



Annual General Meeting: Saturday 15 November 2014

Minutes

Venue: Roseville Club (Roseville RSL) Function Room 2

Chairman: Gareth Morgan

Commenced: 1:40 PM

Apologies: Peter Chapman (NZ), Mike Crisp, Michael Garside, Michael Molkenntin, Eric Peterson.

1. Attendance: 19 members as per attendance book

Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16 November 2013 were confirmed.

Accepted: (m) Steve Drew

(s) Gordon Lasslett

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 16 August 2014 were confirmed.

Accepted: (m) Gordon Lasslett

(s) Adrian Hellwig

2. Business arising/discussion points

Gareth Morgan explained that Victoria Barracks had advised that due to increased security requirements only persons holding a defence force pass are now allowed on Defence Force sites such as Victoria Barracks. The result is that currently society meetings are unable to be held at Victoria Barracks.

Gordon Lasslett is to be thanked for urgently arranging the venue for the committee and society meeting at the Roseville Club (Roseville RSL), for a modest fee (other venues investigated such as Ryde RSL have very large fees). The committee will investigate other more central options, which need to be near public transport, preferably train, and have available parking. Andrew Smith will investigate the Lidcombe Catholic club.

a) Journal matters

Gareth Morgan provided a summary of Peter Chapman's report as follows:

The November journal was sent to the printer some time back, but it was held up by the printer due to a policy change regarding payment. Peter Chapman expressed thanks to all committee members who carry out the onerous task of posting the journals out (Gareth Morgan and Andrew Smith).

There are already a few articles on hand for the May 2015 issue, by three authors at the moment, but as always it would be good to get a few more unfamiliar pens working on their pet subject. There is probably almost enough to fill the May issue but Peter thinks the membership at large would like to read more than the three most published authors of articles.

Peter is pleased with the content of the 2014 journals and happy to continue if the meeting supports his nomination. He supports investigating new printers, and will assist with investigating alternative postage arrangements for overseas.

Gareth Morgan advised that the Journals for Australian based members are about to be sent out. The overseas Journals have been sent.

b) The Newsletter

Newsletter editor Adrian Hellwig reported in person as follows:

The four newsletters for this year have now been completed. Being the first of the Centenary years there is an enormous amount of information available and he has increased the size of the newsletter to 14 pages for the last two editions.

With the vast majority of members now receiving their newsletters electronically, it has been decided to go to a more screen friendly single column format, with a menu and hyper links to articles, so as to facilitate easier navigation and enhance the members reading experience. From feedback it would seem that these changes have met with general approval.

A major portion of the newsletter (usually about one third) is taken up by book and magazine reviews, which it is understood the members appreciate. It would not be possible to do this without the excellent work done in this regard by members of the committee -- in particular Gareth Morgan, Peter Chapman and Alex Stewart.

With regard to the content of the rest of the newsletter, apart from the occasional submission from Gary Sunderland, Gordon's summary of "*The War Years*" (ie: "*This month in 19 . . .*"), and the odd snippet from new members, the material has been sourced by Adrian. This is not an onerous task but submissions from members would be most welcome, even if it is just interesting links that they have come across in their web travels.

Adrian thanked the committee for their support and for making the transition to newsletter editor a positive experience for him.

Adrian is considering starting a regular profile of individual members in the newsletter so that the society members are aware of the wide variety and interests of other members.

c) Library matters

Librarian of the Peter Williams Memorial Library Gordon Lasslett reported that since the August meeting 15 new books and 4 magazines have been added to the library. They were listed in the newsletter and a selection was provided to members at the general meeting if members wish to borrow any. [The information on new books provided to the newsletter editor is always most comprehensive].

29 books and magazines are currently out on loan to 9 members.

Despite the temporary venue Gordon provided a selection of books and magazines for members present to view and if required take out on loan. However because of the temporary venue books for sale could not be brought along this time.

