



RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the 2019 RADAR Branch Annual General Meeting

Held at the Stockton RSL Club, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW
on Friday 12 April 2019

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	VP and Membership Officer	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian	
Howard Campbell	Asst Historian	
Narelle Owen	Committee member	
John King	Committee member	
Brett Nottage	Visiting Branch member	

Apologies

AVM (Ret'd) Bob Treloar, AO	Patron
AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Dave Bowden, AM	Patron
GPCAPT Nathan Christie, OC41WG	Senior Serving Member

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1100, and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: President's Welcome address

Bruce Niblett welcomed all those attending the meeting, particularly noting the attendance of Brett Nottage (former WOFF ASOP), who had come all the way from Brisbane to attend the AGM. Brett commented that he wanted to actually attend, rather than just be a member and not take part.

ITEM 3: Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the 2018 AGM had been distributed following that meeting, and were again emailed out with the Agenda and Finance Report for this year's AGM. All in attendance had reviewed the previous minutes and there were no questions or comments.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2018 AGM be accepted:

Moved: Jim Stewart **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

Motion Carried

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 2018 AGM

Action AGM 17/2: Peter Davies to arrange for scanning of the recently found RADAR Branch charter certificate and provide a digital copy to Ian Gibson to enable the charter to be uploaded to the RADAR Branch web-site. Ian advised that Peter had delegated this task to FSGT Gary-Jon Darrigo after the 2017 AGM, but that the digital copy had not yet been received. At the 2018 AGM, GPCAPT Holt (then OC41WG and SSM) requested that Ian email him the details with a request that WOFF Scotty Doring complete the action. (*email sent 23 April 2018 - no response*). A further approach will be made to 41WG in an effort to secure a digital copy of the Branch charter.

Open, pending resolution by 41WG.

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Action AGM 18/1: Bruce Niblett to provide details of the NLPS ANZAC commemoration service to OC 41WG. This action was completed in April 2018.

Closed.

ITEM 5: President's Annual Report

Bruce read his report, a copy of which is at Annex A. Bruce made special mention of WOFFs Scotty Doring (41WG) and Brian Holdcroft (3CRU) for their efforts in organising support for the Branch at the 2018 ANZAC Day activities. Bruce also commented that Howie Campbell had recently been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Brisbane Waters Private Hospital Veterans Committee for his continuing work there.

ITEM 6: Treasurer's Annual Report

Tony Rogers discussed the Financial Statement, which is attached as Annex B. In summary, the bottom line reflects a loss of (\$601.10) in funds available. This is due in part to the slower than usual receipt of subscriptions, a higher capitation requirement for RAAFA (NSW Division) and RAAFA National. Radar Branch also purchased award (books and plaques) for presentation to the 2019 RAAF recipients of the Ulett, Pither and Stuchbury awards (\$234.81) in the 2018 FY. As well, there were increased costs in website fees, which were in part compensated by savings in postage/office and commemoration amounts, noting that Ray O'Donoghue's book purchases on-line made a substantial saving. Tony noted for Brett Nottage's information that the FY for RAAFA equates to the calendar year.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Annual Report be accepted:

Moved: Tony Rogers

Seconded: Jim Stewart

Motion Carried.

At this point, Bruce Niblett said he would like to make a donation to the Branch and passed \$200.00 to Tony. Tony thanked Bruce for his very generous donation and stated that he would add it to the Branch funds.

ITEM 7: Advocacy Officer's Annual Report

The Branch Advocacy Officer, Bill Forsbey, did not attend the AGM and no report was provided.

ITEM 8: Membership Officer's Annual Report

Ray O'Donoghue tabled his Membership Officer's Report which is attached at Annex C. Ray commented that we now have 47 financial members. A couple of previously non-financial members had renewed their membership following Ray's renewal emails. Ray also advised that members are able to access their own records on the Division Membership Management System (MMS) and update their details as they change. If everyone did so, it would relieve some of the workload on Ray, but he commented that he was also willing to continue making the updates as required. In Ray's role of Vice President, he attended the New Lambton Public School's ANZAC Commemoration service yesterday and presented the school with several book tributes. He noted that the school takes a great deal of pride in their history and association with the RADAR Branch. He was shown the room that, although now serving as a classroom, was the operations room during WWII.

