



## RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting

Held at the Stockton RSL Club, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW on Friday, 17 Mar 2017

### Committee Members Present

Rob Saxton	President	
Bruce Niblett	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Membership Officer	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee member	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
John King	Committee Member	
GPCAPT Spike Davies	Senior Serving Member	(OC 41WG)
FSGT Gary-Jon Darrigo	RAAF Liaison Officer	

### Apologies

William Forsbey Pensions Officer

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### ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1107, pausing for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

### ITEM 2: 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, 27 January 2017 were tabled.

**Motion: That the minutes from the 27 January 2017 meeting be accepted.**

**Moved:** Diane Taylor      **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

**Motion Carried**

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 27 January 2017 meeting:

- 3a. Mention was made of some event notifications coming to the Branch through Howie Campbell from Division, rather than to, for example, the secretary to advise members. It's unclear why this occurs, but Division needs to be advised to change this process.

**Action 1/2/17:** Ian Gibson to contact Division and advise that all notices should be directed to the Secretary for distribution, not Howie Campbell or other members.

Owing to Jim Stewart's recent ill health, Action 1/1/17 was reallocated to Rob Saxton.

**Action 1/1/17:** Reallocated and **remains open.**

- 3b. **Amended Action 2:** Ongoing.

- 3c. **Action 2/1/17:** Action closed.

- 3d. **Action 3/1/17:** Ian Gibson advised that he, Bruce Niblett and Rob Saxton had informally met out of session and the decision was taken to have the after ANZAC march function at Wests City. It is believed that this will enable greater participation by serving members - Spike Davies noted that he would encourage those members to attend for lunch with the Branch as part of their duty day. Gary Jon Darrigo noted that WOFF Brian Holdcroft (3CRU) was looking at the club. Tony Rogers noted that

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as awards are now presented prior to ANZAC Day (at the AGM), there is no need to attend for that aspect. Spike Davies commented that if a 'captive audience' of serving members attended the lunch, in future the awards could be presented at the lunch.

**Action closed.**

**Action 4/1/17: Action closed.**

3e. RADAR Branch awards.

**Action 5/1/17:** Jim Stewart to contact OC 41WG and OC 44WG and request the names of the award winners to enable Tony Rogers to get engraving done. Names of 41WG award winners will be advised by 6 Apr; 44WG lacked understanding of the Branch's involvement in the Stuchbury award, however an email from Ray O'Donoghue, forwarded to XO 44WG by Rob Saxton, served to clarify the history of the Branch's involvement. **Action closed.**

**Action 6/1/17: Action closed.**

**Action 7/1/17:** Not yet completed. **Action open.**

3f. New Lambton Public School ANZAC Day commemoration.

**Action 8/1/17:** Not yet completed. **Action open.**

**Action 9/1/17:** Gary-Jon Darrigo to advise OC41WG of the date of the school service in order to determine his availability to attend. Not yet completed. **Action open.**

3g. National CLG Proposal.

**Action 10/1/17:** Division seems to have accepted the National proposal and has distributed a revised constitution document for review by branches. There is some consternation regarding the lack of consultation in reaching the decision to accept the proposal, and particularly the lack of information about any counter-proposals submitted. **Action closed.**

3h. RAAF Birthday Celebration Sydney, 24 March 2017.

**Action 11/1/17: Action closed.**

### ITEM 4: Correspondence

1. A letter was received from the City of Newcastle RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Committee, inviting the Branch to participate and lay a tribute. Spike Davies advised that he will advise Ian Gibson of approximate numbers of serving members for the RADAR Branch contingent. Ian Gibson will then advise Mr Stephen Finney, OAM (Vice President of the sub-branch) of the details of the Branch participation. Last year Ray O'Donoghue laid a wreath at the Dawn Service, with a book tribute donated to New Lambton Public School. A motion was put that this year a wreath be layed at the Cenotaph during the main service, instead of the Dawn Service.

**Motion: That a wreath be layed at the main commemorative service following the march rather than at the Dawn Service.**

**Moved:** Spike Davies

**Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Motion Carried**

2. Ian Gibson had received through the post a newsletter titled '*Tanah Merah & DNG RADAR Gazette*', with no accompanying explanation. Tony Rogers advised that a Mr John McCauley would have sent it - Mr McCauley produces it. Tony advised that Mr McCauley had a 'dummy spit' over the move of the Branch to Newcastle and had withdrawn from the Branch. Tony further advised that we should archive the Gazette. Ray O'Donoghue offered to contact Mr McCauley.

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**Action 2/2/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Mr John McCauley and ask if he's interested in renewing his membership and also if he's interested in attending ANZAC Day. Ray will also contact other WWII veterans to ascertain interest in attending ANZAC Day in Newcastle.

