



## Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

### Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW, on Friday 8 April 2022

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#### Members Present

|                            |   |              |
|----------------------------|---|--------------|
| Ray O'Donoghue             | President, Membership O and A/Treasurer | <b>Chair</b> |
| John King                  | Vice President                          |              |
| Ian Gibson                 | Secretary                               |              |
| Narelle Owen               | Committee member                        |              |
| GPCAPT Brett Risstrom      | OC 41WG, Senior Serving Member          |              |
| GPCAPT Peter Davies        | COS HQ Air Combat Group (ACG)           |              |
| WOFF Paul Argus            | WOFF 41WG                               |              |
| AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Dave Leach | Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB)          |              |
| Mr Tony Lofberg            | Newcastle Branch (now a Chapter of FSB) |              |

#### Apologies

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Tony Rogers      | Committee Member                           |
| Jim Stewart      | Branch Historian/Editor The Bulletin       |
| Diane Taylor     | Committee member                           |
| Don McPherson    | Patron                                     |
| William Forsbey  | Branch Advocate and Web Site Administrator |
| WOFF Chad Harper | WOFF 3CRU                                  |

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#### ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1110, and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

**ITEM 2:** The names of those attending and apologies received are recorded above.

#### ITEM 3: President's Welcome address

Ray O'Donoghue welcomed all those attending the meeting and thanked the committee members for their work throughout the year. He particularly noted Tony Rogers contribution as Treasurer over many years, leaving the financial records in excellent shape as Ray assumed responsibility as Acting Treasurer. Ray noted that the New Lambton Public School memorial project was the major initiative during the last year and an exceptional job had been done by John King.

Ray then commented that membership remains an issue, although numbers-wise there is little difference to last year. Financially we are also just about on par with last year. Ray considered that the Branch could maintain its independence or perhaps amalgamate with Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB). All in all, we have managed to 'keep the flag flying'.

Tony Lofberg asked if any of our members are multiple members with Newcastle Branch. No one knew the answer; however it was believed there were none.

#### ITEM 4: Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes from the 2021 AGM had been distributed following that meeting, and were again emailed out with the Agenda for this year's AGM. There were no questions or comments about last year's minutes.

**Motion:** That the minutes of the 2021 AGM be accepted.

**Moved:** Ian Gibson                      **Seconded:** John King

**Motion Carried**

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### ITEM 5: Business arising from the minutes of the 2021 AGM

- a. **Action AGM 21/1**: Ian Gibson to confirm with Tony Rogers that award plaques for 2021 have already been purchased.

Tony confirmed that plaques had been purchased. **Closed**

- b. **Action AGM 21/2**: John King to take the lead on researching and securing a suitable grant to facilitate the completion of a 'memorial grove' at New Lambton Public School, to include a memorial plaque mounted on a plinth and three flag poles.

John advised that the project is well under way and grants have been received from DVA (NSW) and DVA (National). **Closed**

- c. **Action AGM 21/3**: Ray O'Donoghue to email membership forms to 41WG (for distribution) and also to Terry Withers who stated that he would pass them around at 44WG. Completed. **Closed**

- d. **Action AGM 21/4**: WOFF Argus to provide 2020 award winners names to Diane Taylor when selection has been finalised. Completed. **Closed**

- e. **New Action AGM 21/5**: Ian Gibson to contact Peter Ring at NSW Division to confirm if a new badge has been adopted. If this is the case, Ian will request funding assistance from Division for production of a new mould for future award plaques.

