

The last of the 10 extra copies of the May journal have been posted to Gareth Morgan.

Peter Chapman will deliver the last four member copies of the May journal to John Barfoot, Les Stonell, Colin Huston and John Grech when he is travelling through the UK this month.

The May Journal has been printed in, and posted from, New Zealand, due to high production and postage costs in Australia. This is extra work for our journal editor but a significant cost saving - \$1260.00 vs \$1800.00 reported by Gordon Lasslett.

The standard of publication is high, and content excellent.

c) The Newsletter

Newsletter editor Adrian Hellwig reported as follows:

Adrian Hellwig has offered to send out the Newsletter direct by email to members, with hard copies posted by Gareth Morgan. Seemed this would likely be a good idea, resulting in less work for the webmaster, and Andrew Smith has advised he supports this move – with access also to the newsletter later via the website. Approved by the committee, and any glitches to be addressed after Adrian also returns from the UK.

Adrian would appreciate profiles of individual members in the newsletter so that the society members are aware of the wide variety and interests of other members.

The committee compliments Adrian on production of another excellent newsletter with many illustrations, interesting articles, information and links to interesting websites.

d) Library matters

Librarian of the Peter Williams Memorial Library Gordon Lasslett reported that, as noted in the newsletter, there have been 8 new books purchased/donated. 4 Magazines/datafiles have also been received.

21 books and magazines are currently out on loan to 10 members. The library is still steadily expanding and more cabinets have been purchased for the secure and safe storage of the library.

Despite the temporary venue Gordon provided a selection of the new 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.

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

e) John Goble

Greg Mullens reported that he and Mike Crisp have visited our esteemed member John Goble, who is still in good spirits, residing at the Luke Centre (Room No 9872), Wesley Gardens, Belrose. As before John would always appreciate a visit from members, but it would be wise to check beforehand to see if he is in, as he goes out on a number of outings with family and others. His memory for past events is still good.

f) Membership/recruitment/finances

Gordon Lasslett reported:

Membership - We have 110 current members at present, and payment of current fees continues to come in. Some members are slower than others at renewing, and reminders are being sent out. Membership records are being updated and linked.

The accounts are in good shape. Funds currently held are \$8232.76, increased by strategic sales of excess magazines by Gordon Lasslett to overseas enthusiasts.

g) Barry Videon Database

Gareth Morgan reported as follows:

The direct link to the website referred to in detail at the last meeting has been established, and is also available through the internet Great War Forum, and Cross and Cockade. Gareth Morgan reports that via that website there have been over 500 interested enquiries so the society's profile/knowledge of the society is being expanded.

The transfer of the link and server has caused major issues with the society's website, which was unavailable for a period, but after strenuous efforts by our webmaster Andrew Smith it has been restored.

h) Speakers/venues for meetings outside Sydney

On Saturday 11 April 2015 at least 15 members had a most successful outing to view the upgraded AWM galleries in Canberra, hosted by society member Rolfe Hartley, employed as a volunteer guide with the AWM. Rolfe showed the large interactive wall display of the Gallipoli peninsula and access to individual histories and events. The new and upgraded dioramas were explained, and the interactive information on many other displays was observed. Despite the AWM hosting hordes of interested visitors that day, our group was still able to follow Rolfe's guidance and explanations, and had a fine cafe lunch together, in small groups. It was also an opportunity for members near and from Canberra to meet other members from Sydney and elsewhere.

Gareth Morgan suggested a possible further outing to the AWM to view the restored German A7V tank *Mephisto* (on loan from the Queensland Museum) when it goes on display.

Consideration will be given to a visit to the Point Cook RAAF Museum. Des Sheehan has recently visited and found some parts of the WW1 exhibits upgraded, and the restored and replica WW1 aircraft well exhibited. [For members information they include a Maurice Farman Shorthorn (Serial Number [SN] 20 - restored from the 4 originally at Point Cook CFS), a replica BE2a, an SE5A (partially a replica), and a replica Avro 504K (SN E3747), all engineered to a good standard]. Of course there are in fact 5 hangars of later exhibits and regular outdoor displays.

