



## THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF WORLD WAR 1 AERO HISTORIANS

### **General Meeting: Saturday 17 May 2008**

**Venue:** The Forrest Hotel, Canberra. **Chairman:** John Baker

#### **Commenced :**

1) **Apologies:** D Sheehan, P Webster, R & D Withnall

2) **Attendance:** 23

3) **Minutes:** Minutes of the General Meeting of 17 February 2008 were confirmed.

**Accepted (m)** M Crisp **(s)** M Travers

#### **4) Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:**

a) **Canberra Meeting.** The President spoke on the significance of this, the first meeting held outside Sydney, and expressed the hope that more such meetings will follow. There was a vote of thanks to those involved in organising the meeting, especially John Goble, Mark Lax and Mark Baker. The Canberra-based members might meet again, perhaps as a group to view the movie *The Red Baron* when it is screened.

b) **Visit to AWM Annexe at Mitchell and the AWM.** This was a great success, and was enjoyed by all who were there.

c) **August Meeting:** All meeting will be held at the North Sydney Club in the foreseeable future, as we have yet to hear from the Kirribilli Club. Our next meeting will include an auction, designed to make available to members surplus items held by the Society.

d) **Norfolk Island Plaque:** The production of the plaque has been delayed by a death in the Withnall family. The Society extends its sympathy to the family.

e) **Journal Progress:** While it appears that sufficient material has been, or is about to be, submitted for this year's *Journal*, additional contributions are always welcome.

f) **Visit to Military Museum at the RSL Retirement Village in Collaroy:** The possibility of this taking place after the AGM in November is being explored, and further details will be advised when more information is available.

**5) Correspondence:** Nil, other than newsletters from Australian and NZ Aviation Historical Society and junk mail.

**6) Office Bearer Reports:**

**a) President:** The Society receives frequent calls for copies of past editions of the *Journal*, something that we should be able to provide. However, production costs for both past and present editions are increasing. Hence, any past editions of the *Journal* will be sold for production costs plus a small extra amount. A full set of *Journals* now retails for \$560, plus postage.

**b) V.P. Administration:** Some 35 members had to be reminded to renew their subscription this year, but all but 3 renewed when prompted.

**c) V.P. Special Projects:** A clipping from the *Canberra Times* regarding the restoration of the AWM's Albatros D.Va was circulated.

**d) Treasurer/Membership Secretary:** There are now 109 members, and our bank balance stands at \$5792.19.

**e) Newsletter Editor:** The cost of postage keeps increasing as the *Newsletter* grows in size. The May edition was particularly expensive due to the inclusion of the Membership Directory. Considerable money could be saved if some copies could be sent by e-mail to those with the facility. Members who would like to receive the *Newsletter* by e-mail were encouraged to advise the Editor.

A general discussion followed on matters electronic, with an *ad hoc* committee of David Perkins, Colin Freeman and Mark Baker being set up to consult with Peter Chapman to determine whether Peter, given his *Journal* workload, needs any assistance with our web site's maintenance.

**f) Librarian:** We have recently received a copy of the excellent Cross & Cockade book *Nieuports in RNAS, RFC and RAF Service*. A new library list will be available in the near future.

**g) Liaison Co-Ordinator:** A social barbecue, perhaps at Camden Airport, may be organised after the November AGM.

**h) Journal Editor:** See item 4 (e) above.

**i) Secretary:** Nil.

**Acceptance of Reports:** The above reports were accepted.

(m ) M Baker

(s) G Mullens

**7) General Business:**

M Lax advised members of the administrative arrangements at the Southern Cross Club.

It is proposed that Des Sheehan will be the Guest Speaker at the AGM, where he will speak on his experiences on a Battlefields Tour of France and Flanders.

J Weingarth recommended the new book *Billy Stutt and the Richmond Flyboys* about the early days at what is now RAAF Richmond.

**8) Raffle Draw:** The prizes were *Fighting the Flying Circus* by Eddie Rickenbacker, and *Talking with the Red Baron* by Peter Kilduff.

**9) Next Meeting:** The next General Meeting will be held in North Sydney on Saturday 16 August 2008 commencing at 1330.

**10) Close:** The meeting closed at 1710.

**President** .....

**Secretary** .....