



20 November 2018

## *Chair's Annual Report to Board Members*

### **Introduction:**

In many respects 2018 has been a challenging time for the sport of pigeon racing which has been significantly impacted upon by the rota virus. Consequently, this has presented challenges for the ANRPB and our strategic partner, Dr Mark White and his team at Treidlia Biovet Pty Ltd.

### **Rotavirus vaccine:**

The main contract for the manufacture of the rotavirus vaccine is between Latrobe University and Treidlia Biovet Pty Ltd.

The ANRPB entered into a side agreement with Treidlia Biovet Pty Ltd loaning (interest free) the amount of \$60,000 from Disease Management Funds. This money will be reimbursed by Treidlia Biovet over a period of years via royalty payments on the vaccine.

The latest advice from Dr Mark White is that the rotavirus vaccine should become available in January 2019 (subject to APVMA approval).

Commercial manufacture of the rotavirus vaccine has taken far longer than any of us may have imagined due to the challenges associated with transferring technology developed in a test tube environment to commercial quantities.

This process was not helped by the absence of the vaccine inventor, Dr Travis Beddoe, who was in England for a six-month period. Indeed, it was not until Dr Travis Beddoe returned to Australia and staff from Treidlia attended his laboratory, that significant progress was made.

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The ANRPB has at all times acted in good faith with Dr Mark White and he will, in return, honour his pledge to supply vaccine to ANRPB Disease Management Fund donors first.

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Through the side agreement the ANRPB has also ensured that the cost of the vaccine will be lower than it would have been had Treidlia Biovet been required to recover the interest component of a loan.

**Hall of Fame:**

This year true legends of our sport, Graham and June Davison, were inducted into the ANRPB Hall of Fame.

From a personal viewpoint, possibly the highlight of the year was a visit that Mark Jeffrey and I made to Graham and June's home in Wollongong NSW.

Although Graham's health has deteriorated it was a great pleasure to meet and share heartfelt conversation with him.

I would particularly like to express my appreciation to Mark Jeffrey and his lovely wife Pauline who provided transportation and accommodation for the whole of my visit. Through their generosity and hospitality, and because I covered the cost of air travel, this award to Graham and June was at no cost to the ANRPB.

**Website:**

Our ANRPB website has undergone significant development this year thanks to the great work of Joe Jackson. It is my hope that Joe will continue to maintain and develop our website into the foreseeable future.

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**Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation:**

In 2017 Nigel Allsopp, President of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation, laid a wreath on behalf of the ANRPB at Pozieres in France, where two pigeons were cast in the mane of a bronze horse statue.

In 2018 Nigel Allsopp has sought the assistance of the ANRPB in organising pigeon displays in New Zealand, South Australia and Queensland. Assistance was

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also provided to Nigel for his academic paper on the service of animals and birds in wars.

It is my view that the ANRPB should maintain and foster this strategic “partnership” with the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation.

**Constitution:**

The important reworking of our Constitution supports the ANRPB to be better placed to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Of importance is the validation of a second or deputy board member from each state, to cover the absence, for whatever reason, of the primary state delegate.

Another important change is the three-year term for all state delegates.

**Board members:**

Progression planning is important for all Boards and Management Committees.

David Walker advised the Board of his intention to step down as Secretary/Treasurer as of the AGM this year. I acknowledge David’s significant service and contribution to the workings of the ANRPB over the past 18 months. David’s early advice has allowed the board to “recruit” a highly qualified replacement, Jim Craig, for this most important role.

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Mark Jeffrey has also advised of his intention to step down from his roles of Vice-Chair, Public Officer, and NSW delegate. I would personally like to express my appreciation to Mark for his contribution to the workings of the ANRPB over the past 3 years, and for his generosity and hospitality during my visit to Sydney/Wollongong earlier this year.

Joe Jackson has moved from Queensland to South Australia and is therefore unable to continue in the role of Queensland delegate. With the amendments made to our Constitution it is now possible for Joe to continue to be a member or “friend” of the ANRPB. Once again, my sincere appreciation to Joe for his work on the ANRPB website, and for his general contributions to the workings of the

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ANRPB.

Sadly, Graham Wark passed away in May this year. Graham's photo and Neil Machar's tribute are captured in memorial on our website.

Peter Wallace has experienced a most horrible year health wise; my sincerest best wishes for your health and well-being in 2019. We have missed you and look forward to your recovery and to working with you next year.

Kevin Wilson (along with Peter Wallace) is our longest serving member of the Board. Kevin serves his state well and is an ever-reliable member of the Board. Keep on keeping on Kevin.

David Thalbourne this year has taken on the role of SA delegate with gusto. David provides energy and drive for the Board that is invaluable.

Neil Machar has also had health challenges this year but has, in my view, made a most significant contribution to the workings of the ANRPB.

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Neil's use of laconic humour is a hallmark of his personality and is the "glue" that holds working groups under pressure, together.

I would gladly hand the leadership baton over to Neil should he so ask, such is the respect that I hold for him. Otherwise, subject to Board approval, I will seek to continue my role as Chair for 2019.

Jim Craig; welcome to the ANRPB, your challenges lay ahead. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the team known as the ANRPB.

#### **Possible challenges for 2019:**

- Recruitment and retention of members for our sport

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# ANRPB

flying gallantly into the future

- Race Cross Flighting (Avoidance)
- The Peregrine falcon; impact on our sport and native birds
- Dealing with Councils/neighbour complaints (Self-help kit)

Yours faithfully

Greg Kakoschke JP  
Chair: ANRPB Inc

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