



Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW
on Friday 10th February 2023.

ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1104 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

Ray made a brief opening statement thanking Ian Gibson for his work on the Amalgamation Plan and welcoming Ron Haack as President of FSB.

ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President, M'ship Officer, A/Treasurer	Chair
John King		Vice President
Tony Rogers		Committee Member
Ian Gibson		Secretary
Narelle Owen		Committee Member
Jim Stewart		Branch Historian
Ron Haack		President Fighter Squadrons Branch
GPCAPT Brett Risstrom		OC 41WG/Senior Serving Member

Apologies

GPCAPT Peter 'Spike' Davies	Branch Member
AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Dave Bowden	Patron
Diane Taylor	Committee Member

ITEM 3: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Stockton RSL Club on Friday 9th December 2022 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised from the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 9 December 2022 meeting be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 9 December 2022 meeting.

- a. **Action 1/1/22:** Jim Stewart to explore the potential for Radar Branch history storage on the AFA NSW Division Web Site.

A/Secretary's Note: In light of the discussion on the future of the Branch, this AI (and AI 2/3/21) should be placed on hold until the proposal to merge with FSB has been resolved. GPCAPT Davies has looked at the FSB website and believes it has a viable solution - <https://fsb.raafansw.org.au/>

These actions are long-standing and stagnant and it was considered that they should be rolled into the history actions detailed in the Branch Amalgamation Plan (**Annex A**). Accordingly, these actions are **Closed**.

- b. **Action 1/4/22:** Jim Stewart to advise WOFF Argus of the scope of history required from the RAAF Museum. Similarly, to Actions 1/1/22 and 2/3/21, this action has had no progress and will be rolled into the history actions detailed in the branch Amalgamation Plan. Accordingly, this action is **Closed**.

- c. **Action 2/4/22:** WOFF Argus to request OC 41WG approval to assist and determine the extent of assistance able to be offered (in finding RADAR history at RAAF Museum).

GPCAPT Davies suggested that this action should be re-assigned to OC 41WG with a request for the specifics of what support could be provided (eg. One reserve member for one week). Again, noting that no progress has been made, this action will be rolled into the history actions detailed in the branch Amalgamation Plan. Accordingly, this action is **Closed**.

GPCAPT Risstrom asserted that he is fully supportive of capturing radar history and will provide assistance with Reserve days and members to complete the capture of history records. He also noted that Mr Lewis 'Freddo' Frederickson, an ex Air Defence Officer, now holds a PhD in Military History and has recently been appointed a curator at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Consequently, it is anticipated that radar history will be better recorded and displayed at the AWM than it has been in the past, where such history has largely been ignored. What GPCAPT Risstrom requires is a detailed scope of work in order to direct his efforts.

New Action 1/1/23: Jim Stewart to provide GPCAPT Risstrom with a detailed scope of work for the collating of radar-related artifacts and records currently held at RAAF Museum, Pt Cook.

New Action 2/1/23: Jim Stewart to advise GPCAPT Risstrom of the location of historical records currently held on the Defence Objective database.

New Action 3/1/23: GPCAPT Risstrom to provide support for the collation of artifacts and records currently held at RAAF Museum, Pt Cook and for the capture of those records held on the Defence Objective database.

- d. **Action 1/6/22:** Ian Gibson to draft a Transition Plan for the amalgamation of RADAR Branch with Fighter Squadrons Branch. The Amalgamation Plan is completed and has been dispatched to Branch Patrons and committee as well as FSB and AFA NSW for consideration. Accordingly, this action is **Closed**
- e. **Action 2/6/22:** Ian Gibson to contact 41WG requesting the winners names. GPCAPT Risstrom stated that 41WG had advised the names to Diane Taylor, however Diane has been out of touch, so the committee was unaware. **Closed**
- f. **Action 3/6/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to provide Jim Stewart with list of current members. **Closed**

ITEM 5: Correspondence

Ian Gibson went through the list of correspondence as follows:

18 Dec 22: Emailed 41WG (WOFF Argus and GPCAPT Risstrom) re award winners names for 2022 awards. No response received.

9 Jan 23: Email notification from AFA NSW Secretary about Division AGM 14/15 June.

10 Jan 23: Email from William Forsbey asking about our website hosting package, due for renewal on 26 Feb at a cost of \$136.75. I advised that although we'll be transitioning to the FSB website, we need to maintain the RAAF radar site for some time.

27 Jan 23: Subsequently confirmed with William Forsbey to renew RAAF RADAR web site hosting package.

15 Jan 23: Emailed first draft of Amalgamation Plan for comment. Received responses from Tony and Spike Davies.

19 Jan 23: Emailed second draft of Amalgamation Plan to Peter Ring and Ron Haack. Ringo responded positively.

20 Jan 23: Emailed second draft (final version) of Amalgamation Plan for review. Received responses from Bob Treloar, Spike Davies and William Forsbey.

