



Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians Inc

General Meeting: Saturday 21 May 2011

Venue: Victoria Barracks. **Chairman:** G Morgan

Commenced: 13:35

Apologies: M Dawson, S Drew, M Lax, G Mullens, W Renfrew

- 1) **Attendance:** 24
- 2) **Minutes:** Minutes of the General Meeting of 19 February 2011 to be confirmed.

Accepted (m) J Weingarth (s) D White

3) Business arising from the Minutes/Discussion Points:

a) Society incorporation

G Morgan told the meeting that the Society was incorporated with the NSW Department of Fair Trading in February. A significant benefit to the Society is the removal of the possibility of the committee and/or members being sued in the event of an injury to a member.

In addition, incorporation means that we are in a position to apply for Commonwealth Government grants for heritage preservation and like activities in 2012/13, a process that should commence soon, now that we have an idea of what is required, as the forms are quite long and detailed. However, there are indications that government grants are going to be much reduced in the future.

A Stewart spoke to the meeting about the difficulties encountered in obtaining Public Liability Insurance for a reasonable premium. J Scott suggested contacting the Royal Australian Historical Society to determine if ASWWIAH could affiliate with them, like the Aviation Historical Society, and qualify for cheaper insurance through that body. A Stewart will follow up this suggestion.

b) Committee vacancies, both immediate and in 2012

G Morgan advised that S Drew has resigned from the Committee for personal reasons, and that the position of Vice-President (Administration) is consequently vacant. Members were requested to consider volunteering for Committee service.

c) *Journal matters*

The latest advice from P Chapman is that the 2012 *Journal* is well under way. A decision on the printing and distribution arrangements will be made in the near future.

d) *Society artefacts – present position and future developments*

As indicated in the *Newsletter*, the Society's artefacts have been moved to A Smith's house, and a great deal of culling has now taken place. A lot the masses of paper consisted of rather old and unreliable newspaper articles and the like. These were not worth keeping unless there was a massive indexing operation, which would not be worthwhile as much of the information has been superseded by modern research. A lot of old correspondence has been shredded.

M Lax will journey from Canberra in the next few weeks to join with A Smith and G Morgan in conducting a detailed study of the artefacts with a view towards cataloguing the items and perhaps loaning some to the Army Aviation Museum.

e) *Salable items – caps and shirts*

The Society needs money in order to increase its range of activities, and selling of items like caps and polo shirts is a potential avenue of fund raising. Members were asked to indicate if they were interested in purchasing caps, and the response was favourable. A Smith will now contact a supplier to arrange for about 25 caps with a Great War aeroplane motif, and the society internet address.

f) *50th Anniversary Dinner*

Some discussion ensued on the possible time and location of the Anniversary Dinner. J Goble suggested a lunch in the Officer's Mess at Victoria Barracks; an idea that was greeted with considerable acclaim. J Goble will discuss the possibility with Defence.

It was further suggested that a trip to the AWM in Canberra might be a worthwhile way to mark the Society's 50 years. Consideration will be giving to arranging a visit, perhaps in August.

g) *Next meeting – Naval Air Museum at Nowra*

A significant number of members would be interested in travelling to Nowra by bus. A Smith is contacting bus hire companies to ascertain the most favourable rates. The bus would probably depart from Central Station, and detailed arrangements will be advised on the website and in the August newsletter, which will be published early.

4) Correspondence:

Nil.

5) Office Bearer Reports:

a) **President:** Covered in other matters.

b) **Webmaster:** There have been problems with the server, which proved incompatible with much of the Society's software. In addition, the site was the target of a hacker. However, the problems are now well on the way to being resolved, and the site should be in full operation by mid-June.

c) **Treasurer:** There is about \$3000 in the Society's bank account, which is healthy for this time of year.

d) **Newsletter Editor/Membership Secretary:** There are now 120 financial members. Member A Kilsby from Victoria requested use of D White's artwork of an SE5a from No 2 Sqn AFC, which was agreed. D Perkins distributed leaflets about a forthcoming book *Tumult in the Clouds*, which includes a contribution by Member A Hellwig.

Sadly, US-resident member R Hunnicutt passed away on 29 April 2011.

e) **Librarian:** P Williams donated the *Windsock Datafile* on the DH4 to the library.

f) **Liaison Co-Ordinator:** Nil

g) **Journal Editor:** Nil

h) **Secretary:** When our website settles down, G Morgan will contact our overseas counterparts *Cross & Cockade* and *Over the Front* to discuss reciprocal advertising. This might be a more attractive arrangement for them now that ASWWIAH has more to offer and, with the Australian dollar being as healthy as it is, more of our members might be interested in joining their societies as well.

Acceptance of Reports:

(m) M Crisp

(s) A Kitchen

6) General Business:

D Perkins circulated examples of the Society's new certificates to be used as Awards for Excellence, Literary Awards, etc. Members were very favorably impressed.

7) Raffle Draw: M Crisp won *The Battle of Britain*
D Sheehan won *Into Oblivion*

8) Next Meeting: The next General Meeting will be held at Nowra on 20 August commencing at a time to be advised.

9) Close: 14:40

President

Secretary

After meeting, K Keohane conducted a Great War aviation quiz, which consisted of three “Who am I?” segments, and a session of 19 general knowledge questions.

Winners were: Count von Zeppelin – G Morgan
‘Boom’ Trenchard – D White
Sopwith Triplane – P Williams
René Fonck – P Williams
General Knowledge – G Morgan