



# ANRPB

flying gallantly into the future

3 December 2019

## *Chair's Annual Report to Board Members*

### **Introduction:**

In some respect 2019 has been a year of delivery with Dr Mark White of Treidlia Biovet making the much-awaited Rotavirus vaccine available to pigeon fanciers across Australia following the approval by the APVMA. It should be noted that the ANRPB, at the request of Dr Mark White, played a significant role in gaining the APVMA approval.

### **Rotavirus vaccine:**

Dr Mark White honoured his commitment to the ANRPB by delivery of the Rotavax by order of the ANRPB Disease Management Donor list. However, due to the limited supply of the vaccine this did result in considerable tension with fanciers in the Eastern states where delivery was made only a few weeks out from the start of the racing season.

It should be noted that nearly every state experienced outbreaks of rotavirus prior to the vaccine becoming available. Unfortunately, this had the effect of compromising the effectiveness of the Rotavax.

Other complicating factors were the significant number of fanciers who chose not to vaccinate for protection against rotavirus, and the continued use of the live "poovac" by a considerable number of fanciers.

Dr Mark White has purchased new equipment and tweaked the Rotavax so that this year's manufacture should be even more effective than the initial product.

To date Treidlia Biovet has repaid the ANRPB \$10,000 of the \$60,000 loan.

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### **Australian War Memorial:**

Nigel Allsopp, President of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation, continues to be proactive in advocating for the animals and pigeons that played a

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role in the theatre of war.

It is of great significance that this has led to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra organising an official ceremony for the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

*It is my view that the ANRPB should take advantage of the Australian War Memorial ceremony, that is likely to attract nationwide television coverage, to promote the sport of our "Thoroughbreds of the Sky".*

*Grant Paterson has advised that the Canberra Combine are on board and will work with the ANRPB to promote a special event weekend. This may include keynote speakers from Victoria and New South Wales leading discussion on future directions for our sport.*

## **Race Cross Flighting (Avoidance)**

This year, as a new initiative, many of the country's race programs were listed on the ANRPB website in an endeavour to assist liberation committees prevent race cross-flighting. At this stage it is still too early to know conclusively how effective this strategy has been.

## **Dealing with Councils**

As every state in Australia has different legislation pertaining to the keeping of pigeons, and then there are multiple variations in Council regulations within each state pertaining to pigeons, it was simply not feasible to develop a national approach. Rather, the Board wisely (in my view), chose to adopt the Queensland *2019 Annual Report p3*

model whereby the local club of the pigeon owner who receives the Council complaint is charged with dealing with the matter in the first instance. If the matter is unable to be resolved, then the matter is managed up to Association/Combine/Federation level.

At all levels it should be noted that the owner must be compliant with the National Code of Practice.

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**Website:**

Our ANRPB website has undergone significant development again this year thanks to the great work of Joe Jackson. This has included a change of server to hopefully make the site more reliable. It is my hope that Joe will continue to maintain and develop our website into the foreseeable future.

**Board Members:**

Progression planning is important for all Boards and Management Committees.

In 2019 the ANRPB welcomed our new Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Craig. Jim has taken to the role like a duck to water, to ensure a seamless transition; notwithstanding some frustrations with the Westpac bank.

This year the Board has also had new state delegates from NSW, Qld, and SA.

Stephen Shears took over the important role of ANRPB/Treidlia Biovet Liaison and has been an important contributor to the workings of the ANRPB.

Jeff Profke and Phil Squire have performed well in their first year on the Board and have made significant contributions to the workings of the ANRPB.

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Kevin Wilson is our longest serving Board member. Kevin serves his state well and is an ever-reliable member of the Board.

Peter Wallace has experienced another horrible year health wise; and has been unable to participate in most Board meetings. My sincerest best wishes for your improved health and well-being in 2020.

Mark Jeffrey has continued to fulfil the role of Public Officer for the ANRPB.

Neil Machar (Vice-Chair), despite some serious health issues, continues to provide exceptional leadership and to be a champion for the ANRPB.

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**Challenges for 2020:**

- Promotion & Future Directions for our sport – Canberra 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- National Code of Practice (Review due June 2020)
- Rotavax: should it be made compulsory in an endeavour to eliminate rotavirus?

As I am committed to the above-named challenges, subject to Board approval, I seek to continue in my role as Chair for 2020.

Yours faithfully

Greg Kakoschke JP  
Chair: ANRPB Inc

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