

## Greg Hamilton - Glendambo 10BS Winner - AUST06 03957 - 2008 SAHPA Aggregate Points Champion



Greg has been involved in pigeons since 1978 when he was living in Horsham as a junior flyer. Greg found it a very good place to learn about racing pigeons and recalls excellent support from the Horsham seniors. He remembers some of the highlights at the time were getting a pigeon home in the dark (when only three homed that night), and winning the Horsham points aggregate a number of times. He particularly enjoyed winning the 1988 Victorian National event gaining 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> from Wyandra some 1200kms. That same year

he also won with a cock from Coober Pedy to Horsham also 1200kms and by 2.5 hours. Since then he reckons getting Alice Springs birds home is just 'awesome' and notes that his hands shake when taking the race rubber off to 'clock' them home.

His achievements in 2008 include winning the SAHPA points aggregate for the first time, winning the Glendambo 10BS and placing well in many of the SAHPA races in 2008. He regards being a member of the SAHPA Management Committee as being a highlight of his career to date.

Breeding details of the 10BS hen on the Sires side - all Janssen Super 531 Smeulders lines, and on the Dam side - all Janssen 637 Smeulders lines (the *Generaal*). The hen had her maiden breeding year in 2007 and has produced birds which provided 5 SAHPA places in 2008! As a yearling she placed 15<sup>th</sup> SAHPA in Lyndhurst YBC, returned on dark in the Sires Produce from The Twins (31<sup>st</sup> SAHPA). IN 2008 she had a Stirling North followed by the Glendambo 10BS (she was being set up for Coober Pedy, but won the 10BS and was immediately withdrawn from racing).



Greg operates a commercial stud and breeds from 40 pairs each year. He pre sells the first two rounds, then remates for sale and racing purposes. Essentially he races the leftovers (which in 2008 was some 80 pigeons). He flies the Goodger/Pryor birds on the North East line and the European birds from the North West.

His stock birds comprise 20 pair of Goodger/Pryor plus Janssen (from Grenville Evans, and John Goodwin), Van Loon and Casaert.

Race birds are expected to fly for an hour daily. Cocks are raced with the hens until they become a nuisance which is usually around three weeks before the YBC/SAD races. Particular groups of pigeons are 'set' for races, and special attention is given to training and feeding prior to those races. Greg is a very methodical and caring pigeon flyer and will not go near his pigeons if he has had a bad day or is angry about something. He obviously has a passion for the birds, he talks to them and tries to initiate a bond that will assist them in 'wanting' to race to the loft and to Greg. He rates observation of pigeons as being very important and following the observation try and assist the birds to respond and gain confidence and form. This has been the first year he has been able to participate in the full years racing programme.

He reasons that if the pigeons are good enough, healthy enough, fit enough, and he can motivate them enough, they will do the job well - and this year they did a magnificent job.

He begins race training with a number of short tosses of 8-10 kms and wants the birds out of the baskets and heading straight for home before he moves to longer tossing. This expectation is carried through all the toss points to 180 kms (Pt Pirie) before racing.