



Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians Inc

General Meeting: Saturday 15 February 2014

Minutes

Venue: Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington

Chairman: Gareth Morgan

Commenced: 1:40 PM

Apologies: Peter Chapman, Mike Evans, Mike Garside, Adrian Hellwig, Steve McMahon, Greg Mullens, John Scott, Margaret Travers, Jerry Weingarth

1. **Attendance:** 17 members as per attendance book
2. **Guests:** Maureen and John Capp, Margaret White, Alex Stewart Jnr

2. **Minutes:** Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16 November 2013 deferred (as usual) to 2014 AGM.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

a) Journal matters

The second Journal in 2013 (November) has been well received, with extensive and interesting articles in it.

Peter Chapman has advised that there is more than enough material for the next Journal, but more is always welcome.

b) The Newsletter

Adrian Hellwig's first newsletter as Newsletter editor has also been received with much praise. It extends over 12 pages, the illustrations are excellent and the variety of articles is wide. Adrian's backgrounding of his own history is also interesting.

c) Library matters

Gordon Lasslett reported that he has expanded the library shelving to include two glass fronted steel cabinets for the books, and another, glass fronted cabinet to display Peter William's models, as they were in danger of getting damaged in the boxes in which they were stored. He is repairing the 20 odd models that require repairs (where possible). With the models safely stored it does take pressure off the society needing to quickly find a

home for them, but ultimately an appropriate display at the Bankstown Museum is being considered.

The Peter Williams Memorial Library is fully up and running and members are now welcome to contact Gordon for loans or visits to the library. Email for Gordon Lasslett is [glaslett@bigpond.net.au] and phone 02 9416 7603. Peter's complete collection of Society Newsletters is also now housed.

A range of new publications were available to peruse and/or for loan at the meeting. Redirecting publications to which the Society subscribes continues to have its challenges.

d) Membership/recruitment/finances

Five new members have rejoined, including an "electronic" member. Membership remains generally static. Two thirds of members are now paying via the website.

Alex Stewart reported that an updated balance sheet to February 2014 has been prepared and provided to the committee, showing a surplus of income over expenses to February 2014 of \$884.63. Society finances remain sound, with a sufficient bank balance to well cover the expenses of the upcoming two journals.

e) Barry Videon Database

David Perkins attended from Newcastle and provided an update on the database. Over 3000 of the personnel on the data base have now been linked to their entry on the National Archive. David would like members to send in what photographs they have of personnel so they can be added to that person's entry on the database.

The Pat Moy Award for service to the Society (announced at the November 2013 meeting) was formally presented to David Perkins by President Gareth Morgan, for David's excellent work over many years to provide this outstanding data base.

f) May Meeting

Members will be able to view and purchase any remaining books surplus to the library from Peter Williams' collection (see below at item i).

Likely to have the talks deferred from this meeting due to time running out plus any other proposed from members, as well as final arrangements for the visit to the Nowra Museum in June.

g) The proposed visit to the Nowra Museum

In June an informal excursion to view the Capt R A Little artefacts now on display (as well as other WW1 and aviation display) is planned. The majority of interested members preferred a Saturday, and numbers will be finalised at the May meeting, or members can

contact Gareth Morgan direct at email president@ww1aero.org.au or by telephone at 02 9885 7092.

Greg Mullens will organise a mini –bus if there are sufficient numbers.

Photographs of those items are in the November 2013 newsletter.

h) Mark Lax Award

Gareth Morgan announced that the recipient of this award is this time in fact Mark Lax himself, for his informative and lengthy articles on the air campaign in Mesopotamia in the November 2013 journal. The award was as per usual decided by the committee of the society, Mark himself not being a committee member.

i) Arrangements for the sale of Peter Williams' excess books and models.

As advised at the November meeting, the late Peter Williams has donated his large collection of WW1 aviation material to the library. Peter's wishes were that excess items/books were to be sold for the benefit of the society, with members having first opportunity to buy. These include an extensive collection of books on WW II subjects and model making. There are also a number of model kits, both unused, and partially used.

A full list of Peter Williams' books and effects excess to the society's needs has been prepared by Gordon Lasslett, and has been provided with the February Newsletter. The list will be placed by the webmaster on the website, anticipated to be by 1 March 2014. Members will be advised of the planned sale by email, and those without emails by post, with everyone having a chance to buy on a first come first served basis from mid March.

Contact for purchases will be: Gordon Lasslett at [glaslett@bigpond.net.au] and phone 02 9416 7603.

For delivery of purchased items postage costs will be added to the price, or members can indicate when purchasing that they will attend the May meeting, when their purchase(s) can be collected by them.

The webmaster will open an EBay account so that members can pay prior to or separately at the May meeting.

j) The Australian Charities not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC)

Raised by Mark Lax at the November meeting. Des Sheehan has looked into this and will also confer with a legal practitioner familiar with this body.

Research however indicates firstly that such registration is in addition to the usual society registration with the (NSW) Office of Fair Trading (as an incorporated association), and

is entirely voluntary. One of the Acts which govern the ACNC's activities is the (Commonwealth) Charities Act 2013, which came into force in January 2014.

