

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PIGEON RACE COMMITTEE

Minutes of July 2026 National Committee Meeting

Held at VRPU rooms 7:36 pm on Tuesday 21st July 2026

PRESENT:

Tony Price	President of the VPU
John Share	Secretary of the VPU
Jim Davis	Treasurer of the VPU
Andrew Spiliopoulos	President of the VHA
Steve Brown	Secretary of the VHA
John Saggars	President of the WPF
Michael Portelli	Secretary of the WPF
Rodney Maine	President of the GMPF
Tony McPherson	Secretary of the GMPF

Guests:

Dr Colin Walker

Apologies:

Nil

Meeting Chaired by: Tony Price

Distribution:

All Present
VPU Website

Tony Price welcomed all Committee members old and new and guest Dr.Colin Walker.

September 2025 Minutes were read by Jim Davis. Moved A.Spiliopoulus 2nd J.Saggars. Accepted.

2026 Race – Broken Hill National

- In line with previous minutes and agreements, it was agreed that it was the VHA's turn, in the rotation, to transport the birds. VHA
- Federations or organisations will be responsible to get their birds over to the VHA rooms except the WPF and VPU. These will be picked up on route from the WPF rooms. WPF/VPU to coordinate. Note
- Federations or Organisations are to share costs of transport on a birdage pro rata system. Secretary/ Treasurer of transport Federation to invoice each Federation their share of costs for the races. VHA
- Flyers wishing to participate in the National can only be active members from one of the (4) four major Federations only. If a flyer is not basketing at their usual centre, they are to check and gain approval to basket and produce at their nearest centre. Moved Steve Brown 2nd John Share. Vote - unanimous. Carried Note

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PIGEON RACE COMMITTEE

- It was again agreed 25 bird per tier with the top unit in use. Note
- Tony Price advised that in meeting with the ANRPB, it was again explained to that committee that we could not participate in an Australia wide National due to the different timing in our racing versus the other States. Note
- Tony Price advised that the ANRPB would again sponsor our National with \$1,000 donation to be split equally between the 4 Federations. Note

Combines 2026: Transport by VHA.

- The Combine race points would be Fowlers Gap and Tibooburra
- It was agreed 20 birds maximum per tier. Note

Other items – Joint Transport Initiative Continued

- It was suggested that in 2027 the Combines include the two 400's (Cobar) Note
- All agreed that we need to discuss with our members further. All
- Given discussions were required, J.Davis requested all Federations forward and share draft 2027 race schedules so as informed discussions can be made. All
- If it were to proceed, after various calculations it was advised that all Federations could fit on the one truck. Note
- Rodney Maine advised that the GMPF would not participate in the proposed 400 Combines when the 400's were from Broken Hill due to the distance being close to 500 miles and not 400 miles for GMPF members. This was acknowledged; however, the other 3 Federations would continue with the Combine format. Note

- PRV – Sponsorship Fowlers Gap 500

- M.Portelli to seek confirmation from J.Farrugia that the PRV will continue to sponsor the 500 on the same basis as 2025. MP

- Other items

- Rota was further discussed and all agreed that it was time to move to resolve the current inadequate expensive vaccine. Dr.Walker confirmed there were (2) pathways we could follow – (1) Obtain the licence of the overseas vaccine. This would be very costly and a lengthy process, as another vaccine in Australia would require lengthy working with Government. (2) Proceed with Tredlia and continue to advance the capacity of the current vaccine by further step by step trials. This may take some years to secure a final fully successful vaccine but seems the best option. Funds were discussed and the implementation of receiving funds into an account from the likes of the PRV and ANRPB who between them would have in excess of \$100,000 would be ideal to trigger for the beginning. T.Price to raise at the next ANRPB meeting as a starting point. TP

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PIGEON RACE COMMITTEE

- J.Davis questioned how the organising of Yolla 2026 race was going given the reported excessive transport costs. Rodney Maine advised that GMPF had no issues dealing with Strait Link and agreeing a discounted figure noting that their transport /units was some 5 meters long compared to the VHA's almost double that and therefore the cost double as the fee is calculated on length of truck and unit/s. Rodney offered the other Federations use of their set up provided not in use by the GMPF at the time. Federations to further investigate and consider the generous offer. VHA/WPF
- The issue of having pigeon racing recognised as a Sport in the eyes of the Government and Councils was raised and after some discussion , Dr. Colin Walker suggested that this was no easy matter and that if we were serious about having Pigeon Racing recognised as a Sport then we would need a professional consultant who is fluent in these matters and that for a fee, we could engage to embark on this issue. Further discussion to be held. All
- **Next year's event – 2027 Cobar 16/10/27.** Federations to include this date in their 2026 Race Schedule. All
- **Meeting closed 8:52 pm - Next Meeting – 7:30 pm date and venue TBA**