Ian could not remember completing this action, but would check. **Open**

- f. **New Action 6/1/22**: Ian Gibson to approach FSB to evaluate the possibility and process of RADAR amalgamating with FSB. *(Although not from last year's AGM, this action is included as it relates to Item 10a)*

Ian advised that he had spoken to AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Dave Leach, a former VP and serving committee member of FSB. The process seems to be quite straightforward and a similar amalgamation was done in 2019 when the Newcastle Branch joined FSB. Ian had invited Dave to attend today's meeting to discuss with the rest of the committee (see Item 10a). **Closed**

- g. **New Action 7/1/22**: GPCAPT Davies to discuss the issue of RADAR Branch amalgamating with/joining 2SQN Association. *(Although not from last year's AGM, this action is included as it relates to Item 10a)*

GPCAPT Davies had met with OCs 41, 42 and 44WGs, although the 'target' was 42WG/2SQN Association. At that meeting he had discussed the health of the RADAR Branch, commenting that there had been no positive progress since he was OC 41WG and Senior Serving Member in 2016. Put bluntly; the Branch needs 'new blood'. The challenges are how to make the Branch relevant and how to attract new members. GPCAPT Ristrom noted that he had spoken to ex-SQNLDR 'Buzz' Lawson, who is now the VP for veterans of RSL Victoria. 'Buzz' advised that RSL is experiencing similar difficulties in attracting new members, even within the veteran community. Ian Gibson commented that veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam had joined ex-Service organisations to maintain social connections and camaraderie that they had experienced when serving. Today's veterans are able to maintain such relationships through social media and all the information they require is available on-line. In addition, many contemporary veterans are continuing to serve; they were not 'de-mobbed' after their war service.

The 42WG perspective is that they want to protect their relationship with the 2SQN Association. GPCAPT Davies noted that 'it's all about the airframe', not the radar on the aircraft. On the 44WG side of the house, - they have similar lineage to 41WG

## **Minutes: RADAR Branch Annual General Meeting of 8 April 2022**

dating back to WWII – however they maintain contacts through the Military ATC Association and see no relationship with RADAR Branch.

GPCAPT Risstrom then commented that as promised he had tried to ‘advertise’ the Branch through their annual Induction Days, however, there has been no real interest in joining, even from more senior members who may have previously been members of the Branch (he mentioned WOFF G.J. Darrigo as an example). He thought that interest had waned since the relocation of the ANZAC Service from Sydney to the Newcastle region. Ray O’Donoghue noted that the change came about as Air Force would no longer fund the transport of large numbers of serving members to Sydney and a greater number of Branch members were in the Hunter and Central Coast regions. GPCAPT Risstrom believes that the timeframes and touchpoints have been lost; 41WG has tried a couple of initiatives – the Dining In night proposed for last year that had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, and shifting the Branch Awards presentation to the end of the year. GPCAPT Davies thought that the relocation of the march and the rationale behind it were coherent and made sense. Although COVID might be a convenient excuse, it cannot really be used as such. There is still nothing to entice new members. Referring back to his meeting with the Wing OCs; they acknowledge the efforts of the committee, but don’t believe the Branch can continue. He noted that the fact of the numbers of members attending the AGM today demonstrates that the Branch is not viable as a stand-alone entity. Notwithstanding that radar is still a critical part of Air Force capability, he believes the Branch is unsustainable and that it would be preferable to ‘go out’ on our terms, rather than waiting until everyone dies or the Branch goes broke.

### **ITEM 6: President's Annual Report**

The content of the President’s report (**Annex A**) has largely been covered at Item 3.

### **ITEM 7: Treasurer’s Annual Report**

Ray has done an excellent job of filling the role of Treasurer and his report is attached at **Annex B**. The Branch financial status at the end of 2021 was within a dollar of the status at the end of 2020. Looking at the year to date, we have received grant funding and subscription payments making the accounts look good, however we still need to pay for the New Lambton Public School project. There is a four member discrepancy between MMS and the members for whom we have paid capitation; accordingly, we owe Division \$100.00 to balance the books.

GPCAPT Davies then asked if the balance was similar to that at the end of 2021, what is the delta for moving the flagpole at NLPS? John King replied that we will need to pay for the move of the pole, but he is awaiting the invoice.

On the subject of grants for the NLPS project, Dave Leach asked if we had approached Division for funding assistance. None of the committee present seemed aware that Division might have been able to supplement our funding for the project, and grant applications had only been submitted to DVA at both State and National levels. Ray noted that there will be three flagpoles in the memorial; the remaining two will be paid for by the school.

