

ANRPB held Tuesday 7th January 2025

Meeting Opened 1905 EST.

Meeting chaired by Gavin Harris

Attendees: Paul Gibbs, Stephen Shears, Gavin Harris, Russell Somerville, Andrew Crothers, Leo Turley, Vince Pedavoli, Nick Mitchell.

Apologies: Tony Price, Philip Almond

Special Guest: Andrew Grech

Previous Minutes Approved: **Moved** - Leo Turley, **Seconded** - Stephen Shears

Correspondence In: Financial Review Lodgment with NSW Fair Trading.

Correspondence out: Nil

Treasurers Report.

Current balance in everyday working account \$19,185.65

Term Deposit \$72,839.70, 4.6%, matures 13/5/2025.

Transactions since last meeting:

Incoming:

\$50 Merchandise sales – S Shears (Shirt Sale)

\$50 Deposit R Sommerville (membership 2024)

Outgoing:

\$56 NSW Fair Trading

\$250 VRPU National Prize

Moved - Leo Turley, **Seconded** - Stephen Shears

General Business

Agenda Items	Discussions / Issues	Actions / Actioning Member / Outcomes
Promotional Video	<p>Youtube link to be put up on ANRPB website and other pigeon websites</p> <p>Stephen Shears has liaised with Adam Archer and our video is now on his site.</p> <p>Vince to review options for Val Morgan advertising, check with Rod Simmonds to see if he still feels we need a higher quality version.</p> <p>Paul is seeking a copy of video that we could put on a Memory stick, so it is easy to plug into a computer or TV screen to show the video.</p>	<p>Action: Gavin to ask Len to put on website (done). Action: All please forward link to your local federations to put on their websites.</p> <p>Action: Stephen Shears reported that his sister is currently working on translating sub titles in Pilipino and Mandarin. Report next meeting.</p> <p>Action: Vince</p> <p>Action: Tony to ask Rod if he could provide a copy suitable for copying on to Memory Stick</p>
Victorian Legislation	<p>VCAT hearing completed, aim is to have pigeons listed with councils under the same “Racing Category” as Greyhound Racing.</p> <p>Tony Price to keep ANRPB updated on progress.</p> <p>Draft to be prepared in common language.</p> <p>Tony to schedule meeting with Council.</p>	<p>Action: Tony Price – carried forward.</p>
FCI	<p>Stephen has emailed Mr. Matteo Grappa about the FCI logo and Mobile phone numbers on Life Rings, Stephen is waiting on response.</p> <p>Previous Notes: Mr. Matteo Grappa, Vice president of the FCI has notified Stephen that the Boards FCI application to become a member has been accepted. (Closed)</p> <p>FCI rings The Board can access FCI rings – currently cheaper than clubs are able to source in Australia. The FCI have approved suppliers with rings sun resistant and to world standard, no numbers are duplicated on rings. 5 euros from each sale will go to the FCI.</p>	<p>Action: Stephen Shears has confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rings must have FCI on ring. - Individual codes like PRF, SA, are permitted. - Mobile number for found pigeons are permitted. <p>Action: Stephen Shears to try to obtain samples / photos of rings for the next meeting.</p>

	<p>Stephen Shears stated that the Blacktown Club ordered Blue Rings and were sent Yellow rings – not blue (as further evidence supporting the shift to FCI rings).</p> <p>Drug Testing.</p>	<p>Stephen Shears reported there are currently 4 Suppliers available, and he has their contacts.</p> <p>Stephen Shears reported that Cumberland is currently in negotiations with 3 suppliers to purchase rings this year. Rings are significantly cheaper and he will report when a decision has been made.</p> <p>Noted: FCI has its own colours and 2025 is white.</p> <p>Stephen Shears reported that the Drug Testing regime for FCI has been consolidated and anyone wishing to compete in the next Olympiad will need to comply with these rules.</p>
Agenda Items	Discussions/Outcomes/Issues	Actions/Actioning Member
	<p>FCI congress in China 2026 Due to new membership it is important for a representative to attend from the Board to promote Australia. Paul motioned that the Board should support and pay travel and accommodation costs for a member to attend the congress. Stephen to consider option of attending conference.</p> <p>FCI logo To be included on all correspondence / website where able to show support. Gavin has updated Letterhead and Ace Award forms to include FCI logo. Once we get a better quality FCI logo we will get Len to update website. Suggestion was to use a JPEG or PNG image conversion format.</p> <p>Henk De Weerd – FCI Doping Commissioner requested information from Stephen about testing in Australia, statistics on negatives and positives. Gavin explained that SAHPA conduct drug tests, all tests have been negative. Gavin forwarded SAHPA drug testing guidelines to Stephen who then sent them on to FCI.</p>	<p>Action: Stephen to consider attending</p> <p>Action: Stephen to see if he can get a better quality logo from FCI.</p> <p>Action: Gavin to get Len to update website once better quality FCI logo is available</p>
Loading Density / Code of Practice	<p>Carried Forward - Leo advised ongoing.</p> <p>Representative of WA has successfully presented to the Western Australia Department of primary industry and development with a positive response who recommended to present the case at the National body meeting when reviewed later this year. PRF have also written to Dr. Michelle Rodan Chief Vet Officer. Leo has updated Grant</p>	<p>Action: Leo – Carried forward no further updates at time of meeting.</p> <p>Leo reported: Density issues: Ongoing. WA PRF President Brian Brennan and ANRPB representative Leo Turley met on 9th October with the policy section of the WA DPIRD Animal</p>

