

30 Jul 2011 - Glendambo 10BS - 168 owners, 1469 birds

Alan Thede - SA10 16257 GC

Alan has been racing pigeons since 1961 - having started breeding for racing in 1960. His first club was North Suburban, and then to the North East club when it was formed in 1963. Founding members at the time included Bernie Moores, Bill Hack, Bruce Sinclair and Bob Young. Over time youngsters called Alby MaCauley and Don Schwarz also joined NE.

Alan has had a number of good placings in SAHPA races, notably 2nd placings for Oodnadatta, Tarcoola, Marree YBC and Booroorban SAD and a 4th Temora.

The Glendambo 10BS race was his SAHPA win and he completed the year 4th in Club points.

Breeding - SA - 10- 16257 Blue Griz Cock was bred from sire: Bred 2006 off late Larry Maynes Silver Shadow - VanLoon (imports). This family bred 1st SAHPA The Twins and 1st SAHPA Coober Pedy for Larry. Dam: On loan from Willi Thiele to mate with this cock. This hen is closely related to Graham Watson 1st SAHPA the twins

Performance in 2011 - Hawker #1 & #2, 1st Glendambo SRC 10BS.

Alan uses 30 prs of stock pigeons and breeds around 100 youngsters each year. He generally keeps only Goodger based and only uses old South Australian based pigeons as outcrosses to the Goodgers. Recently he has introduced Pryor birds from Curly Maricic and Peter Mathews birds from Gus Grunwald.

Every 5 years the best of the 'older' pigeons are re-mated, and the progeny most like the old parents are used as the basis of the next 5 years breeding.



Breeding birds are hopper fed 90% peas and 10% wheat with some small seeds placed in breeding boxes to assist weaning of babies. Breeders are paired in 1st week of November. This was to provide a holiday break for the family (between racing and breeding), but the practice continues to this day! Alan specifically chooses his stock birds and gets his best results from this practice. Race birds are fed 50% peas and 50% wheat to the YB races, then wheat is reduced to 30% and 20% maize added. No additives are provided on food or in water. Youngsters are weaned, homed and left on their own until April when the old hens are added to the race team. Very few if any old cocks are kept for racing in the second year. Once birds are loft flying for 45mins, tossing is started (around 4 weeks before racing starts). Tossing starts at 5kms and once the birds are racing Alan home he increases the distance until they are tossing from 100kms. This is generally achieved

after 8-10 tosses. Once racing starts birds are tossed every 2 weeks from 100kms and only on line of flight. Alan cleans the loft once per day and worming and pigeon pox vaccination completed pre racing. No other medications are provided.

Alan loves his pigeons and gets a great deal of satisfaction from the NE club camaraderie and fellowship. He would like to see more assistance given to new flyers by the better flyers but notes that 'it can be a selfish sport'.

His biggest concern is in relation to falcon predation - when he first flew in the Modbury district in the 1960's he did not see a falcon - it is unusual not to see one these days and witness the damage and confusion that is caused by their attacks on race birds.