Adrian Hellwig has previously suggested that the Oakey Aviation Museum in Southeast Queensland (outside Toowoomba) is another potential venue for a visit/outing/meeting, and his input as to exhibits there and elsewhere in Queensland will be sought. Both outings will be an opportunity for interstate members to meet other members.

i) Coming and future events

As above in paragraph (h). Michael Garside's talk on events and contacts in the Somme and other areas in France has been deferred to possibly August or November 2015. Andrew Smith has offered a talk on Australians in the Royal Naval Air Service for later. Mark Lax will be approached for a talk on No 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 still welcome.

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

Amended clauses approved by the committee will be provided by Des Sheehan to the Australian Aviation Museum by way of email and in person discussions. Both attempts to meet at Bankstown and complete an updated inventory unfortunately had to be called off through illness and later storms. Fresh meetings will be arranged in June.

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

Alex Stewart the co-ordinator for this project reported to the meeting by way of an illustrated talk following the meeting.

The restoration committee sought a society advance of \$500.00 for the next steps in the engine restorations. This was discussed in committee and Andrew Smiths view that no funds should be allocated until a clear plan for the future restoration was considered. The committee however approved the advance of \$500.00, as society funds are currently sound, following sales of models, magazines etc arranged by Gordon Lasslett. More importantly the engines need to be properly cleaned and rust inhibited to properly preserve them even in their present state. It is however agreed that a plan for restoration and funding for same should be put in place.

Members interested in participating in this project are encouraged to contact Alex Stewart Tel 0410 575 494 or email now at alex.m.stewart@gmail.com

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.

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

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. David Perkins is to provide Gareth Morgan with names of these from the BD database, which is however a slow process to identify these servicemen. Once we have that list, we can approach the AWM for inclusion in the Book of Remembrance.

Members interested in assisting in this project, or who have ideas regarding a monument, should contact Gareth Morgan as set out below. The erection of plaques was discussed.

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.

The installation of a plaque at the Richmond Air Force base, to commemorate the official opening of the NSW Aviation School, was raised later in general business by Jerry Weingarh, but is mentioned here as a possible project.

m) Australian Business Number for Society - Taxation exemption for donations to Society

Des Sheehan has ascertained that under the society's current constitution and arrangements an Australian Business Number is not necessary, and, following advice from ASIC and a test for eligibility on the ATO website, the society is not currently in fact entitled to have an ABN. In principle the society would have to engage in business, which on present arrangements it does not. Being registered under the state Associations Incorporation Act also does not entitle the society to an Australian Company Number (ACN). The society should still however obtain a Tax File Number (TFN), for full

interest on bank accounts, although that may result in stricter accounting for ATO purposes. Des Sheehan will follow that through. It is not at this stage urgent.

In relation to the proposed tax deductible status for donations Des Sheehan will follow this up by examining the Aviation Historical Society (Aust) constitution to ascertain eligibility for listing on the Register of Cultural Organisations, part of the Federal Attorney General's Department (Ministry for the Arts), and obtaining specialist advice. 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, but the wording of the constitution would most likely have to be changed. This will have to be carefully managed however as other societies have failed this process.

Des Sheehan will then report further to the committee.

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

n) Members access to membership database

A privacy release clause for members to sign/tick on enrolment is now in place and also will be progressively sent out to members, so that members can have access to other members' contact details, arising out of common interests. The enrolment form also includes a list of interests which will eventually be published/linked so that members can access other members interested in the same topics.

o) Membership Cards

Gary Sunderland approached Gareth Morgan about the re-instatement of membership cards. Gareth Morgan advised that when David Perkins produced these cards he found that the effort and expense significantly outweighed the benefit. At this stage the committee agrees with that view.

4. Correspondence and Reports.

a) Correspondence:

Gareth Morgan provided the correspondence seeking ACM Mark Binskin to be patron of the Society, and the ACMs formal acceptance.

