

Victorian Racing Pigeon Body

VRPB



Annual General Meeting 2024

Representatives Minutes

“One Voice. Leading the Way”

Held at VHA Headquarters 29 Business Park Dve, Notting Hill on Sunday 17th March 2024

Time 11.20 am – 2.40 pm

Present - Tony Price VRPU, Dr Colin Walker VHA, Andrew Demidowski VHA, Marc Tenaglia WPF, Charles Hider VHA, Rodney Maine GMPF, Darren Slade - Gippsland

Apologies – Mike Healey GMPF

1. The previous VRPB Annual General Meeting Minutes dated 30th April 2023 were read and approved.

Moved Tony Price 2nd Marc Tenaglia

All in favour

2. Election of Office Bearers –

Prior to the election of Officer Bearers, Colin suggested that the VRPB Committee members should not be members of the federation committees as the VRPB should be totally independent. This was discussed and it was decided that this was not practical and that it was more important to get the best candidates possible rather than worrying if they held any executive positions.

President – Tony Price

Vice President – Dr Colin Walker

Secretary – Andrew Demidowski

Treasurer – Marc Tenaglia

Moved Charles Hider 2nd Rodney Maine

All re -elected unopposed

2. Treasurers Report – Marc Tenaglia

Disease Management Fund – funds available \$2042.22. Fat Eye trial still not paid for. Expecting a bill for about \$1500 for fat eye test found mycoplasma. The representatives unanimously approved an extra \$500 to complete the mycoplasma speciation test.

Current Balance \$33,900.94. A donation for Prostate Cancer has not yet been paid.

A Membership of \$10 per flyer with the VRPB is no longer required from Victorian Racing Pigeon Organisations anymore. As the VRPB will ask for donations when they have an activity that requires funding.

Moved Darren Slade 2nd Rodney Maine

All in favour

3. Presentation by Dr. Colin Walker

Colins would like to undertake trials on the diseases in one loft races. From this investigation he will be able to provide scientifically proven VRPB Guidelines for OLR Managers. To do this trial Colin will apply for Australia wide funding through the VRPB.

Colin will outline the requirements to vaccinate birds before sales.

Colin will outline the responsibilities of fanciers once they have a PMV outbreak in their lofts

Veterinary Investigations

(a) A vaccine trial of nestlings completed and the results reported to directly to VRPB Reps and the wider Australian pigeon community through the ARPJ

(b) Fat eye trial testing completed and awaiting final laboratory results. Colin will prepare a report when the results are back.

(c) PMV RAT validation initiated with initiated tests being offered to fanciers for free but trial has stalled through fancier apathy or failure to use tests and notify Colin of the results.

(d) The next planned investigation has already been summarised and costed. The investigation is to screen what diseases are active in Australia and in particular what is causing death in young pigeons. The investigation details have been circulated to VRPB members and discussed in the ARPJ. A formal application will be prepared.

It was suggested by Andrew that a Disease Management Fund should be set up by separately from main VRPB activities. In this way if the VRPB approves the research proposed it could contribute to the funding but also request funding from ANRPB and then the rest of Australia, if necessary, as the research will be of benefit to all racing pigeons organisations.

4. Presentation of Liberation Protocols by Andrew Demidowski

Andrew has prepared a draft which was obtained from Dr Marshall and CRPC Rules and Regulations. An action plan has been developed to complete this project and it is envisaged depending on the feedback given and the level of interest this project may take 2 or 3 years to complete. This project is a part of 2024 Action plan.

5. Charles Hider provided an update on VHA VCAT Case Darebin vs Terry Varelas which is to be held on 2nd May 2024

Darebin applied to VCAT for ruling for Terry Varelos on whether racing pigeons fall under the definition of animal husbandry. The VRPB will be arguing that pigeon racing pigeons should be on its own. After this case it is the intention to go to the Minister as it will be argued that racing pigeons are different from any other birds. The legal argument is that racing pigeons fall under no category. Charles will provide photos of various pigeon lofts for the Varelas case. These photos will show that there is a large discrepancy in the type and size of lofts. Terry keeps the birds in excellent condition. After this case Charles we will be seeing the Planning Minister to seek a reclassification.

On the 2nd May 2024 the Varelas case will be heard. It is envisaged that the matter will be resolved by the end of 2024. It is envisaged the VRPB will

require around \$10,000 to pay for this matter. Charles advised that we will be using the services of Tom Callender who is a capable lawyer and a qualified Town Planner. Tom has successfully represented the VHA in previous matters.

6. Development of Action Plan for 2024

The Action Plan was approved with one alteration as Dr Colin Walkers funding for young bird diseases was added to the plan

Moved Rodney Maine 2nd Colin Walker

All approved

7. Amendments to VRPB Code of Practice 2023

The VRPB Code of practice had three changes made to it with the main one being the addition of The Australia Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry 2022 Standards.

The new Code for 2024 was unanimously approved and will now be sent out to all racing pigeon Federations throughout Victoria.

8. General Business

Colin Walker requested that:

The ANRPB provided the VRPB with updates on its activities after each meeting

The all VRPB reps subscribe and support the Australian Racing Pigeon Journal

That the VRPB establish an email contact list of all fanciers in Victoria to improve the spread of information. Jeff Howell will be contacted to see if this is possible.

Colin wanted to know whether the VRPB can be called a Board rather than a Body? Tony advised that we could not register the VRPB as a Board due to the Office of Fair Trading rules of incorporation so this is why we registered the VRPB as a Body.

Colin advised that Victoria's new animal welfare laws are being developed and the period for consultation has been extended until March 25th just one week away. Colin has already read through this document about 18 months ago. Colin suggested a 'new set of eyes' should read the document again and

suggested Tony Price should do this and if necessary, make a submission, with the assistance of Colin.

Colin asked whether the Pigeon Racing Victoria is going to continue? It was suggested that we should contact the organiser Tas Gazis to find out what he is going to do in the future and whether there were any funds held? If the PRV was not going to continue it was suggested that we invite Tas to our next VRPB meeting.

National Conference discussion.

Colin Walker advised Tony that he was disappointed that the VRPB was not suggested as a funding alternative for the conference.

Colin was disappointed that the VRPB was not asked to provide an update to attending fanciers.

Marc advised that prior to the conference it was agreed that a donation would be made to prostate research and that the balance of the profits would be returned equally to the 4 main Metro Feds. However, when the VCAT case was identified it was agreed that the money should be kept for this matter.

Colin suggested that in future that funding underprivileged students' education in the form of a scholarship (as is done by the AU in the USA) may be a good use of funds.

Meeting finished at 2.40 pm