

ANRPB held Tuesday 15th April 2025

Meeting Opened 18:35 EST.

Meeting chaired by Stephen Shears

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

Apologies: Philip Almond, Robin White

Previous Minutes Approved: **Moved** - Leo Turley **Seconded** - Tony Price

Correspondence In: Nil advised

Correspondence out: Nil advised.

Treasurers Report.

Current balance in everyday working account \$25,659.40

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

Transactions since last meeting: In

\$50 – P. Almond membership

\$8115.30 – NSW Convention Birds Auctioned

\$845 – NSW Convention Merchandise Cash deposited

\$155 – NSW Convention Merchandise Card transactions

\$50 - G. Harris Membership

\$50 – G. Harris donation testing Westpac Eftpos Air phone app

Transactions since last meeting: out

\$2.31 – NSW Convention Westpac Merchandise Card fees

\$1530 – Finsura Association Liability Insurance

\$944.20 – Prestige Creations (shirts)

Term investment to be renewed 3.9% for 13 months, and roll over \$80,000

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

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

<p>Promotional Video</p>	<p>Youtube link to be put up on ANRPB website and other pigeon websites</p> <p>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.” 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 an advisor on a movie about a woman and a stray pigeon. Vince to report next meeting on intended filming of a club release.</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 : Tony to speak to Rod Simmonds about changing Youtube video setting to allow for Pilipino and Mandarin. Mistakes in autocue noted.</p> <p>Note: Cost vs Worth to be determined</p> <p>Action: Tony to ask Rod if he could provide a copy suitable for copying on to Memory Stick. Tony reported that the video can be viewed via the website.</p>
<p>Victorian Legislation</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Action: Tony Price to further report next meeting.</p> <p>Findings to be placed on the ANRPB website.</p>
<p>FCI</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>JPEG logo has been received. 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.

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	<p>Survey for FCI completed with information somewhat compromised as it was more directed at federations rather than the governing body ANPRB.</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>Quote from Belgium and China were cheaper by 33% than other quotes, Stephen plans to order 2026 rings through ANRPB FCI suppliers</p> <p>Belgium quote equates to approx. 11cents /ring</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>Delegates requested to sound out members as to the collating of 1 x Australian order to one of the FCI suppliers.</p>	<p>Interesting facts provided for Australian pigeon racing: - 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.</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 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).</p> <p>Noted and for information to Federations and members – 2026 rings are Blue in Colour.</p> <p>Note: SA Flyer Kevin Clarke uses one of the FCI suppliers.</p>
FCI continued	<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>Action: Stephen to consider attending</p>

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	<p>FCI – One Loft racing. How does Meadows One Loft race register for FCI recognition.</p> <p>Next FCI Olympiad to be in Dortmund – Germany, 4/2/2026 to 08/02/2026</p>	<p>Action : Stephen to research and forward to Tony for Steve Gazzola</p> <p>Stephen Shears to represent ANRPB</p>
Loading Density / Code of Practice	<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 Paterson. PRF are waiting on response from Dr. Rodan. Leo to update ANRPB once it is further progressed.</p> <p>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>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>
Government recognition / Sports Australia.	<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>Action: Vince – in draft.</p>
Donation to ANRPB by Vince Pedavoli, Legacy Australia Donation	<p>Letter of gratitude from legacy Australia has been received by Vince.</p>	<p>Action: Vince & Gavin. Forward letter to Gavin so it can be posted on the ANRPB website.</p>

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	<p>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. 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.”</p>	
<p>2025 Grand National.</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>WA - National will be held from Yalgoo 2nd August 2025, 500km race to Perth.</p> <p>SA – Race point decided – Booroorban in NSW, 30th August. Distances – 700km Pt Augusta, 560km Adelaide, 430km Keith.</p> <p>Vic – Race from Morgan, all federations on one Truck, one prize from ANRPB for each federation. 10 bird limits. 12th October</p>	<p>For Information only.</p> <p>Date to be advised.</p> <p>No report at this meeting.</p>

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National Ace Bird Awards	<p>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.</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>Action: Paul reported photos, certificates and trophies completed. Stories and photos will be sent to magazine.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<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. Robin White was unable to join meeting tonight. Report next meeting - Carried forward.</p>
Merchandise	<p>Stephen Shears reported: Stephen Shears did Audit on current stock.</p> <p>There has been a tremendous response from interstate for the Sydney Conference</p>	<p>Action: Stephen has ordered Large, 3xl and 4xl shirts, 10 caps. Merchandise supplies are ready for the Sydney conference.</p> <p>Reported - \$1020 in sales from Sydney convention.</p>
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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<p>Patron</p>	<p>Board recommended that Nigel Allsop be nominated for Patron.</p> <p>The ANRPB is pleased to announce that Nigel Allsop has accepted the boards offer to be appointed Patron.</p> <p>Discussions held regarding release of new ‘War Pigeon’ stamp (see below) and release of a \$2 coin.</p>  <p>Proof - The War Pigeon Corflute 600</p> <p>ANRPB interaction with AWAMO.</p> <p>General discussion raised by Vince – that the 2 Dickens medal pigeons be named. Suggestion to offer competition to High School students to name, as a way of raising awareness of pigeons used in war times and general awareness of pigeon racing today.</p>	<p>Action: Vince Pedavoli to document a letter of offer to Nigel as Vince would be the most appropriate person considering previous association. Moved: Vince Pedavoli, Seconded: Stephen Shears Voted unanimously by Board members.</p> <p>The ANRPB is honoured to appoint Nigel Allsop as patron. Neil has sent through some information regarding Pigeons used in War times (see below)</p>  <p>wwi pigeon use.pdf</p> <p>Webste: www.awamo.org.au</p> <p>Action: Gavin to correspond with AWAMO to offer to have the ANRPB website added to the AWAMO web page.</p> <p>For further discussion.</p>
<p>National Convention March 2025</p>	<p>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.</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>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.</p> <p>Action : Gavin to bring Square EFTPOS device to conference.</p> <p>Action: Board members</p>

