sup>th</sup> Fed again from Mackay on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 timed at 10.13am second day for a velocity of 796mpm.

The city of Mackay in the Whitsunday region of Queensland and situated on the banks of the Pioneer River is considered the sugar capital of Australia, because it produces a third of Australia's cane sugar. Craig Porter has a very unique pair of stock birds, whose offspring show a distinct liking for that city or more correctly the Mackay-B-Divas have found a way to conquer the journey home from this distance release!

Craig had a complete auction sale back in 2003 of all his stock, at the time it seemed he may not race again for some time, but he kept a round of youngsters just in case. As luck would have it, he was able to start-up

again sooner than expected, but it has taken quite a few years to develop a strong stock loft once again, capable of providing the quality of race birds he needed for these type of races, but he certainly has done it!

The three Mackay-B-Diva hens can be traced back to the youngsters that he kept from very stock that he sold back in 2003, with just one additional introduction. Just goes to show how genuine his sale was, the birds he

sold are the basis that he has used to recreate his current stock loft and produce the performances, such as those of the Mackay-B-Divas.

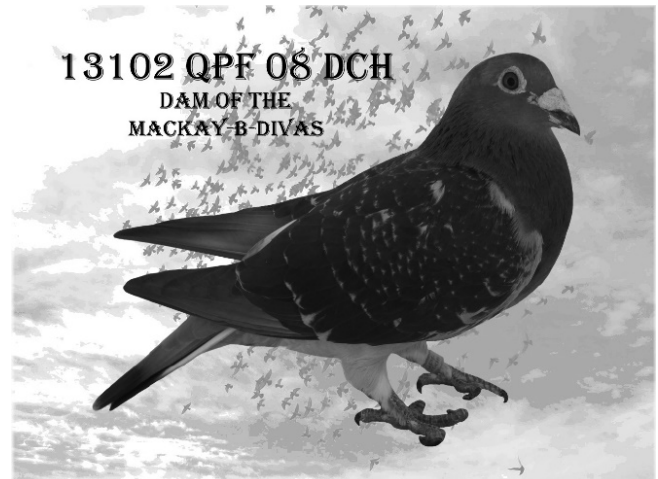
The sire of the Mackay-B-Divas QPF 08 13131 BBPC was bred from a young hen that he kept from Lot 33 & Lot 70 (see his catalogue at [www.qrpf.com](http://www.qrpf.com)) and a cross that he introduced to add more speed to the family.

Their dam QPF 08 13102 DCH was bred from a young cock he kept from Lot 15 & Lot 54, mated with a hen that again was bred from one of the youngsters that he kept from Lot 26 & Lot 63 from his sale.

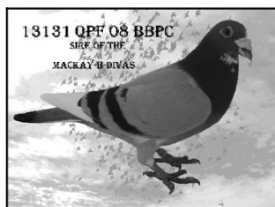
Of course it is all well and good to have quality pigeons for these type of races but just as important is the knowledge, experience and stock sense to be able to train and prepare the birds to face the challenge of flying all day to reach home, and that is where Craig comes into his own. While most of us are waiting and hoping we get a pigeon home from these distance events, Craig is just wondering what time he is going to clock!

Just to demonstrate this ability; in the above article it is mentioned that the second bird home in the races was clocked by Kevin Clegg, well it should be pointed out that Kevin races out of Craig Porter's loft, with Craig doing all the work as far a training and preparing the birds for each race is concerned. Truly champion birds and a champion fancier.

