



THE SIR RICHARD WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 30 October 2018 DRAFT Minutes

Alastair Swayn Theatre, Brindabella Conference Centre, ACT

Meeting opened

Air Marshal Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

There being a quorum, the Chair declared the meeting open at 1732 hrs.

Members present, apologies and proxies

Air Marshal Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

Present:

VADM (Retd) Tim Barrett AO CSC	Mr Shane Fairweather	Mr Ken Moore
AIRCDRE (Retd) Graham Bentley AM	AIRCDRE Tony Forestier AM	Mr Peter Nicholson AO
ACM (Ret'd) Mark Binskin AC	WGCDR Travis Hallen	Mr Matthias Seifert
Mr Gerry Bluett	SQNLDR Jenna Higgins	Dr Alan Stephens OAM
AIRMSHL (Retd) Geoff Brown AO	Mr Chris Huet	Mr Noel Wainwright
Mr Brian Cather	Mr Ian Irving	AVM Ret'd Brian Weston
Mr John Conway	AIRMSHL (Retd) Errol McCormack AO	Mr Simon Whitehead RFD
Mr Jacob de Wilt	GPCAPT David Millar (Retd)	

Catherine Scott, Business Manager (minutes)

Apologies:

Mr Russ Below	GPCAPT Mark Green	AVM (Retd) Brendan O'Loughlin
Ms Anne Borzycki	Mr Robert Griswell	Mr Doug Park
Wing Commander Jo Brick	WGCDR Lance Halvorson MBE	AIRCDRE (RAAFAR) Ian Pearson
Mr Rob Carrick	AM John Harvey	Mr D. Neale Prescott
AVM Robert Chipman CSC	Ms Amanda Holt	Mr Craig Purry
AIRCDRE Noel Derwort CSC	Mr David Hopkins	Mr David Riddel CSC
Mr Andrew Doyle	AIRCDRE Vincent (Joe) Iervasi	AVM (Retd) Dave Rogers AM
Mr Rob Dunn	FLTLT Andrew Kell	Mr Michael Spencer
AIRCDRE Stephen Edgeley	Mr Michael Kelly	Mr Darren Smith
Ms Tracey Friend CSC	CDRE (Retd) Geoff Ledger DSC, AM	Mr Mike Walkington
Mr Vern Gallagher	Mr Michael List	SQNLDR Marcus Watson
RADM Raydon Gates AO CSM	Mr John Lonergan	Dr Michael West
Mr Nicholas Gibbs	AVM (Retd) Warren Ludwig AM	Ms Kath Ziesing
CDRE Lee Goddard CSC	Mr Ian McDonald AM	
GPCAPT Darren Goldie AM CSC	LTCOL Clare O'Neill	

Opening Remarks

The Chair outlined the Foundation's achievements of the previous 12 months highlighting another successful year for the Foundation.

Highlights

Seminars: 2 seminars in the reporting period

- A new Approach & Attitude to Electronic Warfare
- Requirements of Hi Intensity Warfare

The seminars were supported by key senior people such as Ross Babbage, Peter Jennings RAF Chief Sir Stephen Hillier, CDR 7th Air Force Ken Wilsbach, Chief of Finnish Air Force MAJGEN Eskerlin. All our Seminars have also been supported by Dr Robbin Laird, He continues to produce reports on the Seminars. Geoff Brown formally acknowledged and thanked Dr Laird.

In this current financial year we have also held a seminar on

- The Need for an Independent Deterrent - A Joint Strike Seminar

This seminar was supported by excellent speakers including Dr Stephan Fruhling, Michael Shoebridge, AIRMSHL Stu Atha RAF, WGCDR Jo Brick, GPCAPT Jason Begley, and MAJGEN Adam Findlay

Lunches in the reporting period we had the following seminars:

- INVICTUS GAMES Lunch ACM Blnskin
- Joint Integration "A Practitioners Perspective" VADM David Johnstone
- Lessons of OP OKRA AIRCDRE Rob Chipman
- Air Warfare Centre Jericho in action AIRCDRE Joe Iervasi

Lunches this financial year:

- Australian Industry SME and Jericho interaction
- The next lunch on 13 Nov is with AVM Meredith

On Target Column in Australian Aviation - Al Stephens and Brian Weston

- Jan/Feb (combined issue) – *Combat Power through Organisation Pt 4* – Brian Weston
- Mar – *Disrupting Air Supremacy* - Al Stephens
- Apr – *High Intensity Warfare through Alliances* – Al Stephens
- May – *Eighty to Nil – Networked Air War* – Al Stephens
- Jun – *RAAF in Bomber Command* - Al Stephens
- Jul – *Middleton VC* – Al Stephens
- Aug – *Newton VC* – Al Stephens
- Sep – *A War by Another Name – Malayan Emergency* – Brian Weston
- Oct – *Butterworth - Emergency to Strategic Reserve* – Brian Weston
- Nov – *The Making of Butterworth* – deferred to Dec to fit in a late one page advert - Brian Weston
- Dec – *The Making of Butterworth* – Brian Weston

All fascinating reads. Looking for members contributions

Sponsors

The Chair thanked sponsors for their strong support for all Seminars.

