



## **Annual General Meeting, Saturday 21 November 2015**

# **Minutes**

**Venue:** Shamrock Room, City of Sydney RSL Club, 565 George Street, Sydney

**Chairman:** Gareth Morgan

**Commence:** 2.10pm

**Apologies:** Peter Chapman (in NZ), Adrian Hellwig (Qld), Michael Garside, Greg Mullens, David Perkins, Eric Petersen.

- 1. Attendance:** 17 Members.
- 2.** A minutes silence was observed for the passing of former president and long serving member John Baker, who died on 18 August 2015, and whose funeral was held on 25 August 2015.

**3. Minutes:** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 15 November 2014 were confirmed.

**Accepted: (m)** Steve Drew

**(s)** Margaret Travers

The Minutes of the General Meeting of 15 August 2015 were confirmed.

**Accepted: (m)** Gordon Lasslett

**(s)** Steve Drew

#### **4. Discussion Points:**

a) *Journal matters.*

Gareth Morgan recorded that Volume 2 of the Journal has been received by all (or to be received shortly) and Journal Editor Peter Chapman was complimented on an excellent read.

b) *Newsletter:*

Gareth Morgan recorded that the November Newsletter has also been received and Newsletter Editor Adrian Hellwig was complimented on the Newsletter being an excellent read, containing lots of material in its 14 pages.

c) *Library matters:*

Gordon Lasslett reported that (as mentioned in detail in the Newsletter) 15 new books and 5 magazines have been added to the library, and Member Keith Keohane has (as recorded at the August meeting) generously donated a complete volume set of The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-18, published in 1940. These books are in excellent condition and are a valuable resource for the society. Currently 39 books and magazines are out on loan to 13 members.

d) *Website matters:*

Webmaster Andrew Smith reported that he is continuing to upgrade the members' website. He reported that the website requires more capacity, and this increase has been agreed to by the committee. (Yearly cost will possibly be between \$450.00 and \$550.00). Andrew Smith has been donating this expense for the past 4 years. The Society's Facebook page has had 914 new contacts, just 100 or so less than Cross and Cockade and Over the Front's Facebook pages. He has also set up a You Tube site for the society.

Andrew planned to give a website demonstration from a laptop in the second part of the meeting but this did not proceed due to technical difficulties of the venues equipment (ie: not of Andrew's doing).

e) *Barry Videon Database:*

Access working well and David Perkins is continuing to update. As David Perkins not in attendance no report needed.

f) *Speakers for 2016 meetings:*

For February 2016 Andrew Smith will give a presentation on Harold Berryman RNAS, including updated research by Andrew and from the subject's family.

Michael Garside will give a presentation on WW1 Commemorations and Museums in Europe (and his meetings with curators and others) when he is able to be off duty, possibly August. Model show pencilled in for August meeting.

Possible presentation by our patron awaits liaising with Michael Garside. If it is confirmed, members of the Aviation Historical Society will be invited to attend.

g) *Coming and future event (ACM Mephisto Tank/RAAF Museum Point Cook/members suggestions*

Society Outing to AWM to view the A75 Mephisto tank – Planned for early autumn, date to be advised at February meeting. Gareth Morgan has seen it and reports it is an interesting exhibit.

Point Cook tour planned once their new RE8 is repainted in 3 Squadron colours (believed to be off display till that completed).

h) *Society restoration project for 2015 (Clerget 9b and OX-5 engines):*

Alex Stewart (co-ordinator Engine Restoration sub-committee) reported that the ASWW1AH committee accepted the aim of restoring engines to working condition, provided there is significant funding from the Dept of Veterans Affairs *Saluting their Service* Commemorative Grants (CCG) Program. A grant will be needed as the likely cost of full restoration to working condition could be considerable. Due to the significance of the engine as an historic relic it is important for the Australian community that it be restored. It is possible it was installed or was available for one of the few original Australian built Avro 504s manufactured by the Australian Aircraft & Engineering Company at Mascot in the early 1920s, although it may be an even earlier engine. Members are still researching its provenance.

The engine is at the time of this meeting was almost stripped down, and is in surprisingly good shape, considering its age (near 100 yrs), although missing rings and significant attachments (eg: magneto, airscrew and hub washer). Further quotes are to be obtained for the likely cost of such restoration, and then Alex and sub-committee will lodge the application.

Funding options from the same source concerning the OX 5 will be investigated later. It is likely the OX 5 is in worse condition, due to the state it was received in, prior to its display at Nowra. The OX 5 does not appear to have near the historical significance as the Clerget.

i) *Other projects/appearances for WWI commemoration –*

- i. Recognition of Australian Airmen who died/served with the RFC and the RNAS by the Australian War Memorial:

Gareth Morgan reported that he is still working on completing the list, as those who joined from the UK off the street are hard to track down. The dedicating of a plaque at the AWM is under consideration.