Bruce Niblett commented that the school is unique in Australia, in that it is the only school able to fly the RAAF Ensign, due to its history as a former RAAF wartime unit.

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ITEM 9: Election of New Committee

- a. Vacating of Committee positions. Bruce Niblett declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for new office bearers.
- b. Election of new committee members. The following appointments were made:

President: Bruce Niblett: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Vice President: Ray O'Donoghue: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Tony Rogers: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Secretary: Ian Gibson: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Advocacy Officer: In his absence, William Forsbey was nominated by Ian Gibson and seconded by Diane Taylor. Diane advised that she would be seeing Bill tomorrow and would confirm his willingness to continue as the Branch advocate.

Secretary's note: Bill confirmed his willingness on Saturday, 13th April.

Membership Officer: Ray O'Donoghue: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed. Ray accepted the nomination in the absence of SQNLDR Dean Paterson, who had assumed the position briefly in 2018, but was almost immediately thereafter deployed on operations. Ray had volunteered to 'step into the breach' until Dean returned, and is again happy to do so until Dean's expected return around August this year.

Narelle Owen then questioned the logic of having serving members in committee roles if they would likely be away for extended periods. Ian Gibson commented that he thought the greater involvement from serving members should be encouraged, as they will ultimately determine the future viability of the Branch. Ray O'Donoghue noted that he had served on the committee for several years before he retired from full-time Service, albeit in non-deployable roles. Jim Stewart concurred, saying he had been involved on the committee well before he transitioned from full-time Service to the APS, where he is still working full-time, although without the 'risk' of operational deployments.

Events Officer: Diane Taylor: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Welfare Officer: There were no volunteers for Welfare Officer, so this office will remain vacant as it has been since late in 2016.

Branch Historian: Jim Stewart: as the only volunteer for the position, was re-elected unopposed.

Ian Gibson commented that Jim has also been doing an outstanding job with producing the Branch Bulletin since assuming that responsibility from Terry Delahunty last year. Jim is happy to continue with the Bulletin as well.

Asst Historian: Howie Campbell volunteered and was unanimously accepted.

Committee Members: Narelle Owen, John King. Both these members indicated that they would like to continue on the committee in their extant capacity.

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Queensland Representative: There was some discussion over Brett Nottage taking a notional role on the committee, that of Queensland representative, as he had expressed interest in contacting previous RAAF members with whom he had served, and who he now knew to be residing in Queensland. He commented that he was also aware of quite a few ex-serving members who lived around the Newcastle area, and was surprised and disappointed that they were not involved in the Branch. This generated a brief discussion on the Branch's attempts to increase membership, and the apparent lack of interest from many previous RAAF members. Brett advised that he would try and make contact with some of these ex-members and attempt to get them involved.

Motion: That the new committee appointments be accepted:

Moved: Jim Stewart **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

Motion Carried.

ITEM 10: General Business

a. RADAR Branch Awards 2019. Ian Gibson advised the meeting of the names of the winners of the Ulett, Pither and Stuchbury awards, commenting that the Ulett award winner was from IRSU in Adelaide and the Pither trophy winner was from 114MCRU in Darwin. Ian advised the meeting that he would be attending the 44WG Stuchbury award presentation at RAAF Base Williamstown on Monday, 15th April. Ray O'Donoghue advised that all the books were ready for presentation and Diane Taylor advised that all the plaques have been engraved and are ready. Squadron Leader Karl Woodward from HQ 44WG, had joined the AGM and was handed the plaque and books for the Stuchbury award. Ian Gibson took the plaques and books for the 41WG awards, expecting to be able to deliver them on Monday, while on the base at Williamstown.

