



## Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians Inc

# General Meeting: Saturday 17 May 2014

## Minutes

**Venue:** Building 96, Victoria Barracks, Paddington

**Chairman:** Gareth Morgan

**Commenced:** 1:40 PM

**Apologies:** Peter Chapman, Michael Garside, Adrian Hellwig, Mark Lax, Eric Petersen, Alex Stewart Jnr, Derek White

- 1. Attendance:** 21 members as per attendance book
- 2. Guests:** Paul & Christine Ewoldt
- 3. Minutes:** Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Meeting of 16 February 2014.

**(M):** Mike Crisp **(S):** Bill Renfrew

### 3. Business arising

#### a) Journal matters

The May 2014 Journal is now published and Gareth Morgan overcame Aust Post obstinacy, resulting in all having been posted out. Some overseas journals arrived in a mangled condition and more robust packaging will be investigated. Feedback on the May issue has been positive, particularly the cover art, and there may be an upcoming review of the Zeppelin Z.IX article. The committee recorded that the May Journal is certainly an outstanding read.

The November 2013 Journal has received an excellent review in the most recent quarterly *Windsock World War Centenary* (from Albatros Productions), with complimentary references to the contributions from Mark Lax, Peter Chapman, Colin Owers, Gary Sunderland and Gareth Morgan.

The November 2014 issue has sufficient material but as re-iterated before, contributions from the wider membership are still earnestly sought. Peter Chapman's publishing deadline is mid September 2014. Andrew Smith has obtained future artwork from Terry Jones for use with the journal.

#### b) The Newsletter

The May newsletter has been emailed and sent out. The newsletter has an excellent 12 pages of detailed content, and is also on the website. The illustrations are also extensive. There are reviews by a range of contributors and a host of other interesting items.

Also attached were the four pages of Peter Williams' excess books which were on sale before and at the May meeting.

The newsletter is in the new single column format, for ease of reading online, and comments would be appreciated. There are also hyperlinks within the text. Adrian Hellwig reports that there is still good content for the August newsletter, but any further items need to be with the editor by 28 July 2014.

### **c) Library matters**

The committee recommended that a float be provided to the librarian of \$300.00 pa to purchase technical and research texts. After discussion this was strongly supported by the members present and such a motion was passed.

**(M):** Greg Mullens    **(S):** Mike Abbott

Gordon Lasslett reported that he has been able to carry out research for future articles/papers by Mark Lax, Colin Owers and Derek White.

The Peter Williams Memorial Library is fully up and running and members are 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. There have been generous donations of complete sets of magazines (for modellers and otherwise) and newsletters.

Stephen Drew brought donations to the society by David Underwood (non-member) of four Ghosts of the Great War Calendars, Janes Fighting Aircraft of WW1, Aeroplane Magazine Archive – Aeroplanes of WW1, and a 1/32 Fokker Dr 1 model kit.

### **d) Membership/recruitment/finances**

Nineteen new members have joined, but 18 have dropped out, or not renewed to date, so membership remains generally static. There were eight new members who took up the electronic membership option, four of whom were from overseas.

Cross and Cockade have generously placed a permanent advertisement for society membership in their magazine, which has clearly had results already.

Alex Stewart reported that an updated balance sheet to June 2014 has been prepared and provided to the committee, showing a surplus of income over expenses to February 2014 of approximately \$700.00. Society finances remain sound, with a sufficient bank balance to well cover the expenses of upcoming journals.

#### **e) Barry Videon Database**

Steps are underway to enable members to simply use their yearly **member's** area password to access the data base, instead of the current more involved process. This will hopefully result in both David Perkins and members **not** having to take up extra time gaining access.

#### **f) August and November Meetings**

The committee will advise members via the newsletter the talks/activities for the August meeting.

The proposed speaker for the November Eric Watson address is Vice President Michael Garside, who now resides at Corbie (near the Somme River) and has been liaising with a number of museums, curators and WW1 activities in France (see his report below).

#### **g) The proposed visit to the Nowra Museum**

On 28 June 2014 the society will have an informal excursion to view the Capt R A Little artefacts now on display (photographs of those items are in the November 2013 newsletter), as well as other WW1 and aviation displays, at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Nowra. Planned time for meeting at the entrance is at 12.30pm.

Members can contact Gareth Morgan direct at email [president@ww1aero.org.au](mailto:president@ww1aero.org.au) or by telephone at 02 9885 7092. Des Sheehan is also available for lifts from the northside travelling through to the south at [dessheehan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dessheehan@optusnet.com.au) and tel 0415 207 730.