2019 Forward Program

- Next Seminar *Independent Deterrence and the Importance of Self Reliance*
- Current Sovereign Industry capabilities
- What would be important in High Intensity Conflict
- Expendables—payload
- What would it take to establish and indigenous missile industry?
- EW & Space
- Experiences of Australian CAOC Director in OP OKRA AVM S

Thank yous

The Chair formally thanked the following

- Fellow Board Members
- Catherine Scott and Nicole Quinn for the quality and professionalism of the Seminar coordination
- Catherine Scott– untiring efforts in the administration and management of the Williams Foundation
- Editors of Central Blue for their specific contributions in the lead up to the seminars as well the dynamic spirited engagement of the Blog on a number of topics. – General business presentation.

Geoff Brown made a special mention of the outgoing Deputy Chair Errol McCormack AO

Geoff acknowledged Errol's contribution to the Williams Foundation as Chair and Deputy Chair. The SRWF was Errol's invention and the successful business model is quite unique. Errol has been pivotal to the success of the Foundation. Since the organisation inception he has spent countless hours moving the organisation forward. He is without doubt our most successful fund raiser and I doubt anybody would come close to him. As he moves out of the role – he is still remaining on the board

Special resolutions

No special resolutions were put to members.

Move to accept the Chairman's report: Brian Weston

Seconded: Errol McCormack

Carried

Item 2: Minutes of Last Meeting:

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

The Chair proposed that the Minutes of the AGM held on 31 October 2017 be accepted.

Moved: AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

Seconded: AIRMSHL Errol McCormack

Carried

Item 3: Business Arising

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

No business arising

Item 4: Treasurer's Report, Income Statement and Balance Sheet

Mr Ken Moore, Treasurer

- The Foundation's 2017/18 Annual Financial Statements have been finalised and provided to Members.
- With the Chair, the Treasurer signed off on the Statements including, on behalf of Members, that the Foundation is a going concern. The Treasurer has certified that the Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Foundation during and at the end of the 2017/2018 financial year.
- Auditor, Michael Sinclair, has issued his Audit Report without qualification.
- Operating Result for the FY, a loss of \$20,823, is detailed in the Income and Expenditure Statement. This can be compared to the \$61,734 profit in the 2016/2017 FY.
- Some comments on the Operating Result:
 - Whilst the Board did not set out to achieve this loss, it clearly can be afforded as it represents less than 5% of our Total Equity of \$435,588, as shown in the Balance Sheet.
 - The two major activities for the year, the Electronic Warfare and High Intensity Seminars, both outstanding successes in terms of relevance and engagement with the Defence community, actually made profits (about \$23,000 and \$10,000 respectively).
 - These profits were due to the ongoing support of our major sponsors and the charm and tenacity of several Board Members, particularly Errol, to keep sponsors funding rolling in. Sponsorship funding will continue to be the key underpinning of our major activities in the future and these activities will need to remain relevant and timely for both the Defence community and Defence industry.
 - The Board has a deliberate strategy for maximising the value of the Foundation to its Members. This is best reflected in the income and expenditure associated with Member lunches: zero income and nearly \$30,000 in expenditure. With total Membership income of \$19,775, Members are clearly receiving very good value for money, not just through the Lunches, but also attendance at Seminars and access to information on our web site such as Central Blue.
 - The Board will keep Member annual fees under review but clearly the current Member subsidy is affordable. However, this could quickly turn around if sponsorship funding dried up.
 - Ken also drew the meetings attention to the PHD Scholars Program of \$20,000 for one Air Force member annually, selected by Air Force, to undertake a gap year of study to accelerate the completion of his or her doctorate. The \$20,000 is designed to cover travel and associated costs, often overseas, during the gap year. Again, this Program is clearly affordable in our current financial circumstances and is a demonstrable return to Air Force for its annual \$50,000 grant to the Foundation.
 - The Board has also invested in its "back office" (e.g. to bring administration and IT, including the web site) up to an acceptable standard. This is good governance and is providing a far more professional view of the Foundation to web site users.
- The Treasurer commended the Annual Financial Statements to Members.

