

# **ANRPB held Tuesday 26 August 2025**

Meeting Opened 18:50 EST. Meeting chaired by Stephen Shears

**Attendees:** Nick Mitchell, Gavin Harris, Leo Turley, Russell Somerville, Tony Price, Paul Gibbs, Stephen Shears, Andrew Crothers, Philip Almond

**Apologies:** Robin White, Vince Pedavoli

**Previous Minutes Approved: Moved - Andrew Crothers Seconded - Russell Somerville**

**Correspondence In:** Email from Dr Colin Walker

**Correspondence out:** Nil advised.

**Treasurers Report.**



Treasurer report as  
at 26082025.docx

**General Account Balance**

**\$23,559.73,**

**Term Deposit**

**\$80,000**

**Disease Management Fund**

**66,192**

**Moved - Andrew Crothers, Seconded – Russell Somerville**

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

<b>Promotional Video</b>	Youtube link to be put up on ANRPB website and other pigeon websites	<b>Action :</b> Tony to speak to Rod Simmons about changing Youtube video setting to allow for Pilipino and Mandarin. Mistakes in autocue noted, Tony has sent correspondence to Rod Simmons to follow up.
<b>FCI</b>	<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. The ANRPB is awaiting formal approval of membership by the FCI congress. FCI congress in China 2026 (now changed to Germany). Next FCI Olympiad to be in Dortmund – Germany, 4/2/2026 to 08/02/2026 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>Steven Shears received email from FCI with contract for 2027 – 2030 and updated details of 3 ring suppliers with costings.</p>	<p>Action: Stephen to consider attending on behalf of ANRPB.</p> <p>Action: Leo to forward information regarding import duties.</p>  <p>FCI Rings.msg</p>
<b>Loading Density / Code of Practice</b>	Documentation by DPIRD indicates the initial 450cm2 density provision will now be 200cm2 for racing pigeons.	Action: Leo reports that no further correspondence from DPIRD, PRF will comply with 200cm2 densities as missing from current posted legislation.

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<b>Government recognition / Sports Australia.</b>	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.	<b>Action:</b> Vince – in draft. Report next meeting.
<b>AWAMO alliance</b>	Vince has suggested that that a portion of the funds raised by the pigeon auctions by the ANRPB to be donated to the AWAMO. Bill Hawa auction of Pedavoli birds, donation of half the auction proceeds to be split, 25% to Aust War Animal Memorial Organisation, 25% Legacy, 50% National state prize	Carried forward for further discussion.
<b>2025 Grand National.</b>	<p>NSW – Stephen Shears reported:            East Coast Long Distance Racing Combine (ECLDRC) will be organizing body for national Race, using CCF spare trailer.            Race was from Booligal 550-620km on 30<sup>th</sup> August. ECLDRC will sponsor \$1000 towards the race.            Basketing 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 - 2025 National race to be from Charleville 680 to 780km race.</p> <p>WA - National was held from Yalgoo 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 500km race to Perth.</p>	<p>For Information only.</p> <p>Winner from Shoalhaven.</p> <p>Moved to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025.</p> <p>Race moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> August            Winner N. Bailey</p>

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	<p>SA – Special meeting held – Changed to SE Line.</p> <p>National Race now from Terang – 530km to Adelaide, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.</p> <p>National Race to Nundaroo for Eyre peninsula, Pt Pirie and Pt Augusta – 600km.</p> <p>Vic – Race from Morgan, all federations on one Truck, one prize from ANRPB for each federation. 10 bird limits. 12<sup>th</sup> October</p>	<p>Geraldton Racing Club to submit proposal to PRF for protocols for inclusion in race.</p>
<b>National Ace Bird Awards</b>	<p>2025 eligibility discussed, consideration of including 150 bird race entry to accompany 20 member flyer requirement. It was agreed for this year to have a minimum of 20 <b>competing</b> flyers in each race but not the 150 bird minimum.</p> <p>Len Vanderlinde has updated website to reflect 20 bird flyer</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Paul to send out updates to remove 150 bird limit.</p>
<b>Victorian Country Delegate</b>	<p>Ongoing search for regional candidate.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Tony Price Ongoing – carried forward.</p>
<b>Queensland Delegates</b>	<p>Ongoing search for regional candidate. 3 candidates were interested, yet are now no longer eligible due to varying reasons.</p> <p>Late Entry – 09/09/2025</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Philip Almond Carried forward.</p> <p>Eric Abel is interested in taking up Regional QLD delegate role</p>
<b>Tasmania Delegates</b>	<p>Robin White has indicated interest.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Gavin to send zoom invite to Robin White for September meeting.</p>

