



Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians Inc

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 19 November 2016

Minutes

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

Commence: 2.00pm

Apologies: Peter Chapman (in NZ), Adrian Hellwig (in Qld), David Perkins (in Melbourne), Mark Lax, Ray Withnell.

Before the meeting commenced a minute's silence was observed for the passing of former long serving member and Journal contributor Gary Sunderland, and long serving member and attendee Leen Van Lein.

Long term attendee and life member Derek White's move to Port Macquarie reported to members present.

1. Attendance: 17

2. Minutes: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 21 November 2015 are confirmed.

Accepted: (M) S Drew **(S)** M Garside

Minutes of the General Meeting of 20 August 2016 are confirmed.

Accepted: (M) G Lasslett **(S)** M Garside

3. Discussion Points:

a) *Journal and Newsletter matters*

G Morgan reported that the second 2016 Journal maintained the high standards of which we can be proud. Peter Chapman the editor has advised that there is sufficient material for the first 2017 edition, but further contributions are always welcome.

D Sheehan reported that the November Newsletter is also excellent, and that he and the editor [Adrian Hellwig](#) have been informed by members that the longer articles are interesting and well received by members. Adrian Hellwig reports that members seem to

like the single column format and the hyperlink navigation. Adrian is considering whether we should consider putting our publications in DRM format, which can translate for use in an E Reader. Currently in PDF format. DRM has the advantage of protection of the content from copying.

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

Paul Ewoldt gave an update concerning the AAM, basically no developments re the new site at Camden.

Society outings and meetings are to be communicated to members of the AHSA (NSW) in case they would like to join any, and Society members are welcome at any AHSA meetings/outings.

c) *Society's model collection*

The committee agreed at the meeting on 20 August 2016 (and it was endorsed by members at the meeting of the same day) that excess models may be sold. \$740.00 has so far been raised from the sale of Society's excess models.

Wing Commander Frank Galea, CO 303 Squadron, Australian Air Force Cadets, has approached Gordon Lasslett, and has offered to buy our 102 remaining excess models, if a price can be agreed. The committee has agreed to offer a sale price of \$2,500.00, based on a reasonable market price for each model. This also should also enable the models to be displayed at Camden, whereas there is currently no way to display them.

The establishment of a core group of Australian models, for future displays, is proceeding.

d) *Website update and report and membership update*

Andrew Smith has had two long hospital admissions totalling 10 ½ weeks, but was able to attend today's meetings. Still catching up on emails. He reported that there have been over 5000 views on the Website to date this year, with over 500,000 pages viewed. From January to June 2016 over \$3,000.00 moved through the Shop. He has opened Society Twitter and Instagram accounts. The Facebook page is proving popular.

On membership, he reported that Membership is steady, even though we have lost three long serving members who have died (with over 50 years of membership between them). Current membership is now 133. If re-elected he will try for more advertisements in like minded publications more appearances to give talks, including possible links with other historical societies and like minded organizations. Aiming for 150 members.

The website is continuing to be updated.

e) *Barry Videon Database*

Gareth Morgan reported, for David Perkins, that the database is still being maintained, and new material added as it is submitted or discovered. Thanks to Gordon, we now know of a third Australian-born man who flew for Germany: *Leutnant zur See Carlo Ratazzi*, born in Marrickville, and interned in The Netherlands in May 1917.

f) *Speakers for 2017 meetings*

February 2017 meeting

A presentation by former member of the Society from the 1960s John Richards on aviation art, including displays of his work.

May 2017 meeting

A Joint meeting at Roseville with members of the Western Front Association
Andrew Smith on (more) Australians in the RNAS, or
Michael Garside on WW1 commemorations and contacts with museums in France (if not on air or ground duties), or

August 2017 meeting

Paul Ewoldt on “Early Birds of NSW”
Or alternatives from May meeting,

November 2017

Darren (Buster) Crabbe, ex RCAF and RAAF F/A-18 pilot, who also collects WW1 airmen’s medals (and has flown every aircraft at Temora) – has spoken at WFA.

A presentation by our patron, with members of AHSA (NSW) to be invited.
Michael Garside is liaising this, and advises it can only take place after ACM Mark Binskin steps down from his current appointment as Chief of Defence.

g) *Coming and future events –*

The outing to view the Mephisto tank and updated WW1 exhibits at the AWM listed for 16 October was postponed due to lack of numbers.

