



THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF WORLD WAR 1 AERO HISTORIANS

General Meeting: 21 August 2010

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

Commenced: 13:45

Apologies: P Chapman and D Perkins

- 1) **Attendance:** 29, plus guest visitors Mr & Mrs Bill Toohey. In 1962 Bill was a founder of the Society.
- 2) **Minutes:** Minutes of the General Meeting of 15 May 2010 to be confirmed.

Accepted (m) G Weingarh (s) M Crisp

3) Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:

a) Revised Society Constitution

The Society Constitution was last revised some ten years ago, and it now requires revision to bring it up to date, including incorporation of procedures contained on the website. A draft revised document will be posted on the website prior to the Annual General Meeting for Members' comments. Any Member who desires a copy, but does not have access to the website, should contact the Secretary.

b) Transfer and storage of Society artefacts

In July S Drew and G Morgan transferred various Society items held by J Goble and K Keohane to S Drew's residence, where they are now being catalogued and, in the case of documents, scanned for electronic storage. When cataloguing is complete, some means of displaying the artefacts will be considered.

c) Future display of Society artefacts

After the May General Meeting at the Bankstown Air Museum, the Executive was hoping that it might be possible to display some of our artefacts in the Museum's new purpose-built premises at Camden Airport. However, the company that was to buy out the Museum's lease, and thereby provide the funds for the move to

Camden, has folded. The Museum will be remaining where it is in the foreseeable future, and the possibility of a display of Society material remains unknown.

The Naval Air Museum at Nowra now concentrates on purely Naval flying, so a display there seems unlikely.

G Weingarth suggested that the possibility of a display at RAAF Richmond, associated with a plaque to mark the centenary of the NSW School of Aviation in 1916 should be considered. However, as the long-term future of the RAAF base is unknown, this may not be a viable option.

d) Nominations for 2011 Office Bearers

All the present Committee must stand down prior to the AGM. While M Crisp is retiring from the Committee, the other Office Bearers are willing to stand again. A replacement Treasurer and/or Membership Secretary is required. A Stewart indicated that he is willing to stand as Treasurer.

e) Annual General Meeting at 13:30 on 20 November

Two speakers will address the AGM: Juanita Franzi will discuss her aviation artwork, and Michael Molkentin will talk about the research behind his new book on the AFC *Fire in the Sky*.

f) May 2011 General Meeting

A visit to the Nowra Naval Air Museum is still under consideration.

g) Arrangements for “Bring, Buy and Barter” to follow the meeting

S Drew explained the arrangements for the display, trade and sale of items.

4) Correspondence: Only routine matters and junk mail.

5) Office Bearer Reports:

a) President: M Lax advised the meeting that D Perkins has been unwell, and is therefore unable to attend the meeting.

b) V.P. Administration: Covered in other matters.

c) Webmaster: There have been over 100000 hits on the Society website since it was revised and renewed. Extra storage space has been purchased to house the Society photograph collection, and the audio collection is now being converted to

digital format to allow access through the website. In addition, the Barry Videon database is steadily being added to the site.

A Smith then gave a demonstration to the meeting of the website's contents and means by which they can be accessed. The Society can proudly boast that its members will be able to view more useful content than on any similar website in the world.

d) Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Six new members have joined through the website since May. Membership now stands at 121, and the bank balance is \$4049.56

e) Newsletter Editor: Despite his illness, D Perkins was able to produce another quality newsletter.

f) Librarian: P Chapman has kindly donated 10 Great War aviation books to the library. Other recent acquisitions include the regular journals.

g) Liaison Co-Ordinator: A social picnic will be held at Manly Dam on Sunday 28 November; this will double as the Christmas Party.

h) Journal Editor: The 2010 *Journal* is complete, apart from the President's foreword. An effort has been made to restrict the content to Great War aviation, and articles that deal with other topics are unlikely to be included.

i) Secretary: For reasons unknown, Sensis, the producers of the Yellow Pages Telephone Directory, have once more listed the Society in the Organisations – Service and Ex-Service section, though we remain in Societies – General. There are promises to fix this (again).

Acceptance of Reports:

(m) G Weingarth

(s) M Dawson

6) General Business:

J Weingarth spoke about the lack of response from the RAAF regarding the erection of a plaque at Point Cook to mark the return of the AFC in 1919. In 2012 there should be a ceremony to mark the centenary of the formation of the AFC at Point Cook, and another plaque, which J Weingarth is happy to design, should be unveiled. The President undertook to raise the matter with the local Federal Member of Parliament if nothing more is heard. A Kitchen advised that the Department of Veterans' Affairs often provides funds for projects similar to the plaques, so that organisation could be approached.

A Kitchen went on to tell the meeting that he had been successful in having the dates of the deaths of the last three AFC men killed in action corrected in the official records.

D White told the meeting that he holds the photographs and diary of Sgt Ken McLeod of No 3 Sqn AFC. These will be scanned and placed on the Society website.

A Cook advised that he had brought in three of the 1/32 scale model kits produced by [Society Member] Sir Peter Jackson's Wingnut Wings company. Members were welcome to inspect them during the afternoon coffee break.

J Goble announced that he had transferred the Society's collection of DVDs to the Librarian's custody.

M Lax proposed that, as a gesture of thanks for his magnificent efforts in producing such high quality *Journals*, the Society should pay for P Chapman to fly over from Auckland to attend the AGM. The proposal was formally moved by S Drew and seconded by M Travers before being carried unanimously.

7) Raffle Draw: *The Men Who Changed the World* was won by P Williams
The Battle of Britain was won by R Best

8) Next Meeting: The Annual General Meeting will be held at Victoria Barracks on 20 November (the anniversary of the opening of the Battle of Cambrai in 1917) commencing at 13:30.

9) Close: 14:45

President

Secretary