



## **J V MARINE MALLEE CLASSIC INTERNATIONALE**

**2004**

This year, the JV Marine Mallee Classic Internationale certainly lived up to its name,  
CLASSIC WEATHER, CLASSIC LOCATION, CLASSIC FOOD  
AND MOST OF ALL CLASSIC PIGEON RACING

In what is now becoming somewhat of a tradition, the Classic just keeps on improving. This year approximately two hundred entrants, supporters and curious onlookers, including Catherine King, the sitting Federal Labour Party member for Ballarat, were treated to a day, which saw sunny Ballarat at its best. With people starting to arrive from 9am there was plenty of time to enjoy the sunshine and hospitality which included an ample amount of refreshments, both liquid and food. I might add that the shift from the traditional spit roast to the choice of either BBQ, Chinese beef with rice or meatballs in various sauces was very well received.





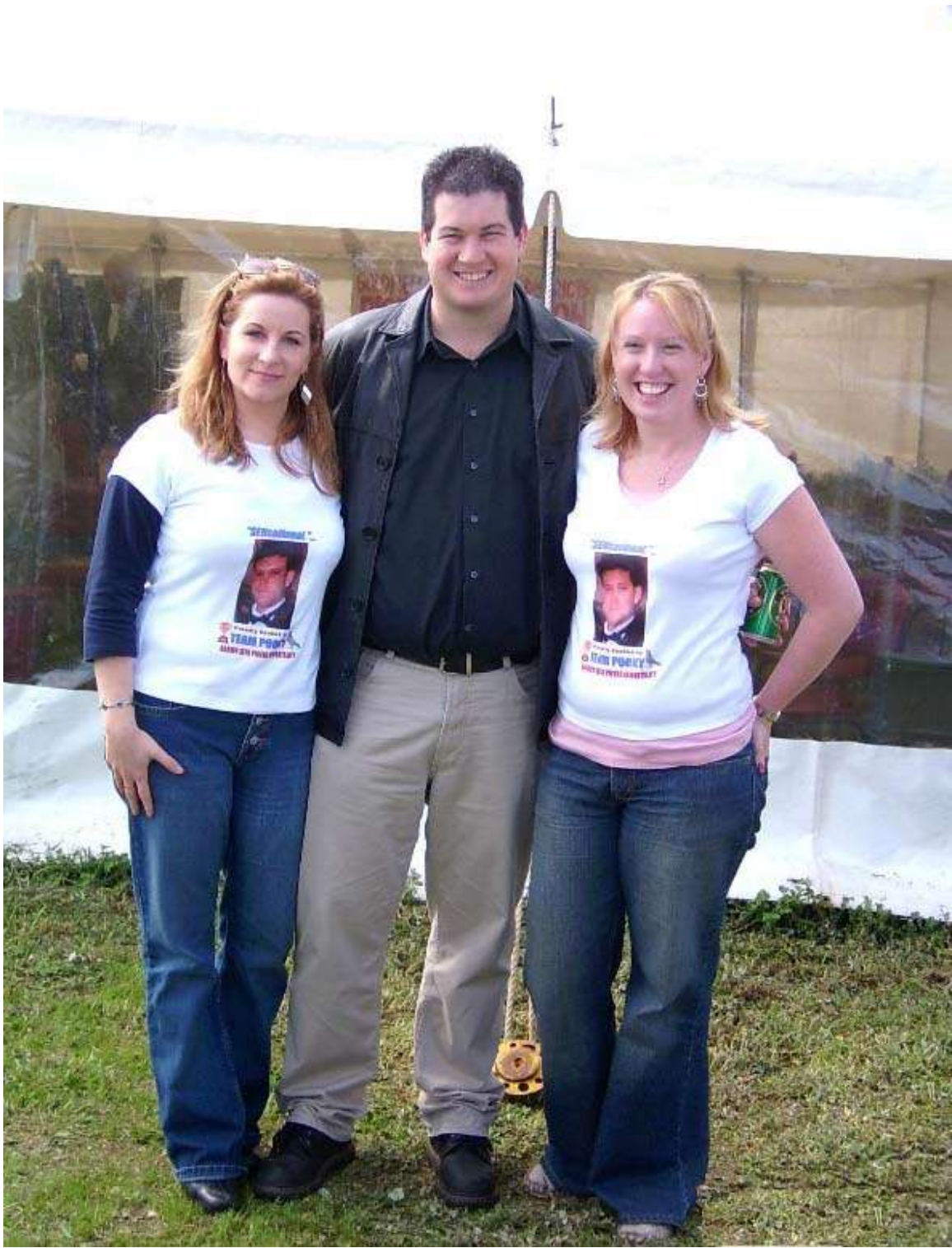


The birds were released at 8.30am, from Coombah, a tiny speck on the map half way between Mildura and Broken Hill, a distance of approximately 500+ kilometres back to the Classic Lofts. At the time of release the wind was a slight south easterly with forecasts expecting it to strengthen as the race progressed towards home. Within two minutes of release all birds were heading straight towards Ballarat. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the crowd was growing and more than getting into the spirit of one loft racing.