It appears it is necessary to now register if an organisation wishes to obtain the tax free exemption for gifts to a charity, registration for which was previously managed by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). A necessary part of such registration is to show that the organisation is a charity. Our society does not appear to fit that description. Interestingly it is believed some of our sister societies overseas may hold such exemptions (in the UK or the US). Des Sheehan will follow up what advantages might be available under the above regime for the society and report to the committee.

k) Keith Keohane's sale of his library

Keith Keohane distributed a list of his books for sale to members at the meeting (Keith is offering to sell his extensive collection to members as he wants to downsize – see minutes Nov 2013 meeting). Keith provided catalogues to interested members and arranged sales direct.

The society is also grateful to Keith for his donation to the society, for the Peter Williams Memorial Library, of a number of these books, which will be listed and published in the new acquisitions.

l) Barry Barnes' book on the AFC training wings in the UK

John Capp and his wife Maureen Capp attended the meeting to donate the last remaining copy of Barry Barnes' book to the society. He explained that only seven were printed, one is in the town hall library at Tetbury, and one has also been donated to the Point Cook museum.

He explained that Barry Barnes lives in Tetbury, and had researched the Australian training wings at Leighterton, eventually compiling his history in the book.

The Capps met Barry though a friend when they were visiting Tetbury. John's connection was that his father was in the AFC in the same area. At the time of the first war the family name was Capuano but because of his Italian background, before WW II it was changed to Capp.

Barry's book was gratefully received on behalf of the society by Gareth Morgan, and is now available in the Peter Williams Memorial Library.

4. Correspondence and Reports.

a) Correspondence:

The Society has received all the recent publications from the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (for November and December 2013).

The Society has also received the newsletter and Journal of the Aviation Historical Society of New Zealand published in December 2013, with articles on their patron Air Marshal Sir Richard Bolt, on NZ air gunners in WW II over Europe and the UK, and the Short S30 flying boats in NZ and Australia.

Jerry Weingarth has also written updating his travels in Spain (where he now resides) and Mosel, his research on family members in the Luftwaffe in Germany, and that he will be attending the May meeting.

b) Reports:

i) President (Gareth Morgan):

Gareth Morgan reported that he has continued to contact the new curators of the Bankstown Air Museum, Paul and Christine Ewolt. There has been a delay in the Bankstown museum signing the loan agreement for the society assets, to then be placed on display, and the museum is currently reviewing it. Signing is necessary for society artefacts to be covered by Bankstown's insurance. The museum is not apparently moving to Camden in near future now. Gareth Morgan continues to follow this up with the museum curators

ii) Vice President (Mike Garside)

Not able to provide as submitted apology and is currently in France.

iii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)

Andrew Smith reported that he is starting to place some of the audio library on the website for members, including interviews done in the 1960s.

Also planned is for the library catalogue to go online.

A possible glitch with online renewals is being addressed whereby a complication sometimes occurs with the ticking the box concerning "wanting to become members of the shop". When renewing members are currently recommended to not tick this box.

iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Alex Stewart)

General report is already set out at 3 (d) above.

v) Liaison Co-ordinator (Greg Mullens)

Greg is now out of hospital and has attended the recent committee meeting but could not attend today.

vi) Librarian (Gordon Lasslett)

As reported above, but can now be contacted for loans, returns etc. The library is now situated at 38 Woodlands Road, East Lindfield NSW 2070 – Librarian Gordon Lasslett
Tel 02 9416 7603 (H) glaslett@bigpond.com

vii) Journal Editor (Peter Chapman)

As above 3 (a).

(viii) Newsletter Editor

Adrian Hellwig's contribution noted above. Adrian has also raised whether the newsletter should go to a single column format, as most online newsletters are now. The committee will confer with interested parties and Adrian on this.

ix) Secretary (Des Sheehan)

Society subscription magazines are still being followed up eg: "Over the Front". Nothing else to report otherwise than as covered above.

It seems there is a problem with the publication of members' details in the members section of the website without individual permission of a member. The secretary will look into how best to obtain such permission, so that members can obtain such details, and contact other members.

Acceptance of Reports: (m) Mike Crisp (s) Stephen Drew

5) General Business:

Gareth Morgan mentioned some recent interesting publications seen at local newsagents, the Aviation Archive (good articles) and a magazine on the First World War (the first of an avalanche?).

6) Raffle Draw

Derek White attended despite having some impediments to attending, and conducted the raffle.

First Prize = *No Parachute* by Arthur Gould Lee
Second Prize = *First Blitz* by Neil Hanson

Winners drawn by guest John Capp.

First prize: Peter Helson (NSW).

Second prize: Michael Enwright

7) Next Meeting:

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

Date: Saturday 17 May 2014

Time: 1:30 PM

8) Formal meeting close: 2:45 PM

Report on the remainder of the meeting

Gordon Lasslett provided a video of a film confiscated by the occupying American forces from Herman Goering's office in WW II. He explained its background and offered occasional comments on the contents.

Apparently it was taken mainly by an employee of Anthony Fokker, during his visits to some WW I squadrons including von Richthofen's, in which Goering was originally a pilot. Goering kept the film as he was in a lot of the shots, and it was ultimately intended to be some sort of training film for the Luftwaffe.

It consisted of many shots of the squadron members grouped for filming, with Fokker being very jolly with them, and some shots of their aircraft. It was fascinating to see von Richthofen's system for bandaging his head injury, and that he was still flying whilst injured (as we now know definitely following his crash). Any dog fancier would also have been pleased with the attention given to the canine squadron members. Take offs of many aircraft were recorded, and the whole film was an interesting and unusual record.

The film took up all the available time and other talks by Gareth Morgan and Andrew Smith were deferred to the next meeting.