

14 Aug 2011 - Maryborough 515km SE, 183 owners and 2,869 birds Goodrich Lofts - SA10 11473 BBC



Graham began his racing career in 1965 with South Western Juniors (in the company of Lee Abbott & Robyn Brown) based at Brighton railway station. Following his junior days, he took a break and began looking at other 'birds', then later resumed flying with Mark Bruggemann for three years, and he now flies his pigeons from Nova Gardens and has been a member of the Glenelg club for the last 15 years.

His career highlights to date include 6th Alice Springs (1998) and 14th, 15th SAHPA Booroorban (1998) on the same weekend. It happened to be Father's day weekend 1998, and although Graham was pleased to get such good

results, his family took a dim view of his 'watching and waiting' for pigeons on that day!

This year his highlight included 1st SAHPA Maryborough and 1st Southern Fed Mortlake 10BS, but he gets just as much enjoyment out of his clubmates success as he does with any wins that come his way.

His birds include Pryor birds from Stuart Hodgson (the g'dam of SA10 11473 was purchased by Stuart at the Pryor sale), and others from Mark Bruggemann (Wickham/Delsar/Lawson). SA10 11473 is essentially an inbred Pryor/Goodger via Pryor and Seedsman sale birds. Race birds are fed a base mix twice a day of 60% peas, 30% wheat and 10% small seeds. Towards race day



Graham cuts back on peas, adds wheat and small seeds. Garlic is provided in the water at all times. No other additives are provided.

Once youngsters are flying they are joined with the old hens. Old cocks are either not flown, or kept to 5-6 in number depending on the quality. Cocks and hens are housed and trained together. Graham purchased a Tauris electronic timing system for 2011 racing and reckons it's the best purchase he has made in relation to pigeons. After getting loft flying of about 1hr twice a day, tossing starts about 4 weeks before racing (with a toss to 60kms). Old birds get 3-4 tosses and youngster get 7-10 tosses to a maximum of 120kms prior to racing. Once racing starts, tossing occurs once a week to 120kms. East line tossing follows once the north line tossing has become settled and consistent with returns. The race loft is cleaned twice a day, and medication is used only as necessary, but provided to the whole race team. Breeding birds are hopper fed a 70% peas, 25% wheat, 5% small seeds mix, and the birds are mated at the end of October. 2-3 rounds are generally taken, but from his best pairs Graham takes 4 rounds.

Stock birds are provided by friends or from his race loft according to need and quality. He inbreeds groups, then outcrosses for say two years then inbreeds back to his key stock.

Graham enjoys the Glenelg club mate-ship and atmosphere - enjoys what success he gains and the success of his club mates. He greatly appreciated the assistance of Mark Coates and Robby Kezler and club mates during his recent illness. His greatest difficulty in pigeon racing is balancing the needs of family, work and his hobby.