	<p>Paterson. PRF are waiting on response from Dr. Rodan. Leo to update ANRPB once it is further progressed. Vince thanked Leo for the work he is doing on this topic ad the animal welfare discussions.</p> <p>Biosecurity and Welfare group and received good outcomes and while currently WA oriented, it is expected to have similar relevance, as precedence, for all states and territories. The changes present in two parts – Standards (lawful) and Guidelines (voluntary). Pertinent welfare-oriented documents were tabled towards formulation of appropriate standards and DPIRD subsequently, post meeting, provided a series of terminology related questions and these were fully answered by return mail and copied to ANRPB members. Awaiting further DPIRD contact towards development of standards and guidelines. Documentation indicates the initial 450cm2 density provision will now be 200cm2 for racing pigeons.</p>	
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Government recognition / Sports Australia.	Vince to draft letter in regards to treating pigeon racing as a sport similar to how Horse Racing and Greyhound Racing is considered a sport, the animal and bird welfare conditions are also recognized by Councils.	Action: Vince – Carried Forward
Donation to ANRPB by Vince Pedavoli, Legacy Australia Donation	Letter of gratitude from legacy Australia has been received by Vince.	Action: Vince & Gavin Forward letter to Gavin so it can be posted on the ANRPB website.
2024 Grand National.	<p>NSW – Stephen Shears reported: East Coast Long Distance Racing Combine (ECLDRC) will be organizing body for national Race. Race will be from Booligal. ECLDRC will sponsor \$1000 towards the race. Basking points will be : Newcastle Central Coast Liverpool/Dural South Coast Shoalhaven \$10 per bird/10 bird entry</p>	For Information only.

	<p>QLD - Philip Almond emailed the ANRPB Board members a copy of his promotional form branded as the Queensland Cup, advertising the 2024 St Lawrence 580km, invite everyone. Next year 2025 planning on Charleville 680 to 780km race.</p> <p>Certificates – Leo showed the certificates he had printed. He used Snap Print \$2 each for 10 certificates 350 120gsm rather than plain paper 80gsm. Examples to be provided to Vince by Leo to see if FCI logo can be added</p>	<p>No report at this meeting.</p> <p>Action : Gavin Harris and Russell Somerville</p> <p>Action : Stephen Shears to follow up on JPEG version of Logo to place on Certificates, then Gavin to edit the certificate to include FCI logo</p>
National Ace Bird Awards	<p>Paul Gibbs has started receiving nominations.</p> <p>Notes from Previous Meeting - Paul Gibbs and Stephen Shears have organized the Photos, Frames, Glass Etched Trophies and Certificates. San Remo Lofts will donate \$500 for 2024,</p>	<p>Action: Paul Continuing to receive nominations, currently 12 nominations so far. Seeking a few more prior to the close date of 31st January 2025.</p>
Victorian Country Delegate	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	<p>Action: Tony Price Ongoing – carried forward.</p>
Queensland Delegates	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	<p>Action: Philip Almond 3 candidates interested, report next meeting. Carried forward.</p>
Agenda Items	Discussions/Outcomes/Issues	Actions/Actioning Member
Tasmania Delegates	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	<p>Philip Almond stated he would investigate with members of the Combine that were ex-Tasmanian to source possible candidates. Carried forward.</p>
Merchandise	Stephen Shears reported:	

