



## **General Meeting: Saturday 19 May 2012**

# **Minutes**

**Venue: Building 96, Victoria Barracks**

**Chairman:** Gareth Morgan

**Commenced:** 13:30

**Apologies:** Peter Chapman, Mark Lax, David Perkins, Andrew Smith & Ray Withnall

**1. Attendance:** 23

**2. Minutes:** The Minutes of the General Meeting of 19 November 2011 as posted on website – (no General Meeting in February) were confirmed.

**Accepted: (m)** J Weingarth

**(s)** W Evans

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

- a. Anniversary Luncheon. Gareth Morgan informed the meeting that the Anniversary Luncheon in February was a great success, and thanks are owed to those who were involved in the organisation of the event, which wasn't an easy task. Particular thanks were given to Alex Stewart who had the difficult task of dealing with the Defence caterers. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday 14 February 2037; details will be circulated closer to the event!
- b. Society Artefacts. At long last, the Society's artefacts are to be moved to the NSW Aviation Museum at Bankstown on Wednesday 23 May. It is hoped that they will be on display when/if the Museum is relocated to Camden.
- c. Recruitment of replacement Newsletter Editor and Webmaster with possible consequent vacancy for Treasurer/Membership Secretary. Both positions will be difficult to fill, but the Committee will provide maximum support to the new occupants as they settle in.
- d. Volunteers to represent the Society at events. The Society always needs new members, and there's a need for members to man a table at air and modelling shows, history fairs, etc to talk to interested members of the public (a chance to

- meet all sorts of strange people) and tell them about the Society and its benefits – hopefully enlisting them into our ranks.
- e. Modelling and Art Contest in August. Details will appear in the Newsletter, and it will be run on the same lines as the 2009 contest, with various categories. All members are encouraged to submit models and artwork with a Great War theme.
  - f. Trip to Canberra in October. Scheduled for Saturday 27 October: Gareth has written to the Head of War Memorial to ask for a visit to the Mitchell Annexe and, if possible, a closer than normal look at exhibits in the Over the Front section of Anzac Hall.
  - g. Trip to New Zealand in 2013. A trip to include both a flying display at Hood/Masterton and the Museum at Omaka will take five or six days. The timings, schedule and route are yet to be determined – and is dependent on the number of members participating, which will affect transport requirements and pricing. Hence, an indication of interest is required, and this should be passed to the Vice-President.
  - h. Book Sale. A number of books donated to the Society were sold after the formal part of the meeting. Also for sale were the remaining printed copies of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal for \$20, plus CDs for \$5.

#### **4. Correspondence and Reports.**

**a) Correspondence:** Routine matters only.

**b) Reports:**

**i) President**

The president's report was as follows:

I gave a talk on Aviation in the First World War to the Botany Bay Family History Society on 7 March, after which the BBFHS donated \$50 to the Society. I also sold copies of our 50th Anniversary CD.

The above talk resulted in a request to speak on the same subject to the Loftus Probus Club in August.

At the beginning of April I was approached by the UK-based Western Front Association to provide some words on an RFC pilot who died in April 1917 – this for their daily remembrance feature on their website. I responded, and also included information on an AFC pilot who died in April 1918; this was actually used. Since then, I have given details of a more AFC casualties where I had a photograph, as well as two articles (one of which was featured in the WFA email newsletter) plus information about 60-odd International Rugby players who died in the War.

The WFA has established reciprocal links between their website (some 15000+ visitors per month) and ours, so we may see some increased interest in what we have available. All members are encouraged to visit the WFA website.

Copies of our 50th Anniversary Journal CD have been sent to *Cross & Cockade* and *Over the Front*.

ii) **VP Administration**

Nil

ii) **Webmaster**

Absent, however Gareth said that, after a bout of ill health, Andrew has been able to resume work on the website. More of the Barry Videon database has been added, plus some additional matters. The website remains one of the jewels in the Society's crown, and it reflects Andrew's efforts.

iv) **Treasurer/Membership Secretary**

- i) Alex commented that there are currently 111 financial members and 115 are expected for the year. There have been six new members in the last six months. Some members, particularly those from overseas, have not renewed their membership.
- ii) Since incorporation, the Society's reporting year has been aligned with the financial year.
- iii) A small loss was recorded against the last year due mostly to website expenses and this was minimised due to a reduction in printing expenses. Over the last two years, our position is roughly even.

v) **Newsletter Editor**

Absent so the president reported another great job. Newsletter link on website. Some emails have bounced back, and David is writing to the members concerned.

vi) **Liaison Co-ordinator**

Notice was given of a luncheon to be arranged at a Chinese restaurant probably in Chinatown on Sunday the 19th of August, being the day following the next general meeting.

vii) **Librarian**

There are some "Over the Front" journals available in the Society library. Peter has donated "Italian Aces" and other books for the raffle.

viii) Journal Editor

Absent so the president reported that work on the 2012 *Journal* is proceeding well. However, if we intend to produce two Journals per year, starting in 2013, then members' contributions will be needed. Former president, Ray Withnall, has promised to donate a generous sum towards the production of a second *Journal*.

ix) **Secretary**

Nothing to report

**Acceptance of Reports:** (m) G Mullens                      (s) M Travers

**5) General Business:**

- i) Jerry Weingarh announced that he is relocating permanently to Spain and won't be attending any more meetings. He has offered to welcome anyone from the Society at his residence in Spain. He was kind enough to point out the correct address for Victoria Barracks and the error on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon menu. Jerry will maintain his membership, and his presence will be missed.
- ii) John Goble donated the following books for the raffles: *Richard Branson, A Man Among Mavericks, Bomber Boys* and *Spitfire*.
- iii) The DVD *Mannock and McCudden* was shown at the meeting and well received.

**6) Raffle Draw**

The following members won prizes in the raffle: Alex Stewart, Margaret Travers, Campbell Walton and Peter Williams.

**7) Next Meeting:**

**Venue:** Building 96, Victoria Barracks                      **Date:** 18 August 2012  
**Time:** 13:30

**8) Close:** 14:45