22 Jan 23: Emailed Amalgamation Plan to Steve Smith, Manager Dibiz requesting input about his ability to support the planned website work and estimate of cost.

23 Jan 23: Steve responded advising that Dibiz could do the work and that he receives an annual payment from Division for website support, which he thought would cover any expense. He is awaiting our clear plan of design and content; just wants to know when we are 'ready to roll'.

24 Jan 23: Emailed Funding Submission (**Annex B**) to Peter Ring for advice about who to send to at Division. He advised to send straight to President, Ron Glew.

24 Jan 23: Emailed Amalgamation Plan and Funding Submission to Ron Glew for his decision. Ron called me the following day and advised he will take the plan to State Council in February; that the funding will be covered; that Dibiz will do the website work and that he will implement a change to By-Laws rather than the Constitution as By-Laws can be more easily amended than the Constitution.

Ian commented that he believes the Constitution is the more appropriate location for branch amalgamation guidance and will raise the amendment at the NSW AGM in June. The draft Constitution amendment is at **Annex C**.

25 Jan 23: Ron Glew included me on an email to the State Council with our Amalgamation Plan and Funding Submission attached. Ron's email included his proposed change to By-Laws to facilitate amalgamation of branches, which he believes will become more frequent.

9 Feb 23: Email from Dave Bowden regarding his proposal (in concert with the other Patrons) for '*a bit of downsizing which might be appropriate as the Branch considers its future.*' He advised he will write more formally to Ray and Ian. Dave's letter is at **Annex D**.

Ian read part of Dave's letter to the meeting, which in effect proposes reducing the number of RADAR Branch patrons from the current three to one – GPCAPT (Ret'd) Don McPherson. This was generally accepted as a sensible approach as the Branch amalgamates with FSB and will likely become the RADAR chapter of FSB.

Ray noted that both Dave Bowden and Bob Treloar made significant contributions to radar during their tenure as Officers Commanding 41WG and also thanked both for their support as Branch patrons over the years.

ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports

President's Report (Annex E)

Ray advised that there were three principal issues. The first, that the renewal process is in full swing, which will be addressed more fully in the Membership and Treasurer's reports. The second – and certainly more important – is the Amalgamation Plan to address our intended joining with Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) as the RADAR Chapter of FSB. The third issue is that Ray would not seek re-election as President of the Branch at the AGM in April, but will nominate to continue as Treasurer and Membership Officer.

Treasurer's Report (Annex F)

As subscriptions have been received, we have had money coming in but none expended during the period. Ray noted that Don Baenisch had paid twice and that he was in the process of reimbursing him the additional payment.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson **Seconded:** Jim Stewart

Motion Carried

Membership Officer's Report (Annex G)

Ray commented that at this stage, approximately 70% of members had renewed their membership. While not ecstatic with this result, he is satisfied. Ray then noted the passing of ex-WOFF Bill Kelly and thanked John King for attending Bill's funeral.

Ray has updated his membership lists and also Division MMS. He will finalise the lists at the conclusion of the renewal period (31 March) prior to the AGM.

Ray then advised that he was going overseas in two weeks and will be away for the bulk of March. While absent he will be able to continue the renewal process via the internet.

ITEM 7: General Business

1. Ash Island ANZAC Day Commemoration (John King)

John reported that the funds acquittal for the NLPS project has finally been completed. Regarding an ANZAC Day service at Ash Island, there will be one using the same flag pole arrangement as for last years Remembrance Day service. The fly past is still 'up in the air' (John said this – not sure if he intended a pun!), but he is seeking approval through the appropriate channels. GPCAPT Risstrom stated that Air Force would require accurate timing as the aircraft will only be airborne during a certain window to accommodate other services.

John commented that Julia's (organiser of commemoration) son is a FLTCDR at 100 SQN and had advised that a Hudson might be available. John also noted that the process to have Ash Island declared a memorial has begun and once approved, arrangements for commemorations would be much smoother.

2. ANZAC Day preparations – Newcastle; NLPS (Ray O'Donoghue)

Ray advised that he has written to Ken Fayle (President of Newcastle RSL) to let him know that the RADAR Branch is interested in attending both the Dawn Service and the morning march and service. GPCAPT Risstrom stated that he will support the Branch with banner bearers or whatever other supports we require. As far as 41WG participation, he will be subject to RAAF Williamtown direction. GPCAPT Risstrom also noted that he will ensure some representation at the Ash Island commemoration – however timing of each will be important.