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	<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>www.ccfasyd.com for auction website</p> <p>Sponsorship displays at ANRPB.</p> <p>Macca from ABC interviewed Gavin Harris for his radio program. Video by Len Vanderlinde available at Convention Video Central Cumberland Big thanks to Sue who manned the ANRPB stand at the convention. National Convention was a resounding success.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Action: Board members to assist on merchandise stand.</p> <p>Action: Stephen Shears to arrange for A4 laminated sheets with Sponsor’s details to be displayed on stands at the ANRPB booth.</p> <p>Queensland suggested as next holder of convention – not confirmed as yet.</p>
<p>Pigeon Pictorial UK Magazine</p>	<p>Paul Gibbs has provided an article from ANRPB that has been published in Sept Issue Thank you, Paul.</p> <p>Paul will continue to write articles.</p>	<p>Paul – To do article on National Ace Bird awards with some information about the Sydney Convention – post event.</p> <p>Currently working on next one.</p>
<p>State Round Up / Discussion</p>	<p>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.</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>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.</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Notes from previous minutes - All Feds are planning on transporting together on West line.</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. AGM scheduled for 23rd March.</p> <p>SA – Golden Mile Loft, 30 return members x 10 birds each in loft, plus a waiting list. South Aussie with Cosi – TV show to have segment on pigeon racing.</p> <p>SA to build a bigger loft to accommodate a one loft race. Approval at club level, awaiting council approval. Intention to have 3 races.</p> <p>WA – Kevin Wilson is new President of PRF, appointed at AGM on Sunday 9th February, 2025.</p> <p>Russell suggested a map for each state showing race points.</p>	 <p>Supercharging Your Champions v1.2.pdf Link to Dave Shewmaker’s website - https://www.shewmaker.com/html/the_book_project.html</p> <p>Action: Tony to request copy of AGM minutes to report to ANRPB.</p> <p>Stephens passed Firesale A racing Pigeon Journal Offering Past copies.</p> <p>Country clubs informed of Booroorban Race, some concerns with a large group being let go together.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Programs to be sent to Gavin.</p>

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ANRPB – List of Contacts for each state.	<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>
FCI website article from ANRPB	<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>Action: Stephen Shears to contact FCI to have the link to Australia updated so that it include relevant information about Australia, currently blank.</p>
Microsoft AI Co-pilot program to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.	<p>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.</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>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.</p>

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	<p>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.</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>Action : Gavin to schedule some resources to further design a possible solution.</p>
<p>ANRPB meeting minutes to be posted on the website.</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>Action: Gavin to send to Len who will post the minutes.</p>
<p>AAWS Survey</p>	<p>Marc Tenaglia forwarded correspondence regarding Australian Animal Welfare Strategy survey for ANRPB to review. The AAWS Connection - Edition 2, 2025</p>	<p>Action: Leo Turley to review</p>
<p>AI feeders to control Feral Pigeons</p>	<p>Leo Turley circulated information regarding AI feeders to sterilise Feral pigeons. Artificial intelligence, birth control used to curb Geraldton pigeon numbers - ABC News</p>	<p>Leo has written to the ABC and Eric Wolf from Ovocontrol, Annolytics LLC Pigeon Control Company about making it clear that it is FERAL Pigeons that are being targeted for the sterilisation program.</p> <p>Currently no response from ABS, Eric Wolf replied with the comments noted for future published documentation.</p>

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Donation to CCF	Correspondence circulated post meeting to seek approval for the board to donate \$500 to the Central Cumberland Federation as per previous donations by the ANRPB in similar circumstances.	Action: Gavin circulated the motion to all ANRPB members at the March meeting. Unanimously passed by Board members via returned emails.
Postponement of May meeting	To enable all members the chance to attend the next meeting, the scheduled May meeting was rescheduled to the 3 rd of June. Emails sent to all members.	Information only

Meeting closed 2038hrs AEST Time.

Next meeting to be held **Tuesday 3rd June 2025** at 1830hrs AEST (QLD, NSW, VIC), 1800hrs ACST (SA), 1630hrs AWST (WA)