Gordon reported to the meeting an interesting history concerning Arthur Wheen MM**. In the park outside the Roseville Club are memorials to the founders of the club, and also to local servicemen who died in World War I. Arthur Wheen and his brothers, from Roseville (Arthur's father was the Methodist minister), are engraved on the World War I Honour Roll on that memorial, Arthur being shown as having a military medal with two bars. After the war Arthur Wheen ended up in Cambridge, where he met one Eric Remarque, who had written a novel about the war in German. Remarque arranged for Arthur Wheen to carry out the English translation of his novel, and Wheen is noted as such in the credits at the beginning of the book. The German title of the novel at that stage was "*Im Westen Nichts Neues*", which translated as "*In the West Nothing New*". Wheen did not think that would be a good title for the English version, and instead suggested, "*All Quiet on the Western Front*". The rest is history. It is generally recognised that Wheen's excellent translation contributed to the popularity of the book

Email for Gordon Lasslett is glaslett@bigpond.net.au and phone 02 9416 7603.

d) John Goble

Warren Evans reported that he understood our esteemed most senior member John Goble was residing in a nursing home at Terrey Hills. Keith Keohane has visited but unfortunately John was out with family members on that day, so he is clearly still well. Keith and Warren will keep in touch with John.

e) Membership/recruitment/finances

Alex Stewart reported:

Membership - We have 135 paid up members at present, so membership is generally stable. We have had 14 new members join this year, mainly electronic.

The accounts show similar profit and loss details generally as last year, with a profit of ultimately about \$1000.00 at the end of the financial year to July. There was a closing balance of about \$5000.00 cash, but the majority of these will be utilised for publication and postage of the journals. Society finances remain sound, with a sufficient bank balance to well cover the expenses of upcoming journals.

Alex has also been supplying ongoing snapshots of the accounts to the committee.

A final financial statement for the 2013-14 year was available for members to peruse.

Alex mentioned that we will need someone in the Society to step up and perform this role next year. He will remain available to advise the new incumbent.

f) Barry Videon Database

David Perkins reported in person but with more publicity about the Great War, more material is constantly coming to light. Gareth Morgan has provided significantly more material from the United Kingdom. David Perkins has linked the servicemen dossiers to the National Archives, and is working on possible links to United Kingdom dossiers.

g) Speakers/venues for meetings outside Sydney

Consideration is being given to outings to Point Cook and Canberra (AWM or Annexe). A visit to the AWM is being considered, separate from a society meeting. The outing to the Fleet Air Arm Museum had a good attendance and a meeting at the same time would have been an impediment.

Adrian Hellwig suggested that the Oakey Aviation Museum in Southeast Queensland (outside Toowoomba) is another potential venue for a visit/outing/meeting.

h) Coming and future events

Michael Garside's talk on events and contacts in the Somme and other areas in France has been deferred to possibly February 2015. Andrew Smith has offered a talk on Australians in the Royal Naval Air Service for February or later. Mark Lax will be approached for a talk on number 1 Squadron AFC.

The biennial modelling competition is under consideration for the August meeting, with members to be notified in the newsletter.

Any suggestions from members welcome.

i) Society assets at the Australian Aviation Museum (Bankstown) (AAM) and loan agreement

At the last committee meeting held at the Aviation Museum Paul Ewoldt (AAM) provided the committee with a draft loan agreement. Des Sheehan has examined the agreement and provided a written advice to the committee and other interested members. Mark Lax has submitted some views on that advice.

The concern is how the two aero engines will ultimately be cared for and displayed at the Museum. After further consideration by the committee draft clauses will be submitted back to the AAM early in the new year. Des Sheehan reported to the meeting that the draft agreement was generally sound but just needed some tweaking.

j) Society engine restoration project for 2015 (Clerget 9b and OX-5 engines)

Alex Stewart the co-ordinator for this project reported as follows: The World War I aero engines previously on display at the FAAM, a Clerget 9b and a Curtiss OX-5, have been transferred courtesy of the FAAM (by their own transport) to the society's care. Gordon Lasslett has made his garage available as a workshop for the engines.

The OX-5 engine is already in a frame and is movable. The Clerget was resting on its shaft which is not appropriate long-term. Gordon has donated a heavy duty table which has been made into a bench on which the engine can sit horizontally, for better access to the casing. Gordon has also loaned the use of a small heavy duty crane (purchased by him for the purpose) to lift the engine (over 200 kg), thus saving members' backs.

