

ANRPB held Tuesday 11th March 2025

Meeting Opened 18:40 EST.

Meeting chaired by Stephen Shears

Attendees: Gavin Harris, Leo Turley, Vince Pedavoli, Nick Mitchell, Philip Almond, Russell Somerville, Andrew Crothers, Tony Price, Paul Gibbs

Apologies:

Special Guest:

Previous Minutes Approved: Moved - Vince Pedavoli **Seconded** - Stephen Shears

Correspondence In: Invoice for Association Insurance - \$1530. Voted on by Board and passed unanimously.

Invoice for merchandise.

Correspondence out: Nil advised.

Treasurers Report.

Current balance in everyday working account \$18,870.61

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

Transactions since last meeting: out

\$ 240.00 - Ace Bird Photos

\$ 225.00 – Ace bird Trophy

Transactions since last meeting: In

\$ 50.00 - Steve Shears Board membership fees

\$ 50.00 – Paul Gibbs Board membership fees

\$ 50.00 – Vince Pedavoli Board membership fees

Moved - Tony Price **Seconded** – Russell Somerville

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

Agenda Items	Discussions / Issues	Actions / Actioning Member / Outcomes
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General Business

Promotional Video	Youtube link to be put up on ANRPB website and other pigeon websites Vince to review options for Val Morgan advertising, check with Rod Simmonds to see if he still feels we need a higher quality version. 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. Stephen Shears is an advisor on a movie about a woman and a stray pigeon. Vince Pedavoli is an active participant with footage from his club race to be included in the production.	Action: Gavin to ask Len to put on website (done). Action: All please forward link to your local federations to put on their websites. Action : Tony to speak to Rod Simmons about changing Youtube video setting to allow for Pilipino and Mandarin. Action: Tony to ask Rod if he could provide a copy suitable for copying on to Memory Stick
Victorian Legislation	VCAT hearing completed, aim is to have pigeons listed with councils under the same "Racing Category" as Greyhound Racing. Tony Price to keep ANRPB updated on progress, VRPB meeting with members in March 2025	Action: Tony Price to further report next meeting.
FCI	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. 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) Next congress to Germany from China.	JPEG logo has been received. Action: Stephen Shears has confirmed: - Rings must have FCI on ring. - Individual codes like PRF, SA, are permitted. - Mobile number for found pigeons are permitted. Interesting facts provided for Australian pigeon racing:

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	Survey for FCI completed with information somewhat compromised as it was more directed at federations rather than the governing body ANPRB. 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. Quote from Belgium and China were cheaper by 33% than other quotes, Stephen plans to order 2026 rings through ANRPB FCI suppliers Belgium quote equates to approx. 11cents /ring 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. Delegates requested to sound out members as to the collating of 1 x Australian order to one of the FCI suppliers.	- approx. 2500 flyers Australia wide - approx. 280,000 rings purchased yearly (currently) Action: 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. Stephen began negotiations with suppliers, however due to the time of the year, suppliers did not respond in a timely manner and rings had to be ordered through existing suppliers. (Response received 3 days later). Noted and for information to Federations and members – 2026 rings are Blue in Colour. Note: SA Flyer Kevin Clarke uses one of the FCI suppliers.
FCI continued	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. FCI – One Loft racing. How does Meadows One Loft race register for FCI recognition.	Action: Stephen to consider attending Action : Stephen to research and forward to Tony for Steve Gazzola

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Loading Density / Code of Practice	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 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. 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.	Action: 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
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. National Day for War Animals – Australian War Memorial Vince Pedavoli attended as Chair ANRPB, representing pigeons at the inaugural Australian Animal Distinguished Service Award as part of the National Day for War Animals. The ceremony was held at the AWM in Canberra and had extensive media coverage.	Action: Vince & Gavin. Forward letter to Gavin so it can be posted on the ANRPB website.

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	At the end of the ceremonies, Nigel Allsop asked if we; the pigeon fraternity; would like to expand our participation in some way with the AWM on that day each year.” Also some pricing information for an ad with Val Morgan: “Cinema advertising. \$1,200 to convert current to a video file suitable for cinema screens. Then for Syd Metro anywhere from \$1 to \$50K. They can tailor the scope to suit our budget.”	
2025 Grand National.	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 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. 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 WA - National will be held from Yalgoo 2nd August 2025, 500km race to Perth. SA – Race point decided – Booroorban in NSW, 30th August. Distances – 700km Pt Augusta, 560km Adelaide, 430km Heith.	For Information only. No report at this meeting. Action : Gavin Harris to add logo Action : Gavin to edit Leo’s national certificate to fci logo

