

AGM Speech

I would like to thank all those members who provided the support in voting for me to be the President of the Central Cumberland Federation. I will ensure that Federation is prepared for the future changes in our sport.

With the current age demographic of our members, I would expect in less than 10 years that we will have around 150 competing members. Expecting that pigeon racing will be more professional with possibly live tracking of our birds racing home.

Due to affordability, you would expect that race team sizes will reduce. From the above changes serious consideration should be made to reducing our transportation assets.

Not wanting to be a bearer of bad news I must make you aware that there is a strong chance that we will not be able to complete this years racing due to the Avian Flu H5N1 strain expected to reach Australia. Currently H5N1 is in the Antarctica and killed tens of thousands of penguins and seals that prey on sick penguins. Authorities believe that it is only a matter of time before this virus reaches Australian shores. In the USA last year over 126 million chickens were euthanized. Also infecting 19 dairy farms and one human.

Other challenges include a changing magnetic field. The magnetic North Pole has already shifted over 1200km towards Siberia Russia over only 6 year period. Challenging magnetic field strengths and potential flip of the earth's core could challenge our bird's ability to find home.

On a brighter note, I can let you know that I have been involved with several work committees on the off season to bring the CCF towards being the leading fed in Australia.

First - 2025 Central Cumberland Seminar. To be held on the 28th March to 30th March at the Arena Sports Club. Thanking David Gordon, Alan Brown, Johnny Debrincat, Mark Jeffereys, Phil Murphy, Sam Sultana, Paul Gibbs and Adam Archer. Appreciate their dedication to attend all the workshops. Brochures available at the front table.

Second - The official release of a dedicated website for CCF www.ccf Syd.com . This website will be the main communication between officials and all members. I want this website to capture the history of our great federation. There is one person to thank on getting this website up and running and contributing endless updates is Andrew Grech from Dural club. Andrew started the website from scratch and has been loading all the auction bird photos and pedigrees. Maybe Andrew can give us some stats on the progress of the website and who has found it so far.

Thirdly – Better returns subcommittee. Great progress on developing an AI program to analyse Dept Meteorology forecast in relation to our protocols. This will be a valuable tool we can share the analyse with liberation committee and all members to make a more educated decision to liberate the birds. Water on the truck while birds are basketed at Fairfield and more flexibility with liberation release times. Cameras for the transporter with footage downloaded to our new website. I would like to thank Alex Caruana, Brian Becker, Mark Jefferys and Charlie Bonnano and Andrew Grech.

Fourth – Constitution review subcommittee. Currently reviewing constitution rules and upgrading to meet todays standards including social media abuse. Thanking Nick Kaparos, Sam Sultana, David Gordon and Mark Jefferey for their continued work.

I want to also mention the deal negotiated with Benzing for any CCF member who would like to trade in a electronic clock for a Benzing M3 clock, large antenna and live for \$1950.00 save \$900.00 or M2 clock 8 field antenna plus live for \$1750.00. Must get 30 trade-ins by 1st April. So far have two. Benzing have also offered some products as a prize for one of our races this year.

I would like to move that we move federation monthly meetings to a more central location to the federation at Greystanes Pigeon club with the alternate committee meetings to be held at Wentworthville pigeon club.

Meeting process I must let you all know that if I have an opinion to share on any matter in fed meeting I will vacate the chair to speak. At the same time, I expect all discussion from the meeting floor to be directed through the chairman.

Coming from a corporate management background I will not tolerate abusive behaviour. If this occurs, I will ask the person to cease and if continued to leave the room. Beyond this point I will shut the meeting down for the committee to review individual members behaviour.

Under my management you will find that majority of race matters will go out to the clubs to be voted on. While financial and constitution matters will be managed by the committee.

I would like to recommend Mark Jefferie for the role of Vice President. Mark has worked closely with me on all the sub committees and has strong understanding financial statements income and expenditure.

I hope all members enjoy the race season ahead and look forward in creating the best federation in Australia.

Best Regards

Stephen Shears