Ron Haack commented that FSB usually attend the Sydney march and service.

Ray commented that he had also contacted New Lambton Public School (NLPS) and is awaiting a response – the timing of the school commemoration will probably be dependent on school holidays and Easter. Ray has also advised both Newcastle RSL (Ken Fayle) and NLPS that he will be overseas and any contact with the Branch should be to Ian Gibson.

ITEM 8: Other Business

1. Progress of amalgamation with FSB (Ian Gibson/Ron Haack)

Ian invited Jim Stewart to comment as he had mentioned some concerns earlier. Jim clarified that the history database does not belong to RADAR Branch – it belongs to 41WG. He also said that the database of all the Radar Returns booklets that had been compiled and set up by Ed Simmons was no longer accessible – fortunately he had taken hard copies of every issue and these were now located at 41WG. He continued by saying that the former 41WG WOFF, Paul Argus had intended to scan these but Jim doesn't think that has happened.

The history aspects of the Amalgamation Plan are encapsulated in Actions 6, 7 and 8 of the Plan. Action 7 is the most immediate, requiring Jim to liaise with 41WG to arrange support. All the history work that Jim has previously done is stored on the Objective

database in an SRG directory. In order to preserve that history, GPCAPT Risstrom advised that Jim will need to access this material and remove it from Objective asap, foreshadowing changes to Objective that might preclude such action in the future. In addition, he advised that he is posted out of 41WG wef May 23, adding to the urgency to achieve this task.

New Action 4/1/23: Jim Stewart to urgently approach GPCAPT Risstrom for assistance in accessing RADAR history from the Defence Objective database.

Ron Haack commented that FSB is considering approaching Fighter World to become a repository of fighter squadrons history. This might prove to be an alternative for RADAR history as well. Following up on Jim's comment about hard copies that need to be scanned, Ron suggested that Fighter World might be able to do that work too. This would require an approach to Mr Bernie Nebenfuhr, (Manager Fighter World) who spent a great deal of his Air Force career in RADAR-based units and headquarters.

New Action 5/1/23: Ian Gibson to contact Mr Bernie Nebenfuhr regarding assistance with RADAR history collection and potential storage.

Ron Haack suggested that the AWM should retain strategic level history, while Fighter World should manage the 'tactical' level material as a (now) sub-unit of RAAF Museum. GPCAPT Risstrom reiterated that he will work with Jimbo to get the history tasking going. Ron thought that perhaps we need to initiate a bigger project with a central repository and have the history in modules to simplify searches.

2. Patrons Proposal (Ian Gibson/Ray O'Donoghue)

This was effectively addressed and recorded in the Correspondence section (Item 5).

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **14 April 2023**. This will be the RADAR Branch AGM.

ITEM 10: Meeting Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1245.

R O'Donoghue
President (Chair)
Date:

I Gibson
Secretary
Date:

Annexes:

- A. Branch Amalgamation Plan
- B. Funding Submission
- C. Draft Constitution Amendment
- D. Patron's Proposal Letter (email)
- E. President's Report
- F. Treasurer's Report
- G. Membership Officer's Report



Air Force Association (NSW Division)

RADAR Branch

January 2023

Amalgamation Plan: RADAR Branch with Fighter Squadrons Branch

Introduction

1. The RADAR Branch of the AFA NSW will amalgamate with the Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB). This plan will address the reasons for the amalgamation, the proposed process and the support required.

Background

2. Many Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) are having difficulty attracting and maintaining members. There are several reasons for this trend, not least of which is the fact that current Air Force veterans are continuing to serve, unlike their WWII predecessors who were 'demobbed' at the conclusion of their service. This situation was also evident through the Korean and Vietnam war eras. During the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the majority of members who retired or discharged chose not to join ESOs. In addition, the internet and social media offer greater 'connectedness' among contemporary members, somewhat obviating the need for ESOs. The result is that the bulk of members of ESOs are now in their 70s, 80s or 90s.

3. Unfortunately, RADAR Branch now finds itself in the same situation as other ESOs. Membership has been declining for many years and despite the efforts of the committee, the Branch has been unable to attract and retain new members. Concomitantly, some previous members have not renewed their membership and others are no longer with us. Branch committee members have remained the same over the past six or seven years, consisting exclusively of those who attend Branch Annual General Meetings. The Welfare Officer position has been vacant for the last four years, the President is also acting as Treasurer and Membership Officer, and on several occasions over the past 18 months we have had only two or three members attend meetings – and not simply as a result of COVID. This is clearly an untenable situation.