Secretary's note: Ian delivered the plaques and books for the Ulett and Pither awards to WOFF Scotty Doring at HQ 41WG on Monday, 15th April. At this time, he also met briefly with OC 41WG, GPCAPT Nathan Christie, who will be visiting both IRSU and 114MCRU in the coming weeks, and will present the awards to the winners on behalf of the Branch.

b. ANZAC Day 2019 - Newcastle Arrangements. Ian Gibson briefed the meeting that Ray O'Donoghue had represented the Branch yesterday at the New Lambton Public School's commemorative service, and that Ray would also be representing the Branch at the Newcastle Dawn Service and laying a wreath. Ian then outlined the arrangements as they stood for the main Newcastle march and service. He noted the support of 41WG/3CRU again in providing a contingent of personnel to march with Branch members as well as banner carriers. Bruce Niblett asked about arrangements for the banner to be delivered to 3CRU in time for ANZAC Day and Ian assured him that he will liaise with WOFF Brian Holdcroft at 3CRU to ensure the delivery occurs. Ian further advised the location of the forming-up point, timing for forming up and march start. He also mentioned that Ray will stand in for Bruce and lay the wreath at the main service. Ian then commented that the majority of the 3CRU serving members had been in favour of a post-march venue that held the traditional ANZAC Day activities such as two-up, and they had extended an invitation to Branch members to join them at the Delaney Hotel in Newcastle.

Narelle Owen noted that she would be attending the Maitland Dawn Service prior to the Newcastle march and asked if it would be acceptable for her son to join her marching with the Branch. There were no objections, and it was reaffirmed that all family members are welcome to attend.

Howie Campbell noted that he would be laying a wreath at the ANZAC service at Parkes in central west NSW this year.

Brett Nottage commented that he had not seen any RADAR branch party at the Brisbane ANZAC marches for many years.

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- c. 2019 New Lambton Public School ANZAC Commemoration. Ray O'Donoghue gave a brief of his attendance at yesterday's service at NLPS. He noted that one child had given a presentation about his grandfather who had served at Milne Bay during WWII, and had joined underage to do so. There was also a speech by a Mr Robertson, now 98 years old, who had also served at Milne Bay. The school hosted a guest of honour, a LTCOL from Canberra. Ray summed up by saying that it had been a good day.
- d. Presentations. Diane Taylor thanked Ian Gibson and 44WG for getting the award winners names to her quickly which enabled her to have the engraving completed in good time. She had been in close contact with Ruth (GPCAPT Ruth Elsley, OC44WG) and Karl Woodward (SO2PERS 44WG) and commented that 44WG holds the Stuchbury award in very high regard and is very keen to maintain its visibility and importance. Diane noted that she would be unable to make ANZAC Day in Newcastle as she has been asked to be a speaker at the Central Coast Dawn service at which she will be reciting the speech credited to Mustafa Kamel Ataturk, the Turkish commander at Gallipoli during WWI.
- e. Xmas Function. Diane then commented that as a venue, the 16' Sailing Club at Belmont, where our final meeting last year was held, was very good and we should go there again. This suggestion seemed to be met with general agreement. Diane also suggested that we should think about a mid-year function. Narelle Owen suggested that we could in future make the AGM coincide with a reunion - perhaps a dinner and maybe something else. Some discussion ensued about the success (or otherwise) of previous reunions and the activities and format which works best.

Action AGM19/1: Diane Taylor to organise a reunion to take place in 2020.

- f. Howie Campbell then commented that he was keeping his list of old radar operators up to date and noted that John Greer passed away two weeks ago. Howie also stated that he's on the Friends of Rathmines Committee and they are trying to prevent the council selling off the hall at the old Catalina base which was previously the Airmen's Mess. Also in March this year, Howie had started back with the Central Coast Trauma Support Group after a hiatus. Howie then said that with regard to his award from the Brisbane Waters Private Hospital Veterans Committee, there are now more female veterans suffering PTSD than male. Diane Taylor also commented that as a member of the Womens Veterans Network Australia (WVNA), she is aware of more than 200 women with PTSD who are looking for help.

ITEM 11: Other Business

- a. Ian Gibson tabled the letter of invitation from NSW Division Events Coordinator (Geoffrey Usher) for Association members to attend the 2019 Bomber Command Commemoration and wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on 26th May. Ian advised that he would scan the invitation and email out to members.
- b. Ian noted that OC 41WG had requested meeting dates so he could insert them into his diary and perhaps have a better chance of attending some meetings. Accordingly, Ian then read out the meeting dates for the remainder of 2019 and proposed dates for meetings in 2020. These are:

2019	2020
	7 February
	17 April
14 June	12 June
9 August	14 August
11 October	9 October
13 December	11 December

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- c. Jim Stewart commented that the most recent Bulletin was sent to CDR SRG and OCs and COs of subordinate Wings and Units.
- d. Ray O'Donoghue noted that whilst attending the NLPS commemoration, he had seen a former SACTU student of his (Murray Ross), who intends to join the Branch.
- e. A couple of milestones were then mentioned: Howie Campbell had served 20 years on the committee of the Branch; and Jim Stewart noted that on the 18th March, he celebrated 50 years with the Air Force! Both were congratulated for these outstanding achievements.

