

## 03 Sep 2011 - Glendambo Open 540km, 203 owners, 3734 birds Southern Lofts - SA10 10157 BGH

Paul Springett lives at Morphett Vale and started racing pigeons in Adelaide in 1986 when he lived in Seaview Downs. He was a member of the Oaklands club until it folded, then joined Glenelg (was Secretary/Treasurer during those years), and joined Southern Districts in 2001.

Highlights of his racing career to date include 2<sup>nd</sup> SRC Sires produce (was 1<sup>st</sup> SARPF), 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Portland 10BS (2010), and clocking an Alice prings bird twice (21<sup>st</sup> in 2009, and 7<sup>th</sup> in 2010).



In 2011, honours gained were 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Glendambo Open and 3<sup>rd</sup> SDC Edenhope.

The Glendambo winner **SA1010157 BGH** was a cross between **Van Breeman** (x John Hills) blood and Rob Caesarowicz **Goodger/Metcalf**.

The Caesarowicz birds are highly inbred.

Sixteen pairs of stock birds are kept plus four pairs of race birds are used to breed around 130 youngsters each year. Paul's families of birds are from Mark Bruqaemann. John Hills

(van Breeman) and this year he crossed in some Bronte Andrewartha's birds. He also uses a sprinkling of Goodgers and Janssens to cross.

Feeding is very simple and only peas & wheat are used. These are sourced from the same farmer every year. For pre season and early racing about 60% peas and 40% wheat is fed, however by the longer races this is reversed. Twice a week in the short races he adds energy oil (Omega 3,6 & 9 oils with garlic flavour) on the feed and for longer races it is added three times a week. Babies are allowed to get their wings before being



added to the 2YO birds and once the birds are in full training they are fed about an ounce to an ounce and a half per day by hand feeding in the loft. Race birds are medicated on a regular basis depending on what is needed, but it generally consists of Baycox, Turbosole, Resfite, Triple X and Megamix. Baycox and Megamix is always used when rain is on the way and while it is raining. Paul always uses medication as per the label and never ever uses it in a stronger or weaker form. Sometimes Paul takes the better race hens and mates them up in the breeding section with an old stock cock. Once mated, the hen is returned to the race cage where she is tossed and raced with the other race birds. The significant difference is that the hen (on return from tossing and racing) is placed with her mate for a period (as her reward) - a form of reverse widowhood!

Birds are specifically bred for stock as well as the occasional outcross from another loft (this year B Andrewartha birds). Generally birds are inbred for stock, and outcrossed for racing. Race cage birds are best to best.

His good friend Mark Bruggemann once told Paul that 'when it is all going wrong and the results are not coming then this is the best time to make small changes and not to give up or you will learn nothing'. Paul thinks this is the best advice he has ever been given by MarkB - all other advice has been a load of ....!