



General Meeting: Saturday 15 August 2015

Minutes

Venue: Roseville Memorial Club Function Room 2

Chairman: Gareth Morgan

Commenced: 1:40 PM

Apologies: Peter Chapman (in NZ), Adrian Hellwig (in Qld), Andrew Smith (just returned via red eye from WA), John Baker, Juanita Franzi, Alex Stewart.

- 1. Attendance:** 21 members.
- 2. Minutes:** The Minutes of the General Meeting of 16 May 2015 were confirmed.

Accepted: (m) Steve Drew (s) Greg Mullens

3. Business arising/discussion points

a) Journal matters

Peter Chapman reported as follows:

The November Journal is all ready for publication, and there are more articles ready for the later Journal, so it is all on track.

Publication and posting from New Zealand is extra work for our journal editor but still a significant cost saving of over \$500.00, as reported by Gordon Lasslett. The standard of publication remains high, and content is excellent. New articles are always welcome.

b) The Newsletter

Newsletter editor Adrian Hellwig has just published and emailed the August Newsletter, which again has mountains of content and links, and the amazing flights in vintage replicas by our esteemed editor, in separate countries.

Some members reported to the meeting that they were a bit concerned when the newsletter arrived via a different email address and a shorthand subject description, thinking it may be spam. They asked that in future a full subject heading on the email might avoid those concerns.

Adrian would still appreciate profiles of individual members in the newsletter so that 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 there have been 9 new books purchased/donated and 4 magazines/datafiles have also been received.

29 books and magazines are currently out on loan to 12 members. Thanks to the generosity of a couple of our older members we now have a collection of the Society's Newsletters from No 1 in July 1967 up to date. The library is still steadily expanding and another cabinet has been purchased for the secure and safe storage of the library.

Gordon Lasslett provided a selection of the new books and magazines for members present to view and take out on loan. One book of note was the privately published Illustrated Autobiography of Lt (later Wing Commander) Nigel Love, with excellently restored photographs.

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

Stephen McMahon brought a large selection of the Society's DVDs which members present could also take out on loan.

d) Membership/recruitment/finances

Gordon Lasslett reported that there are currently 120 members including 6 life members. Despite new members the society is down 10 members compared to last year.

The accounts are still however in good shape. Funds currently held are \$7947.00, with a surplus of \$1,115.00 over last year, increased by strategic sales of excess magazines to overseas enthusiasts, and sale of books excess to needs.

e) John Goble and John Baker

Greg Mullens reported that he has 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.

Greg Mullens also reported that sadly our esteemed former president John Baker is in the terminal stage of Parkinsons disease, and members thoughts are with his family.

f) Barry Videon Database

Gareth Morgan reported that the direct link from the website appears to be working well, for which our webmaster is to be greatly commended.

David Perkins has been working hard adding lots of photographs supplied to him, to the website.

g) Speakers/venues for 2015/16 meetings

Michael Garside is planning to speak at the November meeting on the western front museums and his and possible society connections with same (depending on his rosters), however he is hoping to have our patron, Air Chief Marshall Mark Binskin, speak at a future meeting, possibly November. Watch this space.

Currently the Roseville Memorial Club fulfils needs (although it will eventually be closed down for major renovations), but members of the committee are still seeking other possible venues.

h) Coming and future events

Gareth Morgan suggested a possible outing to the AWM to view the restored German A7V tank Mephisto which is now on display. September a possibility, members will be notified further by email, or if later, at next meeting. This is considered an outstanding WW1 artefact.

Consideration will be given later to a visit to the Point Cook RAAF Museum, which now has a flying condition RE8.

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.

Any suggestions from members still welcome.

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

Des Sheehan reported that all clauses for loan agreement with Australian Aviation Museum Bankstown Inc (AAM) have been approved by the committee and agreed to by representatives of AAM, pending final approval by their committee – AAM members here today have supplied a copy of the insurance policy and the insurance clause will be checked to see if it fits with that policy. The inventory of assets has been almost completed, after a long afternoon where their members and ours worked tirelessly to record and photograph them.

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

Gordon Lasslett reported that the restoration is going well, with only \$226.00 spent so far, of \$500.00 approved. The crankcase (backplate) is in excellent condition now (see photo in Newsletter).

The larger parts can now be cleaned by soaking in industrial molasses, in a wheelie bin acquired by Gordon.

The engine will eventually be fully dismantled, cleaned, documented and re-assembled preserved. The society will have to consider funding options for any full restoration to possible working order.

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 Stewart 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 –

i. Recognition of those Australians who died serving in the RFC and RNAS in WW1

Gareth Morgan reported that the database is still being expanded, as details of more and more Australians who served in the British services emerge. David Perkins has provided Gareth Morgan with names of those who joined from the AIF (55) and off the street in the UK (70), but it is still a slow process to identify these servicemen. Other databases are also being followed up.

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

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

ii. Commemoration of the opening of NSW Aviation School at Richmond

Gareth Morgan as President has approached the local member for the Richmond area who is following that up with local councils. Other approaches have been made to State Ministers/parliamentary secretaries and outcomes awaited.

iii. Documentary on the Australian Flying Corps

Gareth Morgan as President has been approached by the producers of a documentary series on the RAN who are seeking the Society's assistance in producing a documentary on the AFC. Gareth and Des Sheehan met with them yesterday and will follow up contacts and content with them, with the assistance of Michael Garside.