#### **h) The Bankstown Air Museum**

Paul & Christine Ewoldt attended as guests of the society. Paul Ewoldt is the manager of this museum, which contains a collection of society assets.

Paul spoke on various matters concerning the museum. The museum's curator Kevin Snowball is still in the process of working out the best solution for the collection, and finalising a loan agreement. The museum can offer a facility to work on the two society engines currently held at the Fleet Air Arm Museum (FAAM), which museum would like to transfer them to a site nominated by the society. The whole collection may be able to be displayed eventually in the main hanger, including Bankstown's replicas of a Fokker Triplane and a SE5A.

The museum's lease at Bankstown finishes in 2019, but the site has been purchased by the developer of the Bankstown Hyperdome. Funds have been provided by the developer for the museum to move to Camden Airport (where a block of land is available), but the proposed Badgerys Creek **Airport may affect the future of Camden**. The museum is

looking into possible grants for restoration of aircraft including a Mosquito bomber. The Historic Aircraft Restoration Society has left the museum site.

Paul is from March 2014 the Hon secretary of the *Aviation Historical Society of Australia (NSW) Inc* – (the AHSA). He explained that the AHSA is promoting the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary the first air mail flight between Melbourne and Sydney, to take place from 12-14 July 2014. The first flight was undertaken by French flyer Maurice Gillaux in July 1914 in a Bleriot XI Monoplane. The commemorative flight will be undertaken by a Jabiru.

**i) Treasurer/Membership Secretary for 2015**

Alex Stewart has done sterling work in this position but is unable to continue in this role in 2015. The Society seeks a member who can carry on **Alex's** excellent work in 2015. He has set up things so it all runs smoothly. There is not a great deal of accounting involved and members are earnestly sought for this role.

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

As advised at the November and February meetings, 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 and magazines for model making. There were also a number of model kits, both unused, and partially used.

A full list of Peter Williams' WW1 books and effects excess to the society's needs was prepared by Gordon Lasslett, and has been provided with the May Newsletter and also on the website.

Gordon brought all the above to this meeting and they were displayed on four tables for members attending to view and purchase, most with anticipated pricing. The sale was a great success, with members proposing prices above some of those marked, for the benefit of the society. Most items sold. Congratulations are due to Gordon for all his effort in collating, publicising and pricing all the items.

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

**k) A possible Publications and Research Fund and the ACNC.**

Research has previously indicated that there is no need for the society to register with the ACNC (Australian not for Profit Commission), however it has since come to the committees attention that the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (Vic) Inc is proposing to set up a Publications and Research Fund, donations to which would be tax

exempt. Des Sheehan will investigate further as such a fund may well be of benefit to our society. A standard clause for bequests to the society in wills will also be drawn up.

#### **l) The naming of the model**

Copper States Models' new owners in the UK donated three 1:48 scale model German WWI mechanics. Gordon Lasslett brought along a model of a WW1 aircraft he has completed, and asked members to identify it to win the CSM models. It was a fully cowled single engine monoplane with the wing on the top of the fuselage somewhat similar to the Taube II or the Morane Saulnier Type G.

Various members hazarded opinions, with Bill Renfrew successfully proposing it as a Caproni of unknown designation. Gordon confirmed it was a Caproni Ca20, or Caproni Tipo Venti, as the surviving aircraft is marked at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

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

#### **a) Correspondence:**

The Society has received all the recent publications from the Aviation Historical Society of Australia (for December 2013 and March 2014) containing much more information about the historical mail flight re-enactment. The Society has also received the Aerolog of the Aviation Historical Society of New Zealand published in December 2013.

#### **b) Reports:**

##### **i) President (Gareth Morgan):**

When the Society website is functional again an item will be placed with the RSVP column in the Sydney Morning Herald (and the similar column in the Telegraph) seeking information etc on any Australians who served with the AFC, so that further database etc information can be obtained.

Recognition of Australians who served and died in the service of the RFC or other allied air services in WW1 will be negotiated with the Australian War memorial.

Gareth Morgan will continue to follow up the agreement for society assets with the Bankstown museum with Paul Ewoldt and the museum curator.

##### **ii) Vice President (Mike Garside)**

Mike has come across information (in French) detailing the restoration of an Albatros DVa in the Montdidier area and will translate and send in.

He has been in contact with a French citizen who is starting up a museum outside Villers Bretonneux to the victims of Manfred von Richthofen, with headstones and their details.

The curator also envisages a scenario showing the Australian and Canadian versions of the Red Baron's downing, and another depicting the funeral procession (conducted by No 3 Sqdrn AFC).

