

TO: John Jeffries  
Secretary of Central Cumberland Federation  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

This is a report of my experience as Liberator for the trip from Fairfield Showground to our destination of Barrington on the NSW/Queensland Border, for the last race of the season 2020.

Okay here we go...

Saturday night 17<sup>th</sup> October all pigeons loaded we began our journey. Periodical light showers from lower part of the mountains through to Katoomba. Showers turned heavy over Mt Victoria. Coming into Orange where we re-fuelled conditions were dry but overcast. Moving through to Dubbo where 3mm of rain was recorded and we pulled up for our compulsory rest period at 3am on Sunday. We checked that the birds were travelling well, before continuing at 5am.

Heavy rain going through to Nevertire, Girilambone, Byrock, Bourke and to 15 kms this side of Barrington where conditions were overcast but dry. Arriving at 10.45am on Sunday, we then commenced setting up the truck for waters where the birds drank very well. After watering, all awnings were pulled out over the walkway and then feeding commenced.

Thunder and lightning moving in were 12 mm of rain was recorded in one hour, and the skies started clearing by 4pm with high white cloud among blue skies.

The topping up of watering and feeding continued right up until dark. Water trays were left on overnight and feed trays were removed. Awnings were then folded back at 8pm and walkways returned to their spots. Taught line covers were then closed and locked down for the night. By this time skies were clear.

Monday morning 5.30am - started setting up where taught lines were unclipped and folded back and walkways extended out. All basket ties were then cut in preparation for liberation.

Sunrise magnificent with 100% blue skies and no wind. The transporter was in place and birds were liberated at 7.15am daylight saving time.

The pigeons joined into one mass moving off into an east/southeast direction moving apart for a small time and re-joining. Within two minutes the group was the size of a 50cent piece and by four minutes the size of a 5cent piece. There was no separation into small groups as birds moved off and headed home.

Water trays were then removed placed in their spots upside down, walkways returned to their spots, taught lines moved back and clipped down.

After having breakfast we headed home taking multiple photos along the way of clear skies and no rain arriving back at my pick-up spot at Maccas Eastern Creek 7.30pm.

Nb. I would like to say at this time that our driver, Thomas, is a most capable and incredible man. Apart from being a great driver and very safety conscious, his work ethic towards the pigeons and their well-being is second to none.

Yours In Sport

Warren Schofield  
MTD  
Substitute Liberator