**Motion:** That the Treasurer’s Financial Statement be accepted:

**Moved:** Ian Gibson

**Seconded:** GPCAPT Davies

**Motion Carried.**

## Minutes: RADAR Branch Annual General Meeting of 8 April 2022

### 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 the membership went largely as expected, with a slow start to renewals followed by a flurry after a reminder was sent out in February.

Ray then noted that books and plaques have been purchased for the 2022 awards. Narelle Owen asked if the grant funds could be used to purchase shrubs for the NLPS memorial garden. John King replied that they could not; the grant moneys can only be used to pay for the specific items detailed in the grant application.

### ITEM 9: Election of New Committee

Vacating of Committee positions. Ray O'Donoghue declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for new office bearers.

Election of new committee members. The following appointments were made:

**President:** Ray O'Donoghue; nominated Ian Gibson, seconded Narelle Owen.

**Vice President:** John King; nominated Ian Gibson, seconded Ray O'Donoghue.

**Treasurer:** Narelle Owen; nominated Ian Gibson, **nomination declined**.

As there were no other nominations, Ian Gibson asked should the position be left vacant.

Ray O'Donoghue offered to continue in the role of Treasurer for the next few months, commenting that the most intensive part of the job was now complete after membership renewals were finalised.

**Membership Officer:** Vacant

After accepting the Treasurer position, Ray thought it better to leave the Membership Officer position vacant, however he stated he would still do the work.

**Secretary:** Ian Gibson; Narelle Owen, seconded Ray O'Donoghue.

**41WG Liaison/Events Officer:** Vacant

**Branch Historian:** Jim Stewart; nominated Ian Gibson, seconded Narelle Owen.

Although Jim was absent, he had advised Ian that he would accept nomination for the role.

**Advocacy Officer:** William Forsbey; nominated Ray O'Donoghue, seconded John King.

**Welfare Officer:** The Welfare Officer position remains vacant as the Branch has no-one qualified to assume this duty.

**Senior Serving Member:** GPCAPT Brett Risstrom continues in this role.

**Committee Members:** Tony Rogers, Narelle Owen, Diane Taylor.

**Motion:** That the committee positions as recorded be confirmed.

**Moved:** Ian Gibson                      **Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Motion Carried.**

The new committee appointments are listed at **Annex D**.

### ITEM 10: General Business

a. RADAR Branch Future. Ray began the discussion by thanking Ian Gibson for coordinating with FSB and Dave Leach for taking the time to attend. He also thanked GPCAPT Davies for liaising with the OCs of 41, 42 and 44WGs on behalf of the Branch. Ray for his part, likes the Branch and believes it can continue, but acknowledged that he must be open to options about the future. He noted that he had received an email from past-president, Terry Delahunty, who thought it very timely to discuss the future. Terry told

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Ray that the Branch was in similar circumstances when it was agreed to make the move to Newcastle to be nearer the radar 'centre of gravity' and hopefully open up membership opportunities. Terry had recently had a discussion with National President Carl Schiller who has done great work getting CAF and renewed Air Force support, however his efforts have also not resulted in membership growth as hoped. Terry further noted that about 10 years ago he had a conversation with AVM (Ret'd) Bob Treloar on the potential to amalgamate with the Newcastle Fighter Squadron Branch. At that time, Bob had said he was having trouble getting the 'old and bolds' to amalgamate with the diminishing fighter squadron associations, let alone let Radar join, but had agreed it could be possible in the future. Bob suggested that the FSB executive now (Ron Haack and Jeff Kubank), might be open to having the RADAR Branch join; if only to get membership fees!! He thought the the affinity with Radar and fighters under the old Tactical Fighter Group construct would also be well received by RADAR Branch members.

These comments from Terry Delahunty and Bob Treloar (one of the RADAR Branch Patrons) are timely and reflect that consideration of the Branch future has been a long-standing issue.

