



Commemorating the Past

Flying Gallantly into the Future

Introduction

The Sport of Racing Pigeons in Australia was again severely impacted upon by Covid-19 in 2021. Notably, Victoria and New South Wales were most affected. The ANRPB was also forced to cancel the scheduled National Race from Emmdale, NSW, because of Covid-19 health restrictions and state border closures.

National War Animal Day: Canberra

At the request of the ANRPB the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, organised a special small display of pigeon related exhibits, including a Dickin Medal, for National War Animal Day 2021. Due to Covid-19, audiences were restricted. A contingent of Board Members and their partners were joined by Grant and Kaye Paterson in being honoured guests for the occasion, including the Last Post Ceremony.

Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation

The ANRPB continues to maintain an excellent working relationship with Nigel Allsopp, the President of the AWAMO. This has led to the Melbourne Foundry that made the AWM bronze pigeon plaque for the ANRPB also manufacturing several plaques for a Queensland Animal War Service Memorial.

Board Matters

As planned, the ANRPB Constitution was amended this year to include Country or Regional Delegates from each mainland state. This led to the inclusion of Paul Gibbs (NSW), Peter Flack (Qld) and Russell Somerville (SA). The Board also welcomed Gavin Harris, the new SA delegate. All have been valuable contributors to the workings of the ANRPB this year. Most notably, the ANRPB also welcomed back two past members in important roles, Jim Craig as Treasurer, and Len Vanderlinde as Website Manager.

The ongoing contributions of Stephen Shears (Vice-President), Kevin Wilson and Jeff Profke also warrant commendation.

For much of the year the Board operated without an official Secretary following the resignation of Anton van den Heer. A word of appreciation to Gavin Harris for minutes of meetings. The recruitment of a new Secretary is of paramount importance, along with filling other vacancies.

The amended ANRPB Constitution now allows members to serve for a term of 5 years.

A most notable innovation this year has been the development of the official ANRPB Logo. This was achieved via an international on-line competition managed by Gavin Harris.

The auction on Tim Fawcett's website ensured that the ANRPB had sufficient operating funds.

Disease Management Fund

The ANRPB maintains the Disease Management Fund, originally made up of donations from a multitude of pigeon organisations and private individuals for the manufacture of the Rotavirus vaccine. The repayment of the \$60,000 loan made to Treidlia Biovet Pty Ltd as an integral part of the contract with Latrobe University (that owned the Intellectual Property for the Rotavirus vaccine), now represents the bulk of the fund.

Early in 2021 the ANRPB was asked to consider utilising the DMF towards countering the outbreak of a deadly pigeon virus in SE Qld. However, without an identification of the cause, and a specific treatment plan, no allocation of funds was made.

Whilst the DMF has not been used to date, the probability of a further pigeon related virus remains high, and as the world has learned through Covid-19, timely action is required. The DMF remains an important cache of funds to target any future pigeon virus, in a timely manner.

Government Recognition of the Sport of Racing Pigeons

The ANRPB has taken the initiative to forward a submission to the Australian Government Minister for Sport, the Hon Richard Colbeck, formally requesting that the modern-day Sport of Racing Pigeons be officially recognised by the Australian Government.

The ANRPB will professionally and respectfully pursue this matter as gaining acknowledgement will provide all racing pigeon organisations government avenues for funding to assist in the promotion of our Sport.

Official government recognition for the sport of Racing Pigeons, combined with the National Code of Practice, also creates the opportunity for National Legislation pertaining to racing pigeons, the most effective way to counter the myriad of local Council by-laws across Australia.

National Code of Practice

The scheduled 2021 review of the National Code of Practice was placed “on hold” this year following feedback from Grant Paterson, that Animal Health Australia was still to complete the review of the standards and guidelines due to the unwillingness of the caged laying hens’ industry to agree and sign off on the standards. I would recommend that the NCOP be reviewed and updated in 2022 following consultation with Australian Racing Pigeon trainers.

Affiliation with Federation Colombophile Internationale

ANRPB Vice-President Stephen Shears has communicated with the FCI with regards to possible affiliation. He received a positive response from the FCI Vice-President, David Barros Madeira, who has advised the ANRPB to forward a Statement of Intent to affiliate with the FCI.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge our ANRPB corporate sponsor, Phil Murphy, and all pigeon fanciers who donated birds to the fundraising auction this year. Your valuable support helps keep the ANRPB operational.

Also, a word of appreciation to Jeff Howell, Editor of the Australian Racing Pigeon Journal; and to Tony McPherson and Ivan Fonti of the Pigeon Radio Australia team, for their ongoing support of the ANRPB.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all members of the Board, who give of their time freely, whilst undertaking their important contributions to the workings of the National Board.

Forward Planning for 2022

- National War Animal Day, Australian War Memorial, Canberra.
- Pursuance of government recognition for the Sport of Racing Pigeons.
- Pursuance of Affiliation with Federation Colombophile Internationale.
- Review of the National Code of Practice.
- Scheduling and Convening of the National Race from Emmdale NSW.
- Collaborative Participation in the SAHPA planned National Pigeon Convention, to be held in Adelaide, in November 2022.

Finally, notwithstanding the frustrations associated with Covid-19 related cancellations, it has been my honour to serve as President of the ANRPB Inc and hereby nominate for the position again for 2022.

Yours in Our Sport

Greg Kakoschke JP
President: ANRPB Inc
5/12/2021

