



Australian Society of WWI Aero Historians

48th Annual General Meeting: 20 November 2010

Venue: Victoria Barracks. Chairman: M Lax

Commenced: 13:40

Apologies: Nil

- 1) **Attendance: 26.** The President welcomed *Journal* Editor Peter Chapman, who had journeyed from Auckland to attend the meeting.
- 2) **Minutes:** Minutes of the General Meeting of 21 August 2010 to be confirmed.

Accepted (m) G Weingarth (s) D Perkins

3) Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:

a) Website

A Smith told the meeting that there have been a number of recent upgrades and additions to the Website, including the posting of Combat in the Air Reports, with more to come. However, the Barry Videon Database needs special software to do it justice, and he is exploring various avenues to sort this out and/or acquire what we need. The Society's audio collection has now been fully digitised and is being added to the Website as time permits.

There have been some 7000 visits to the website since its inception, which is a testament to its popularity. It is hoped to introduce a Forum to the Website in 2011, and members are encouraged to use it when it comes on line.

b) *Journal* matters

The 2010 edition of the *Journal* was available for collection by members at the meeting; it will be posted to those who weren't there. P Chapman explained that there have been some minor changes to format as the publication continues to improve. He is pleased with the standard of articles, and **encouraged** all members to submit articles on matters of interest, provided that they directly relate to aviation aspects of The Great War.

c) Proposed amendments to the Constitution

M Lax explained that the Constitution needs revision to make it applicable to modern times, as it was last changed ten years ago. Several amendments were

tabled to the members, and all were **passed** unanimously. The changed constitution is now available on the website.

In a minor administrative change, the Committee Membership year was **changed** from AGM to AGM, to 1 January to 31 December, so as to coincide with the membership year.

The Committee is considering the production of salable items, such as caps with aeroplane motifs and polo shirts, both to publicise the Society and to provide a modest revenue stream. Quotations will be obtained and a sample shown at the next meeting. It was **suggested** that car bumper stickers might also serve as a good publicity device.

Some discussion ensued over the on-line sale of old copies of the *Journal* as PDF files. It was **decided** that they will be available to non members for \$5 as a PDF, or \$20 as a bound paper version. Members can download the publications for free as part of their membership privileges.

d) Themes for 2011 General Meetings:

19 February – J Franzi to speak on her aeronautical artwork

21 May at Nowra – we plan to continue a meeting at the Naval Air Museum

20 August – there will a trivia quiz, with questions provided by K Keohane, and G Mullens will act as quizmaster

19 November – 2011 AGM

e) Incorporation of the Society with the NSW Department of Fair Trade

The committee has **determined** that it will be in the best interests of members if the Society was to be registered as a non-profit organisation with the NSW Department of Fair Trade. Not only would members be shielded from adverse litigation, but it is quite likely that the Society would be eligible for government grants to aid us in our endeavours.

More information will be **provided** at the February 2011 meeting.

f) Future recruitment action

A Smith and G Morgan described their experiences at the Williamtown Air Show (where D Perkins was also present) and the Parramatta History Fair, where they represented the Society on stalls. Such activities are seen as a vital way to publicise the Society, and there was a call for members to **volunteer** to represent the Society at future events.

Related to the above is the need to produce/purchase display material, including a Society banner to draw attention to our presence and explain our purpose.

Members were **urged** to consider suitable designs for presentation at the February meeting.

g) Election of Office Bearers for 2011

In a 'show of hands' the following members were unanimously elected as office bearers for 2011

President	M Lax
Vice President (Administration)	S Drew
<i>Journal</i> Editor	P Chapman
Liaison Coordinator	G Mullens
Librarian	P Williams
Newsletter Editor & Membership Secretary	D Perkins
Treasurer	A Stewart
Webmaster	A Smith
Hon Secretary	G Morgan

4) Correspondence:

Nil

5) Office Bearer Reports:

- a) **President:** Covered in other matters.
- b) **V.P. Administration:** Nil
- c) **Webmaster:** Covered in other matters.

d) Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Five new members have joined via the website, giving a total membership of 135. Our bank balance now stands at \$2381.45.

e) Newsletter Editor: Despite rising postage costs, the cost of distributing the Newsletter has dropped, due to many members opting to receive their copy electronically. Contributions and feedback will be gratefully received.

f) Librarian: Members were reminded that the Library list is available on the website, and that prospective borrowers only have to advise the librarian of their requirements for the books to be brought to a meeting.

g) Liaison Co-Ordinator: The annual picnic/barbecue will be in Area 3 at Manly Dam at 12:00 on Sunday 28 November.

h) Journal Editor: Covered in other matters.

i) Secretary: Nil

Acceptance of Reports:

(m) M Travers

(s) W Renfrew

6) General Business: There was a suggestion from the floor that a guide to researching airmen of The Great War be placed on the website.

D White told the meeting that a good biography of Sir Hiram Maxim is available from amazon.com at a very reasonable price.

7) Raffle Draw: *The Airplane* by Spencer was won by Mark Dawson
Phoenix Squadron by White was won by Chris Bowman

8) Next Meeting: The next General Meeting will be held at Victoria Barracks on 19 February 2011 commencing at 13:30.

9) Close: 15:25

The formal meeting was followed by a very interesting Eric Watson Memorial address by Member Michael Molkenntin, who spoke on the philosophy and practical aspects of the writing of Cutlack's Volume VIII of the *Official History – The Australian Flying Corps*.

President

Secretary