

# Alice Springs 2017



1 – ANDREWARTHA / MARCH SA15 23963

3 – ANDREWARTHA / MARCH SA14 20589

6 – ANDREWARTHA / MARCH SA14 32408

Bronte Andrewartha timed in three birds on the drop to win the Alice Springs Classic. Whilst his neighbour, Stewart Barber, also timed in the next bird home in the race which was from Bronte's same Metcalf / Goodger family. "I had given Stewart two sons down from my 5th

Alice Springs line. I suggested to him to race both, making sure they had some ability. Both raced on the hard east line one BBC finished 23rd Holbrook (smash) the other clocked (MC) Seymour 10th 2nd day. So both were put into stock. The fourth hen of mine sat on my roof for 45 seconds after having done Alice last year, just saying I have had enough I guess? Out of the five pigeons that came over my roof, the four of them were bred down from my 5th Alice, being mainly Goodger/Metcalf. The foundation sire of my family was a full brother to Jack Metcalf's 1st Alice Springs. Jack was out of the game when I got started but I am told he was very good friends with Allen Goodger. The Elliott hen is in the pedigree. I know the great hen bred by David Cunningham, 'Grange', which was 3rd, 4th, & 19th the Alice Springs was line bred to Jack's 1st Alice Springs.

**Preparation:** The start of the year I always go through the birds looking for a few pigeons to be able to fly Alice Springs, which is 1357 km to my loft. I had chosen six that I thought had potential, with their breeding (very Important) they could do the job.

I then selected three birds that I was confident that would be able to complete the course. I missed the first four races on our programme and had to change my plan of attack. Deciding on three lead up races, then straight into Alice Springs was my plan. (I follow John Pryor's system. In his video he would give three lead up races before Alice Springs.)

The 1st & 2nd bird through the traps had raced Bookaloo 388 km (approximately 5 hours), then 3 weeks later Lyndhurst Open 552km (approximately 8-9 hours). Then three weeks later they were basketed for the Alice Springs Classic 1357 km. Interestingly, the third bird through the trap only had one race, the Lyndhurst Open 552 km (approximately 10 hours.)

**Feeding:** My feeding is different every day depending on the weather. My mix is made up of two tins peas, three tins corn, two tins wheat, one and a half tins safflower, one and a half tins sorghum, half a tin of canola, half a tin linseed & one-half tin of vetch. I have tried different feeding methods over the years and I believe this is what suits my system.

The night feed always has something different on it, ACV, cod liver oil, oregano oil, flaxseed oil with protein powder. I make up a mixture of 750 ml ACV, 3 tablespoons of crushed garlic and 3 tablespoons of honey. I especially use this mixture on the feed on hampering night.