- ii. Society's involvement in WW1 centenary commemorations – Commemoration of opening of NSW Aviation School at Richmond – Gareth Morgan reported that funding for the plaque is progressing well, with support from the relevant NSW Ministers and the Local Member for Hawkesbury. The Local Member has received a favourable response from the Federal Minister for Veterans Affairs, who has requested the society submit an application for funding under the *Saluting their Service* Commemorative Grants (CCG) Program. Gareth is liaising with the relevant councils and the member.

Des Sheehan will draw up the application for a grant in conjunction with Gareth Morgan.

iii. Involvement and meetings re documentary on AFC:

Michael Garside reported via Gareth Morgan the disappointing preliminary advice that the RAAF still sees the AFC as being an Army history, and has declined approaches for funding for a one off documentary on the AFC, but may consider it as part of an overall history of the RAAF.

The producers have been notified by him and they will follow up links provided by him, but he will continue to lobby where possible. The Society will continue to fully assist the producers and writers.

iv. Connection with ABC News 24 following interview:

Des Sheehan reported that he participated in an interview on ABC News 24 by presenters Scott Bevan and Kumi Taguchi on Thursday 22 October, relating to the auction of items concerning the downing of Rittmeister Manfred von Richthofen, discussing the theories on who fired the fatal shot.

He was also able to quote from his father's (3 Squadron) diary entries on the day, to provide a direct connection to the events. Andrew has put the interview on the web page's Facebook page and also our YouTube file, which he has also created, thus already generating further interest in the society.

Scott Bevan (ABC) showed considerable knowledge of WW1 aviation and he and the researcher Hayley Francis indicated the ABC would like to retain its contact with the society for future interviews and backgrounding. The Committee decided to send him a copy of the recent Journal and email the newsletter, and also ask if he wants to become a member.

**j) Amendments to Constitution and Rules.**

Des Sheehan explained to members present that the committee proposed that Clause 17 a) be amended as below to better facilitate members nominating for the committee (and so that more members might nominate).

Clauses 23 and 24 are recommended to be amended as below so that the roles of treasurer and membership secretary can be separated again, so that they can be less onerous if carried out by two persons.

The following changes to the constitution and rules were then passed unanimously, 17 members (a quorum) being present.

## NOMINATION OF OFFICE BEARERS

(1) Clause 17 a. is amended to read as follows:

“Members will be asked to nominate to become an office bearer prior to the AGM. A nomination reminder will be posted on the website in the members section and emailed out in the October prior to the AGM to be emailed/mailed to the Secretary no later than 7 days before the AGM.

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

(2) Clause 23 is to be re-instated and reads as follows:

“The Membership Secretary shall maintain accurate and up-to-date records of the Society membership, applications for membership, etc, and carry out all duties in the constitution and rules designated to be carried out by the Membership Secretary.”

(3) Clause 24 e. is deleted.

## 5. Correspondence and Reports.

### Correspondence:

a) Gareth Morgan and Des Sheehan provided correspondence relating to the plaque for the NSW School of Aviation. Gareth Morgan provided Aerologs/newsletters from NZ, and the September, October and November Newsletters of the Aviation Historical of Australia (NSW) Inc.

### b) Reports

i) President Gareth Morgan reported:

Shortly after our last Society meeting I attended the funeral of our former president John Baker.

In September, the UK-based *Great War Magazine* published an article about the 2014 find of items belonging to Capt R A Little, and mentioned the Society;

In October, the Secretary and I met Matt Kean, the NSW Member for Hornsby, to discuss State funding of a monument to the NSW State School of Aviation at Richmond  
After the meeting, I received a letter from Dominic Perottet MP’s office advising that we are eligible to seek a grant of up to \$4000 from the Commonwealth  
The MP’s Office is seeking agreement from Hawkesbury Council to cede a small patch of land opposite RAAF Richmond on which to place a rock and plaque  
Hills Council is to be asked to supply a large piece of stone

The two relevant Councils are to amalgamate, which may simplify the project  
I have been given the name of a plaque maker- we will have to design the plaque;

In September and November I represented the Society at book launches in Canberra of Volumes 3 and 4 of the Army's new history of Australia in the Great War;

In October I was approached by the NSW Anzac Council regarding the forthcoming History of NSW in the Great War

Supplied information on the NSW SSofA the draft will be submitted for comment;

In October the Vice President, the Secretary and I met with the film makers intending to produce a documentary on Australians in the War in the Air

VP has reported that RAAF involvement seems unlikely at the AFC was not a direct ancestor of the RAAF

The makers have been advised to approach Defence Public Relations.