Gareth Morgan also provided the most recent publications kindly forwarded by the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (NSW), and Aerolegacy and Aerolog from NZ.

b) Reports:

i) President (Gareth Morgan):

The excursion to the War Memorial in Canberra, where at least 15 members and guests had a guided tour of the recently refurbished WWI Galleries, led by Society member, and volunteer guide Rolfe Hartley, was, as noted above, a great success. The Galleries are magnificent, and recommended to anyone thinking of visiting. Another visit to the AWM, this time to look at the artworks stored in the vaults, is being considered; it will have to be on a weekday (and in warmer weather).

ii) Vice President (Mike Garside) reported:

I was lucky enough to have a brief meeting with our Patron, ACM Mark Binskin in France on April 26 at the unveiling of the winning design for the John Monash Interpretive Centre to be located behind the Australian National Memorial. ACM Binskin appeared to be very happy and proud to have been invited, and to have taken on the role of Patron of our society. He has a good knowledge of AFC history and is passionate about the subject. The ACM is very keen to ensure the AFC and Australian airmen who operated in WWI are not left out of the Centenary commemorations.

I have made preliminary investigations into a more permanent (and low-cost) meeting place for Society meetings. The Defence Reserves Support Council and RAAF Association have been contacted.

The Western Front is buzzing with Centenary Commemorations of most nations involved in the Great War. This year, the Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial attracted 6000 participants despite the freezing horizontal rain. Next year is expected to attract more, and a large commemoration is being planned for the centenary of the Battle of Fromelles. Many new museums have popped up on the circuit and are generally high in quality and interest.

iii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)

Webmaster Andrew Smith unable to attend this meeting.

Gareth Morgan reported for Andrew that the website has been down following damage in the recent storms, but Andrew has gone to prodigious effort to restore it and the database link. More detail next meeting.

iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Gordon Lasslett)

Report above at 3 (f).

v) Journal Editor

Report above at 3 (b).

vi) Newsletter editor

Report above at 3 (c).

vii) Liaison Co-ordinator (Greg Mullens)

Greg reported that a number of members enjoyed the yum cha meal with him on the Sunday after the last meeting, and has arranged for a further booking for interested members on the Sunday after this meeting, that is, at 11am on 17 May 2015 at the New Tai Yuen Restaurant Chinatown. Greg can be best contacted at Tel 0401 639 494 or AH 02 8095 8059.

(viii) Librarian

As above 3 (d). Gordon can 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

ix) Secretary (Des Sheehan)

Will now, in addition to tasks above, be carrying out an inventory of all society artefacts and other donated etc items.

Acceptance of Reports: (m) Mark Lax (s) Mark Dawson

5) General Business and items of interest:

Jerry Weingarth recommended that the society consider as a project the installation of a plaque at the old officer's mess at the Richmond Air Force base, to commemorate the official opening of the NSW Aviation School, which trained over six courses of pilots and observers, who later went to the UK for further training, and then the Front. It was opened by the then Governor of NSW on 28 August 1916, and if proceeded with, to be unveiled by our present Governor on 16 August 2016.

It was recorded that the committee will investigate the feasibility of this proposal as soon as possible, following general support by the meeting. Jerry later supplied the secretary with possible wording for the plaque.

6) Raffle Draw

Random numbers were drawn by Alex Stewart, via the relevant app (!) on his portable phone.

First Prize = won by Colin Owers (No 74) in Canberra, and it is *FE2b/d v Albatros D.III*

Second Prize = won by Mick Galston (No 30) in Wales, and it is *SE5a v Albatros D.V*

8) Next Meeting

Venue: To be advised in newsletter, but Roseville Memorial Club is still the likely venue.

Date: Saturday 15 August 2015

Time: 1:30 PM

8) Formal meeting close: 2:15 PM

Report on the remainder of the meeting

Alex Stewart provided a further illustrated update on the progress on restoration of the engines on the screen provided, with detailed photographs of the disassembled engine, and parts. The team has done particularly well in dismantling the Clerget, sometimes having to obtain or manufacture special tools.

Gareth Morgan conducted a WW1 general knowledge and aviation quiz, in which members present had to answer two rounds of questions of varying difficulty (with extra points for the more obscure questions). There were more than 50 questions in all, including identification of two groups of aircraft, some ships and even tanks. Finally there was a uniformed dummy of a soldier from particular nation, which no-one was able to identify as Portuguese. All good clean fun.

Keith Keohane won with a magnificent 79 out of a possible 100. Second (but well behind) was Steve Drew, and the remainder following behind them.