

# **ANRPB held Tuesday 11th February 2025**

Meeting Opened 18:40 EST.

Meeting chaired by Stephen Shears

**Attendees:** Paul Gibbs, Gavin Harris, Leo Turley, Tony Price

**Apologies:** Vince Pedavoli, Nick Mitchell, Philip Almond, Russell Somerville, Andrew Crothers

**Special Guest:**

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

**Correspondence In:** Berkley Insurance – Renewal for Association Liability.  
FCI – Statistical Requirements

**Correspondence out:** Gavin – lodged Insurance renewal information sheet

**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:

**Moved** - Leo Turley, **Seconded** – Paul Gibbs

Treasurer to send out board member renewal letters \$50 each.

## General Business

Agenda Items	Discussions / Issues	Actions / Actioning Member / Outcomes
<p><b>Promotional Video</b></p>	<p>Youtube link to be put up on ANRPB website and other pigeon websites</p> <p>Stephen Shears reported that his sister is currently working on translating sub titles in.</p> <p>Stephen Shears has liaised with Adam Archer and our video is now on his site. – Completed.</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>Stephen Shears is going to be the advisor on a movie about a woman and a stray pigeon</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Gavin to ask Len to put on website (done).</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All please forward link to your local federations to put on their websites.</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Tony to speak to Rod Simmons about changing Youtube video setting to allow for Pilipino and Mandarin.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Tony to ask Rod if he could provide a copy suitable for copying on to Memory Stick</p>
<p><b>Victorian Legislation</b></p>	<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, VRPB meeting with members in March 2025</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Tony Price</p>
<p><b>FCI</b></p>	<p>Stephen has emailed Mr. Matteo Grappa about the FCI logo and Mobile phone numbers on Life Rings, Stephen confirmed that it is ok to include.</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><b>Action:</b> Stephen Shears has confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rings must have FCI on ring.</li> <li>- Individual codes like PRF, SA, are permitted.</li> <li>- Mobile number for found pigeons are permitted.</li> </ul>

	<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>Quote from Belgium and China were cheaper by 33% than other quotes, Stephen plans to order 2026 rings through ANRPB FCI suppliers</p> <p>Leo advised that we could be a central body to collate Life Ring orders for federations in each state and order using the FCI order and get discounts and keep a small fee to pay an honorarium.</p> <p>Drug Testing.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Stephen Shears to try to obtain samples / photos of rings for the next meeting. Stephen Shears reported there are currently 4 Suppliers available, and he has their contacts. 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. 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>
<b>FCI continued</b>	<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 – One Loft racing. How does Meadows One Loft race register for FCI recognition.</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><b>Action:</b> Stephen to consider attending</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Stephen to research and forward to Tony for Steve Gazzola</p>
<b>Loading Density / Code of Practice</b>	<p>Carried Forward - Leo advised ongoing. 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><b>Action:</b> Leo – Carried forward no further updates at time of meeting. 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>	
<p><b>Government recognition / Sports Australia.</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Vince – Carried Forward</p>
<p><b>Donation to ANRPB by Vince Pedavoli, Legacy Australia Donation</b></p>	<p>Letter of gratitude from legacy Australia has been received by Vince.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Vince &amp; Gavin Forward letter to Gavin so it can be posted on the ANRPB website.</p>
<p><b>2025 Grand National.</b></p>	<p>NSW – Stephen Shears reported: East Coast Long Distance Racing Combine (ECLDRC) will be organizing body for national Race. Race will be from Booligal 550-620km. ECLDRC will sponsor \$1000 towards the race. Basking points will be : Newcastle, Central Coast,Liverpool/Dural, South Coast, Shoalhaven, Plus invite to Mid North Combine and Taree \$10 per bird/10 bird entry</p> <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>For Information only.</p> <p>No report at this meeting.</p>

	<p>Certificates – Leo showed the certificates he had printed. He used Snap Print \$2 each for 10 certificates 350gsm rather than plain paper 80gsm. Examples to be provided to Vince by Leo to see if FCI logo can be added</p> <p>WA - National will be held from Yalgoo 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025, 500km race to Perth. Unfortunately precludes Geraldton racing Club from entering as the distance would be halved.</p> <p>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>SA – Still discussing racing point,</p> <p>Vic – race from Morgan, all federations on one Truck, one prize from ANRPB for each federation. 10 bird limit.</p>	<p>Action : Gavin Harris to add logo</p> <p>Action : Gavin to edit Leo’s national certificate to fci logo</p>
<b>National Ace Bird Awards</b>	<p>Paul Gibbs has 25 nominations, notify each winner. Story has been written for the journal, the first 3 in each section.</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>Certificate of Merit – to be inclusive for other results of merit which do not necessarily</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Paul to prepare photos, framing, trophies and certificates</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Gavin nomination form to have email address.</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Paul to update the terms and conditions to stipulate a minimum of 20 competing flyers in the race.</p>
<b>Victorian Country Delegate</b>	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	<b>Action:</b> Tony Price Ongoing – carried forward.
<b>Queensland Delegates</b>	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	<b>Action:</b> Philip Almond 3 candidates interested, report next meeting. Carried forward.

