



## **ALICE SPRINGS** 67 owners 296 birds

The Hodgins & Vanderlinden partnership won the Alice Springs event for 2013 with first and second place, their two hens landing together after 20 hours 35 minutes and 19 seconds narrowly beating Peter Mundy and Greg Kakoschke. They are half-sisters and the hen that was second has already placed 21<sup>st</sup> and this was her third time at Alice Springs, her half-sister has flown it twice, these two wonderful hens have the same father. Greg purchased him at a Vitesse squeaker sale, he was bred by Wayne & Cheryl Myers, and in his pedigree on his Sires side he has John Pryor's Coleambally and Temora winners, and his Dam is down from sons of Lots 53 and 60 at Goodger sale

mated back to Greg's 2<sup>nd</sup> Alice Springs hen. 'The Giveaway hen' another top producing hen also appears in the pedigree. These pigeons are responsible for multiple top Alice Springs placing's. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Alice Hen also appears in the pedigree of G & L Harris's Marla winner this year.

The dam of 1<sup>st</sup> is Doug Green blood from Ray Delaye and the dam of 2<sup>nd</sup> is inbred back to J Pryor's Morundah hen. Greg picks his team early in the year and plans their races as his birds fly both lines and training is a Long toss to Port Wakefield or Port Clinton on the weekend and a short toss to Callington mid-week. The Alice team only trained and flew north and raced every two weeks and then a month before Alice Springs they were given two short tosses a week and the last seven days before hampering they were only fed maize.

Greg's feed is 60% maize and the other 40% being made up of peas, wheat, milo, and safflower and only fed once a day, his birds are flown in the afternoon and are fed as much as they can eat. Monday's are the exception when they are only fed barley, twice a week probiotics are spread on the feed using oil to make them stick.

Greg first started racing with his father in 1968 and is as passionate today as when he started telling us about their first Association winner from Oodnadatta at 6:10 in the morning. Greg has also won Rosedale clocking at 1:10pm on the second day and thinking he was out of it because he didn't know any times, and then at the club the club members thought he was joking when



he put his time on the board, because none of them had a bird and had not heard of any. After 3 days there were only 22 birds home. He has also won Holbrook flying 815kms clocking at 5:54am on the second day and winning by 3 hrs. When asked what his greatest highlight was Greg said winning first and second Alice Springs, as this is one of the races he works towards each year, by setting the birds up early in the season. Greg is a great believer in helping new people to the sport by breeding birds for them. He would like to see management move with the times, and would support new ideas to make racing more enjoyable.