Narelle commented that 'the four of us here now' were always here, but few others. She then asked what FSB's position was. This was an ideal segue to ask Dave Leach for his thoughts from FSB. Dave commenced by saying that the Newcastle Branch found itself in similar situation a couple of years ago; they came into FSB as a chapter. All FSB does is provided administrative support. Dave then said that following the phone call from Ian Gibson, he had put the idea of RADAR Branch amalgamating with FSB to the FSB committee and they were all in agreement. FSB has over 300 members and Dave thinks it might be the largest branch in NSW. As well as Newcastle Branch joining with FSB, other fighter squadron associations (such as 76SQN Assn) had also come into the FSB fold. The membership and finance issues are handled by FSB and have been all squared away. The 'chapters' hand their funds over to FSB to manage, which adds to their pooled funds which are currently earning around 3.85% - a very good rate. Although the funds become part of the FSB total amount, the FSB treasurer keeps track of the individual amounts and credits the investment earnings accordingly.

Dave then said that RADAR Branch would need one or two representatives on the FSB committee. He had asked Tony Lofberg to come along to talk about the Newcastle Branch experience when they joined FSB. Tony was quite content with the way it had worked out – the Newcastle Branch members still maintain some autonomy and get together separately from FSB. In terms of the financial arrangement, their money had been pooled with FSB and now they pay the capitation for their members from the interest earned on those funds. John King then asked how RADAR Branch would pay for any bills. Dave replied that we would simply approach the FSB treasurer. The admin support that FSB provides to Newcastle Branch (chapter) and ex-Fighter Squadron associations is largely the treasurer role and the membership management; the same would apply to RADAR. Narelle asked if we would become multiple members, or members of just one or the other. The answer was not immediately apparent but would be resolved in the course of any future amalgamation. Dave then noted that the reason the other branches and associations joined with FSB was that they were unable to raise a committee.

GPCAPT Risstrom then asked what the committee's plan is to progress this issue. GPCAPT Davies then re-capped the discussion as he understood it – he wants the story of RADAR to continue even if the Branch becomes a chapter of FSB. John King commented that one money manager to look after all moneys will help with oversight bodies. GPCAPT Davies then also noted that the Branch doesn't have an effective web presence and that with only a single person able to access the site to make changes, additions etc we are at risk if William Forsbey was for any reason unable to continue with that role. He then posed

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the question about how the Branch can get all the radar history onto the web. GPCAPT Risstrom noted that while some of the history was stored on the Defence Objective database, that is only accessible to Defence personnel and we need to have all the material on a central repository outside of Defence.

**Motion:** That we approach FSB to form a chapter or affiliate Branch.

**Moved:** Narelle Owen      **Seconded:** GPCAPT Davies

Ray O'Donoghue quickly stated that his intent was not to make a decision on joining FSB today; noting that such a decision needs to go to the full membership of the Branch.

**Motion not carried.**

Ian Gibson stated that we need to approach the Branch membership outlining the state of Branch finances (See Item 10b), inability to entice new members and the state of the committee (ie where the positions are filled year after year with the same people).

**Amended Motion:** To canvass RADAR Branch membership on the proposal to approach FSB to amalgamate with that branch.

**Moved:** Ian Gibson      **Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Motion carried**

Dave Leach then added that if the proposal was supported, RADAR Branch representatives would still need to meet with FSB committee to confirm approval or otherwise.

**New Action AGM 22/1:** Ray and Ian to canvass Branch membership, in writing, outlining the state of affairs in terms of membership, committee, finances and the proposal to amalgamate with FSB.

b. Revision of membership fees following Division increase in capitation. When introducing this topic, Ian Gibson stated that following the mandated (without consultation) increase in capitation last year, we (the committee) had agreed not to pass on any fee increase in the 2021 round of renewals, but we cannot continue to do so. Narelle Owen stated that we really have to raise our fees, regardless if we like it or not. Ray O'Donoghue asked Dave Leach what fees does FSB charge and Dave responded; \$30.00. Ray then spoke about what it would cost the Branch with capitation now at \$25.00 and consequently, the Branch only gaining \$5.00 from each members subscription.