In November the Western Front Association online magazine included an article about *Lt Maurice Boyau*, with attribution to the Society.

ii) Vice President Mike Garside provided a report as above relating to the AFC documentary, and has provided contact points in the RAAF for the producers to follow up.

iii) Webmaster Andrew Smith reported as above paragraph 3 d).

iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary and Librarian:

Gordon Lasslett reported on the Peter Williams Memorial Library as above paragraph 3 c). In relation to membership, that is currently slightly down on last year (from 131 to 123) but some members appear to be unaware they are not financial and this will be followed up.

Gordon provided a 10 month financial statement (Jan to Nov 2015) and copies were made available to members who attended (a full 12 month statement will be provided for the February meeting). The Society finances are in good shape with a current balance of \$3,215.66.

v) Journal Editor Peter Chapman reported via Gareth Morgan:

We are in a good place at the moment, but just an update on the most recent issue and what we have on hand.

The printer here in Auckland continues to exceed expectations, with another excellent quote for November and service to match. After approximately 50 issues of the final print suffered a lamination failure on the covers, requiring them to be reprinted, the printer was

happy to do so free of charge and in a timeous manner so that I was still able to get the member and other issues all printed and posted by the end of the first week in November.

Postage too has continued to be much lower than in Australia, and as far as I am aware all journals have been safely received. Noel Shirley's in the U.S.A had to be replaced apparently due to him relocating each year to Albuquerque from his regular home in San Jose, and the U.S. Postal service failing to forward his mail as required. Mark Dawson and Shane McCauley have also received theirs, apparently due to them being off the original list (now corrected).

As far as content goes, we are well served with you having the most articles completed and on hand, but also one from myself and Gary Sunderland, plus a few others nearing completion. In fact, at a push we could produce another 64 odd pages right now if required, not that it will be. I'm also happy to report that John Barfoot has come forward with a couple of smaller articles, increasing our number of authors. I've also been contacted by another of our American members, Carl Priest, who is researching a relative's service with 205 Squadron RAF in 1918, and I've promised to assist where I can.

Our November Journal received a very favourable review from Cross and Cockade International in their latest issue.

(vi) Newsletter Editor Adrian Hellwig reported via Gareth Morgan as set out above at paragraph 3 b).

vii) Liaison Co-ordinator Greg Mullens apologies were passed on to the committee by his brother, as Greg was in hospital:

Gareth Morgan reported that Greg Mullens gave a moving eulogy at John Baker's funeral.

viii) Secretary Des Sheehan reported on his interview with ABC News 24 on 22 October, and also reported that he attended John Baker's funeral on behalf of the Society. He has almost completed an inventory (with photographs and descriptions of each item) of the Society's artefacts held at the Australian Aviation Museum Bankstown, and will be attending again to the museum to identify the remaining ones, and finalise the agreement and the insurance for those items. Will follow up with members all other society artefacts and property for the inventory. Other tasks are as set out in the relevant paragraphs above.

### **Acceptance of Reports:**

(M) Steve Drew

(S) Mark Dawson

*Nominations for 2014 Office Bearers*

The following members nominated for positions on the Executive Committee in 2016:

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	Nomination/s from floor
Vice President	Michael Garside
Webmaster	Andrew Smith

### **Election of office bearers for 2016**

The President stood down and Bernard de Broglio took over the chair to conduct the election of the 2016 office bearers. The nominations received by the Secretary were as set out above.

Gordon Lasslett was nominated from the floor for the position of Treasurer.

Andrew Smith nominated for the position of membership secretary. Other nominations were sought but there were no other nominations from the floor. 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	Gordon Lasslett
Membership Secretary	Andrew Smith
Vice President	Michael Garside
Webmaster	Andrew Smith

### **6) General Business:**

No items as time constraints prevailed.

### **7) Raffle Draw -** Two raffles due to none at August meeting.

Winners drawn by Derek White from random generated membership numbers.

Raffle 1: Winner Paul Acfield (Victoria) *Sopwith Camel v Fokker Dr.I*  
Second Peter Helson (NSW) Unable to contact



Raffle 2: Winner David Perkins (NSW) *SE5a v Albatros D.V*  
Second Eric Soden (Queensland) *Nieuport 11/16 rBebe v Fokker Eindekker*

**8) Next Meeting:**

**Venue:** Roseville Memorial Club. **Date:** 20 February 2016

**Time:** 13:30

**8) Close formal meeting:** 3pm

**Post Meeting – The Eric Watson Memorial Lecture**

Alex Stewart gave a very informative and interesting presentation on eight European and USA Aviation Museums that he has recently visited, with a commentary on the many displayed exhibits, relevant to WW1 aviation, on the screen.

The museums were Shuttleworth, Duxford, Hendon, The Science Museum, Cosford and East Fortune (United Kingdom), and The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, and the Hazy Annexe (United States).

He also showed extensive details and work relevant to the Society's engine restoration, in which he participated at Craftlab in Vienna, which manufactures and restores German and Central European aircraft and engines. Alex has also made valuable contacts for engine restoration and other projects.