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<b>Merchandise</b>	Stephen Shears reported no new merchandise is required to be bought, there is enough on hand.	<b>Action:</b> Stephen will circulate itemized list of merchandise to Board members. Anyone wishing to sell any items to contact Stephen Shears.
<b>ANRPB Life Ring</b>	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.
<b>Patron</b>	<p>The ANRPB is pleased to announce that Nigel Allsop has accepted the boards offer to be appointed Patron.</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> <div data-bbox="443 715 501 778" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">wwi pigeon use.pdf</p> <p>General discussion raised by Vince – that the 2 War pigeons receive the Dickens medal posthumously. Suggestion to offer competition to High School students to name them, as a way of raising awareness of pigeons used in war times and general awareness of pigeon racing today.</p> <p>Vince was sent a Dickens Medal to be held, from Nigel.</p>	<p>Webste: <a href="http://www.awamo.org.au">www.awamo.org.au</a> <b>Action:</b> Gavin to correspond with AWAMO to offer to have the ANRPB website added to the AWAMO web page.</p> <p>For further discussion. <b>Action:</b> Paul Gibbs has tabled a letter for the Federal Minister of Education (in consultation with Leo Turley) to request the involvement with High School students Australia wide. Posted 6.6/2025</p> <p>26/08/2025 – No response from Education Minister as yet, Paul will send another enquiry.</p>
<b>National Convention</b>	<p>QLD still considering next convention in Brisbane – March 2026.</p> <p>SA considering convention in November 2026 depending on outcome from QLD.</p>	Phil discussing with

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<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 will continue to write articles.</p> <p>Paul did article for SQUILLS about Terry Steed, updated ANRPB address on SQUILLS</p>	<p>September issue to be received by subscribers any day.</p> <p>Articles: Trevor Steed of CCF and Gary Portelli.</p>

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<p><b>State Round Up / Discussion</b></p>	<p>QLD – Amalgamation of QRPF and NRC, to be recognized as QRPF.</p> <p>NSW – Stephen Shears and Vince have both won a CCF race. Membership has increased by 10% total membership to 240. Most weeks 4600 birds in races and 3500 trainers.</p> <p>VIC – New Benzing live Club system implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Approx. 90% of Victorian flyers use Benzing clocks</li> <li>– VHA facebook page has drone video of toss which has gained considerable following.</li> <li>– TikTok 1million followers, 21 year old with 20 pigeons putting up posts</li> <li>– Department of Agriculture requesting online registration of lofts so that lofts can be locked down in case of an avian flu outbreak. Voluntary at this stage but to register if more than 50 race birds.</li> <li>– Racing program started 28<sup>th</sup> June, 250kms</li> </ul> <p>SA – We have had 7 races so far, very good returns on North line, average returns on East line mainly due to head winds.</p> <p>SA – Golden Mile Loft, 22 return members x 10 birds each in loft, plus a waiting list. South Aussie with Cosi – TV show aired 01/06/25 (good positive promotion). SA to build a bigger loft to accommodate a one loft race with 550 birds Approval at club level, awaiting council approval. Intention to have 4 races. \$400 per bird open to national entrants.</p> <p>WA – DPIRD now charging \$80.36 annually for property id. 6 races so far, soon to be up to 400kms. first in ordinary conditions with last weekend's race in favorable conditions. Geraldton Club has had 9 races, now going 400kms North line, Desexing pellets being issued via AI machine in town</p>	<p>Information only. Pigeon Pox and Rota Virus causing widespread issues. Currently experiencing difficult racing.</p> <p>Currently experiencing difficult racing- currently racing at approx. 500km.</p> <p>Discussions held with Agriculture – now compulsory to have a PIC (Property Identification Code) if 50 birds or more. Reason – for reporting and notifications should there be an Avian Flu outbreak. Currently releasing information to members. Experiencing difficult racing as with other States. Currently at approx. 300 mile distance. Tasmanian Races next 2 weeks.</p> <p>Experiencing difficult racing as with other States. Progressing through State Council with One Loft construction approvals. \$450/bird – Cap of 550 birds, will be opened to all clubs and federations.</p> <p>Young Bird Derby held – very difficult race.</p> <p>Geraldton Club has just completed Karratha and Port Headland race – longest race for year, difficult racing conditions.</p>