This would appear to be of interest to the society and Mike is continuing to follow that up, including the inclusion of a Fokker Dr1 replica. Enquiries are also being made of a gentleman near Albert who has a significant private collection.

During ANZAC week in France Mike also met a member of the *Association Bretonvillose d'Animation* (ABA) who has access to a large amount of local WW1 aviation memorabilia from the area, including photos of aeroplanes and aerodromes. Viewing and follow up will occur.

### **iii) Webmaster (Andrew Smith)**

The main website is temporarily down for about two weeks for Andrew to update the website format to make it easier to access and link. The members section remains accessible.

The library catalogue is planned to go online.

### **iv) Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Alex Stewart)**

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

Alex Stewart and others are still following up how to best store and refurbish the Clerget and Curtiss OX-5 engines which are currently at the FAAM, but which the FAAM wants to transfer to a site selected by the society. In the future they might be able to even be moving displays such as those at the Smithsonian etc.

Members are asked to consider establishing a restoration team, and the committee will look into the possibility of grants for such restoration. Alex has written to CAMS at Omaka and Adrian Hellwig is in contact with TVAL. Contact is also being made with the AWM concerning their previous Albatros restoration. This is an ongoing enquiry and any members should contact Alex as temporary co-ordinator.

### **v) Liaison Co-ordinator (Greg Mullens)**

Greg proposes a social function for interested members for a Yum Cha meal in Chinatown on the Sunday following the next (August) meeting, namely 17 August 2014.

Members should contact Greg by email [gregomullens@gmail.com](mailto:gregomullens@gmail.com) beforehand for numbers, place and time, but it will also be advised at the next meeting

### **vi) Librarian (Gordon Lasslett)**

In addition to 3 © above, most of Gordon's time has been taken up with the sale of the books and models.

Gordon can still be contacted for loans, returns etc. The Peter Williams Memorial Library is situated at 38 Woodlands Road, East Lindfield NSW 2070 – Librarian Gordon Lasslett  
Tel 02 9416 7603 (H) [glaslett@bigpond.com](mailto:glaslett@bigpond.com)

**vii) Journal Editor (Peter Chapman)**

As above 3 (a).

**(viii) Newsletter Editor**

As above 3 (b)

**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.

Publication of members' details in the members section of the website needs individual permission of a member. Renewals will now have that permission ticked as a default box so that such details can be available again for all members.

**Acceptance of Reports: (M):** Jerry Weingarth **(S):** Steve Drew

**5) General Business and items of interest:**

Gareth Morgan mentioned some more interesting publications/catalogues seen at local newsagents.

Jerry Weingarth has visited Bertangles and viewed the local cemetery where Manfred Von Richthofen was first buried by the AFC, and visited the chateau nearby which was Monash's headquarters. He has found that Reclingham airfield is now a wind farm.

He has bought a home on the Mosel River in Germany and invites members to contact and visit him there.

Steve Drew spoke about "Project Longshot" and suggested the society/members might have an interest in it.

The project (referred to by Peter Fitzsimons in the recent Sun Herald) is attempting to locate the shell that was believed to be the first shot fired by the British Empire in WW1, in Port Phillip Bay by a coastal battery which halted the German merchant ship *Pfalz* which was attempting to flee Melbourne harbour.

The plan is to purchase equipment to find the shell and afterwards locate some shipwrecks that have been confounding historians for some time. Steve will do a later power point demonstration, and discuss donations/involvement.

Steve has also kindly prepared and edited 4 DVDs of the presentations by society members Gareth Morgan, Mark Lax and Michael Molkentin to the conference “*By the Seat of their Pants*” held at Point Cook in 2012, and presented them to the society.

Keith Keohane also kindly made available his full archive of society newsletters since 1967, which the committee will arrange collection for the library.

Bill Renfrew mentioned an interesting new book, “The Diggers View”.

## **6) Raffle Draw**

In Derek White’s absence the numbers were drawn by Alex Stewart using random numbers generated by his (smart?) phone.

First Prize = *Air VCs of WWI* by Peter Cooksley  
Second Prize = *Aces Falling* by Peter Hart

First prize: Mike Crisp

Second prize: Brad Campian (Qld)

## **7) Next Meeting:**

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

**Date:** Saturday 16 August 2014

**Time:** 1:30 PM

## **8) Formal meeting close: 2:45 PM**

### **Report on the remainder of the meeting**

The sale of books and models took place, and raised \$450.80, an excellent result.

Gareth Morgan gave a detailed account of the life of French Ace and former French rugby captain Maurice Boyeau, which he will also set out in the November Journal.

Andrew Smith gave a presentation on the search for the body of Lt R K Duckworth AFC.