



General Meeting, Saturday 20 August 2016

Minutes

Venue: Roseville Memorial Club **Chairman: Gareth Morgan**
64 Pacific Hwy Roseville NSW 2069
Tel 9419 6849

Commence: 1.30pm

Apologies: Peter Chapman (in NZ), Adrian Hellwig (in Qld), Des Sheehan (in Alaska/Canada), Mark Lax, Margaret Travers, David Perkins, Michael Garside and Alex Stewart.

Before the meeting commenced, those present observed a minute's silence to mark the passing of long term member John Goble.

1. Attendance: 13

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the General Meeting of 21 May 2016 are to be confirmed.

Accepted: (M) G Mullens (S) S Drew

3. Discussion Points:

a) Journal and Newsletter matters

G Morgan passed on advice from P Chapman that the November Journal is almost complete, and maintains the high standard of previous editions.

b) Matters arising from committee meeting (including any update on Australian Aviation Museum from Paul Ewoldt)

G Morgan told the meeting that the Committee has resolved to award Life Membership of the Society to David Perkins as a means of thanking him for his great efforts relating to the database of Australian Airmen in the Great War.

P Ewoldt told the meeting that the Museum move to Camden has been delayed while matters are sorted out between the developer and others. There should be some news later in the year.

- c) *Website update and report* A Smith told the meeting that he plans to update the website in the next few months.
- d) *Barry Videon Database* D Perkins continues to add material to this outstanding resource.
- e) *Speakers for 2016 meetings (ACM Mark Binskin – invitation to AHSA members to attend)* G Morgan asked members to consider any persons who might be able to deliver an interesting address to forthcoming meetings. P Ewoldt will approach the curator of the Qantas Heritage Museum, and will also speak himself on Early Bird aviators with a Great War connection.
- f) *Coming and future events – Model exhibition and auction. Visit to AWM in October or for February meeting to view Mephisto Tank/RAAF Museum Point Cook/members suggestions)* The Society will visit the AWM in Canberra on Sunday 16 October, with members to meet on the steps at 11.00.

A visit to the RAAF Museum at Point Cook will be arranged after the RE8 has been painted in AFC markings.

- g) *Society restoration project for 2016 (Clerget 9b and Willys OX-5 engines) – call for extra hands -* G Lasslett advised that work on the Clerget continues, albeit slowly. Designated work days will be nominated, and members are encouraged to attend and assist under the direction of M Dawson.
- h) *Other projects/appearances for WWI commemoration –*
 - i. Recognition of Australian Airmen who died/served with the RFC and the RNAS by the Australian War Memorial
 - ii. Society's involvement in WW1 centenary commemorations – Commemoration of opening of NSW Aviation School at Richmond – Ceremony at 11am on 28 August 2016. Progress funding/plaque etc see secretary's report

See the President's Report for information on projects i and ii.
 - iii. Progress re documentary on AFC

G Morgan advised that there has been no further contact from the film makers, so we can only conclude that the project has been abandoned.
- i) *Presentation of Pat Moy Shield for 2015* Alex Stewart was not present, so the award has been deferred to November, when the 2016 Shield will be presented to David Perkins.

4. Correspondence:

AHSA Newsletters for June and NZAHS *Aerologs*.

Correspondence re Richmond Plaque, Australians transferring from AIF to RFC

- see the President's Report

Correspondence re Narrandera/Jerilderie Battle Plane

- G Morgan told the meeting that he had contacted Narrandera Shire Council as part of the research into articles about Presentation Aircraft, after D Sheehan remembered seeing a photograph of an RE8 in the Council Chambers.

The Council kindly provided a photograph, and advised that the original will be restored and re-framed.

5. Reports

- i) President:

Two matters dominated the past three months, with mixed results.

First the not so good news. After completing an article about Australians who lost their lives after being discharged from the AIF to transfer to the RFC, I wrote to the War Memorial in Canberra to enquire about having the men being commemorated at the AWM.

The reply was that the AWM ceased the installation of plaques in 2014, so we left our plea too late for consideration. It would be good to see the 60-odd men concerned remembered by something tangible but, as they did not come from a particular part of Australia, it's difficult to nominate a location.

There's better news about the plaque to mark the Centenary of the NSW State Aviation School at Richmond on 28 August. After letters, telephone calls and emails (over 500 emails were sent and received) the plaque has been ordered and the NSW MP for Hawkesbury will unveil it, together with the Deputy Mayor of Hawkesbury. The RAAF 3 Squadron Association will be present and, thanks to the efforts of Vice-President Michael Garside, the RAAF from Richmond will also take part in the commemoration.

- ii) Vice President: No report

iii) Webmaster (report already given above) and Membership Secretary: A Smith advised that we now have 131 members, an increase over the 2015 number.

iv) Treasurer and Librarian (latest statement of finances attached to August Newsletter for information of members) G Laslett told the meeting that our finances are healthy, and that it is now planned to sell surplus models for \$40 each.

v) Journal Editor (already given above): See item 3 (a) above.

(vi) Newsletter Editor: A Hellwig intends to include more longer articles in forthcoming editions, as these are proving popular.

vii) Liaison Co-ordinator: No report

viii) Second Vice President (Communications) See item 3 (b) above.

iv) Secretary No report, as D Sheehan is away in the Arctic.

Acceptance of Reports:

(M) S Drew **(S)** P Ewoldt

5) General Business:

Stephen Drew has supplied the secretary with edited DVDs of the talk at the May meeting by Eric Barton DFC, copy will be supplied to Eric via his son John when he returns from travelling. Copies for the library and for purchase by members were available at the meeting.

6) Raffle Draw – First Prize went to Daryl Austin, and second to David Jansen. G Morgan will contact the winners.

7) Next Meeting:

Venue: Roseville Memorial Club. **Date:** 19 November 2016

Time: 13:30

8) Close formal meeting:

Afternoon Tea

Post Meeting talks/presentations

A Smith gave a very interesting presentation on the various current features of the Society website, and explained the plans for the future.