



General Meeting: Saturday 17 August 2013

Minutes

Venue: Meeting room, Fighterworld, Williamtown RAAF Base

Chairman: Gareth Morgan

Commenced: 1:40 PM

Apologies: Peter Chapman, Warren Evans, Michael Garside, John Goble, Gordon Lasslett, Greg Mullens, David Perkins, Eric Peterson, Jerry Weingarh, Derek White

1. Attendance: 11 members as per attendance book

Guests welcomed – Donna Lincoln, guest of Andrew Smith,
Arthur Christensen, guest of Peter Savage

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the General Meeting of 18 May 2013 were confirmed.

Accepted: (m) Stephen Drew **(s)** Bill Renfrew

3. Business arising from the Minutes

a) Journal matters

Peter Chapman reports that the November journal has enough articles to proceed, but the journal would benefit from a wider group of authors. Possible arrangements for overseas journals discussed as set out below under membership.

b) Newsletter

The August newsletter has now been emailed and posted to those members without email access. Feedback is that it is excellent. Digital copies now show Norm Forrester (see excursion below) as still in the land of the living, and members who received a postal copy only will need to correct theirs.

c) Library matters

On 9 June the balance of the library was transferred to Gordon Lasslett's premises by committee members. The library is now situated at 38 Woodlands Road, East Lindfield NSW 2070 – Librarian Gordon Lasslett Tel 02 9416 7603 (H)
glasslett@bigpond.com

As of 17 August Gordon has done a monumental task and the library is up and running.

Gordon Lasslett has conducted a complete stocktake from Peters cards and the complete library been placed in card order on easily accessible shelves. The electronic index (including books by subject etc) still requires some work.

Gordon has identified that the library is (surprisingly) missing a number of 14-18 journals, and although electronic copies can be made, any spare hard copies from members would be welcome (list to be expanded on in advice to members). Peters donated copies have already filled some of those gaps. Andrew Smith will also arrange for printed versions of the digitalised journals.

d) In memory of our Librarian Peter Williams

A motion was passed that to commemorate Peter Williams' long term contribution to the society the library is to be named The Peter Williams Memorial Library.

e) Membership Numbers/recruitment

There have been 17 new members since January, but some membership has otherwise declined through death, illness etc.

Discussion took place as to the most appropriate membership fees for overseas members who receive a hard copy of the journal (with prior input from Peter Chapman) as postage costs from Australia have increased significantly (eg: now \$21.00+ to Europe). Options considered were a separate (discounted) overseas membership for digital copies only (say \$40.00 pa) with standard overseas membership \$55.00 pa. Arrangements for discounted student membership need to be formally passed at the AGM.

f) Barry Videon Database

Gareth Morgan reported on David Perkins advice that the complete database is progressing slowly towards completion. David is putting in place separate links from airmens' database entries to their entry with the National Archives, as well as links to the Societys website to encourage new members to join.

g) November General Meeting

Committee still examining guest speaker options, sadly one proposed speaker has recently died.

h) NZ Trip in November and other events

NZ trip in November – Andrew Smith (webmaster) now has a complete itinerary which he can provide to all members interested. There is also a link to the itinerary on the August Newsletter and the Members Section of the Website.

Places are still available and will remain open up to shortly before departure from Sydney on 9 November 2013 (returning 14 November 2013). Package is priced at \$2300.00 per person (less for couples) but may vary depending upon later air fares. Likely 6 members currently going, currently limit of 12 (due to size of bus). Highlights include Vintage Aviators WW1 Aircraft collection at Hood Aerodrome Masterton, Remembrance Day ceremony at National War memorial Wellington, viewing the NZ Air Force Museum, Guided Tour of Omaka Air Museum, and viewing Peter Jacksons armoury.

Email Andrew Smith at webmaster@ww1aero.org.au or contact Kayla O'Dwyer at Flight Centre Blacktown Tel 02 9622 1188.

To book exact name on passport is required.

Qantas Heritage Museum visit – This will now need to be on a week day, Gordon Lasslett will follow up arrangements which enabled the Aviation Historical Society to visit previously, as some obstacles still in the way of this excursion. Michael Garside is still organising.