A vertical steel frame will ultimately have to be constructed to support the engine. Gordon has arranged for the long-term loan from a friend of an electric welding kit for this purpose.

It is believed that the carburettor and magneto for the engine are some of the parts held at the Bankstown Aviation Museum. The engine restoration committee will investigate this further.

Interestingly experts from United States advise that the OX-5 is likely a pusher engine, with the possibility is that it was from a seaplane. The provenance of the Clerget is unclear.

Alex reports subsequently that according to the minutes of an executive committee meeting dated 23 May 1964, held at the home of Ron Cooper, 12 Irvine Crescent, Ryde, " . . . *the timely arrival of Gordon Gardner with the Clerget engine closed any business for the afternoon.*" Any history from members who can recall this would be welcome.

Members interested in participating in this project (or providing the provenance of the engines) are encouraged to contact Alex Stewart Tel 0410 575 494 or email currently at treasurer@ww1aero.org.au, any new email address to be advised in the Newsletter.

The committee is continuing to look into the possibility of grants for such restoration. Alex has written to CAMS at Omaka and Adrian Hellwig is in contact with TVAL. Contact is also being made with the AWM concerning their previous Albatros restoration. This is an ongoing enquiry and any members should contact Alex as co-ordinator.

k) Other projects for WW1 commemoration – Recognition of those Australians who died serving in other allied air forces in WW1

To re-iterate from the August meeting, as part of the commemoration of the War's centenary, Gareth Morgan has commenced a project to mark the sacrifice of the Australians who served in the RFC, RNAS and RAF. He reported to this meeting:

The database is slowly being expanded, as details of more and more Australians who served in the British services emerge. Once we have a comprehensive list, the next step is to identify all who died; these men are not eligible for inclusion in the AWM Roll of Honour, but can be included in the Memorial's Commemorative Roll, provided we have evidence of their Australian connection and service record. In addition to the Commemorative Roll, it would be good to see something tangible somewhere, that is, some form of monument. However, it's not easy to determine just what and where.

An excellent database in addition to the Barry Videon database has been recognised, <http://www.airhistory.org.uk>, also mentioned in the recent newsletter. Michael Molkentin's now published first volume on these airmen is also highly relevant (see general business below).

Members interested in assisting in this project, or who have ideas regarding a monument, should contact Gareth Morgan as set out below.

Members are also asked for other ideas for later in the following three years.

Gareth can be contacted at president@ww1aero.org.au or by telephone at 02 9885 7092.

l) A shorter name for everyday use by the society

To re-iterate again from the August meeting, The current name of the Society is a bit of a mouthful, and one that doesn't roll off the tongue easily. Our overseas counterparts use shorter, snappier names: The First World War Aviation Historical Society = *Cross & Cockade International*, and The League of World War One Aviation Historians = *Over the Front*. We can change our name by being the ASWWIAH, trading as whatever we opt for.

Committee members have not received any positive feedback from members as to a name change. The proposal was initially for a shorter (business) name for the society, whilst retaining the main original name.

Michael Garside submitted a written reasoned argument for not changing the name at all, and his views were supported by Peter Chapman. The committee has therefore decided not to put forward to members such a change. There were however at the committee meeting positive views on changing the title of the journal, to something that makes it more obvious that the society is interested in Great War aviation. Andrew Smith has suggested "*Above the Trenches*" (with an asterisk noting that air operations over other places, eg: over water and desert, are not excluded!?).

Michael Garside also raised whether the society's logo should be changed. This will be deferred pending consideration of the name of the journal.

Members will be asked in the next newsletter for suggestions as to a name change for the journal, and for their views. For instance our sister societies call their journals "*Cross and Cockade*" and "*Over the Front*".

Gareth can again be contacted at president@ww1aero.org.au or by telephone at 02 9885 7092, and Des Sheehan as below.

m) Publications and Research Fund, the ACNC and a gift clause

Des Sheehan reported to the meeting that as the society is not at this stage a charitable institution there is no need to register with the ACNC, nor in fact is the society eligible to register under its current constitution.