Ray proposed that we increase subscriptions from \$30.00 to \$40.00, with the caveat that members should expect increases in future years. Although now, perhaps such an increase should be kept in abeyance until the issue of joining with FSB is resolved. Narelle thinks that a \$10.00 increase is acceptable, and doesn't think any transition to FSB will happen quickly. Ray then stated that he expects the transition issue to be resolved prior to the next renewal period. GPCAPT Davies then stated that he believes we should investigate the FSB move prior to announcing any fee change. Ray agreed that the fee discussion should be deferred until the Branch future is clarified.

**Motion:** That no change in fees be considered until the issue of the proposed amalgamation with FSB is resolved.

**Moved:** Ian Gibson      **Seconded:** GPCAPT Davies

**Motion carried.**

*Although not addressed during the meeting, the following advice from Tony Rogers (then Treasurer) is relevant and insightful. The information below is from an email from Tony to Ray and Ian in October 2021.*

You should have received an email report from Ron Glew, PM 29'th September. Whilst I have no issues with the ambitious projects and policies projected for the AFA in the future, the increase in capitation is a concern.

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A brief study of Radar Branch finance statements shows that eg; a paid membership of 35 members x \$25.00 would require capitation amount of \$875.00. At the present subscription level of \$30.00, the branch would only retain \$5.00, or \$175 total. Subscriptions being the only income other than donations. I notice that Ron refers to a declining membership so I feel an increase in subs would be counter-productive. Also, I note that we have an average expenditure of \$400.00 (2020/2021) for awards and with an estimated capitation component of \$875.00, an outgoing of \$1325.00, with an income of maybe \$175.00. Web costs occur every year and other necessary expenses, last year it was necessary to transfer \$1000.00 from Reserve A/C.

Ron also refers to a shortage of volunteers, as we have no volunteers available to put their hands up for Treasurer and Ray filling two positions, we are in the same boat. It may be time to consider allowing Div with their appointment of an executive officer to take over the renewal procedure, starting this year. If this was to occur it would be necessary to update MMS to account for PIA members, both multiple and others. As there is a paid-to function in MMS, I think this is possible, subject to advice from Div. The Radar Branch would need to cover the capitation increase for PIA members as required.

With declining membership in general, it is my opinion that without a large increase in subs only large branches will survive. It may be time to amalgamate with an active and larger branch that would benefit from increased membership numbers and possibly more revenue. Otherwise, I can only see Radar going the same way as others eg; WRAAF Branch, Canterbury/Bankstown. I think the closed branch members in at least the WRAAF Branch were transferred to what at the time was titled HQ Branch.

- c. Reminder for AFA NSW Division AGM. Ian Gibson advised the meeting that the dates and venue for the Division AGM were:  
Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th May 2022 at the Kirribilli Club, 11 Harbourview Cres, Lavender Bay, NSW.

### ITEM 11: Other Business

a. Ian Gibson tabled an invitation he had received from Ken Fayle, President City of Newcastle RSL Sub-branch for representatives of RADAR Branch to attend the Newcastle Dawn Service at Nobby's Beach and the United Commemoration Service at Civic Park. Ian had previously forwarded an email copy to Ray O'Donoghue. GPCAPT Risstrom advised that 41WG would be sending a contingent to the Wallsend service this year.

Ray then advised that Justine (Principal) from New Lambton Public School had invited the Branch to the school's ANZAC service on 27 April. GPCAPT Risstrom advised that it is expected that he, GPCAPT Davies, WOFF Argus and WOFF Chad Harper should be able to attend. John King requested that someone from 41WG bring a RAAF Ensign to the service to be raised during the service. WOFF Argus confirmed that he will arrange for an ensign to be delivered.

GPCAPT Davies asked if the Branch could march with the 41WG contingent at Wallsend, as the Wing is the centre of gravity for the Branch and accordingly, we should join them.

Ian Gibson then asked about the whereabouts of the Branch banner; WOFF Argus advised that he had it at the base and it would be available for ANZAC Day. GPCAPT Risstrom then commented that he is organising appropriate storage and/or display of the banner. He is awaiting determination of where 41WG will be residing; either in EASTROC or a new building on base.