4. Correspondence and Reports.

a) Correspondence:

Correspondence concerning found artefacts of Capt R A Little
Correspondence from Mrs Claire Williams (widow of Peter Williams)

b) Reports:

i) President (Gareth Morgan):

Has corresponded with the family members who found the Capt R A Little artefacts at a tip and fortunately retrieved them. After assisting in identification Gareth ultimately arranged for them to be donated to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra. President is preparing a newsletter article, and provided a brief outline to the meeting on this remarkable find and the course of events. Also a brief item on this discovery is in the Sydney Morning Herald. Noted that there is a biography of Capt Little by Mike Rosel.

ii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)

Has been almost fully occupied arranging NZ tour, but is in touch with Google to have Society's profile higher on WW1 aviation search engine (to assist with possible new members).

Andrew will send a list to librarian of the contents/index to the DVD Library.

Andrew is attending a History and Genealogy conference in Canberra in September on behalf of the Society and will publicise the Society's activities and databases.

iii) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Alex Stewart)

Financial statement received. The income for this year is currently less than the previous year, in which there were magazine sales which boosted that years income. This year however through new arrangements the journal expenses are much less, even with two journals, and the new banking arrangements have also resulted in savings of over \$200.00.

Library fees were higher due to our 2 year subscription to Windsock falling due this year.

This year's surplus of \$880.00 may seem high, however last year we had a deficit of \$371.00, so the average surplus over two years is about \$400.00, which is more reasonable. The Societys costs are overall on par with the previous two years.

127 paid up members, 17 new, so far 16 not renewed.

Treasurer to also be congratulated for liaising with Peter Williams' widow Claire so that the remainder of Peter's models and kits could be collected on behalf of the society as per Peters wishes.

iv) Liaison Co-ordinator (Greg Mullens)

At time of the meeting still in hospital but recovering. Warren Evans advised the secretary that Greg will be discharged soon to rehabilitation. We wish him a swift recovery.

v) Librarian (Gordon Lasslett)

As above, but can now be contacted for loans, returns etc.

vi) Journal and Newsletter Editor (Peter Chapman)

As above, except the society still needs to relieve Peter Chapman of the newsletter editor role, so he can concentrate solely on the journal editorship.

vii) Secretary (Des Sheehan)

Arranged to follow up society subscription magazines with Bill Renfrew. Nothing to report otherwise than as covered above.

Acceptance of Reports: (m) Stephen Drew (s) Mark Dawson

5) General Business:

Activities/commemoration of events of WW1 centenary – Society's role – president will set out proposed plan for events/commemorations 2014 to 2018. A separate committee meeting will be arranged to consider and implement proposed plans.

A group photograph of society members at the 30th anniversary dinner at which a lot of famous society members attended, held on 15 February 1992, donated by Derek White at the previous meeting has been handed over to Andrew Smith to store with other framed Society photos.

6) Raffle Draw

No raffle at this meeting as it is held away from the main venue, however it is planned to have two raffles in November to make up.

7) Next Meeting (Annual General Meeting):

Venue: Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Oxford Street, Paddington NSW

Date: Saturday 16 November 2013

Time: 1:30 PM

8) Formal meeting close: 2:05 PM (to allow time for excursion to Fightworld and return home for various members)

Report on the remainder of the meeting

A group booking was arranged for members to view the exhibits and displays at Fighterworld, Williamtown, beside the RAAF base.

The museum is committed to preserving and displaying historical material relating to fighter operations in the Royal Australian Air Force, and to increase public awareness about the role of fighter aircraft in the defence of Australia. Helpful volunteers manned the desk and provided information.

On display are seven restored jet fighters (including Vampire, Meteor, Sabre, Mirage as well as a Hawker Hunter and a MIG 21) and a F111 fighter bomber, in two hangars and

outside. It is possible to climb up to most of the cockpits and view inside, and the aircraft are well displayed. There are also five piston engined fighter aircraft or replicas, including two Spitfires and a Messerschmitt BF 109. Hanging from the ceiling is a black Fokker DR1 triplane (two thirds scale) in the colour scheme of Leutnant Josef Jacobs, who claimed 48 victories when in command of Jagdstaffel 7 during 1918 the age of only 25 years.

The remarkable collection of Norm Forrester's wooden scale model aircraft are on display, over four cabinets full, at least 100 models (from memory). Over his lifetime Norm has built scale models of all the major World War I aircraft, and many unique aircraft that nobody else has put together, as well as a remarkable range of prewar and 1920s aircraft, including a range of seaplanes and commercial passenger aircraft of that era. The collection requires considerable time to view and is a credit to his enormous work.

All members found this excursion interesting and enjoyable.