### **ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports**

Ian Gibson commented that only the Treasurer's report had been submitted. He noted that previously William Forsbey had emailed his Pensions Officer report to the secretary's web mail address, but hadn't received them for a couple of months. The only other report that used to be distributed was the Welfare Officer's report from Howie Campbell, but since Howie had resigned that position last year and no replacement has been found, only Ray O'Donoghue's Membership Officer's report is regularly submitted.

**Action 3/2/17:** Ian Gibson to contact William Forsbey regarding his reports.

**Treasurer's report:** Tony Rogers had distributed the Treasurer's report via email to committee members. There were no issues arising from the report.

**Motion:** That the Treasurer's Report and the Year to Date figures be accepted.

**Moved:** Tony Rogers                      **Seconded:** Diane Taylor

**Motion Carried**

Ray O'Donoghue commented that thanks to Tony's efforts we are in a much better financial position now than 6-7 years ago.

**Membership Officer's report:** Ray O'Donoghue tabled his Membership Officer's report, commenting that he has had trouble uploading it to Dropbox, which is why it hadn't been distributed ahead of the meeting. He noted that renewals were going very well, with few not choosing to renew; while some have reverted to non-paying service members.

Mr Robert Weekes has agreed to be the guest of honour at the ANZAC Day lunch: Spike Davies said he would like to make the offer to provide accommodate and drive Mr Weekes if required (as had been done for Stan Burge last year).

**Action 4/2/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Robert Weekes and advise him of OC 41WG's offer and coordinate his attendance as required.

There followed some discussion about Howie Campbell's status as he had attended EASTROC and addressed an ASOP Basic Course to advise the students of the RADAR Branch, a role he had previously fulfilled on a regular basis. John King commented that as Howie had effectively resigned from all activities last year, if he is again now conducting welfare work, he must be recognised as the Branch Welfare Officer as there are legal ramifications if he is acting without the 'coverage' of an Ex-Service Organisation.

**Action 5/2/17:** Ian Gibson to contact Howie and determine if he again wants to be considered the branch Welfare Officer, and advise Rob Saxton of the outcome.

**Events Officer:** Diane Taylor proposed sending 'something special' to Jim Stewart to aid his convalescence following recent surgery, to the value of about \$100.00.

**Motion:** That a get well gift be purchase to the value of \$100.00 for Jim Stewart.

**Moved:** Diane Taylor                      **Seconded:** Rob Saxton

**Motion Carried**

### **ITEM 6 - General Business**

**Decision for ANZAC Day function to be held this year following Newcastle march.** As this had been mentioned earlier (Item 3d) there was no further discussion. It was noted that we need to ascertain the details for the march start time etc. Spike Davies provided the timings from his phone; Dawn Service 0500 and march start time 0915. As Jim Stewart

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normally 'herds the cats' prior to the start of the march, it was determined that we would need another 'organiser'. With the agreement of OC 41WG, WOFF Brian Holdcroft (3CRU) was nominated for the role of 'RSM'.

### ITEM 7: Other Business

1. Diane Taylor asked about the presentations at the AGM; would they be inside or outside? The presentations last year were held inside due to a 1RSU member being an award recipient and the presentation could be made via video link. With more room and greater numbers of people being outside at the BBQ, outside presentations are preferred.

There was some discussion of the 44WG Stuchbury Award after OC 44WG, GPCAPT Pat Cooper, had commented that he thought the Stuchbury award presentation last year had seemed like a 'sideshow' to the 41WG awards. Rob Saxton had received a long email from 44WG and Ray O'Donoghue had researched the history of the award and the relationship to the Branch, which had enabled Rob to send a comprehensive response. XO 44WG (WGCDR Dave Shepherd) acknowledged that they hadn't understood the history and advised Rob that 44WG were having a presentation of awards on 19 April, 2017 at 1300 and invited RADAR Branch members. Rob, Ian Gibson, Ray O'Donoghue and OC 41WG indicated they would attend if able.

Spike Davies also commented that he'd approached Pat Cooper to take over as the Senior Serving Member later this year, but Pat hadn't shown any interest, so when the next OC 41WG is announced, he or she will likely become the next SSM on Spike's departure.

2. Rob mentioned an email he had received advising of the death of Mr Edley Robert Thomas, a pilot and asked if anyone was planning to attend the funeral.

3. Rob advised that Gary-Jon had produced the kernel of a communications plan to tie in all elements of Branch communications. Rob had commented on the draft plan and indicated that lots of work and discussion would be required to finalise the plan. He suggested that any further discussion of the communications plan be left in abeyance until after the AGM and ANZAC day activities.

### ITEM 8: Next Meeting

The next committee meeting was set down for Friday, 26 May 2017, commencing at 1100.

### ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1237.

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Ian Gibson  
Secretary

X

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Rob Saxton  
President

### Key to Action Item numbering

Actions are numbered according to the order in which they are raised and at which meeting they were raised. Accordingly, Action 1/5/27 would be the first action raised during the 5th meeting in year 2027. Simple!!