Proposed tax deductible status for donations to the society is however a different issue. Des Sheehan has conferred with the secretary of the Aviation Historical Society of Australia Ltd (Vic) – (AHSA). Their secretary had initially advised that establishing such a status was difficult, but that society in fact achieved such status, only after a careful (and lengthy) process involving a change to their constitution. Des Sheehan will follow this up by examining their constitution.

Both the secretary and an accountant from which Des Sheehan has sought advice have indicated that, to be eligible for tax deductibility, the society must be eligible for listing on the Register of Cultural Organisations, part of the Federal Attorney General's Department (Ministry for the Arts). The principal purpose of an organisation must be the promotion of a cultural activity, theirs being the history of aviation. It seems likely that the society's promotion of the history of World War I aviation could well be a similar activity.

The committee determined that it would be useful to investigate the benefits of this eligibility, and any difficulties, further. Through the accountant Des Sheehan plans to

have an initial (no cost) conference with a specialist barrister who has registered other such organisations. He will then report to the committee.

Mark Lax raised the possibility that the AHSA may have had to change their constitution in the light of changes in the Victorian legislation dealing with voluntary organisations about the same time. Des Sheehan will follow that up with AHSA.

Des Sheehan can be contacted at [dessaheehan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dessheehan@optusnet.com.au) and tel 0415 207 730.

n) The Pat Moy Shield

Gareth Morgan on behalf of the committee announced that the shield had this year been awarded to Warren Evans, for consistent and generous service and support to the society.

Warren has provided refreshments including coffee and tea at every meeting, bringing it most times by public transport. Warren has always also assisted the society and its members in other smaller ways. A formal presentation was made, and his name will be entered on the shield for the next meeting.

4. Correspondence and Reports.

a) Correspondence:

Andrew Smith provided the correspondence concerning the current difficulties with the printer of the Journal. Members of the committee will investigate the use of a different printer for the Journal in view of current difficulties. The Journal has now been sent out after printing.

b) Reports:

i) President (Gareth Morgan):

President Gareth Morgan has been away for the majority of the period since the last meeting, but reported that his efforts to have the commemorative plaque of a World War I serviceman in Perth's Kings Park corrected have ultimately been successful. The plaque now shows 2Lt C A Burt to have served in the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) not Royal Flying Corps (RFC).

Peter Chapman will explore options for a printer in New Zealand, as well as committee members in Australia looking at options in Australia.

Gareth Morgan outlined the difficulties that had to be overcome with a printer in getting the journal out on time, and all involved should be congratulated on still ensuring the journals are posted out.

ii) Vice President (Mike Garside)

Vice president Mike Garside sent in his report, in which he outlined that he is continuing to raise the profile of the society with high-profile people including the Chief of Defence Force and the head of the Centenary of Anzac planning team. He has volunteered to continue to find an appropriate patron for the society. He will be in France over the Anzac period in 2015 and will take steps to interest a likely captive audience in the work of the society. (Our man on the Western Front?)

Michael also reported that he is commencing a Master of Arts in Military History in 2015, and looks forward to sharing some of the knowledge he has gained through newsletter and journal articles.

iii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)

Webmaster Andrew Smith reported that he is continuing to upgrade the members website to include links to the library catalogue, as well as other links. The Facebook page has had 130 new contacts.

Andrew is hoping to add No 4 Squadron histories to the site. Currently there are some problems with the members section which he hopes to rectify in the next week.

iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Alex Stewart)

Alex Stewart added to his report already set out at 3 (e) above. The statement for 13/14 to end of financial year is available for perusal. The society also received \$700.00 over the financial year from asset sales (mainly from Peter Williams excess books and model kits). About three quarters of the expenses are for the journal printing and postage, in the region of \$4,300.00.

v) Journal Editor

Report as above 3 (a) read by Gareth Morgan. The printing company has been taken over by a larger entity which failed to advise different procedures for payment, and there have been other difficulties since. Peter supports investigating new printers, and will assist with that, as well as investigating alternative postage arrangements for overseas.

vi) Newsletter editor

Report as above 3 (b).

