

## **GRANGE-WHAT A TOP DROP SHE IS!**

**By Tim Fawcett**

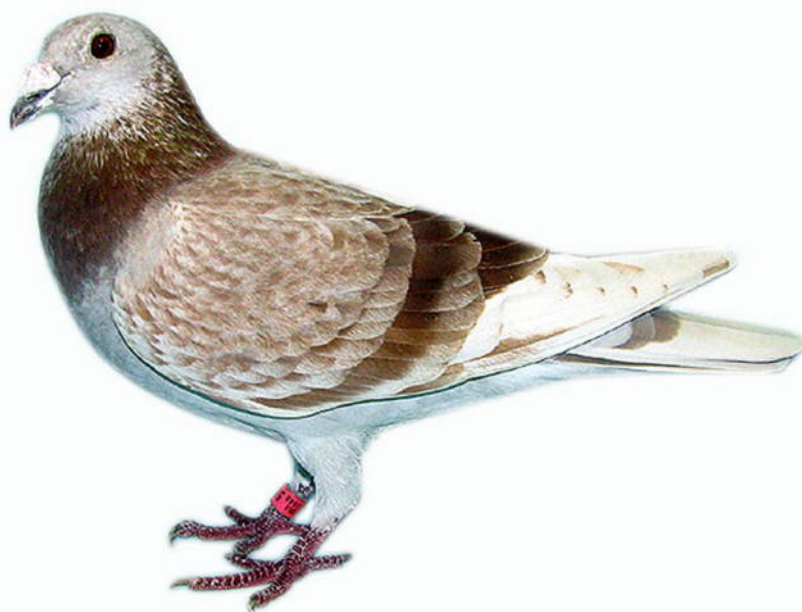
Every year in Adelaide Penfolds Winery at Magill Estate release their premier Red wine the well known and world renowned Grange Hermitage. The wine is much sought after and regarded as the highest quality money can buy.

For the past three years SAHPA champion fancier Greg Hamilton of Angle Vale has also released a similar Red the aptly named "Grange" and unleashed havoc on the blue ribbon distance event from Alice Springs.

Grange is somewhat of a modern day wonder and resparking the interest of marathon distance racing. She exudes champion qualities which haven't been seen from Alice Springs (1320 km) since the famous Max Smiths 3 x 4<sup>th</sup> SAHPA hen some approx 35 yrs ago.

Grange (**PtPirie 05 519 Red Hen**) has been placed in the top 20 placings from Alice Springs for the past 3 events. In 2007 at her first tilt she was **19<sup>th</sup>** position and she was sent a day after laying an egg, in 2008 she had leading time by over ten minutes and finished in **4<sup>th</sup>** position and in 2009 in a very tough event (not that any Alice Springs race is ever easy) she finished in **3<sup>rd</sup>** position. To top those feats her daughter (**SA 07 13421 BCH**) having her first start at the long distance landed 18 minutes later to snare **5<sup>th</sup>** position. Given at the end of the third day there were only 24 birds home this is an exceptional effort.

**Photo of PP 05 519 Grange- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Alice Springs SAHPA LDC 1320 km**



**The Background:**

Grange was bred by Greg Hamilton's good friends at Port Pirie well known and respected fanciers David and Barbara Cunningham and sent to Greg as a squeaker to race.

Grange is a pigeon that descends from the famous Allen Goodger family of birds. Her sire is PHS 03 15 MLYC-he contains a lot of the Bill Walford Ace Red hen who was a direct daughter of Allen Goodger's famous Lot 60. Her dam is PHS 03 9 BBH- who was bred from a cock of Grant Paterson's SA 97 41183 BBC who is a grandson of John Pryor's REF C 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Morundah and his dam is Grant Paterson's famous 1<sup>st</sup> SAHPA Temora who is responsible for countless SAHPA and Fed winners around the country. The dam of PHS 03 9 is a direct daughter of another champion from the Paterson stable the famous "Power of one Hen" SA 76 51397 BCPH. Who is the dam of also countless SAHPA and Fed winners around Australia and is the granddam of John Pryor's famous Morundah winner.

With breeding like that it is no accident that Grange is a top distance champion hen and performs accordingly. She also bred 7<sup>th</sup> SAHPA in her first year in the breeding stock and will now be retired to Greg's "Pigeon Sales" stud [www.pigeonsales.com.au](http://www.pigeonsales.com.au) where she will take pride of place and be admired by all.

Grange is a beautifully balanced hen whom I have had the pleasure of handling on a few occasions. She is a small to medium apple bodied hen who is all class, if you didn't know her feats on the racetrack you would just on looks and handling would pick her as a top hen. She has a unique colouring a bit like a strawberry Mealy but a richer red in colour. Prior to Alice Springs she was in magnificent order showing all the signs of fitness.

**Photo of SA 07 13421 BCH**