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### **ITEM 12: Next Annual General Meeting**

The date of the 2023 Branch AGM will be advised later in the year, pending the determination of the Branch future.

### **ITEM 13: Meeting Closure**

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1305.

**R. O'Donoghue**

President

Date:

**I. Gibson**

Secretary

Date:

### **Annexes:**

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement
- C. Membership Officer's Report
- D. List of Committee Appointments



**President's Annual Report - 2022 RADAR Branch AGM**

There have been two principal activities since the last meeting – the membership renewal process and the New Lambton Public School (NLPS) Commemorative Garden Project that is to mark 80 years since the school was requisitioned to house the fledgling RADAR organisation. I am pleased to be able to report that both activities have progressed well, despite their own unique obstacles.

As detailed in the Membership report, our numbers have ultimately held up well, with our non-renewals (four) being almost cancelled out by three members returning to financial status after an absence of a year. Despite the significant impacts of COVID - cancelled meetings and events – this is a satisfactory result. Nevertheless, our inability to attract new members has been challenging and brings to the fore the reality that we must determine the future course of action for the Branch. This will be a matter for discussion during the AGM.

On a brighter note, the funds for our approved grants finally arrived and John immediately put in train the process of ordering the necessary items. John has established a very good working relationship with the school's maintenance staff and is doing a great job in coordinating the project. We shall no doubt hear more detail from John, today.

I spoke to the Principal of NLPS this morning and, despite their own challenges with school rebuilding and the ensuing chaos, actions on the development of the Commemorative garden and the school's ANZAC Day event on 27th April are progressing. A verbal summary will be provided at the meeting.

Throughout the past year, the Branch has met and overcome several challenges and maintained a sound financial position, largely due to the dedicated stewardship of the Branch by the Committee in general and Tony Rogers, in particular. I offer my heartfelt thanks to our Committee for their continued dedication and support during a difficult couple of years. However, the most challenging time lies ahead, as we grapple with the subject of the future of the Branch. I trust we will all approach this matter with an open mind and make the best decision for the Branch and especially the members.

Ray O'Donoghue  
President  
RADAR Branch

**Financial Statement/Treasurer's Report**

The Radar Branch  
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.  
Statement of Receipts and Payments FY End 31'st December, 2021

| <u>2020</u> |  | <u>2021</u> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 936.59      | Balance (Trading Account) 1'st January B/F           | 1293.22     |
|             | <u>Receipts</u>                                      |             |
| 100.00      | Donations  | 260.00      |
| 1090.00     | Subscriptions  | 650.00      |
| .51         | Interest   | 0.00        |
| 1000.00     | Transfer From Reserve Account                        | 0.00        |
| 3127.10     |  | 2203.22     |
|             | <u>Payments</u>                                      |             |
| 390.00      | Capitation NSW Division                              | 312.00      |
| 85.45       | Postage and Office Expense                           | 0.00        |
| 455.24      | Award books purchase (RAAF)                          | 0.00        |
| 180.00      | RAAFA Plaques & Engraving                            | 345.00      |
| 107.91      | Anzac Day Awards (NLPS)                              | 0.00        |
| 459.38      | Advance Purchase Award Books                         | 0.00        |
|             | Commemoration Expense                                | 140.00      |
| 155.90      | Radar Branch Website Fees                            | 113.95      |
| 1833.88     |  | 910.95      |
| 1293.22     | Balance Receipts Less Payments As Per Bank Statement | 1292.27     |
| 4282.02     | Reserve Account Balance 31/12                        | 4282.48     |
| 100.00      | Petty Cash   | 100.00      |
| 5675.24     | Total Funds  | 5674.75     |

Notes to Financial Statement FY2021:

- 1) The Finance Statement attached shows a loss of \$0.49 from funds available compared to FY 2020. This is partly due to authorised pre-purchase (\$459.38) of RAAF Awards in 2020. The awards will be available for presentation in 2022.
- 2) Postage was negligible in 2021, due to awards preparation activity having been effectively doubled in 2020.
- 3) The receipt of subscriptions was lower than 2020 prior to end financial year; however, the lack of significant payments maintained our total funds available.