4. With the increase in capitation mandated by AFA National and NSW Division in 2021, RADAR Branch has had to increase subscriptions to remain financially viable. Even with raised subscriptions, the increasing cost of commemorative wreaths, plaques and books (for the annual Pither and Ulett award winners, and presentation to New Lambton Public School), means that our funds balance is in steady decline. 44 Wing headquarters has recently decided to sever RADAR Branch involvement in the presentation of the annual Stuchbury Award, with OC 44WG commenting that "*We appreciate the interest from the RADAR Branch, but...the historical affiliation is not a driver with the contemporary workforce...*". While disappointing, this attitude reinforces the lack of interest by contemporary serving members, however it does provide some cost relief in terms of presentations.

5. FSB is one of the largest branches within the NSW Division and has already accepted the remnants of Newcastle Branch as well as 3SQN, 75SQN, 76SQN and 77SQN Associations, as the same fate approached those long-established groups.

RADAR Branch/FSB Amalgamation Plan

RADAR Branch committee members met with FSB committee members on two occasions during 2022 to discuss a possible merger. On both occasions FSB executives were welcoming and enthusiastic about the proposal. The foundation of Air Defence (now Air Surveillance and Air Battle Management) on which the RADAR Branch was established (having formerly been named RADAR Air Defence Branch), provides a ready and historically enduring connection to fighter squadrons and similarly, to FSB. The proposal to amalgamate with FSB will provide the RADAR Branch with the best opportunity to continue into the future and also enable RADAR Branch members to maintain their membership of AFA/RAAFA.

Process

6. There seems to be nothing in the AFA NSW Constitution or by-laws that describes the process for one branch amalgamating with another; only a section in the constitution referring to '*winding up a branch*' (para 77). Although the RADAR Branch will amalgamate with FSB, the committee does not want the branch to lose its identity – although the name will change, there must be some mechanism for people to be able to find information about (what will be) the former RADAR Branch and radar history. The RADAR branch receives periodic requests for information regarding members who served at particular radar stations or units and sometimes requests for the history of a unit. This is an important consideration to ensure (as much as possible) that the RADAR Branch identity is not lost following amalgamation.

7. The constitution also mentions at para 75 that "*A branch that is unable to govern or manage its affairs in accordance with this constitution may seek the assistance of the State council.*". While the RADAR Branch is still able to govern and manage its affairs, **assistance will be sought from Division or State Council** to effect measures which will ensure the survival of RADAR Branch history, and provide a mechanism for those searching for information about radar to be able to find such information and or contact the remaining members of the Branch – or members of the RADAR Chapter of FSB.

Finance

8. FSB has advised that upon amalgamation, RADAR Branch funds would be pooled with those of FSB and managed by the FSB Treasurer. At a meeting with FSB on 19 August 2022, the RADAR Branch secretary was advised that although RADAR funds would be pooled with FSB funds, they would be separately monitored and would be available for RADAR purposes and activities as required. Because of the size of FSB, it has been able to maintain membership subscriptions at \$30.00. This is less than the amount which RADAR Branch was proposing to charge its members and in effect is a saving for RADAR Branch funds. This in turn will enable RADAR to continue supporting the annual awards and commemorations further into the future than was anticipated.

On-Line Presence

9. The extant RAAF RADAR website (<https://www.raafradar.org.au/>) is quite dated and relies on one individual who has the requisite knowledge and skills to update or amend it. Although this member provides an excellent service, if ill-health or extended travel prevented his updating the website, the Branch would be unable to maintain a web presence. Therefore, upon amalgamation, it is proposed that all the information currently maintained through the RAAF Radar website be migrated across to the FSB site. This process will require careful coordination and determination of future content. The company that designed and built the FSB website (and that of AFA NSW and Wings Magazine), *DiBiz*

RADAR Branch/FSB Amalgamation Plan

(<https://www.dibiz.net.au/>) would be the logical choice to update the FSB site to accommodate this additional information. **It is hoped that the cost of effecting this change would be borne by Division.** In addition, to avoid the same 'single point of failure' issue recurring, more than one RADAR member should have administrator rights on the revised FSB site. Once the transfer of information has been completed, the *raafradar.org.au* domain name can be retired, realising an additional saving of RADAR funds.

10. As well as the squadrons which are now part of FSB, the former Newcastle Branch also amalgamated with FSB, however there is no mention of the Newcastle Branch on the FSB website. Thus, the Newcastle Branch has for all intents and purposes ceased to exist and there seems no method to find or explore the history of that Branch. That situation is unacceptable to the RADAR Branch executives. The RADAR Branch intent is to include some RADAR information on the FSB home page to enable online searchers to discover RADAR history and current information.