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussions/Outcomes/Issues</b>	<b>Actions/Actioning Member</b>
<b>Tasmania Delegates</b>	<p>Ongoing search for regional candidate.</p> <p>Tony to check with Rodney Maine about finding a contact for Paul.</p>	<p>Philip Almond stated he would investigate with members of the Combine that were ex-Tasmanian to source possible candidates.</p> <p>Carried forward.</p>
<b>Merchandise</b>	<p>Stephen Shears reported: Stephen Shears did Audit on current stock. Noted that there were 4 Flyers who attended the Pattaya International Grand Prix were sporting ANRPB shirts.</p> <p>There has been a tremendous response from interstate for the Sydney Conference</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Stephen has ordered Large, 3xl and 4xl shirts, 10 caps</p>
<b>ANRPB Life Ring</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Carried forward.</p>
<b>Patron</b>	<p>Board decided not to pursue using Gary Honan to get Ray Hadley as Ray has resigned from Radio broadcasting.</p> <p>Paul Gibbs recommended Gary Portelli which was supported by the board members</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Vince</p>
<b>National Convention March 2025</b>	<p>CCF have appointed a subcommittee to plan the convention, Loft tour 28<sup>th</sup> March (Steve Eggleton &amp; Pat Arcella, lunch at local pub) 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March – at Arena Greyhound Centre - Yagoona.</p> <p>20 stands at convention, each booth is \$150</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Stephen reported: Loft tours can be booked with Alan Brown (0401195148). Information on the event will be available on <a href="http://www.ccf Syd.com">www.ccf Syd.com</a> very shortly.</p> <p><b>Action :</b> Gavin to bring Square EFTPOS device to conference.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Board members Stephen Shears discussed the 10 auction spots and sought confirmation from board members who had offered pigeons.</p>

	<p>SA donations – Russell Somerville, Gavin Harris and Greg Kakoschke  NSW donations – Vince Pedavoli, Stephen Shears, Stephen Eggleton, Paul Gibbs  VIC donations – Andrew Spiliopoulos  WA donations – Matt Creemers  QLD donations– Len Vanderlinde</p> <p><a href="http://www.ccfasyd.com">www.ccfasyd.com</a> for auction website</p> <p>Sponsorship displays at ANRPB.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Board members to assist on merchandise stand.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Stephen Shears to arrange for A4 laminated sheets with Sponsor’s details to be displayed on stands at the ANRPB booth.</p>
<b>Pigeon Pictorial UK Magazine</b>	<p>Paul Gibbs has provided an article from ANRPB that has been published in Sept Issue  Thank you, Paul.</p>	<p>Paul – To do article on National Ace Bird awards</p>
<b>Kempsey Council Issue</b>	<p>No further information discussed at Jan 2025 or Feb 2025 meeting.  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 had agreed that if further action is required, 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>
<b>National War Memorial</b>	<p>Paul proposed a Wreath to be laid on 24<sup>th</sup> February, Animal in War Remembrance Day.</p>	<p><b>Action :</b> Paul to liaise and arrange artificial wreath to be laid and a short message.</p>
<b>State Round Up / Discussion</b>	<p>QLD – National was successful  Philip Almond reported:  Formulation of a ‘National’ Committee is underway.  Combines are keen for continuance of the National.</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.</p>	



<p><b>FCI website article from ANRPB</b></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, Tony – information about Bass Strait races Carried forward.</p>
<p><b>Negative Facebook postings.</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

<p><b>Microsoft AI Co-pilot program to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.</b></p>	<p><b>Jan 2025 Discussion:</b> 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><b>Outcome:</b> 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><b>Action:</b> 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.</p>
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	<p><b>Feb 2025 Update:</b> Gavin reported that he had devoted 2 full days to further development, in summary he found that Co-Pilot AI was giving inconsistent results when presenting Australian BOM information which Andrew had already eluded to. Gavin did have further discussion with Andrew.</p> <p>Gavin will need his team to develop programs to GET the weather forecasts and then feed the information back into AI. Gavin advised that each of the weather forecasting software providers have various fees, Accuweather is \$500/month to use their API for hourly forecasts, BOM is free but not well documented, Windy is around 0.1 of a cent per API query but you may need hundreds/thousands of API queries to do each weeks forecasts,</p> <p>Gavin will do his best to find some resources over the coming months to do further investigation into using AI for pigeon race forecasting. Leo Turley has provided a spreadsheet format that he has used for many years which compliments a similar spreadsheet Gavin has used. Gavin will further liaise with Leo when he gets further advanced with his pilot.</p>	<p><b>Action :</b> Gavin to schedule some resources to further design a possible solution.</p>
<p><b>ANRPB meeting minutes to be posted on the website.</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Gavin to send to Len who will post the minutes.</p>
<p><b>FCI membership</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Leo reviewed the constitution and reported back that there is no provision for sub membership of federations to ANRPB. Leo's reading of the constitution is that ANRPB is representing every pigeon racing body in Australia to the FCI.</p>	

Meeting closed 20:45hrs EST Time.

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