



## FLYING GALLANTLY INTO THE FUTURE



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### 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".

The Board comprises:

Vince Pedavoli	President and Chair
Stephen Shears	Vice Chair, Public Officer, NSW Delegate
Gavin Harris	Treasurer, SA Delegate
Paul Gibbs	Publicity Officer, NSW Regional Delegate
Nick Mitchell	Secretary
Russell Sommerville	SA Regional Delegate
Tony Price	VIC Delegate
Leo Turley	WA Delegate
Andrew Coothers	WA Regional Delegate
Philip Almond	QLD Delegate
Eric Abel	QLD Regional Delegate
Robin White	TAS Delegate

#### 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

Sincerely,

Vince Pedavoli  
Chair, ANRPB