11. The FSB web site home page reveals several squadron badges, some of which are 'live' links to information about the particular squadron. Only 77 SQN information refers to being a 'chapter' of FSB, although as previously noted, there is nothing in the AFA Constitution to support this nomenclature. By inserting a radar badge and including some detail about radar in the FSB description on this home page, an effective means of 'finding' radar history, information and linkages would be established. This approach was mooted at the August 22 meeting with FSB, and although there was general agreement, the details of these changes would have to be discussed with FSB. An alternative would be to change the FSB name to 'Fighter Squadrons and RADAR Branch'...however, this might be unacceptable to FSB. These changes to the FSB website should also be made by DiBiz.

Organisation

12. The RADAR Branch would likely become the RADAR Chapter of FSB, thus retaining an element of discrete identity. As noted, the AFA NSW Constitution does not at present countenance such a structure, so an amendment to the Constitution would be proposed at the next NSW AGM, currently scheduled for June 2023. FSB has advised that RADAR members would be expected to provide at least one representative on their committee, although it is unclear if FSB's intent is for the RADAR member to be an elected committee member or simply an observer. If the former, then that member will need to commit to attend all FSB meetings. If the latter (which is less desirable), the representative might be a different individual each time. In either case, other RADAR members should also be welcome to attend unless it is stipulated that the meeting is for committee members only.

13. If there are any issues relevant to RADAR members only, such as preparations for annual awards, consultation amongst RADAR members will be conducted via email or telephone prior to and following the meeting. Any RADAR specific business should be listed on the agenda and recorded in the meeting minutes as for any other FSB business.

RADAR Branch History

14. The RADAR Branch will collate historical information currently held in various locations including the RAAF Museum, the Branch historian's personal collection, 41WG archives and on the Defence Objective database. In consultation with FSB, 41WG and DiBiz, RADAR Branch will need to determine the most effective and efficient method to transfer all the historical data to the FSB web site. It will need to

RADAR Branch/FSB Amalgamation Plan

be in a format accessible by all members and potentially, members of the public. An alternative might be to host the historical information on the AFA NSW website, with appropriate 'hooks' on the FSB website to enable access. The precise process will depend to a large degree on the form of the material, where it is now held and the amount of material to be preserved.

Membership

15. Any members of RADAR Branch at the time of the amalgamation would become members of FSB. Some who are multiple members of RADAR and FSB already, would revert to single branch membership. The committees of both branches would ensure that AFA NSW MMS database is updated accordingly. Following amalgamation with FSB, current RADAR Branch members would become FSB members and be identified as such on the MMS database. Ideally, some annotation could be made in MMS to indicate membership of the RADAR Chapter of FSB. This would form part of the amendment to the Constitution noted at paragraph 12.

16. The RADAR Branch currently has a Level 4 Advocate Training and Development Program (ATDP) qualified member, who is also a multiple member of 'The Wanderers' (1CCS) Branch. While his membership will be treated as the rest of RADAR Branch members, he will need to be consulted about his ability to provide advocacy services to FSB members.

The Future

17. RADAR members will be welcome to attend FSB meetings and functions as equal members of FSB. Support would continue for the NLPS commemorative services, Ash Island commemorative service and the relationship with 41 Wing would endure at the pleasure of the incumbent Officer Commanding 41WG. Importantly, provision of the RADAR Branch annual Ulett and Pither awards would continue as long as funds were available. When and if insufficient funds were available to support these activities, **an approach to Division would be made for financial assistance.**

18. RADAR history will be held on either the FSB or AFA NSW website with appropriate access for all personnel. In addition, the material will be 'visible' to on-line search requests. An example might be a search for 'WWII radar sites' would take the searcher to the FSB site or the AFA NSW site. At present, simply entering 'radar' into a search lists 'raafradar.org.au' as one of the results; this type of search should lead researchers to the new location.

Summary

19. The RADAR Branch will amalgamate with FSB. An amendment to the AFA NSW Constitution will be proposed to detail such an amalgamation of branches. AFA NSW will be approached for financial support to effect transfer of RADAR information and history into the FSB website. Remaining RADAR Branch funds will be pooled with those of FSB and be managed by FSB. Members of RADAR Branch will become members of the RADAR Chapter of FSB and be listed as such on the AFA NSW MMS database.

