



Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at Belmont 16 foot Sailing Club, The Parade, Belmont NSW
on Friday 13 December 2019.

ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1112 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President/Membership Officer	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Howie Campbell	Asst Historian	
Narelle Owen		

Apologies

John King	Committee Member
Dave Bowden	Patron
Bob Treloar	Patron
Terry Withers	

ITEM 3: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Stockton RSL Club, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW on Friday, 11th October 2019 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 11th October 2019 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** Howie Campbell

Motion Carried

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 11th October 2019 meeting

- a. **Action 1/5/19:** Ian Gibson to provide details of plaque location to John King to follow up through RSL channels.

Once John was provided the details, he made contact and has driven the refurbishment/replacement project.

Closed

New Action 1/6/19: Ian Gibson to draft letter of thanks to Stradbroke Is council and RSL Sub-Branch for signature by Bruce Niblett. Ian will also attempt to contact the Flight Sergeant who initially emailed the Branch about the issue to apprise him of the outcome.

- b. **Action 2/5/19:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Division to confirm FSME status for some RADAR Branch members.

Ray advised that Division had been difficult to contact, however he said he will be adopting the FSME model for our membership. Ray raised another issue regarding Division; that they had also dispatched membership renewal notices which caused some confusion as we are a self-administering Branch. Ray reported that this will not happen again and Howie commented that it was likely caused because there is no-one in the office at Division.

Open

- c. **Action 3/5/19:** Ian Gibson to email Division AGM minutes to Ray.

Closed

- d. **Action 4/5/19:** Ian Gibson to contact SQNLDR Bernie Nebenfuhr (cc to NSW Division) requesting a calendar of centenary activities.

Closed

At this point, Bruce Niblett advised that he thought Jim Stewart was in ill health again. Tony Rogers confirmed that he had called Jim's work number and had been told that Jim was off work due to health issues. The nature of Jim's illness is unknown.

ITEM 5: Correspondence

The secretary had received or sent the following correspondence:

- 12 October 19: Email to SQNLDR Bernie Nebenfuhr (Base Liaison Officer (WLM), Air Force 2021 Branch, Air Force Headquarters) re calendar of events for Air Force centenary. This was followed by several more emails to and from, resulting in SQNLDR Nebenfuhr being invited to brief the December meeting. He subsequently accepted the invitation.
- 12 October 19: Email from Mr Chris Boyd, Vice-President of the Edge Hill/Whitfield Progress Hall Association, looking for information about RAAF Unit No33 ZFC 1942-1944. I passed his request on to Jim Stewart and WGCDR Ian Gibson (RAAF Historian, not me!) for assistance. On 5 Nov, I received email reply from WGCDR Ian Gibson, advising he will look into it and get back to me.

Howie advised that he will look into it for RADAR units.

New Action 2/6/19: Ian Gibson to provide Howie with the original email for this issue.

- 2 November 19: Email from Don Baehnisch re the death on 18 October of one of the first Controllers at 1CRU – Douglas Lawrence Stewart.

Howie knew Douglas Stewart and noted that he had come from the UK and was not held in particularly high regard...by Howie at least!

- 6 November 19: Email from SGT Matthew Boardman from 114MCRU, seeking information and/or photographs of previous COs of that unit. Ian Gibson advised that he had made contact with SGT Boardman and provided as much information as he could. He had also cc'd our Patron, Don McPherson (former CO of 114 and OC 41WG for his input.
- 11 November 19: Email from Mr Nigel Williams about donating what he thinks is 'a WWII era radar from some type of fighter aircraft along with two instrument pods that I think went with it.' after he found the RADAR Branch website.
- 12 November 19: Series of emails from John King re his contacting Redlands (QLD) council and RSL about refurbishing plaque on Stradbroke Is.

Ian advised that in John's latest email he had requested the meeting consider where best to send the 'old' plaque following its removal. The general consensus was that the RAAF Museum at Point Cook was probably the best place for it. Ian also commented that John had done an outstanding job of moving this issue forward and driving it to an excellent outcome; ie the replacement of the weathered plaque with costs borne by grants to the local RSL Sub-Branch.

