

Victorian Racing Pigeon Body

**VRPB**



## **Minutes**

**June Meeting 2025**

**“One Voice. Leading the Way”**

**Held online using Team Viewer on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:** Tony Price (President), Marc Tenaglia (Treasurer), Charles Hider (Honorary Solicitor) and Andrew Demidowski (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Jeff Weaver (Vice President) VHA, Moussa Haidar GMPF, Joe Angelino VPO

### **Inwards Correspondence**

Email from Colin Walker OAM regarding activities of the VRPB

Noted for information purposes only - no further action to be taken.

### **Outwards Correspondence**

VRPB Social Media Policy – Andrew Demidowski

Distributed to all racing pigeon secretaries for further action if appropriate.

### **Agenda**

- 1. Report on PIC by Andrew Demidowski to the VRPB**

**PIC Property Investigation Code with Agriculture Victoria**

I have undertaken an investigation into whether the VRPB should recommend for racing pigeon flyers in Victoria to apply for a PIC (property Investigation Code) through the Agriculture Victoria as recommended at our Annual General meeting earlier this year by Dr Colin Walker OAM.

Pics are used by Agriculture Victoria for tracing and controlling diseases and residue problems that may be detected.

An individual can apply for a PIC for free through the Department of Agriculture at [pic.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://pic.agriculture.vic.gov.au)

It states that you must have a PIC if you own more than 50 domesticated pigeons. However, I cannot find any reference in either the Livestock Disease Control Act 1994 or Livestock Control Regulation 2017 that says you must do this.

The Livestock Control Regulation 2017 appears to apply to primary producers and does not mention pigeons. Also, the selling of livestock does not include pigeons.

### **Summary**

PICs are used by the Victorian Government to control diseases with animals and are an excellent way to manage any outbreaks.

However, the legislation that manages this issue does not appear to relate to racing pigeons and relates more to livestock

If pigeons are taken to the vet and are found to have paramyxovirus type 1 this disease is notifiable in Victoria.

From reading the Agriculture Victoria website it is unclear whether Rota virus is a notifiable disease (but probably is)

Once Agriculture Victoria is notified by the Laboratory or Vet that your loft has paramyxovirus the Department is notified and will make you apply for a PIC.

### **Recommendation**

Agriculture Victoria is responsible for animal welfare in Victoria. The legislation that underpins its responsibility appears to manage beef, dairy, honey bees,

horses, pigs, poultry and eggs and sheep. It does not directly appear to be responsible racing pigeons.

The use of PICs for disease management by Agriculture Victoria is a useful tool to manage notifiable pigeon diseases. It is however unclear whether applying for a PIC is mandatory as the Livestock Disease Act and subsequent Regulation does not mention pigeons as its responsibility.

For this reason, I would recommend that the application for a PIC with Agriculture remain as voluntary.

Andrew Demidowski

Secretary

Victorian Racing Pigeon Body

It was unanimously agreed that the VRPB should not recommend that members of racing pigeon clubs in Victoria apply for PICs with Agriculture Victoria. This application should remain voluntary.

Charles Hider advised that several decades ago Tommy Meehan a well-known VHA flyer had all his pigeons seized and destroyed by the Department of Agriculture before he could make an intervention via the Court system. He did not know if the same action would still be taken today by the same organisation so would prefer that any issues be initially be dealt with by the VRPB for a better outcome.

Tony Price advised that Dr Colin Walkers OAM main concern would be if Agriculture Victoria decided to have an exclusion zone to stop the bird flu from spreading. The attending members of the VRPB were of the opinion that the VRPB could directly contact the Secretary of the affected area to advise them of Agriculture Victorias directive.

The VRPB currently has a contact list of all Victorian Racing Pigeon Organisations to assist with any urgent matters.

## **2. Ergun Avci Planning Application by Charles Hider**

Charles Hider advised that the Manningham Council has issued a planning permit to Ergun to keep and race pigeons. Charles advised that he would be

providing the VRPB a copy of this permit to assist with future applications if needed.

### **3. Marketing opportunity with Ari Barsheshet Malvern Club using Ticktock Instagram and Facebook**

Andrew advised that Ari was a new flyer with the VHA who posted racing pigeon information on at least a daily basis on Ticktock, Instagram and Facebook. Ari currently had 10,000 followers on Ticktock and is now selling his own merchandise under the name 'Pigeon Daddy'. He also was recently seen on National TV promoting the sport. The link to this is available for viewing on the VHA website.