Ian Gibson
Secretary, RADAR Branch
AFA NSW Division

RADAR Branch/FSB Amalgamation Plan

Annex: List of Actions

Action 1: Ian Gibson to draft proposed wording to insert on FSB home page to indicate the amalgamation of RADAR Branch into FSB. **To be completed by 10 February 2023.**

Action 2: Ian Gibson to draft proposed wording for amendment to AFA NSW Constitution to include the merger of branches and establishment of Chapters or Sub-Branches (nomenclature to be decided). **To be completed by 30 April 2023.**

Action 3: Ray O'Donoghue to seek clarification from FSB regarding the RADAR member's role and input at FSB meetings. **To be completed by 10 February 2023.**

Action 4: Ian Gibson to approach AFA NSW to confirm funding support for the proposed amendments to the FSB website. Once confirmed (in writing), Ian will approach Mr Steven Smith of DiBiz and develop a scope of work, timeframe and quote for the work required to update the FSB website to accommodate RADAR information. **To be completed by 28 February 2023.**

Action 5: Ray O'Donoghue to determine method of transferring membership details from RADAR Branch to FSB on MMS. **To be completed by 10 February 2023.**

Action 6: Jim Stewart to liaise with FSB and Mr Steven Smith of DiBiz to determine the most effective method of preserving RADAR Branch history and making it readily accessible. **To be completed by 30 June 2023.**

Action 7: Jim Stewart to liaise with the HQ 41WG and arrange assistance to access the RADAR history material currently stored at the RAAF Museum and held on the Defence Objective database. **To be completed by 10 February 2023.**

Action 8: Jim Stewart to oversee the process of transferring RADAR history to the new storage location. This will likely involve liaison with 41WG, DiBiz and FSB. **To be completed by 30 November 2023.**

Action 9: William Forsbey to assess the current RADAR website content and be the conduit for coordination with for the transfer of information to the FSB website. **To be completed by 30 June 2023.**

Action 10: Ian Gibson and William Forsbey to discuss William's ability and willingness to provide of advocacy support services to FSB members following the branches amalgamation. **To be completed by 10 February 2023.**

Funding Request for RADAR Branch addition to FSB website

Membership of the RADAR Branch of the AFA NSW has been declining for many years and despite the efforts of the committee, the Branch has been unable to attract and retain new members. Consequently, the RADAR Branch will amalgamate with the Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) in 2023. FSB is one of the largest branches within the NSW Division and has already accepted the remnants of Newcastle Branch as well as 3SQN, 75SQN, 76SQN and 77SQN Associations, as the same fate approached those long-established groups. RADAR Branch committee members met with FSB committee members on two occasions during 2022 to discuss a possible merger. On both occasions FSB executives were welcoming and enthusiastic about the proposal.

Upon amalgamation, it is proposed that the information currently maintained through the RAAF Radar website (<https://www.raafradar.org.au/>) be migrated across to the FSB site. The RADAR Branch intent is to include some RADAR information on the FSB home page to enable online searchers to discover RADAR history and current information. This process will require careful coordination and determination of future content. The company that designed and built the FSB website (and that of AFA NSW and Wings Magazine), *Dibiz* (<https://www.dibiz.net.au/>) would be the logical choice to update the FSB site to accommodate this additional information.

When RADAR Branch secretary, Ian Gibson contacted Dibiz principal Steve Smith, Steve advised that “*RAAFA NSW provides Dibiz with an annual website support allowance, so any costs will be covered by that*”. While initially RADAR Branch intent was to request separate funding support for the alterations to the FSB website, the annual allowance to which Steve alluded might be an ideal solution, providing that State Council or President/Treasurer AFA NSW is agreeable to Steve’s suggestion.

In addition, there exists a large volume of RADAR history currently held in various locations including the RAAF Museum, the Branch historian’s personal collection, 41WG archives and on the Defence Objective database. In consultation with FSB, 41WG and DiBiz, RADAR Branch will determine the most effective and efficient method to transfer all the historical data to the FSB web site. It will need to be in a format accessible by all members and potentially, members of the public. An alternative might be to host the historical information on the AFA NSW website, with appropriate ‘hooks’ on the FSB website to enable access. The precise process will depend to a large degree on the form of the material, where it is now held and the amount of material to be preserved.

The RADAR Branch requests that the cost of effecting these changes be borne by AFA NSW Division.

The proposal to amalgamate with FSB will provide the RADAR Branch with the best opportunity to continue into the future and also enable RADAR Branch members to maintain their membership of AFA/RAAFA. It also provides an ideal vehicle to keep RADAR history alive and accessible. Once this proposal is approved, RADAR and FSB will coordinate with Dibiz to determine design and content parameters.

Ian Gibson
Secretary, RADAR Branch
AFA NSW

RAAFA Constitution Proposed Amendment

(The Constitution approved by Annual General Meeting of Association on 13th May 2021.)

Note: While the amalgamation of branches deserves a section of its own, I have at this stage, included the proposed wording in the Governance and Management and Winding Up a Branch sections for simplicity. Otherwise, renumbering of paragraphs from 75 onwards is required (which I'm happy to do, but really that would be up to Division).

Part 8. Branches

73. Establishment of a Branch

(1) State council may from time to time establish a branch either consisting of members bound together by kindred interests or in any district of New South Wales.