A tour/meeting to Point Cook is to be planned once their new RE8 is repainted in 3 Squadron colours – the RAAF Museum Collections Manager has advised that the aircraft will not be ready and then on display until mid 2017. To be discussed at later meetings. More should be known by February 2017.

Members present supported the proposed next planned outing, to the Small Arms Museum at Lithgow.

Numbers and possible dates were discussed. Most members present indicated they were likely to participate. Sunday 26 February 2017 was agreed as a likely date for a day outing from Sydney. Greg Mullens volunteered to organise a minibus (or if larger bus, Paul Ewoldt). More information will be sent to members by email, confirming date, numbers etc.

Paul Ewoldt is also investigating a visit by members to the Qantas Heritage collection via David Crotty the curator.

Michael Garside is investigating a tour of the Mascot ATC and Fire facilities.

h) *Society restoration project for 2016 (Clerget 9b and Willys OX-5 engines) – call for extra hands -*

Alex Stewart reported that Christine and Paul Ewoldt have done an excellent job cleaning the engine parts that have been removed, and the condition of those parts looks almost new.

The pushrods still need work and members are encouraged to attend and assist, under the direction of Mark Dawson. Alex expanded upon the work to undo the “Nut from Hell”. Work days are bi-monthly, usually the first and fourth Sunday of the month: contact Gordon Lasslett Tel 02 0416 7603 for next work (and refreshments) day.

Gordon Lasslett reported that, at their own expense, some members have joined together to purchase a set of spark plugs for the OX-5, from the US. About 600 of these engines are still being operated in the US. Gordon is in contact with US enthusiasts who are continually looking for parts needed for this engine.

i) *Other projects/appearances for WW1 commemoration –*

i. Recognition of Australian Airmen who died/served with the RFC, RNAS and RAF by the Australian War Memorial

Gareth Morgan reported that the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Dr Brendan Nelson, has advised that plaques are no longer installed in the grounds of the AWM, so the men can't be commemorated there. Suggestions of a means to mark the contribution of the men are invited from the membership.

Paul Ewoldt suggested possibly the Hyde Park cenotaph, which will be investigated. The difficulty in fixing a particular place other than at the Avenue of Remembrance at Canberra is that the men came from all over Australia.

ii. Society's involvement in WW1 centenary commemorations –

Gareth Morgan reported that the Society's plaque to commemorate the Centenary of the NSW State Aviation School was unveiled by The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP on Sunday 28 August. We were joined by members of the 3 Squadron Association, including the sons of School graduate Nigel Love (the founder of Sydney (KS) Airport) who spoke about their father's legacy.

As well, Wing Commander Matt Hetherington from RAAF Richmond spoke, and read out the names of those who died in the service. The Deputy Mayor of Hawkesbury also spoke, and an Army bugler played The Last Post. The event was captured on a DVD produced by Jerry Weingarth's brother Steven.

Details on how to purchase the DVD are in the Newsletter.

If members are in the area, the plaque is in the Ham Common Reserve on Hawkesbury Valley Way, on the Windsor side of the visitor's kiosk.

iii. Progress re documentary on AFC

Michael Garside reported that he understands that the producers have approached the RAAF to make a whole documentary on the RAAF, in which the AFC and WW1 flyers with the British services will be included. Funding is still being sought.

iv. Connection with ABC News 24

Des Sheehan reported that his contact, the researcher for the previous news story, has transferred to North Queensland as an ABC reporter. She has put him in touch with her two replacements, whom Des has contacted.

4. Confirmation of position of second Vice President (Liaison with AHSA)

Des Sheehan advised that this committee decision had been confirmed at the meeting of February 2016, however it was considered prudent to ask the membership at the Annual General Meeting to confirm that decision.

The meeting unanimously endorsed that decision.

Accepted: (M) S Drew

(S) G Lasslett

5. Correspondence:

Brendan Nelson, Director AWM re Plaque to commemorate Australian Airmen who died/served with the RFC, RNAS and RAF in WW1.

Philippe Jourdan's book offer "*LAeronautique Militaire 1914 -1918*".

Wg Cdr Frank Galea CO 303 Sqdrn Australian Air Force Cadets.
Emily Constantine, Collections Manager, RAAF Museum, Point Cook (RE8).
Paul Ewoldt, President AHSA (NSW), advising that future newsletters from AHSA (NSW) will be provided electronically.

AHSA (NSW) Newsletters for July and August 2016. (Noted our member Alex Stewart gave a presentation to the May AHSA meeting on Aviation Museums in England, Scotland France and the US).