It was great to see Glen Daly the winner of the SEN 1116am (Sports Entertainment Network) charity bird. Glen won his bird in a competition on SEN 1116am (Melbourne) on the Weekend Leave Pass show with Russell Gilbert and Mark Fine, and, had his bird won he would have received \$5,000.00 with the other \$5,000.00 being donated to charity. SEN 1116am is the premier Commercial Sports Radio Station in Melbourne and can be heard anywhere in Australia via the web, on <http://www.sen.com.au>

The Mallee Classic is a regular fortnightly feature just after the 1pm news.



### **Glen Daly and his Cheer Squad**

Where's Nigel??? Thanks must go to Nigel Jarvis, who after winning the local football grand final and ensuring that he was not left out of the celebrations, managed to drag himself to the lofts and as he usually does, did a great job on running the pools.

After lunch it was time for the Ken Letch show. Ken is the resident auctioneer for the charity auction and apart from his ability to extract money from nowhere he provides great entertainment for those gathered. This year quality birds were donated by Neil Machar,

Andrew Spiliopoulos, Les Fenton, the Classic lofts and the two-time winner of the classic, Max Smith. The Classic again supported The McCallum Disability Services in Ballarat and although a little down on last year's amount the money raised will be well used and greatly appreciated by the many who use this vital service.



### **The Jarvis Boys handling the Pools**

After the auction it was time to take your seats and wait in hope that the first bird may be yours. It didn't take that long either, because, not long after 3pm a lone bird appeared on the horizon. The excitement was short lived, however, as the bird was one of a number of old birds sent away with the race birds. The JV Marine Mallee Classic has a policy of providing the best possible cover for the entries and therefore sends old birds in order to bolster the number in the mob thus ensuring greater returns. Just on 3.18pm three birds appeared out of the sky heading straight for the loft and it's worthy of noting the behaviour of the crowd, who, although obviously excited by the arrival, remained quite and calm thus enabling the birds to have every chance.

The three birds landed together with two birds stepping onto the trap board before the mealy pied of Ben and Esther Reynolds from Western Australia raced past both of them to win the race by a few hundredths of a second from Frank Wootton of Queensland, with Eric Kniec from Victoria, two seconds away, third. Congratulations to all in what was certainly an exciting finish.



As a result of the win Ben and Esther then had to make the difficult decision of choosing between the \$10,000.00 cash or the \$13,000.00 JV Marine, Quintrex, runabout and it was after much discussion they chose the cash. However, the news only got better, because as a result of the win, their bird also won the Best Western Hotels, ACE Bird of the series Overall and State prizes entitling them to a total four night accommodation package as well as the Pentium computer package from A.I.R.T Computers.



This year the Best Western ACE Bird series was bolstered, obviously, by the Best Western Hotel Group, the largest hotel group in the world, who provided two night accommodation packages for the overall winner as well as each state winner, and A.I.R.T Computers of Hallam, the best deals in computers anywhere. Both sponsorships are appreciated and direct links for great deals are available on our web site.

Individual state and section winners were; WA: Ben & Esther Reynolds, Junior: Brad & Cassie Overall: Internationale: Morio Ontario & Ted Jones JAPAN, SA: Phil Squire: VIC: Burwood Fuel and Fodder (Ian McKay), ACT/NT/TAS: Sykes & Mulder from Darwin, NSW: Lorraine MacGregor, QLD: Frank Wootton. The Junior Challenge, this year went

to the South Australian entrants, with QLD throwing their hat into the ring in 2005 it will be even more interesting. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Ken Letch for his great assistance in raising funds for charities in the auctions, Theo Damalas and Tim Keay for the continual and unconditional help throughout the years and Frank Wootton, for not only his support of the Classic from it's inception, but also the work he does in promoting the race in the north of Queensland.

In what could only be described as a great day, there were many satisfied and smiling faces, not the least, Geoff James of Geelong who won the DVD player in the raffle, but also the slightly more lubricated boys from Sherbrooke who took a big lump of cash out from the pools. Again congratulations to the winners and also the many entrants who can look forward to next year with anticipation.

Although birds are not being received for 2005 until November, entry forms are already arriving. **DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR ENTRY!**

Thanks again to our sponsors, J V MARINE WORLD, BEST WESTERN HOTELS, A.I.R.T COMPUTERS, SEN 1116am, our many race day helpers, and the supporters who continue to make the Classic the Premier One Loft Race in Australia.

Duncan MacGregor  
Event Promotions  
JV Marine Mallee Classic Internationale