Below is the pedigree of the wonderful Mackay-B-Divas



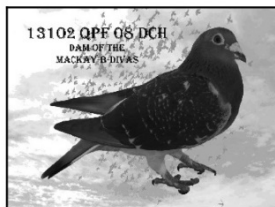
## SIRE



### **13131 QPF 08**

Alias "Sire 1st Fed Mackay"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Bar Pied  
Sire of QPF 08 2009 1st Fed Mackay 810 klms & 7th Fed Mackay two weeks later in 2009, QPF 11 2096 equal 14th Fed St Lawrence 680klms and 2nd Fed Bowen 1050klms at 10pm QPF 14 120 1st Fed Mackay at 9.45pm QPF 14 10085 placed 1st Fed Mackay and three weeks later 2nd Fed Mackay

## DAM



### **13102 QPF 08**

Alias "Dam of 1st Fed Mackay"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Dark Cheq  
Dam of QPF 08 2009 1st Fed Mackay 810 klms & 7th Fed Mackay two weeks later in 2009, QPF 11 2096 equal 14th Fed St Lawrence 680klms and 2nd Fed Bowen 1050klms at 10pm QPF 14 120 1st Fed Mackay at 9.45pm QPF 14 10085 placed 1st Fed Mackay and three weeks later 2nd Fed Mackay

### **15105 QPF 03**

Alias "Son Coffee Cock"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Red Cheq  
Bred from the Coffee cock from Dennis Bradshaw, a cross of Meuleman and Janssen

### **18995 QPF 02**

Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Cheq Pied  
Bred from Lot 33 and Lot 70 Craig's Sale and is the grand dam of the sire to the Mackay-B-Divas

### **19109 QPF 02**

Alias "Watson Pied"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Bar Pied  
One of the youngsters Craig kept, bred from Lot 15 & Lot 54 from Craig's 2003 sale

### **19168 QPF 02**

Alias "Night Birds"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Dark Cheq Crested  
One of the 46 youngsters that Craig kept from his total stock bird sale. Her full sister bred two good Fed birds for John Gonzo of the CCF. This hen is the one for breeding night birds

### **COFFEE COCK**

Strain: Porter  
Color: Recessive Red  
Bred by Willie Thiele of Muelman Janssen lines.

### **2166 QPF 00**

Strain: Porter  
Color: Mealy Slate  
Danny Warry bloodline from Fred Laskus

### **19735 QPF 00**

Alias "Lot 33 Craigs Sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Cheq  
Third bird 550 miles in time to be in top 10 Fed behind full sister (22507) who was 7th

### **19138 QPF 96**

Alias "Lot 70 Craigs sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Bar  
Daughter of 898 Refer to Lot 9. Home in time to be 4th Fed Mackay 500 miles and 3rd bird

### **12292 QPF 99**

Alias "Lot 15 Craigs sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Bar  
Bred for stock. Sired my 2nd bird from 700 mile smash 2002 (Lot 73) who also homed in

### **896 QRPA 95**

Alias "Lot 54 Craigs Sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Bar  
Bred for stock. Lovely hen has bred a winner every year mated to different cocks. Dam of

### **19802 QPF 99**

Alias "Lot 26 in sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Dark Cheq  
Sired 4 winners, including 2nd Fed Cobar 820klms clocked at 10.30pm, and he sold at

### **18388 QPF 98**

Alias "Lot 63 in sale"  
Strain: Porter  
Color: Blue Cheq  
Bred for stock. Dam of 3rd Section 6th Fed 380 miles, 4th Section 18th Fed 380 miles.

### **23166 QPF 98**

Alias "1483 Line"

### **105 QPF 97**

Alias "Lot 59 in sale"

### **898 QRPA 95**

Alias "Inbred Watson Pied"

### **10623 QPF 96**

Alias "Sister to 105"

### **10627 QPF 94**

Alias "Lot 1 in Sale"

### **19643 QPF 91**

Alias "Dau of 9007"

### **14770 QPF 94**

Alias "Triple Winner"

### **3615 QPF 85**

Alias "Ref D (Porter)"

### **194 QPF 95**

Alias "Inbred Son of Bricoux hen"

### **10690 QPF 02**

### **19185 QPF 96**

Alias "Night Birds"

### **137 QPF 97**

Alias "Dam of 1st Fed Mackay"

End....