Aerolog (AHS of NZ) for June 2016.
Correspondence re Richmond Plaque.

5. Reports

i) President:

As discussed above, the Society commemorated the NSW SAS.

I have enjoyed correspondence with a Belgian author who is writing a book on Great War airmen from the British Empire who are buried in cemeteries in his country. Appropriate extracts from articles I have written were supplied.

On Sunday 13 November I spoke to a meeting of the Western Front Association Australia Branch about Australians in the RFC. The plan now is for the May 2017 meeting to be a joint ASWWIAH/WFA meeting, as it would be in the good interests of both organisations to maintain a good relationship and discuss matters of mutual interest.

Gareth Morgan spoke on Philippe Jourdan's interesting book offer "*LAeronautique Militaire 1914 -1918*, in English and French, on Heraldry in the French Air Service, and much more. More details will be provided.

ii) Vice President:

Michael Garside reported that he has been continuing to raise the Society's profile over the Centenary of Anzac period, and will follow up the Society brochures he has left in France at tourist offices and hotels.

In the course of the centenary he has taken the ACM to the battlefields of the AIF and some of the AFC aerodromes in France and Belgium.

Consideration is being given by the Centenary of Anzac Project to the site for an AFC Memorial in France, and members' suggestions through Michael would be of assistance – such as the most significant site for the AFC, combined with perhaps other significant Western Front sites – eg: St Omer.

Michael attended the recent commemoration and parade at Williamtown for 1, 2 and 4 Squadrons, and met with Will Davies, a well known author of WW1 books, such as “*Beneath Hill 60*”, who we could consider inviting to speak.

In the course of his (Michael’s) work for the Directorate of History (Air Force), a lot of his time outside work has been taken up with interviewing surviving WW II flyers.

iii) Webmaster and Membership Secretary (report already given at 3 d) above):

iv) Treasurer and Librarian (latest statement of finances attached to August Newsletter and provided for information of members) told the meeting that our finances are now very healthy, with over \$9,800.00 in the bank.

The library now has a subscription (and back issues) to the journal of our equivalent society in Germany. The copies of journal, *Das Propellerblatt*, received run from the first issue in 2001 to Nr. 36 published this year.

We have also received a large donation of books from former member John Richards.

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

(vi) Newsletter Editor Adrian Hellwig: (already given above): See item 3 (a) above.

vii) Liaison Co-ordinator: Has provided brochures to the Hyde Park Memorial, and will arrange bust for the February excursion. Has been in regular contact with members and will follow up and speak to/correspond with Derek White.

viii) Second Vice President Paul Ewoldt: (Liaison with AHSA) Already given. See item 3 b) above.

iv) Secretary D Sheehan:

Will follow up with Derek White’s daughter his condition.

Will follow up the progress with the RE8 in February. Inventory of Society artefacts and photographing of same proceeding, will be put out to members to identify certain objects.

Acceptance of Reports:

(M) P Ewoldt (S) G Mullens

5) General Business:

Michael Garside mentioned that his house at Corbie (down road from Von Richthofen crash site and across from the relatively new AIF Memorial above Hamel) is available to

members to rent when visiting the Western Front battlefields and aerodromes. Contact details will be in the Newsletter and on the Website.

6) Raffle Draw – First Prize went to (Member No 79) Paul Newton of North Buderim, and second to (Member No 65) Gordon Leith of Henson UK. G Morgan will contact the winners.

7) Nominations for 2017 Office Bearers

Bernard de Broglio kindly took over the Chair to oversee election of 2017 officebearers.

The following members nominated for positions on the Executive Committee in 2017:

President	Gareth Morgan
Journal Editor	Peter Chapman
Liaison Co-ordinator	Greg Mullens
Treasurer/Librarian	Gordon Lasslett
Newsletter Editor	Adrian Hellwig
Secretary	Des Sheehan
Membership Secretary	Andrew Smith nominated from the floor
Vice President	Michael Garside
Second Vice President (Liaison with AHSA)	Paul Ewoldt
Webmaster	Andrew Smith nominated from the floor

Election of office bearers for 2017.

All the above candidates were separately elected unanimously for the positions nominated.

Next Meeting:

Venue: Roseville Memorial Club. **Date:** 18 February 2017

Time: 13:30

8) Close formal meeting:

Afternoon Tea

Post Meeting talks/presentation

Due to limited time available, the only presentation that was able to be given was a showing of the DVD of the ceremony of the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate the Centenary of the NSW State Aviation School at Ham Common Richmond.