New Action 3/6/19: Ian Gibson to advise John King of the meeting's decision.

No other meeting attendees had any correspondence issues to raise.

ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports
Treasurer's Report (Annex A)

Tony Rogers delivered his report, stating that the subscriptions and renewals had been confused following the automatically generated emails from Division, however Ray had done a good job of sorting out the mess. He confirmed with Ray that he (Ray) was not holding any cheques for subs payments.

Ray suggested that as a committee we should thank Tony for his diligence in keeping accounts and maintaining the funds available at an almost constant state over the last several years. All present echoed Ray's sentiments; Tony has done an outstanding job!

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** Bruce Niblett

Motion Carried

Membership Officer's Report (Annex B)

Ray had emailed his report to committee members ahead of the meeting. Ray reported that 15 renewals had been received and that two previous members had re-subscribed after a period of 'absence' (GPCAPT Ret'd Miles Thompson and ex-WOFF Steve Richardson). We currently have 35 fully financial members and six multiple members. The master list has been updated as has MMS at Division.

Ray then requested approval to advance purchase books for presentations for 2020 RADAR Branch award winners, as he had done this year.

Motion: That Ray O'Donoghue be authorised to expend funds to purchase prize books ahead of next year's Branch awards.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** Ian Gibson

Motion Carried

Tony then noted that the fully financial member number has increased by two as of this morning - now 37.

Howie advised that he had attended the funeral of John Stahl with whom he had worked on the AFA State Council. Howie also noted that he had been in contact with Steve Richardson, also Ian Smythe and John Gearn, who had formed an informal small group around Redcliffe. Ian Gibson asked Howie to contact Brett Nottage (Branch QLD rep) on this issue. Howie also asked about Krista Thompson; no one had heard how she is faring and Howie stated that he will try to contact her again. Diane asked if anyone knew Tony Redding...no one did.

ITEM 7: General Business

SQNLDR Bernie Nebenfuhr (Base Liaison Officer (WLM), Air Force 2021 Branch, Air Force Headquarters) had been invited to attend the meeting to provide a brief on planned events for the Air Force centenary. Bernie started by saying he had a long association with RADAR, having been a troop at 3CRU (Duckhole Hill), then following commissioning had served at 3CRU, SACTU and 41WG/SRG HQ; while most recently working in the Public Service at 2SQN/42WG.

Bernie said the centenary will kick off with National events; the first at Darling Harbour on Australia Day (although this will be designed not to detract from the Australia Day celebrations). This will be followed in February with a large international Air Show at Avalon, Victoria where it is expected that our CAF will host up to 100 chiefs from air forces around the world. The centenary will form the central theme for the air show with a range of activities.

There will be a range of enhanced activities around ANZAC Day, after a Queens Colour Parade at the Australian War Memorial where it is expected that up to 55 colours will be paraded, along with some others which are yet to be issued. It is anticipated that there will

be regal and vice-regal representatives in attendance on 31st March. An additional airshow was scheduled at Amberley, but this has now been moved to 2022.

An Air Force 'National Team' will also conduct regional tours throughout Australia, with the closest to Newcastle being held at Dubbo. One event will be coordinated by RAAF Base Williamtown. Williamtown will also host the usual RAAF Birthday cocktail party, in addition to an aerial display to be agreed by CDRs Surveillance and Response Group and Air Combat Group - this is expected to be around the 2nd week of August, 2021 and will be off the coast around the Cooks Hill, Dixon Park area. It will consist of all aircraft types from the respective groups. It is expected it will start over Port Stephens and might proceed as far as Lake Macquarie. Howie asked if it would include the Central Coast...no; Bernie suggested that if Howie was keen, he should write to GPCAPT Peter Cluff to request consideration for the Central Coast to be included.

In the last week of September, a Freedom of Entry to the City of Newcastle, usually conducted every five years, will be held. This one will be 'more special' with a keynote speaker at Civic Park.