Most of Gordon's time continues to be taken up with finalising the sale of the books and models above, and further cataloguing/indexing of magazines/newsletters.

Gordon can still be contacted for loans, returns etc. The Peter Williams Memorial Library is situated at 38 Woodlands Road, East Lindfield NSW 2070 – Librarian Gordon Lasslett
Tel 02 9416 7603 (H) glaslett@bigpond.com

vii) Liaison Co-ordinator (Greg Mullens)

Greg reported that five or six members enjoyed the yum cha meal with him on the Sunday after the last meeting, and plans to organise other social meals, to be advised in the newsletter.

(viii) Librarian

As above 3 (c).

ix) Secretary (Des Sheehan)

As noted above at 3 (i) and (m).

Acceptance of Reports: (m) Mark Dawson (s) Keith Keohane

5) General Business and items of interest:

Mark Lax says the Commonwealth War Graves Commission now has an interesting APP titled "*Cemeteries Near Me*", with detailed information on the location of War Graves of individual service personnel and an individual cemeteries around the world. Type in CWGC.

Steve Drew brought along a copy of member Michael Molkenntin's brand-new book "*Australia and the War in the Air- volume 1*" Oxford Press \$49.90 online, being the first of five volumes. Amazing work.

There is a new book by Trevor Henshaw "*The Sky Their Battlefield*", a new edition of his earlier work. Obtainable online from the UK.

6) Raffle Draw

Random numbers were drawn by Alex Stewart, as the committee were unsure whether Derek White would be able to attend. Apologies to Derek who was in fact present.

First Prize = "*SE 5a vs Albatros D V 1917-18*" by Jon Guttman - won by Paul Briscoe of Dandenong Vic.

Second Prize = "*Spad VII vs Albatros D VII 1917-18*" by Jon Guttman - won by David Perkins.

7) Election of 2015 office bearers.

The President stood down and Mark Lax took over the chair to conduct the election of the 2014 office bearers. The nominations are as set out in the Agenda for this meeting, except for Treasurer/Membership Secretary.

Andrew Smith nominated for the time being for the position of Treasurer/membership Sec, as there had been no other nominations for this position. The following members were elected unanimously to the executive committee.

President	Gareth Morgan
Journal Editor	Peter Chapman
Liaison Co-ordinator	Greg Mullens
Librarian	Gordon Lasslett
Newsletter Editor	Adrian Hellwig
Secretary	Des Sheehan
Treasurer/Membership Secretary	Andrew Smith fulfilling the role temporarily until the February meeting (to be assisted by Alex Stewart)
Vice President	Michael Garside
Webmaster	Andrew Smith

Alex Stewart was informally confirmed as Co-ordinator of the engine restoration project

8) Next Meeting

Venue: To be advised in newsletter, Roseville Club as a backup.

Date: Saturday 21 February 2015

Time: 1:30 PM

8) Formal meeting close: 2:40 PM

Report on the remainder of the meeting

The Eric Watson address

Des Sheehan gave a presentation with overhead prints/photos on some areas of interest from the war diary and photo collection of his father Lt Malcolm Sheehan –

“Training, Personnel, and events around the Battle of Amiens”. The majority of the photographs shown were provided with the original captions, some of which are somewhat amusing, others tragic.

His father’s WW1 diary and three photo albums (3 Squadron AFC) have recently been discovered again by a family member and provided to Des, having been previously hidden in the family’s records in Melbourne. The albums contain over 200 photos, with a

full index, a remarkable record. Des is continuing to scan all the diary, the index and the photographs, with advice from society members. Journal article on the above talk is in preparation. After the meeting members were able to peruse the diary, index and one of the albums.

Alex Stewart provided an illustrated update on the engines on the wide TV screen provided, with current detailed photographs of the engines and plans.

Staggeringly detailed plans and manuals for the Clerget have been purchased by Alex from the Netherlands, and a correspondent in Western Australia has supplied Alex with tools, detailed instructions and a lot of photographs of his engine stripping process for the Clerget.