No questions from members

Move to accept the financial statements:: Ken Moore

Seconded: Ian Irving

Carried

Item 5: Election of Board Members

Deputy Chair, AIRMSHL Errol McCormack AO (Retd)

Nominations were received for Board positions as follows. With a maximum of 12 positions allowable for the Board, all 12 positions are filled and no vote was required for Directors:

- Chair - AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)
- Deputy Chair - ACM Mark Binskin AC (Retd)
- Treasurer - Mr Ken Moore
- Director - AVM Brian Weston AM (Retd)
- Director - John Conway
- Director - Ms Nicole Quinn
- Director - VADM Tim Barrett AO, CSC (Retd)

Re-election of Chair

The Deputy Chair proposed to re-elect AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd) to the position of Chair.

Moved: Errol McCormack

Seconded: Ken Moore

Carried

The Deputy Chair congratulated Board members on their reappointment also welcomed ACM Mark Binskin AC (Retd) and VADM Tim Barrett AO, CSC (Retd) to the Board.

Item 6 Appointment of Auditor

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

The Chair proposed the reappointment of the auditor Mr Michael Sinclair

Moved: Ken Moore

Seconded: David Millar

Carried

Item 7 General Business

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

No other Business

Item 8 Central Blue Update

SQNLDR Jenna Higgins

Key figures

- 137 posts (assuming one goes out Sunday!), 180 comments; that is 63 new posts since the last AGM - including our first two series run in conjunction with Williams Seminars
- 68 different contributors, 27 of whom are current serving ADF personnel
- 900+ Twitter followers; 220 Facebook followers
- 4 serving RAAF editors, 1 blog manager contracted to Williams

Success of the blog against set goals:

- *Increase discussion and debate on Australian air power:*
 - Posts cover topics from F-35 and 5th Gen capabilities to personnel management and PMET
 - Twitter engagement is more indicative of our success in increasing discussion:
 - In October 31 tweets gained approximately 32 000 impressions
 - The addition of Ross as the blog manager to run the social media outlets and website has made a big difference in terms of presence
 - We're pleased we've been able to make a positive contribution to seminars through the two series we have run and through our input to seminar development.
- *Encourage and support Air Force members writing about air power*
 - 27 ADF contributors from the rank of SGT to GPCAPT
 - Majority of contributors are at the SQNLDR or WGCDR level.
 - The editors actively encourage participation and contributors whenever more than 2 RAAFies are in the same location.
 - There continue to be some challenges for serving personnel contributing but the normalisation of blogging through Central Blue, The Cove, Grounded Curiosity appears to be having a positive effect. We are waiting on the Air Force social media guide to be published to provide more clarity.
 - We have good support through DSIM-AF and senior Air Force hierarchy but there remains uncertainty and some hesitance at lower levels about public commentary and engagement.
- *Develop a network of scholars and operators across defence and internationally*
 - Solid network and Central Blue is "the air power/Air Force blog in Australia at the moment.
 - The Central Blue network formed the core of a separate informal professional development group known as the Scherger Group that is having some impact.

The Path ahead

- Improve post variety and writing attractiveness
 - Commenced a series of interviews ('Debriefs') with a range of individuals to increase the variety and to improve the diversity of perspectives. Targeted individuals are generally senior officers of all services. Interviews are a good way to generate content as answering someone else's questions is far easier than coming up with your own!
 - Publish modified versions of CAF essay competition entries as they become available
 - Run a series of posts using fiction to explore the future RAAF.
 - Explore ideas to run competitions to encourage more entries from a broader group of contributors
 - Build better links into ADF schools and colleges, such as ACSC, to leverage some of the writing that is already being done by ADF personnel.
 - Conduct more writing workshops for interested parties, including at RAAF bases, in conjunction with our partners from other Services
- Improve the website and web presence - Ross Mahoney is working on improving the look, feel and interactivity.
- Continued engagement with Williams activity - working with the Board as previously. Board members and Williams members are encouraged to contribute articles or interviews.

Challenges and opportunities

- AF's new PME framework may generate considerably more material for publication if we can build the right links
- The launch of new online PME portals in 2019 ('The Forge' for ADC and 'The Runway' for Air Force) may saturate our market. Editors will work with the organisations involved.
- Getting people to write is still tough - many have ideas but cannot find the time or headspace to contribute.

Item 9 Next Annual General Meeting

AIRMSHL Geoff Brown AO (Retd)

The next AGM will be held on 22 October 2019. .

Meeting Closed

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 17:55

Geoff Brown
Air Marshal (Retd)
Chair
Sir Richard Williams Foundation
6 November 2018