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4) Most Commemoration events were cancelled due to COVID, however Vale commemorations were purchased for the funerals of Howie Campbell and Bruce Niblett.

The current available funds are adequate to maintain present level of expenditure, subject to income from subscriptions in the medium term.

JR (Ray) O'Donoghue  
A/Treasurer Radar Branch, AFA (NSW) Div

## Membership Officer's Report

### Annual General Meeting 2022

- GENERAL NOTES.** Renewal notices were sent out to all financial, non-financial, past, and multiple members between 29 October and the first week of November. Reminders were issued on 13 Feb 22. The reminder prompted a flurry of renewals in the last couple of weeks of February and early March. The result is very gratifying in that we only "lost" a net of three financial members. With our increase of one Multiple and one Non-Financial Member, our net decrease in active membership is only one – certainly a better outcome than anticipated.
- As a result of our renewal campaign, we now have 46 active members, one fewer than last year. Of the 15 non-financial members, 9 are Service Members, who are not required to be financial; two were Ordinary Serving Members who chose not to renew financially this year; and four are Ordinary Members who chose not to renew.

#### MEMBERSHIP STATUS. Changes since the last report:

| NEW/REJOIN | RENEWALS | MULTIPLE | RESIGNED | DECEASED |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2          | 4        | 3        | 0        | 0        |

Current membership numbers for CY21 compared to CY22 are:

| FULL FINANCIAL<br>(Incl 2 x OS, 1 x Life) | MULTIPLE | FULLY<br>SUBSCRIBED | NON-FINANCIAL<br>(Incl 2 OS to SM; and<br>2 Non-Fin OS) <sup>3</sup> | TOTAL ACTIVE |
|---|----------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| 28/25                                     | 5/6      | 0                   | 14/15  | 47/46        |

| NON-CURRENT <sup>1 2</sup> | LOST CONTACT | TOTAL NON-ACTIVE | VALE THIS CY |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| 35/37                      | 6            | 41/43            | 0            |

#### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.

- VALE.** None known.
- REJOINED/NEW.** See above.
- RENEWALS.** See above.

**C-2**

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT**

6. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 5 Apr 22.
7. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership, including renewals.
8. **SUBSCRIPTIONS.** As discussed at the last meeting, subs will not increase until they have been appropriately considered and a proposal discussed at the AGM. Subscriptions will therefore remain at \$30 for Ordinary Members and \$10 for Multiple Members, for any late renewals for CY 2022.

**AWARDS**

9. **NLPS BOOKS.** Books for next year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been purchased.
10. **41 & 44 WING AWARDS.** Plaques and books have been purchased for this year's awards. However, due to the COVID situation, it is not yet known when the awards will be presented.

**PROJECT**

11. **NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** The funds for our grant applications to develop the commemorative garden at New Lambton Public School (for flagpoles, plaque and stone incline) have been received and the orders placed. John King can elaborate on the progress. The school has made a decision to hold the garden commissioning event at their ANZAC Day event on 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is the first day back for students for Term 2.

Ray O'Donoghue  
Membership Officer

1. I maintain a list of members who have been non-financial for more than one calendar year, or who have resigned. I categorise these members as Non-Current.
2. Of the Non-Current members, nine are Service Members who are not required to be financial.
3. 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). All Non-Financial members appear on the Current Membership page.

**Committee Appointments for 2022**

**President:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Vice President:** John King

**Treasurer:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Membership Officer:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Ian Gibson

**41WG Liaison/Events Officer:** Vacant

**Branch Historian:** Jim Stewart

**Advocacy Officer:** William Forsbey

**Welfare Officer:** The Welfare Officer position remains vacant as the Branch has no-one qualified to assume this duty.

**Senior Serving Member:** GPCAPT Brett Risstrom

**Committee Members:** Tony Rogers, Narelle Owen, Diane Taylor.