



Annual General Meeting 2025

“One Voice. Leading the Way”

Held at VHA Headquarters 29 Business Park Drive, Notting Hill on Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 11 am

Present at the meeting:

Charles Hider VHA, Tony Price VRPU, Marc Tenaglia WPF, Nick Lakiotis GMPF, Joe Angelino VPO, Darren Slade GIPPSLAND, Jeff Weaver VHA, Moussa Haidar GMPF, Joe Micallef VPO, Andrew Demidowski VHA

Apologies:

Jeff Howell NDIC, Paul Sheehan WARRNAMBOOL

- 1. Approval of previous minutes for meeting held on 17th March 2024**

Andrew Demidowski read out the minutes from the previous meeting



1st Darren Slade 2nd Marc Tenaglia All in favour

2. Election of Office Bearers

The following people were nominated for executive positions with the VRPB for 2025.

Tony Price was nominated to remain the President

Jeff Weaver was elected as the new Vice President as Dr Colin Walker OAM resigned from this position in 2024

Andrew Demidowski was renominated as Secretary

Marc Tenaglia was renominated as Treasurer

Charles Hider will remain as Honorary Solicitor

1st Charles Hider 2nd Darren Slade All in favour

National Board nomination

Tony Price was nominated to remain as the ANPRA representative for Victoria

1st Moussa Hadar 2nd Jeff Weaver All in favour

Tony Price advised that the ANPRA are now members of the Federation Colombophile Internationale (FCI). There will be many benefits in being a member. As an example, Australian Racing Pigeon organisations will be able to obtain a 50% reduction for rings and they will also have a greater opportunity to improve their marketing of the sport.

The ANRPA are still looking for a Victorian country representative to join. They have monthly conference calls via video link.



Joe Micallef thought that we need to improve our marketing. He suggested a flag for the National and t shirts.

3. Inwards/Outwards correspondence

Andrew Demidowski advised that Dr Colin Walker OAM submitted an email to the VRPB for consideration. This was reviewed under General Business.

4. Review of Action Plan 2024

Andrew Demidowski advised that all items on the action plan were completed. He advised that he had completed the Transportation and Liberation Guidelines together with the accompanying checklist

5. Treasurers Report

Marc Tenaglia advised that no money was raised in 2024 but there were expenses for the successful VCAT Case which cost just over \$10,000. He advised that as a result of the Varelas case the Western Fed. has had much less problems with the Local Councils in his area. As an example, Brimbank Council has now started to reissue their permits, and both Hobsons Bay and Melton Council are now dealing with permits with less hesitation. The VRPB approved the fat eye trial which was published by Dr Colin Walker and the VRPB still has around \$1000 left in the Disease Management Fund for any further trials. Marc explained to the attending members the origins of the money obtained by the VRPB and how it was initially going to be distributed evenly to each of the Metropolitan racing pigeon organisations as well as for Prostate Cancer Research but due to the impending Varelas vs Brimbank Case it was decided by the Victorian National Conference Committee that the



money will be held by the VRPB in total for the impending VCAT cases and a smaller donation will be made for Prostate Cancer Research. Marc advised that a just over \$6000 will be donated for Prostate Cancer research

It was voted unanimously to accept the Treasurers Report and Tony Price thanked Marc for the excellent work he was performing as Treasurer

6. Review of VRPB Transportation & Liberation Guidelines & VRPB Liberation Risk Analysis Checklist

Andrew Demidowski advised that he has completed his work with these guidelines and outlined the problems he had trying to put this document together. He advised that the guidelines were developed using international standards obtained from Colin Walker together with the guidelines used by South Australia and Central Cumberland, Marc Tenaglia advised that these guidelines will now be improved by himself and several other volunteers from other states.

7. Review of VCAT Planning Decision – Darebin vs Terry Varelas & VRPB

Charles Hider advised that as a result of the Varelas Case pigeon racing will no longer be defined within the definition of 'animal husbandry' and will now be dealt with by Councils as a general planning application (amenity issues). Basically, it has changed dynamics of Council planning applications.

Charles also advised that Ergun Avci VHA has now rebuilt his loft and made an application to Manningham Council for a Town Planning permit. He is now waiting to see if his application will be successful.



8. Development of Standard Council Permit Conditions

Andrew Demidowski asked the members whether the permit conditions developed by himself and Charles Hider could be placed on its website for Councils to use when considering an application. Charles Hider advised this could be done without any problems.

9. Review of Contact list for Victoria 2024 to be approved

Andrew Demidowski advised that a contact list has been developed by the VRPB of all known racing pigeon organisations in Victoria which included the names, emails and phone number of the Presidents and Secretaries for these organisations. He wanted to know whether these could be made available for everyone on the VRPB Website? He was advised to do this he would need to get the individual permission from each organisation for privacy issues.

This will be done in due course and a contact list with only those organisations that give the VRPB permission will be made available on its website.

10. Social Media Policy

Tony Price advised that all racing pigeon organisations need a social media policy.

This will be developed using the South Australian Homing Pigeon Association as a model policy

11. Review of VRPB Code of Practice – any suggested amendments



Marc Tenaglia advised that a rule change was required. Rule 4.9.3 will be changed to - 1 hr. before liberation to until liberated

12. Discussion for Action Plan 2025

No new ideas were raised so Andrew will liaise with the VRPB members in due course to develop some new action items for 2025.

13. General Business

Andrew Demidowski asked Charles Hider whether a summary of the Varelas case could be placed on the VRPB website? It was decided by the members that it would be best to just put the entire case on our website with no commentary as it is now a public document.

Tony Price read out the email submitted by Dr Colin Walker OAM sent the VRPB with his ideas about what activities the VRPB could undertake in the future. Each item was discussed at length to determine if further action is warranted.

From this email it was decided that Andrew will follow up with Dr Colin Walker OAM what is involved in obtaining a PIC and what benefits it has for pigeon flyers. Tony Price advised that he made a submission on behalf of Dr Colin Walker OAM regarding his request to undertake a study on how to best deal with diseases in One Loft Races currently held throughout Australia to the National Committee but this was “knocked back”.



Tony Price advised that the Australian Pigeon Journal is going well now that Jeff Howell has made his previous articles. available online. Jeff still needs loft reports if anyone is interested.

Tony Price advised that Tas Gazis PRV has been contacted to see whether the PRV is interested in sponsoring the 500 mile or 600-mile Victorian Combine Races. Tony Price advised that Dr Colin Walker received the Order of Australia for his services to pigeon racing. It was decided that a letter will be sent to Colin from the VRPB congratulating him on this fantastic achievement.

Meeting finished at 12.15 pm

Following the meeting we had lunch at the Notting Hill Pub which was just around the corner

Finished at 1.30 pm