

02 Sep 2011 - Alice Springs 1320km Nth, 68 owners, 270 birds K&K Watson - SA09 01623 BCPH



Ken began flying pigeons with his son some 20 years ago and is now the 'flyer' in the family, and lives at Angle Vale and flies with the Elizabeth club.

By any count, 2011 has been his standout year in racing gaining 7th & 10th SAHPA Parachilna, 8th Glendambo 10BS, and 1st SRC Alice Springs.

Sire of SA09 01623 BCPH was gifted/loaned to Ken by A Agar and the **dam was SA07 33630 BBH** purchased at the P Trezeciak sale.

The Sire has bred 1st SRC Alice Springs (pictured), 10th SAHPA Parachilna and 8th SAHPA Glendambo 10BS. This bird is all John Pryor base.

The Dam of 1st SRC Alice Springs was sister to 10th SAHPA Glendambo open 2008 and is Goodger/Horseman base.

Ken only flies the North line.

In 2010 **SA09 01623** flew Hawker, Marree open, The Twins and Coober Pedy (58th SAHPA).

In 2011 **SA09 01623** flew Hawker, Glendambo 10BS, and Alice Springs (1st SRC)



Ken holds 10 pairs of stock birds and uses the best of his current race team to breed around 65 youngsters each year. He holds about 15-20 2YO cocks and hens for the next race year. His breeding birds are a 'mixed bag', but generally based on Goodger and other 'old South Australian' families. Unfortunately Ken has a hawk problem and finds that he loses 10% to 15% of his youngsters off the loft - once they are flying strongly, the losses generally stop.

Race birds are hopper fed 50/50 peas and wheat initially. Just prior to the YB races he adds about 10% maize, and always hand feeds some safflower and small seeds as an evening tit bit. He supplements the feed with grit, additional calcium and pink minerals. Returning race birds are provided with electrolytes and glucose supplements.

Youngsters are allowed to 'get their wings' before the old hens are added to the team, and all two year old cocks are kept separate. Young cocks are moved in with the old cocks after the YB races. Ken flies cocks and hens separately around the loft twice a day.

Once loft flying is consistent, Ken starts tossing from about 10kms about 6 weeks before racing. He aims for 10-12 tosses to a maximum of 100kms by first race. Once racing starts Ken does a 50 km and 100km toss supplemented by 2-3 short local tosses each week. All tossing is line of flight.

Ken operates a 3 compartment cement floored loft which is cleaned 3-4 times a week.

Breeding birds have individual feed and water. Feed is generally 100% peas and this is supplemented by some safflower and small seeds being hand fed each pm. Breeding generally starts around September/October each year, and he uses his stock birds and the best of his race birds (both inbred and best to best) as required.

Turbosole and Moxidectin are provided to stock birds prior to breeding and Moxidectin provided to race birds pre-racing.

Ken's biggest regret is not being able to hold all his youngsters (due to hawk predation) - as he says - the ones you lose, you never get to see their capabilities!