The Committee was of the opinion that this promotion is valuable to promote the sport and encouraged the VHA to assist Ari with his continued promotion of the sport. Charles advised that as Ari is still new to the sport it was important that any information posted was accurate.

In future it was thought that it would be great if Aris work could translate to new members. An organised promotional campaign would assist in providing interesting and accurate information to any potential future members.

### **4. Development of new flyer package**

Andrew provided a number of documents that he thought would help racing pigeon organisations to assist novice flyers (below 18 years of age) and new flyers navigating themselves through the first few years in the sport. He provided a draft policy document which he believed would assist organisations with both encouraging new flyers to join and retain them for the long term.

#### **Policy**

#### **How to assist new and novice flyers with pigeon Racing**

The way each racing pigeon organisation promotes and assists new or novice flyers will depend on the size and capability of the racing organisation. 'One size does not fit all' so the VRPB has developed these guidelines for racing

pigeon organisations throughout Victoria to use to assist inexperienced flyers to enjoy and be retained within the sport.

### **Step 1**

Develop a policy that will assist novice flyers (The WPF have done this so read the attached document which will assist in developing your own program)

### **Step 2**

Develop Guidelines for new or inexperienced flyers for any initial questions they may have. (The VRPU have done this so read the attached document and tailor it to your own organisation's needs)

### **Step 3**

Consider supplying race birds free of charge to novice flyers who may not have the initial capability to breed their own birds.

### **Step 4**

Assign a mentor who can provide guidance during the season and answer any questions the new or novice flyer may have.

### **Step 5**

Find out if assistance is required to build a new loft that will comply with the VRPB Code of Practice? Consider making prefabricated lofts that can be moved on site by trailer that are initially owned by the racing pigeon organisation but can be purchased at a later stage if the flyer wants to keep the loft for the long term. (The cost could just be for the building materials)

### **Step 6**

The cost of electronic pigeon clocks for the novice flyer or even for a new flyer that has not wholly committed to racing pigeons long term could initially deter these flyers from commencing in the sport. For this reason, a suite of packages could be provided for these people to make it easy to start in the sport. Kevin Clark Benzing Australia is happy to sponsor any genuine and unaffiliated novice flyers with Benzing Clocks as well as new flyers being able to purchase clocks at a reduced rate. Racing Pigeon organisations can also consider purchasing

several clocks that they may be able to be leased on a yearly basis to make the transition to permanent pigeon racing much easier.

From these six steps the Committee were most interested in further expanding step 2 and step 6.

For step 2 the committee advised that they wanted the VRPB Secretary to develop a generic guideline that all racing pigeon organisations can use.

Step 6 needs a further conversation with Kevin Clark Benzing Australia. It was also suggested that clubs should consider buying one or two second hand clocks for new flyers to hire or borrow. This apparently has been done by Diamond Valley Club VHA by Stephen Kearsey.

## **5. General Business**

### **Liberation Protocol – what is happening with it – Marc Tenaglia**

The VRPB has completed its work on the liberation protocol and passed it on to both Andrew Grech CCF and Marc Tenaglia WPF for enhancement. Andrew Grech has developed a software package using AI and an integrated algorithm to predict the weather along the line of flight from the racing release point. Marc advised that he is assisting Andrew Grech with any anomalies in the software program. He advised that he is now taking a couple of minutes to predict the weather rather than hours. If the weather predicted any 'red flags' for the liberation committee to consider further work will need to be done to work out whether the birds can be safely released. The WPF will be using this software from the first race which will be published on their website. The CCF are already using this software. The use of this software by any organisation in the future could come at a cost which has yet to be determined.

### **ANRPB - the latest information – Tony Price**

Tony advised that the SAHPA currently have built a racing loft at their own headquarters which allows retired racing pigeon flyers to continue to race pigeons when they are no longer able to look after the birds anymore. The birds are looked after the SAHPA Secretary.

Stephen Shears Vice President ANRPA is developing a program that will show the different lines of flight each racing pigeon organisations are racing this year. This will assist in preventing clashes from different race points between different federations especially from different States.

The Queensland and South Australian Racing Pigeon Federations are currently having conversations about where and when the National Racing Pigeon Convention will be held. Currently it looks like this year it will be held in Queensland followed by South Australia.

**Concluded at 8.30 pm**