	There had been a tremendous response from interstate for the Sydney Conference	Action: Stephen Shears/Gavin to conduct Audit on current stock. Comment only as we may need to order some more shirts and caps. Noted that there were 4 Flyers who attended the Pattaya International Grand Prix were sporting ANRPB shirts.
ANRPB Life Ring	Ongoing: Re-visit this in the future should the Board take over the life rings when current sellers Alex and Ted are ready to retire.	Carried forward.
Patron	Board decided not to pursue using Gary Honan to get Ray Hadley as Ray has resigned from Radio broadcasting. Paul Gibbs recommended Gary Portelli which was supported by the board members	Action: Vince
National Convention March 2025	CCF have appointed a subcommittee to plan the convention, Loft tour 28 th March (Steve Eggleton & Pat Arcella, lunch at local pub) 29 th and 30 th March – at Arena Greyhound Centre - Yagoona. Stephen has arranged for ANRPB to have 10 lots at the Auction. Russell suggested we advertise the pedigree's a month before auction at convention. SA donations – Russell Somerville, Gavin Harris and Greg Kakoschke NSW donations – Vince Pedavoli, Stephen Shears, Stephen Eggleton VIC donations – to be decided WA donations – Matt Creemers QLD donations– to be decided There are 20-30 booths available for hire (\$150) at the convention. Sponsorship displays at ANRPB.	Action: Stephen reported: Loft tours can be booked with Alan Brown (0401195148). Information on the event will be available on www.ccf Syd.com very shortly. Action: Board members Stephen Shears discussed the 10 auction spots and sought confirmation from board members who had offered pigeons. Stephen urged members to forward pedigrees and photos in to him as early as possible so the birds could be advertised at least a month prior to the auction. Action: Board members urged to seek out organizations that may wish to take up the offer of hiring a booth. Stephen Shears requested that Board members assist with manning the ANRPB booth, with a couple of members indicating they would be available to assist.

		<p>Action: Tony Gibbs raised whether there would be any Sponsors promotion at the ANRPB booth at the Convention. It was determined there were no sponsorship logos on the ANRPB banners as these would need to be updated every time Sponsors changed.</p> <p>Action: Stephen Shears to arrange for A5 laminated sheets with Sponsor's details to be displayed on stands at the ANRPB booth.</p>
Pigeon Pictorial UK Magazine	Paul Gibbs has provided an article from ANRPB that has been published in Sept Issue Thank you, Paul.	ANRPB is grateful and its support is ongoing.
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Kempsey Council Issue	<p>Paul provided an update. Leo Turley had provided material to the flyer that was having trouble with the council. Previous Meeting - Stephen Shears advised of a fancier in Kempsey to join Australian Bird Keepers Association, (Life member \$200 per individual), Fancier is in an area of zoning that advises he is unable to keep animals. Currently in disagreement with a neighbor who has hired a barrister to force local council to force the fancier to rehome pigeons. Current council legislation in that area states no animals at all allowed.</p> <p>ANRPB Board has agreed that Paul and Tony should forward information to Charles Hider for his legal opinion, ANRPB could consider spending \$500 for legal opinion if Charles recommends further action.</p>	<p>Current update: Flyer is flying at another address with his brother. No further information known at this stage.</p> <p>Action: Paul and Tony No reported action at this meeting.</p>
State Round Up / Discussion	QLD – National was successful	Philip Almond reported: Formulation of a 'National' Committee is underway. Combines are keen for continuance of the National.

	<p>NSW – Stephen Shears has been appointed CCF President.</p> <p>VIC – All Feds carted on same truck which was very positive, 600 hits on Facebook with birds being looked after at race point, all positive. Dr. Colin Walker to keep VRPB informed on Bird Flu. Victorian Melbourne Cup 800km on weekend NE line, following fortnight 960km NE.</p> <p>SA – racing two lines next year, N/NW and East line. Russell to work on Country Clubs competing in National race next year.</p> <p>SA – Golden Mile Loft.</p>	<p>Also reported: Issues with local Councils reviewing pigeon numbers. An independent (Private) Rotavirus Study is being conducted comparing Liver damage to unvaccinated birds. Poor returns from long distance races requires more input into Liberation committee’s information regarding Liberation conditions and geography. RSPCA reprisals.</p> <p>10 spots secured in the Auction at the National Convention for ANRPB. Suggestion that Board Members donate 5 birds then approach renowned flyers for 5 donations to fill the spots.</p> <p>No report tabled at meeting.</p> <p>Russell Somerville reported: Previous discussed proposed Race Points for the National Race with Hillston (NSW) being the preferred option that would be fairer to all, are still to be agreed upon and confirmed. Update next meeting.</p> <p>Gavin Harris reported on the Golden Mile Loft at the Association Hall in Adelaide. Retired members can fly 10 birds from the loft enabling them to remain involved after they have retired. They pay full membership with full entitlements. Gavin reported that in 2024 we had 9 return members and in 2025 22 returned members and that there is now a waitlist for spots.</p>
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	<p>WA – Racing season finished, Next year NE line, working WA DPIRD on welfare standards to become law, guidelines to be optional.</p> <p>WA – Andrew Crothers reported from the Geraldton Pigeon Racing Club that the Annual Sires auction raised approx. \$19,800 with the auctioning of approx. 150 birds. The auction was supported with birds entered by PRF, Bunbury, Collie and Busselton clubs.</p> <p>It was reported that 2 lofts had experienced PMV since the end of the season.</p> <p>Russell suggested a map for each state showing race points.</p>	<p>Leo Turley reported: ANRPB National will be held from Yalgoo 2nd August 2025, 500km race to Perth. Unfortunately precludes Geraldton racing Club from entering as the distance would be halved. Nick suggested that if the race was held from Sandstone then the Geraldton Club could enter. Leo and the Board members agreed this could be a suitable solution, however, Leo reported that the program for 2025 had been set and it would have to be reviewed for 2026. Leo stated that the Geraldton Club could still enter the 20205 National Race but would have to present their birds in Perth.</p> <p>Information only.</p> <p>Action: Stephen Shears and Russell Somerville. Correspondence to be sent through to Stephen who will collate and forward to Russell.</p>
<p>ANRPB – List of Contacts for each state.</p>	<p>Federation details for states being collated. Gavin is waiting on responses from each state’s delegate so he can collate the list. Received from WA and VIC.</p> <p>Board Job Description to be put up on website.</p>	<p>All delegates Carried forward.</p> <p>Action: Gavin & Len Carried forward.</p>
<p>FCI website article from ANRPB</p>	<p>Stephen Shears advised the FCI are currently redesigning their website to include continents with Australia to have a box seat to promote pigeon racing. Ideas include on the site include Paul’s article regarding the Board and purpose, contact details for all the States and Federations, graphically interesting races highlighting distances including Alice Springs race of 1300kms of desert for pigeons, Launceston to Newcastle. Tony Price to seek interest for a Tasmania to Victoria race across the Bass Strait.</p>	<p>Paul to prepare draft, Russell has provided history of Alice Springs race. Tony – information about Bass Strait races Carried forward.</p>