This documentary is to be the first in a series on the history of the RAAF, and after research the producers decided that one whole episode should be devoted to the AFC. This is a great opportunity for the Society to assist with an accurate documentary on the Australian contribution in the air in WW1, and the Society wholeheartedly supports this co-operation. As is usual the producers will use archival film, photographs, maps, letters and memorabilia, along with expert interviews. They also plan to use 3D computer graphics, and have provided examples from their previous documentaries.

They would like however to also interview people with interesting stories or anecdotes, and society members could contribute to that, as well as providing other material.

Interested members should contact any of the members of the committee, eg Gareth Morgan via the contact details above or Des Sheehan at dessheehan@optusnet.com.au and tel 0415 207 730.

Members present were shown on screen the sample DVD showing archive and other footage provided by the producers of the documentary, which was agreed by all as impressive.

l) TFN and Tax exemption for donations

Des Sheehan has put these on hold whilst other tasks have priority. He will report further to the committee.

m) Members' access to membership database

Members who have given a privacy release are now up on the website and can be contacted direct.

4. Correspondence and Reports.

a) Correspondence:

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

Letters to NSW MPs re Richmond Aviation School. Letters from Jerry Weingarth re Richmond Aviation School.

Correspondence with Jeffery Love re Nigel Love's illustrated autobiography.
Correspondence with Chris Young producer and director concerning documentary on the AFC.

b) Reports:

i) President (Gareth Morgan):

There have been three main items of interest since the May meeting:

A letter was sent to Dominic Perrottet MP, the Member for Hawkesbury, with respect to some form of monument to mark the centenary of the NSW School of Aviation at Richmond. The matter was passed to the NSW Minister for Veterans' Affairs, but I heard nothing further. When I followed up the enquiry, I was told that Mr Perrottet's office is still chasing finance, and has approached Hawkesbury Council regarding a monument in the park adjacent to the RAAF Base, and Hills Council about a lump of sandstone on which to place a plaque.

I was contacted by a French enthusiast who is seeking to commemorate the presence of the AFC at Reclinghem, near his home. Book extracts and photos were sent, and the Society was thanked.

There is a proposal to make a documentary series about the history of the RAAF, with one episode about the AFC/Australians in the British air services (see 3 (k) above). Society cooperation is sought, and we are pleased to oblige. Approaches will be made to the Patron and appropriate members to facilitate the production of the documentary.

ii) Vice President (Mike Garside) reported:

I am making further enquiries concerning funding and assistance for some of the societys projects, and will report on those at subsequent meetings.

I hope to have Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin address the society at one of our future meetings.

iii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)

Andrew has as noted above restored the database link and has listed the contact details of those members who have consented on the website so that they can be contacted direct. More detail next meeting.

iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Gordon Lasslett)

Report above at 3 (d).

v) Journal Editor

Report above at 3 (a).

vi) Newsletter editor

Report above at 3 (b).

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 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. Greg has as noted continued to keep in touch with our older members.

(viii) Librarian

As above 3 (c). 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)

In addition to tasks above, is carrying out an inventory of all Society artefacts and other donated etc items. Detailed descriptions of the artefacts held at Bankstown have now been compiled and will be available after the loan agreement is fully in place.

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

5) General Business and items of interest:

A call was made for a willing volunteer/s to take over the roles of membership secretary and treasurer which have only been temporarily held by Gordon Lasslett. Gordon has also found that the engine restoration being conducted on his premises is taking up much more of his time and would earnestly like to transfer these roles (with appropriate support from him).

Gareth announced that Keith Keohane, who was present, had advised that he proposed to donate a full set of the fourteenth edition of the “Official History of the Australia in the War of 1914-18” to the Society. This is an especially significant donation as these volumes, published in 1940, contain additional maps and diagrams not reproduced in later versions. These 12 volumes were part of the estate of the late Russ Hendy (a cousin of Keith’s), and Russ’s daughter Kath Mueller had requested that her father’s set be donated to the society.

Paul and Christine Ewoldt brought to the meeting excess books from the “World War 1 collection” which were kindly offered for sale after the meeting.

6) Raffle

In the absence of Derek White (for this part of the meeting) and Alex Stewart the raffle draw was deferred to the next meeting.

7) Presentation of the Mark Lax Award

This award, for his work in the 2014 Journal, was formally presented by Gareth Morgan to Mark Lax, as this was the first occasion he was present at a meeting after the earlier announcement of the award.

8) Next Meeting

Venue: Roseville Memorial Club.

Date: Saturday 21 November 2015

Time: 1:30 PM

8) Formal meeting close: 2:35 PM

Report on the remainder of the meeting

Mark Lax gave an excellent presentation of the Masters Program he provides to middle and upper ranking staff officers (both Australian and overseas) at the ANU, on air strategy and strategic theories that were learned in the AFC during WW1, and the emergence of this within the later RAAF.