ITEM 12: Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM was set down for Friday, 17 April 2020.

ITEM 13: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1245.

I. Gibson

Secretary

Date:

B. Niblett

President

Date:

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**Annex A to
RADAR Branch AGM Minutes
of 12 April 2019**

President's Annual Report - 2019 RADAR Branch AGM

The reporting period commenced with the Radar Branch 2018 AGM at Stockton RSL on the 20th April, 2018. The meeting was bolstered by the attendance of two of the Branch's patrons, AVM (Ret'd) Bob Treloar, AO, and AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Dave Bowden, AM, and GPCAPT Lyle Holt (OC41 Wing). Unfortunately the presentations of the Ulett and Pither awards could not be made at the AGM as the recipients were both stationed at No. 1RSU. The awards were presented by WGCDR Julien Greening (CO 1RSU) at a later date at No. 1RSU. The 2018 Stuchbury Award was made at a separate 44WG award hosted by the OC 44WG, GPCAPT Pat Cooper. Thanks to Diane Taylor and Narelle Owen for taking care of the timely delivery of the books and engraved plaques, to Tony Rogers for the purchase of the plaques, and to Ray O'Donoghue for the purchasing of the books.

The Branch was involved in the 2018 Anzac Day commemoration through attendance in the march to Civic Park, and the laying of a wreath at the Civic Park Cenotaph by the President Radar Branch. The ceremony was followed by Branch and serving members socialising over lunch at Wests city venue. The branch was delighted to have one of our patrons, GPCAPT Don MacPherson, travel from Brisbane to attend the march and Civic Park ceremony. On a personal basis, it was great to have him stay with Anne and myself for a couple of days. A letter of thanks was sent and a reply received. 3CRU supported the occasion by provision of two G-wagons, a marching contingent, and standard bearers. Many thanks once again, 3CRU.

On the 18th May, 2018, Narelle Owen and myself attended the New Lambton Public School ANZAC service and presented books to the school library.

During the year, our Events member, Diane Taylor, presented a revised meeting calendar. This was adopted and has been very successful.

During the year, Jim Stewart took over the RADAR BRANCH BULLETIN from Terry Delahunty and has continued Terry's great tradition. Ian Gibson has picked up editing the RAAF Association's (NSW) SITREPs and is doing a great job.

Tony Rogers and Ian Gibson attended the RAAFA (NSW) Division AGM mid-year, held over two days at Wests Leagues Club, New Lambton.

The 2018 Battle of Britain Commemoration on the 14th September, 2018, at Civic Park was attended by RADAR Branch committee members, President, Secretary, and Treasurer and was followed by an enjoyable lunch at Wests (City).

The final Committee Meeting for 2018 was held on the 14th December, 2018, at Belmont 16 footer club. The meeting was followed by a Christmas Lunch and was generally agreed should be repeated in 2019!

The committee would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Howie Campbell for the receipt on the third of April, 2019, of yet another award. This time a certificate of appreciation for volunteering time and effort to the Brisbane Waters Private Hospital Veterans Committee. Good show, Howie.

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The 2018 RAAF Birthday Celebration and Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney, on 29th March, 2019, was attended by RADAR Branch members, Tony Rogers and John King.

Once again the RADAR Branch has marked time membership-wise. Various strategies have been tried, such as running Committee Meetings later on a Friday afternoon to allow serving members to attend and perhaps kindle some interest. This initiative proved unsuccessful and was discarded.