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	Vic – Race from Morgan, all federations on one Truck, one prize from ANRPB for each federation. 10 bird limits. 12 th October	
National Ace Bird Awards	Paul Gibbs has 25 nominations, notify each winner. Story has been written for the journal, the first 3 in each section. Sections – Short to middle distance, middle to long distance and overall winner. 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, Certificate of Merit – to be inclusive for other results of merit which do not necessarily	Action: Paul reported photos, certificates and trophies completed. Stories and photos will be sent to magazine. Action : Gavin nomination form to have email address. Action : Paul to update the terms and conditions to stipulate a minimum of 20 competing flyers in the race.
Victorian Country Delegate	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	Action: Tony Price Ongoing – carried forward.
Queensland Delegates	Ongoing search for regional candidate.	Action: Philip Almond 3 candidates interested, report next meeting. Carried forward.
Tasmania Delegates	Ongoing search for regional candidate. Tony to check with Rodney Maine about finding a contact for Paul.	Philip Almond stated he would investigate with members of the Combine that were ex-Tasmanian to source possible candidates. Carried forward.
Merchandise	Stephen Shears reported: Stephen Shears did Audit on current stock. There has been a tremendous response from interstate for the Sydney Conference	Action: Stephen has ordered Large, 3xl and 4xl shirts, 10 caps. Merchandise supplies are ready for the Sydney conference.
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.

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Patron	Board recommended that Nigel Allsop be nominated for Patron.	Action: Vince Pedavoli to document a letter of offer to Nigel as Vince would be the most appropriate person considering previous association.
National Convention March 2025	CCF have appointed a subcommittee to plan the convention, Loft tour 28th March (Steve Eggleton & Pat Arcella, lunch at local pub) 29th and 30th March – at Arena Greyhound Centre - Yagoona. 20 stands at convention, each booth is \$150 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, Paul Gibbs VIC donations – Andrew Spiliopoulos WA donations – Matt Creemers QLD donations– Len Vanderlinde www.ccf Syd.com for auction website 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 : Gavin to bring Square EFTPOS device to conference. 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 to assist on merchandise stand. Action: Stephen Shears to arrange for A4 laminated sheets with Sponsor's details to be displayed on stands at the ANRPB booth.
Pigeon Pictorial UK Magazine	Paul Gibbs has provided an article from ANRPB that has been published in Sept Issue Thank you, Paul.	Paul – To do article on National Ace Bird awards with some information about the Sydney Convention – post event.

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State Round Up / Discussion	QLD – National was successful Philip Almond reported: Formulation of a ‘National’ Committee is progressing with first meeting intended for April. Combines are keen for continuance of the National. Also reported: Issues with local Councils reviewing pigeon numbers. An independent (Private) Rotavirus Study is being conducted comparing Liver damage to unvaccinated birds. NSW – Stephen Shears has been appointed CCF President, starts Monday 17th February, 2025. Reports that there has been interest for the Convention Australia wide and from overseas. Good info on Long Distance Racing by Greg Kakoschke. VIC – Congratulations to Dr. Colin Walker BSc BVSc MACVS (Avian Health), has received an OAM for Avian Veterinary science and pigeon racing. VRPB to review 20 points of discussion raised by Dr. Colin Walker at their annual meeting (23/03/2025). Tony to present to ANRPB any points of national relevance. Notes from previous minutes - All Feds are planning on transporting together on West line. SA – racing two lines next year, N/NW and East line. Russell to work on Country Clubs competing in National race next year. AGM scheduled for 23rd March. SA – Golden Mile Loft, 21 return members x 10 birds each in loft, plus a waiting list. South Aussie with Cosi – TV show to have segment on pigeon racing.	NOTE: Phil discussed his collaborations with Dave Shewmaker on Dave’s book “Genetics of racing”. Phil gave an oversight of Dave’s book which was completed and published; unfortunately; immediately prior to Dave’s passing. Phil offered to give a more rigorous presentation into Racing Pigeon genetics on how results of genetic indicators can improve performance. An overview as explained by Phil Almond is attached.  Supercharging Your Champions v1.2.pdf Link to Dave Shewmaker’s website - https://www.shewmaker.com/html/the_book_project.html Stephens passed Firesale A racing Pigeon Journal Offering Past copies. Action: Tony Price

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	WA – Kevin Wilson is new President of PRF, appointed at AGM on Sunday 9th February, 2025. Russell suggested a map for each state showing race points.	Country clubs informed of Booroorban Race, some concerns with a large group being let go together. Action: Russell to find a resource to do the map. Action: Federations to share racing programs considering the races crossing into Victoria and vice versa. Programs to be sent to Gavin.
ANRPB – List of Contacts for each state.	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. Board Job Description to be put up on website.	All delegates Carried forward. Action: Gavin & Len Carried forward.
FCI website article from ANRPB	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.	Paul to prepare draft, Tony – information about Bass Strait races Carried forward.

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Microsoft AI Co-pilot program to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.	Jan 2025 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. 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. Feb 2025 Update: 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. 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, 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	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. Action : Gavin to schedule some resources to further design a possible solution.

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	spreadsheet Gavin has used. Gavin will further liaise with Leo when he gets further advanced with his pilot.	
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 to send to Len who will post the minutes.
General Discussion	No issues with the bird flu outbreak reported by Victoria. No health issues at all raised during State Roundup. General discussion with updates to the ANRPB website, considered an ACE birds tab on the webpage.	Further discussions to be held after the Sydney Convention.

Meeting closed 2038hrs AEST Time.

Next meeting to be held **Tuesday 15th April 2025** at 1830hrs AEST (QLD, NSW, VIC), 1800hrs ACST (SA), 1630hrs AWST (WA)