



THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF WORLD WAR 1 AERO HISTORIANS

General Meeting: Saturday 20 February 2009

Venue: Victoria Barracks. **Chairman:** M Lax

Commenced: 14:00

Apologies: P Chapman, J Scott, P Townsend

1) **Attendance:** 24

2) **Minutes:** Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21 November 2009 to be confirmed.

Accepted (m) S Drew

(s) D White

3) **Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:**

a) **Website**

A Smith spoke on the success of the Society's website and discussed potential developments and future plans. There have been 3411 individual visitors to the site, and the on-line shop is now operational. Part of the Barry Videon database of Australians who served in air services should be available through the website by mid-year. In time, over 1000 photographs will be visible to members through the site.

It is possible to sell back issues of Journals and/or individual articles as PDF files via the website. **Members will be asked** to vote on the best way to do this, and potential fees, at the May General Meeting. In the interim, the Committee will **develop** a paper listing the options.

b) **Journal matters**

Response to the *Journal* has been universally most favourable, with the only criticism being the thin paper used for the cover; this will be fixed in 2010.

M Lax announced that the President's Literary Award for 2009 went to G Morgan for his article on 1st Lt Dana Coates of the USAS.

Members were asked to consider submitting a contribution for the next and other, future, editions.

c) Sending newsletter and Membership list out by e-mail

42 members have opted to receive their Newsletter as a PDF file. Unfortunately, there are problems due to some ISPs not allowing receipt of such a large attachment to an email. This will be resolved by referring the members to a link to the website edition of the Newsletter.

d) May meeting at Powerhouse Museum

S Drew has endeavoured to discuss the feasibility of a meeting being held at the Museum with Powerhouse Museum officials, so far to no avail. Hence, the May meeting will be at Victoria Barracks, and could feature a debate: was *Rittm* Manfred von Richthofen the greatest ace of the War? or a video.

A trip to the Naval Air Museum at Nowra remains a consideration for a future meeting away from Sydney.

4) Correspondence:

The Secretary received a letter from a Funeral Home director offering his services as a guest speaker at a meeting. The offer was declined.

5) Office Bearer Reports:

a) President:

Covered in other points above

b) V.P. Administration:

S Drew placed another advertisement in the *Daily Telegraph's* "In Search" column and received a response from William Toohey, the founding president of the Society. Unfortunately, he has lost interest in WW1 Aviation, although he is somewhat interested in our upcoming 50th Anniversary, and may be coerced to participate in any "celebrations" or "commemorations".

c) Webmaster:

Covered in other points above

d) Treasurer/Membership Secretary:

We have six new members, giving a total of 80. Our bank balance is \$5202.90.

M Crisp advised that he will not stand for the position of Treasurer/Membership Secretary in 2011, and the President requested members to consider volunteering to fill the position.

e) Newsletter Editor:

D Perkins apologized for some items that had inadvertently been omitted from the February Newsletter.

f) Librarian:

P Williams advised that M Lax has donated a copy of *First Blitz* by Neil Hanson to the library.

g) Liaison Co-Ordinator:

G Mullens gave a summary of the Society's most successful trip to RAAF Richmond in November 2009.

h) Journal Editor:

The journal is in pretty good health for 2010 so far, as I carried over a number of articles from last year, notably Part 3 of the AFC ROH, as well as another from Gary Sunderland. M Lax too has since sent me a short article, and I've received a medium sized one from a non-member.

j) Secretary:

G Morgan told the meeting that he spoke to a meeting of the Aviation Historical Society on the 1919 England-Australia Flights. He also donated the 1970s BBC series *Wings* to the library.

Acceptance of Reports:

(m) A Smith

(s) J Weingarth

6) General Business:

a) The meeting noted the sad passing of member Lt Cdr Robert Geale in December 2009.

b) J Weingarh suggested that an Attendance Book be used in future to formally record attendance at meetings. This was **agreed**, and S Drew offered to provide such a book.

c) J Goble spoke about the unveiling of the plaque to the AFC at RAAF Point Cook in March. The date will be publicized on the website and, if possible, a trip will be arranged.

d) A great amount of Society material, including memorabilia, photographs, documents, etc is held by K Keohane and J Goble. Members were **asked** to consider the optimum means of storage and display and advise the Committee for further discussion.

7) **Raffle Draw:** *First Blitz* was won by (new member) Leon Maguire
Around the World was won by Paul Acfield

8) **Next Meeting:** The next General Meeting will be held at Victoria Barracks on Saturday 15 May 2010 commencing at 13:30.

9) **Close:** 15:01

President

Secretary

After the meeting, there were five short presentations:

G Morgan spoke about International Rugby players who served in the air services during The Great War;

M Crisp spoke about scratch-building models;

P Williams spoke about rigging scale models; and

D White spoke about St Elmo's fire and the first RFC aeroplane to fly to France in 1914.

M. Lax spoke about the REP Monoplane and the 1911 Mawson expedition to the Antarctic.