75. Governance and management – unincorporated branch

(1) This constitution is the constitution of all unincorporated branches within the association. (2) Each branch shall be responsible for the conduct and management of its own business affairs, property and assets.

(5) A branch that is unable to govern or manage its affairs in accordance with this constitution may seek the assistance of the State council, or a 'struggling' branch may seek to amalgamate with another branch; either based on geographic location or the sharing of similar historical basis.

(6) If two branches merge, the larger of the branches shall be responsible for the management of the business affairs, property and assets of the smaller branch.

(7) When such an amalgamation occurs, the branch initiating the amalgamation will become a sub-branch or chapter of the 'parent' branch.

(8) The amalgamation shall take effect on the entry of both branches into an understanding in writing that is mutually acceptable to the state council and committees of each branch.

77. Winding up a branch

(1) If a branch ceases to function or if a majority of its members vote in a general meeting to wind up the branch and fail to make a determination on the disposal of its assets, state council shall have the authority to take control of the property and assets of the branch.

(2) Alternatively, if a branch makes a determination that the best course is to amalgamate or merge its membership and assets with another branch, state council will authorise such a merger.

**Annex B to
RADAR Branch Committee Meeting
Minutes of 10 February 2023**

David Bowden <dandpbowden@gmail.com>

To:

- You;
- Ray O'Donoghue

Cc:

- Bob Treloar;
- Don McPherson

Thu 9/02/2023 2:30 PM

Good afternoon Ray and Ian,

As the Branch navigates its next phase of life it seems an appropriate time to 'rationalise' the Patron's position. From a personal perspective I have been honoured to be a Patron and watched with amazement at how the radar world has progressed to become the largest and most capable Group in the RAAF. That journey was beyond my expectations when this all started back in early 1987 when 41 Wing was reformed. I do not think anyone could have suggested all those changes in technology and organisation were likely. I did forecast that the next 10 years would see Radar becoming a major force element because of the move to functional rather than geographic arrangements.

Those were the days of the unstoppable Walter and the mass of ex WWII radar members who often numbered in the hundreds when a major gathering was held. I had the pleasure of meeting and being photographed with Walter and the last OC 41 Wing of WWII.

It was the time of Radar Yarns, More Radar Yarns and the release of the mass of stories that had remained hidden in the security blanket of WWII. OTHR was first used in a PB and the USAF Exchange GCI Controller was refused entry to the OPS CENTRE when it was in use. I did escort Commander CINCPAC to observe OTHR in operation at Alice Springs where he was so impressed with our capability that on the spot he proposed an exchange position be established. The Radar world became centre stage when Kim Beasley as Minister of Defence rode in an AWACS and stated his firm view that we needed this capability all duly recorded in the Australian in 1988. All pretty standard to the present Radar world today. I also escorted a Japanese Under Secretary for Defence to watch OTHR in operation. I wonder what he thought as we watched aircraft being tracked through the islands to the north west where 50 years ago those were bombers heading our way. That is progress and it has been achieved by members past and present of the Radar world.

So much has happened since those halcyon days and that growth continues today. Walter always has his eye on the levers of influence and saw a need for an active high ranking serving officer to add to his team. So AVM Bob Treloar was appropriately added to the position of Patron. However as neither Bob nor I was a 'true' radar person it was appropriate that Don McPherson should be added to

the Patron's list. This he has kindly accepted despite being physically removed from activities near Williamtown. However a Patron stands above the workings of the association and as such Don is the right person to hold the position of Patron alone.

Now all these issues have been considered by the three Patrons and we are all in agreement that with the likely reorganisation of the Branch that the position of Patron should be simplified at the same time. With that in mind I propose the Committee should give serious thought to the proposal that Don McPherson be approached to be the sole Patron.

I am sure that Bob Treloar will offer his input to this concept in due course. Don of course needs to just nod knowingly to this plan.

For myself I have regularly and proudly 'briefed' anyone standing near when radar is mentioned (eg at the top of Tomaree Headland beside the radar foundations). I enjoyed educating people about some of the unique history of radar in the RAAF and my direct involvement in the latter part of its history. This was simply to add some authenticity to the story (!) To say it has been a major part of my Service life and the people I have been fortunate to meet and share time with, would be an understatement. I forecast this linkage will be with me forever.

So to you Ray and Ian, would you think about this plan and discuss it with your committee.

Yours as always - proud to have held this position.

Dave Bowden

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

President's Report–10th February 2023

I hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful and happy holiday season and I welcome all to what is likely to prove to be a significant year in the history of RADAR Branch.