Protocols for Advertising on ANRPB	Protocols for advertising – Agreed that advertisers need to seek Board permission prior to releasing any documentation or advertisement of the Board.	Action: Len and Gavin Nil to report at time of meeting.
Negative Facebook postings.	General discussion was held about the disregard by a minority of members who defame the sport by posting potentially disruptive and damaging comments on Facebook. Russell Sommerville mentioned disciplinary action that is handed to members according to the breaches as described in the SAPHA Media Policy.	Action: Russell has now shared the SAPHA Media Policy to members of the Board where it can be delineated to local clubs to review for determination and implementation if /as required.

New Items

Agenda Items	Discussions/Outcomes/Issues	Actions/Actioning Member
Microsoft AI Co-pilot program to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.	<p>Discussion: Special Guest Andrew Grech, presented a computer program that he has been developing to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions. Locations along the estimated flight path are entered into the program and conditions are promulgated along the way The program utilises Liberation protocols used by the CCF to then determine Green, Amber and Red light for flying conditions at each location entered.</p> <p>Outcome: The intention is to Create a website that Federations/Clubs across Australia can utilise to assist with Liberation committee’s decisions to fly/hold over/abandon races. The individual entities would be able to tailor the program to their specific race points.</p> <p>Issues: The program looks very promising but is in the infant stages of development and many hours of development is required before it could be used reliably.</p>	Action: Gavin to liaise with Andrew and review the program in detail to develop a more robust model so that it can be tested against real time data with a view of it being progressed onto the website.

	Andrew reports that currently the data utilised by the program (currently BOM and Windy information sites) can sometimes be inconsistent with real time conditions.	
ANRPB meeting minutes to be posted on the website.	Paul Gibbs reported that there had been a request from the VRPB for the ANRPB meeting minutes to be posted on the website. Gavin Harris reported that historically they had been posted.	Action: Gavin send to Len who will post the minutes on the website as soon as they are received from Nick.
Benzing Clocks	Stephen Shears reported that Benzing is currently offering to accept any make of clock in any condition for an upgrade to a new Benzing clock and antennae for a sum of \$1125. This can only be completed when there are a minimum of 30 flyers that wish to take up the offer.	Action: Board members to circulate to clubs and any wishing to take up the offer, they are to send their details through to Stephen Shears.
FCI membership	Paul Gibbs raised the question as to whether Federations that are members of the ANRPB, are now automatically members of the FCI now that the ANRPB has been accepted as a member.	Action: Leo to review the constitution to investigate if there is provision for the ANRPB to charge a nominal fee to the Federations which would the enable them to be considered members of the FCI.
The New Zealand government has announced it will end greyhound racing to protect the welfare of the racing dogs.	Russell Somerville raised the issue as a discussion point.	For information only.

Meeting closed 20:40hrs EST Time.

Next meeting to be held **Tuesday 11th February 2025** at 18:30pm NSW, VIC, 18:00pm CST, 15:30pm WA, QLD 17:30pm