

VICTORIAN HOMING ASSOCIATION INC.

Minutes of the VHA September delegates meeting held at Notting Hill on the 1/9/2025.

The President Andrew Spiliopoulos declared the meeting open at 7:00 PM

ROLL CALL Apology – D. Lowe

CLUB	PRESENT	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
Diamond Valley	Yes	12	3
Frankston	Yes	12	3
Heidelberg	Yes	12	3
Ivanhoe	Yes	11	2
Knox	Recess	0	0
Malvern	Yes	9	2
Metropolitan	Yes	10	2
Mornington	Yes	4	1
Northcote	No	5	1
North East	Yes	5	1
Notting Hill	Yes	4	1
Oakleigh	Yes	6	1
Pathfinder	Yes	8	2
Plenty	Yes	12	3
South East	Yes	8	2
United	Yes	11	2
TOTAL		129	29

Vale – N. Stone & G. Kohler A minutes silence was observed for these members who passed away recently. The President was full of praise speaking briefly about both members. Ed Sheean remembered Neville Stone from a 16 year old who was always busy on basketing nights helping John Brislin load the birds. Paul Suban recalled when as a child he used to visit the loft of Graham Kohler who joined the VHA in 1956 flying with Box Hill & Hawthorn clubs.

Previous minutes of the August delegates meeting (distributed via email)

Business Arising- Nil

Minutes adopted – Moved H. Merbis Seconded M. Tung Carried.

Reports

Clock Chairman- R. Lay's STB clock was misread by 1 minute in Mildura 2 – not affecting result. J. Mann's clock in the same race was read almost 1 hour slow. It appears that his clock was not wound.

Ring Secretary- Hank Merbis. 47 birds reported & owners notified. T. Matchett's bird in Mildura 1 was not registered. Moved H. Merbis Seconded E. Sheean that he be given no time. Carried.

Treasurers Report- Paul Bryant Acc Balances – Cheque \$132,232 On Line Saver \$70,000-00

Payments for prize money for club races (South Races) have been paid. Treasurer has received 4 invoices from SJS Transport for Mittyack 1 – including Mildura 2. Kevin Clark queried the amount of \$125 for Sam attending Ivanhoe with the semi as a trial. Sam stated he was in attendance for 1 hr & 38 minutes.

Also looking to pay prize monies for fed races (Mittyack 1 to & incl Mildura 2) All fed winners verified.

Moved P. Suban Seconded M. Tung that these accounts be paid. Carried.

Transport – Andrew Spiliopoulos

The trial to collect birds from Ivanhoe took 1 hr & 38 minutes and at this stage was not a success.

Last week whilst the convoyers were resting at the truck stop at Charlton en route to Mildura, an intruder was disturbed tampering with the truck curtain in the early hours. Digger Mellerick was last seen in hot pursuit of the villain, who made his escape however the birds were fine. The 2nd Mildura was from Yelta (Merbein) however the location was not ideal and 300 birds returned after being released, therefore we are returning to central Mildura. Sam stated that there has been no issue with Mildura council officers so far. Andrew has tentatively book the boat for out Tassy however is dealing with a different contact person.

There was a general discussion regarding the losses of race birds this season. Poor returns were blamed on plague numbers of falcons, fat eye infections and the lack of flyers who vaccinate for rota virus. These of course were opinions only.

Correspondence

IN

South East – Verification of fed winner Mittyack 1 (Gazzola & Clark)

Oakleigh – Verification of fed winner Mittyack 2 & Derby (Wetering)

Heidelberg – Verification of fed winner Mildura 2 (Hao)

Metro – Verification of fed winner Mildura 1 (Suban)

Metro – Request to alter line of flight race point Red Cliffs to Mildura due to release point no longer suitable (erection of a new fence) & delete Mittyack 3 with stand alone Derby. Tassy to be held same day as National. Moved P. Suban Seconded J. Weaver. The amended line of flight together with Notting Hill & Mornington clubs submissions to be resent to members. To be voted on next meeting.

VRPB – Latest minutes.

GVPF – Request to send pigeons to Yolla 2 (approx 60-100 birds)

S. Kearsey – Sponsorship of 2 Sydney Gold Ring Race rings (Value \$200) from Cumberland Fed to be presented to winner of our 10 bird fed race. Brochure sent to members.

Metro – NOM Change rule 79C with a final date for ring transfers. (July 1 each year)

OUT

All Members - Minutes of August delegates meeting & VRPB minutes.

General Business

- **Property Identification Codes (PIC)** The VRPB has recommended to all pigeon flyers with 50 or more pigeons that is mandatory for members to apply for a PIC on line (free of charge) and there may be fines for non compliance. After some discussion for and against it was moved J. Weaver Seconded M. Tung that VHA members comply with this statutory request. Carried. **The onus for compliance will be on the member.**
- **VHA raffle** – Tickets are now available for our raffle for funds to go towards transport for 2026. Five major prizes are on offer and this will be drawn at our presentation night at the Sandown Greyhounds – Thursday 11th December 2025. \$10-00 per ticket.
- **2024 Diplomas** – were distributed to clubs.
- **A VHA Squeaker sale** will be organised by Mark Tung & Steve Brown tentatively Sunday 18th January 2026 at Notting Hill. All VHA members will be invited to donate squeakers or flown birds. More info to come.
- **Presentation Night** – Sandown Greyhounds Thursday 11th December. Free entry. All welcome.
- **Transurban** - The president reported that the VHA is not required to sell the Notting Hill centre, as transurban only propose to construct a road through our car park. We will lose several parking spaces only but should receive compensation.
- **Transport** – John Van Beers queried if there had been any additional cost so far this season regarding fuel. Sam advised that there was an increase of approximately \$50 extra per fed race due to fuel prices. Paul Bryant to keep a running tally of extra costings.
 - **Convoyers Report** – Steve Gazzola has fielded several calls regarding queries on what time the birds arrive at the race points. Sam advised that they do stop en route for a couple of hours sleep and aim to be at race points by 10-30 am the day before liberation. After some discussion it was decided to reignite the Convoyers Reports for the information of members. John VanBeers stated that we were

lucky to have Sam as convoyer due to his attention to the task and flexibility which was echoed by the delegates present.

- **NB** – Yolla 1 race did not proceed due to loss of sponsorship from Straight Link adding extra costs. Committee currently working to conduct Yolla 2 an acceptable rate.

Meeting Closed 8.40 pm.