Following our last meeting, on 9th December, several members of the Branch gathered for a Christmas lunch. While our numbers were few, we enjoyed a pleasant couple of hours as we reviewed what had been, by and large, a quite good year bookended by the conclusion of the New Lambton Public School Commemorative Garden project.

As usual for the Christmas/New Year period, there has been little general activity but two events must be mentioned. First, the renewal period is in full swing. While there was an anticipated hiatus over the holidays, there has been an uptick in responses in the last couple of weeks. This will be addressed more fully in the Membership and Treasurer's reports.

The second – and certainly more important - item has been the excellent work done by Ian Gibson, our Secretary, in developing an Amalgamation Plan to address our intended joining with Fighter Squadron Branch (FSB) as the RADAR Chapter of FSB. I cannot overstate the importance of this move – and Ian's plan – as a way to preserve what has been important to the Branch for many years – preservation of our history and links to the currently serving community. Ian will no doubt expand much further on this initiative during the meeting.

Unfortunately, I must conclude this report by announcing that I will not seek re-election as President of the Branch at the AGM in April. Having held the position for at least six of the last ten years or so, often in conjunction with other roles, as well as a number of other positions for many years prior, I am now feeling exhausted and unable to contribute to the extent that the role of President requires. I very much regret having to make this move at this time, but I feel the Branch – or Chapter of FSB – will benefit from the fresh perspective and energy a new President will bring. I do intend to continue supporting the Branch and will nominate for the proposed combined role of Treasurer/Membership.

There are no other matters of import to report on for this meeting.

Ray O'Donoghue
President
RADAR Branch

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To – 31/01/2023

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/12/2022	1221.72
Subscriptions	230.00
Grants	0.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	1551.72

PAYMENTS

	<u>0.00</u>
	0.00
Balance as per Bank	1551.72

SUMMARY

Balance	1551.72
Allowance for Grants refunds (up to)	0.00
Allowance for late capitation	25.00
Allowance for reimbursement of overpaid subs (Baenisch)	35.00
<u>Allowance For PIA Capitation</u>	<u>145.00</u>
	1346.72
Allowance for Member Subs from Division	5.00
Petty Cash	100.00
<u>Cash Reserve (Incl Interest)</u>	<u>4282.87</u>
Total Funds Available	5734.59

Notes:

- 1) A new member joined late July through Division. Awaiting an adjustment from Div.
- 2) Ron Baenisch inadvertently paid again in late Jan. I am contacting Ron to arrange a reimbursement.
- 3) To date, 67% of 2022 Financial Members and Multiple Members have renewed, including one so far, in February. This is on par with prior years at this stage, with six weeks to go in the renewal period.

Ray O'Donoghue
A/Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2023 Meeting 1 – 10th February 2023

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** The membership renewal campaign has progressed steadily. We experienced the usual hiatus over the Christmas/New Year period, but renewals have started to pick up following a recent reminder.
2. **ABSENCE.** I will be absent OS from 23rd Feb to 29th March, which is the bulk of the remainder of the renewal period. However, as the great majority of the renewal work is online, I will be able to manage the task.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS. Changes since the last report:

NEW/REJOIN	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	3	2	0	1

Current membership numbers for CY23 compared to CY22 (CY23/CY22) are:

FULL FINANCIAL (Incl 2 x OS, 1 x Life)	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	NON- FINANCIAL (Incl 2 OS to SM; and 2 Non-Fin OS) ³	TOTAL ACTIVE
16 ⁴ /27	5 ⁴ /6	0	23 ⁴ /15	45 ⁴ /48

NON-CURRENT^{1,2}	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
36 ⁴ /37	6	42 ⁴ /43	1

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

3. **VALE.** Ex-WOFF Bill Kelly passed away 28th Jan after many years of battling cancer. Many of the current members of the Branch will have fond memories of Bill and he will be sadly missed. His funeral was held this Wednesday, 8th February.
4. **REJOINED/NEW.** See above.
5. **RENEWALS.** See above.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

6. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated to 8th Feb 23. It will be further updated as the renewal period progresses.
7. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to 8th Feb 23. It will be further updated as the renewal period progresses.

8. **RENEWAL PERIOD.** The renewal period has around six weeks to run. The current rate of renewal is satisfactory. We are matching the renewal level for 2022, having one more Ordinary Member and an equal number of Multiple Members as for the February meeting in 2022. A further reminder will be sent out after this meeting.

AWARDS

9. **41 WING AWARDS.** The research into an appropriate book to accompany the awards is ongoing.

PROJECT

10. There are no current projects.

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.
4. These numbers for CY23 are expected to change over the next couple of months as renewals, rejoins or new memberships come in. The official end of the renewal period is 31st March 2023, after which the numbers will be clearer.