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	<p>Russell suggested a map for each state showing race points.</p> <p><b>Any outbreak of Avian Flu in any state – board members to report immediately so alterations to racing programs can be implemented if required.</b></p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Stephen has offered to prepare the maps.  <b>Action:</b> Federations to share racing programs considering the races crossing into Victoria and vice versa.            Programs to be sent to Gavin, who will forward to Stephen.            SA and WA have forwarded race programs and maps to Stephen</p>
<b>Genetics of Racing</b>	<p>Phil Almond 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.</p>	<p>An overview as explained by Phil Almond is attached.</p>  <p>Supercharging Your Champions v1.2.pdf</p> <p>Link to Dave Shewmaker’s website - <a href="https://www.shewmaker.com/html/the_book_project.html">https://www.shewmaker.com/html/the_book_project.html</a></p>
<b>ANRPB – List of Contacts for each state.</b>	<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>Also a page with State programs to alleviate crossed flight paths.</p>	<p>All delegates            Carried forward.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Gavin &amp; Len            Carried forward.</p>
<b>FCI website article from ANRPB</b>	<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>Action:</b> Stephen Shears to contact FCI to have the link to Australia updated so that it include relevant information about Australia, currently blank.</p>
<b>Microsoft AI Co-pilot program to predict flight</b>	<p>Andrew Grech has progressed his computer program that he has been developing to predict flight conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Stephen shears to approach Andrew Grech to ask if he will attend next meeting to present an updated information session. Stephen to enquire if the program could be made</p>

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<b>conditions during pigeon races to assist Liberation committees in their decisions.</b>	<p>Locations along the estimated flight path are entered into the program and conditions are promulgated along the way</p> <p>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>This program was utilized by CCF last weekend with encouraging results.</p> <p>Andrew Grech deciding whether he will do it as an APP and charge for the service.</p>	<p>available to other Federations around Australia and if a cost would be involved.</p> <p>Grech is considering patenting his program and is contemplating presenting it to the FCI congress in Germany.</p> <p>Program currently being used by CCF Liberation Committee with (so far) promising results.</p>
<b>AI feeders to control Feral Pigeons</b>	<p>Leo Turley circulated information regarding AI feeders to sterilise Feral pigeons.  <a href="#">Artificial intelligence, birth control used to curb Geraldton pigeon numbers - ABC News</a></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>

Meeting closed 19:15hrs AEST Time.

Next meeting to be held **Tuesday 16th September 2025** at 1845hrs AEST (QLD, NSW, VIC), 1815hrs ACST (SA), 1645hrs AWST (WA)

**Completed Items**

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussions / Issues</b>	<b>Actions / Actioning Member / Outcomes</b>
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<b>Victorian Legislation</b>	A link to the VCAT report can be viewed at <a href="#">VICTORIAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL</a>	
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