My comments in the 2018 President's Report have not changed. The modern Air Defence Organisation faces far greater challenges than we experienced during our time of service. It has vastly increased capability, diversification, and workload, and is more interested in looking forward than reminiscing the past. It is unlikely that this attitude is will change in the near future. It appears that future members of the RADAR Branch will need to come from retiring personnel with 15-20 years experience and with a desire to stay connected. It has been disappointing that there has been no interest in RADAR Branch involvement by No. 42Wing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my Committee for their diligence and commitment throughout the past year. For those that are moving on I wish you all the best, and for those who are staying I look forward to working with you over the ensuing year (should I be re-elected).

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**Annex B to
RADAR Branch AGM Minutes
of 12 April 2019**

Financial Statement/Treasurer's Report

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 31/3/2019.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2019	800.82
Subscriptions	420.00
<u>Interest</u>	<u>.19</u>
	1221.01

PAYMENTS

Website Fee	113.95
Anzac Day Awards: Plaques	150.00
Commemoration Tribute RAAF Birthday 2019	57.68
<u>Capitation NSW Div.</u>	<u>429.00</u>
	750.63

Balance	470.38
O/S Chq	<u>57.68</u>
Balance as per Bank	528.06

SUMMARY

Balance	470.38
Allowance For Advance Subs	<u>(220.00)</u>
	250.38
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve	<u>5281.99</u>
Total Funds Available (Less March Reserve A/C Interest)	5632.37

RAAFA (NSW) - RADAR BRANCH
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT
Annual General Meeting 2019

1. **MEMBERSHIP OFFICER.** The role of the Membership Officer is to assist the Treasurer and Secretary with the task of managing memberships for the Branch. Functions performed by the Membership Officer over the last 12 months include:
 - a. Updating the Branch's internal membership records, by way of a comprehensive Excel Spreadsheet;
 - b. Managing the Radar Branch elements of the Membership Management System (MMS) component of the updated RAAFA (NSW) website;
 - c. Administration of renewals;
 - d. Encouragement of past members to rejoin; and
 - e. Provision of regular membership reports to the Branch meetings.
2. As always, I wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of both the Treasurer and Secretary in helping me to develop the role over the last two years. Without their help and cooperation, the task would have been considerably more difficult.
3. **MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** Once again, there has been a very small fall in net membership since the last AGM. To date, we have 47 active members, comprising 33 Ordinary Members who have renewed for 2019, plus two non-Financial Members from 2018, who have rejoined. Additionally, six of our Multiple Members have renewed and we still have six Fully Subscribed members on our books.
4. One Ordinary Serving Member has decided to revert to Service Member status. Sadly, we lost another member passed away during the last year..

Current membership numbers at the date of the AGM:

FULL FINANCIAL	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	TOTAL ACTIVE
35	6	6	47
NON-CURRENT¹	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 4 OS to SM)²	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE SINCE LAST AGM
33	15	48	1

5. **RAAFA (NSW) WEBSITE.** The RAAFA (NSW Division) website continues to undergo improvements and is a very user-friendly place. As the Membership Officer, I manage our membership details for the Division, but members can also access their records

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and update many elements, such as their service dates and units, as well as current contact details.

6. Should I be reappointed as Membership Officer for 2019/20, my major project for the year will be to encourage all members to access and update their own records online. This will have the dual benefit of members being able to ensure their information is accurate and will simplify the renewal process for the Branch by minimising the amount of data entry to MMS by the Membership Officer.
7. **AWARDS.** As in past years, books for the Ulett, Pither and Stuchbury Awards were purchased and the titles selected from the CAF's Reading List. Also, a selection of ANZAC-related books were purchased for the New Lambton PS. By purchasing all the books online and well in advance of ANZAC Day, we have saved a considerable amount of money and avoided the late delivery dramas of past years.
8. The books for NLPS were presented yesterday, 11th April, and the remaining award books are available for delivery to the recipients, as arranged with 44 and 41 Wings.

Ray O'Donoghue

Membership Officer

1. **Non-Current Members.** I maintain a list of members who have been non-financial for more than one calendar year, or who have resigned.
2. **Non-Financial Members.** Non-Financial members are those who were financial up to the end of the preceding calendar year. Included in this list are those currently serving members who had been previously financial (category Ordinary Serving – OS) but who have not renewed their financial status. As such, their category has been reverted to Service Member (SM).
 - a. Encouragement of past members to rejoin; and
 - b. Provision of regular membership reports to the Branch meetings.