The final dedicated event for Williamtown will be supplementing the restoration of a Catalina in concert with the Rathmines Catalina Association. It is hoped the restoration project will be completed by 2021, including the setting up of a museum at Rathmines. Howie stated that he didn't believe it would ever happen - as a member of the Friends of Rathmines group, he opined that there are about four committees involved and they 'all fight'. Bernie said he was optimistic, as he has attended committee meetings and all members present (bar one) were supportive. He also believes that a Catalina in a display hall would be a viable tourist attraction. If the restoration of the aircraft and hangar aren't completed by May 2021, the usual Catalina Festival will still go ahead. If the restoration is completed, there would be an Air Force presence at the opening.

ITEM 8: Other Business

1. Planning for Branch Function

Diane stated that she had sent out 30 odd invitations for today's meeting and Xmas lunch, and apart from those attending (the usual committee members), she had not received any responses, which made her doubt the viability of holding a Branch function. Bruce Niblett suggested that perhaps we should put the plan on hold until early next year and reassess. Diane agreed.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7th February 2019 at Stockton RSL Club, commencing at 1100. This end of year meeting will be followed by the Branch end of year function.

ITEM 10: Meeting Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1220.

I Gibson

Secretary

Date:

Annexes:

A. Treasurer's Report

B. Membership Officer's Report

B Niblett

President (Chair)

Date:

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 27/11/2019.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2019	800.82
Donations	300.00
Subscriptions	880.00
Interest	.44
	1981.22

PAYMENTS

Postage	41.00
Website Fee	113.95
Anzac Day Awards: Plaques	150.00
Books	200.11
Engraving	<u>30.00</u>
	380.11 380.11
Anzac Day Wreath	50.00
BOB Newcastle Wreath	50.00
Commemoration Tribute RAAF Birthday 2019	57.68
Capitation NSW Div.	<u>442.00</u>
	1134.74
	Balance 846.48
	O/S Cheque 20.00
Balance as per Bank	866.48

SUMMARY

Balance	846.48
Allowance For Advance Subs	<u>(200.00)</u>
	646.48
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve	<u>5288.23</u>
Total Funds Available (Less November Reserve A/C Interes	6034.71

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2019-20 Meeting 4 – 13 Oct 2019

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** NSTR.
2. **MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** The renewal program was initiated in early November. So far, we have received twelve renewals from current members, plus two rejoins from former members. Three of our Multiple members have also renewed.

Changes since the last meeting:

NEW	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
2	12	3	0	0

Current membership numbers for this CY, including renewals/rejoins/paid in advance are:

FULL FINANCIAL¹	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	TOTAL ACTIVE
35	6	0	41

NON-CURRENT²³	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 8 OS to SM; and 1 Non-Fin OS) ⁴	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
32	14	6	53	3

3. **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.** In flux, during the renewal programme.
4. **VALE.** None known.
4. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 9 Oct 19. A current list will follow this report to Committee members.
5. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership. Changes include ensuring the correct category has been entered for each member – such as converting non-financial ‘Ordinary Serving’ to ‘Service Member’ – and archiving members we list as Non-Current. However, that list will be maintained as a list of potential renewals on the Branch List.

6. **RENEWALS.** As noted above, the Renewal Programme is underway. One reminder has been sent out and others will be sent at the beginning and end of January.
7. **AWARDS BOOKS.** As in previous years, I have maintained a watching brief on our three chosen books. As at my most recent search, to purchase the same books through Booktopia (or Book Depository) will cost:
 - Beyond the Horizon: The History of AEW&C Aircraft AEW Not Listed, (\$101.72 - currently N/A)
 - The Mask of Command \$35.80 (\$25.56);
 - Australia and the War in the Air \$37.50 (N/A)
8. I have yet to price the books through bookstores, but do not expect them to be cheaper there. Given the AEW&C book is currently unavailable, we may need to seek guidance from OC41WG on the current CAF Reading List to find a replacement.
9. On the indicative prices I do have, the books are going to cost quite a bit more than last year, although still below our guidance of \$200 per awardee.
10. I request authority to purchase the books as I see fit, as my research progresses.
11. At present, I have not investigated books for New Lambton PS.

Ray O'Donoghue

Membership Officer

1. Fully Financial includes FSME and Life members.
2. 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.
3. Of the Non-Current members, seven are Service Members who are not required to be financial.
4. 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 Service Member (SM). All Non-Financial members appear on the Current Membership page.