

Australian National Racing Board - Annual General Meeting 2025

Attendees – Vince Pedavoli (President), Stephen Shears (Vice President), Gavin Harris (Treasurer), Tony Price, Leo Turley, Andrew Crothers, Russell Somerville, Paul Gibbs, Nick Mitchell

Apologies – Philip Almond, Eric Abel and Robin White

Agenda

1. Open Annual General Meeting 19:15EST Monday 18th November 2025 chaired by Vince Pedavoli.
2. Previous minutes – Accepted moved S. Shears, Seconded L. Turley
3. Vince tabled a Chairperson’s report .
Chair’s Annual Report 2023 to 2025

Introduction

I joined the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board (ANRPB) as chair in 2023. The aim of the Board was to build on the good work of previous Boards. And to actively promote The Charter of the ANRPB.

I was reluctant to provide commentary until this year because I felt a lot of issues were in motion but not closed out. The current group of Board members from across Australia have provided selfless service in a cooperative and collegiate environment to “make things happen”.

Affiliation with Federation Colombophile Internationale (FCI)

The ANRPB has achieved membership of the FCI. This allows to us to draw upon the strength of the FCI worldwide when we make representation to Government.

Stephen Shears put together a thorough and comprehensive submission to the FCI. And behind the scenes Dr Colin Walker promoted our credentials. Also invaluable was the support of Nicholas Gyselbrecht PIPA and David Madera, Portugal.

National Ace Pigeon Awards

With the tireless contribution of Paul Gibbs, the Board’s Ace Pigeon Awards continues to gain momentum and participation. The Board will continue to refine these awards as we gather feedback from all States.

National Races

Through a direct donation to the Board specifically for this, the Board was able to provide sponsorship to special ANRPB races in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Queensland will participate in 2026. The aim of this sponsorship is to raise awareness surrounding the Board and its activities.

Australian War Memorial

The Board has continued to strengthen our relationship with the Australian War Memorial. Nigel Allsopp, President and CEO of Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) has this year agreed to become a Patron of the ANRPB. This relationship will continue to give racing pigeons exposure to the broader community as we join celebrations across Australia.

We were represented at the inaugural Australian Distinguished Service Award on the 24th February 2025. This is an annual event and the Board will be present again in 2026. In 2026 two certificates will be presented posthumously to the 2 Australian pigeons who were awarded the Dickens Medal. Another certificate will be presented to acknowledge the service of all pigeons in wartime

The Board participated at the 100th anniversary of the Australian Signal Corp at Victoria Barracks, in Sydney, with a liberation of pigeons from a WWII cane basket and parade of Pigeoneers Anzac banner celebrating the proud history homing pigeons had for the Signal Corp.

National Code of Practice

This continues to be updated with input from around Australia.

Sydney Convention

The ANRPB participated in the convention with a fundraising sale. Many Board members contributed birds. All proceeds went into our general funds.

Promotion

A special mention to Paul Gibbs. He continues to write articles for both Australian Racing Pigeon Journal and publications abroad at a prolific rate.

Thank you to Len VanderLinde for applying our website updates.

Health and Welfare of Australian Racing Pigeons

One of our most important aims contained in the Charter.

The Board is meeting regularly with Dr Colin Walker to prepare for the challenges once the current strain of avian flu reaches mainland Australia. He has already had meetings with Victorian veterinary representatives. I urge all flyers to read Dr Walker's articles in Australian Racing Pigeon Journal.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board. I'm looking forward to your contributions in 2026.

4. Appointments for 2025

Vince Pedavoli thanked all position holders, all have agreed to retain their current positions. Moved Russell Somerville, Seconded Paul Gibbs. Carried.

5. State and Regional Delegates:

WA Metro : Leo Turley

WA Regional: Andrew Crothers

QLD Metro ; Philip Almond

QLD Regional: Eric Abel

NSW Metro ; Stephen Shears.

NSW Regional; Paul Gibbs

Victoria Metro : Tony Price

Victoria Regional; Position Vacant

SA Metro ; Gavin Harris

SA Regional ; Russell Somerville

TAS Metro : Robin White

Minutes : Nick Mitchell

6. Financial Report

Treasurers report presented by Gavin Harris for period 01/07/2024 – 30/06/2025.

The ANRPB Inc has increased our trading surplus each year from 2022 \$4536, 2023 \$9995, 2024 \$12618 and in 2025 the surplus was \$12,838.92

We must thank Vince Pedavoli for donating high quality pigeons to be auctioned and raised funds off the HAWA auction site who donated their auction service. Vince's company Landmark Square Development donated \$11,500. The ANRPB then donated \$6500 to Legacy and \$5000 was used to sponsor the National State prizes.

Pat Arcella also kindly donated \$500 as sponsor of the Ace Bird Awards.

Members of the Board also arranged birds to be auctioned at the National Convention held in Sydney this year and those birds raised a further \$10,200 for the ANRPB.

The ANRPB Board Members each donated \$50 to be financial members of the ANRPB.

Thank you to the CCF Sydney that organised the very successful NSW convention, we donated \$500 back to the CCF for allowing us 10 lots in the sale and provided space for us to have a Stall at the convention.

We also gained Barry's Petfood and Laucke Mill's as \$500 each sponsors during the year.

The Disease Management Fund and some of our trading monies are invested in a Term Deposit at Westpac, it matured in May 2025 and we rolled it over for a further 12 months. We earned \$3350.63, we then split the interest portion for the Disease Management Fund and added to the Fund (\$1614.45) the other \$1736.18 was added to ANRPB general funds, all was reinvested plus we rounded the Term deposit up to \$80,000.

Moved Stephen Shears. Seconded Russell Somerville Carried.

7. Ace Bird of the year.

Paul Gibbs reported on the success of the National Ace Bird awards, we now have three awards : Short to Middle Distance, Middle to Long Distance and Overall. Revised in 2025 to include a minimum of 20 flyers. The awards for 2024 were handed out at the Sydney National convention.

8. National Races 2025

The Board thanked Vince Pedavoli for his donation which allowed us to successfully sponsor each state \$1000 (WA, SA, NSW, VIC, QLD). In 2026 we will sponsor any states that hold a national (WA, SA, VIC, QLD and TAS). As QLD did not hold their 2025 national the money paid in 2025 will roll into 2026.

Next Meeting : General Meeting to be held immediately after this Annual General Meeting is closed.

Meeting Closed 19:50 EST.