



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 9th December 2022.

ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1040 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President, Membership Officer, Acting Treasurer,
John King	Vice President
Tony Rogers	Committee Member
Ian Gibson	Secretary Chair
Narelle Owen	Committee Member
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian
GPCAPT Peter 'Spike' Davies	Branch Member

Apologies

Diane Taylor	Committee Member
GPCAPT Brett Risstrom	OC 41WG and Senior Serving Member
WOFF Paul Argus	41WG Warrant Officer

ITEM 3: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

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

Motion: That the minutes from the 28 October 2022 meeting be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 17 June 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/>

Open.

- b. **Action 1/4/22:** Jim Stewart to advise WOFF Argus of the scope of history required from the RAAF Museum. **Open**

- 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). **Open**

This led to a short discussion about the Branch amalgamation with FSB, with GPCAPT Davies suggesting that a transition plan might be useful to capture all the elements of concern for the Branch leading up to and during the amalgamation process.

New Action 1/6/22: Ian Gibson to draft a Transition Plan for the amalgamation of RADAR Branch with Fighter Squadrons Branch.

- d. **Action 3/4/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Diane Taylor to ascertain the status of plaques for this years awards. **Closed**
- e. **Action 4/4/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to refund William for his out of pocket expenses in paying the renewal fee.
Refund has been made. **Closed**
- f. **Action 5/4/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to update his membership database and MMS to reflect Dave Winkelman's changed address.
Ray asked Ian to resend him Dave's new address details. **Closed**
- g. **Action 1/5/22:** Ian Gibson to resend Dave Winkelman's change of address to Ray O'Donoghue. **Closed**
- h. **Action 2/5/22:** Ian Gibson to contact Terry Delahunty regarding the status of the Stuchbury Award. Ian will initially seek confirmation from 44WG that they are no longer interested in making the award.
Ian emailed Terry Delahunty who commented that while he's disappointed, the decision is up to 44WG. Concomitantly, GPCAPT Davies had contacted OC 44WG who confirmed that 44WG no longer wants RADAR Branch involvement in the Stuchbury Award, stating:
*G'day Spike.
Your recollection is correct, we do our own thing with the Stuchbury award. We appreciate the interest from the RADAR Branch, but as previously discussed, the historical affiliation is not a driver with the contemporary workforce for many reasons.
Regards,
Robert Graham
Group Captain
Officer Commanding No 44 Wing*
Closed
- i. **Action 3/5/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact NLPS and determine their plans for utilising the stone pillar funded by the Branch DVA grant. The school intends to utilise the pillar – see Presidents Report, Annex A. **Closed**
- j. **Action 4/5/22:** Ian Gibson to contact Bernie Nebenfuhr and seek Chris Westwood's email address. This was to assist Ray O'Donoghue in sending out membership renewals to the correct addresses. Ian forwarded the address provided by Bernie. **Closed**

ITEM 5: Correspondence

Ian Gibson went through the list of correspondence as follows:

- **2 Nov 22:** Email from Spike Davies asking had I received an invitation to Remembrance Day service at NLPS. No, I hadn't, but I forwarded Spike's email to Ray, John, Narelle, Jimbo and Tony.
- **16 Nov 22:** Email from Mr Bob Eames of Noosaville seeking contact with Jim Stewart. They served as Navy Midshipmen back in March 1967 and there's a reunion

next March in Brisbane. Email forwarded to Jim for his action. Jim noted that he had made contact.

ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports

President's Report (Annex A)

Ray advised that his report was very large at 30Mb as he included photos from the NLPS Remembrance Day service, which was held at the newly established memorial garden. His report also covers the issue of the original stone pillar donated by the Branch. All the relevant details are included at Annex A.

Treasurer's Report (Annex B)

Tony Rogers advised that he thought Ray had made a typo in preparing the Treasurer's Report as the Receipts amount should be \$1273.67; Tony noted that he had advised Ray of the error. Tony also noted that a PIA capitation allowance is shown in the report, but he's not sure if anyone is still paying in advance. In addition, Ray's Membership Officer's report was not sent – however the Treasurer's Report was sent a second time attached to the Membership Officer's email.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson

Seconded: Jim Stewart

Motion Carried

Membership Officer's Report (Annex C)

As noted above, the report had not been sent (*Secretary's Note: Report was subsequently sent and is attached at Annex C*), however it was thought that with the renewal period ongoing, there would be some changes to numbers.

ITEM 7: General Business

1. Update on NLPS Project (John King/Ray O'Donoghue)

John reported that as far as the NLPS paperwork goes and DVA grants being acquitted; all has been completed.

2. Wash up from Ash Island Remembrance Day Commemoration (John King/Jim Stewart)

John reported that the service had gone very well with GPCAPT Brett Risstrom (OC 41WG) and WGCdr Steve Henry (CO SACTU) in attendance. John mentioned that if the Ash Island buildings from 131RS could be registered as war memorials it would make grants easier to get. Apparently the NSW Library handles registration of memorials; John advised he would email Julia Brougham (Land Care Group contact who arranged the service) and ask if they intend to pursue war memorial status.

Jim Stewart noted that it was the first time he had worn his 'rig' as a retired member without having to shave beforehand (a reference to the Air Force policy change on facial hair).

ITEM 8: Other Business

1. Jim Stewart apologised for his failure to get the last couple of Branch Bulletins out, but he intends to get one out very soon. He said he will need some information from the NLPS Remembrance Day service. In addition, he also needs to find out the names of the latest Branch award winners. Ian noted that WOFF Paul Argus had intended to email the names through following completion of the selection board, but this hasn't occurred.

New Action 2/6/22: Ian Gibson to contact 41WG requesting the winners names.

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2. In discussing the awards, John King suggested that we could apply for a grant for the award books and plaques. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea. The issue might be that when we amalgamated with FSB, the RADAR Branch might no longer exist as a separate entity. Ray commented that he had received an email from Division advising that capitation for AFA NSW is \$20.00, not \$25.00 as previously thought. This means our funds will last a bit longer.

3. Jim Stewart then asked Ray for an up to date list of Branch members for the Bulletin.

New Action 3/6/22: Ray O'Donoghue to provide Jim Stewart with list of current members.

4. Spike Davies mentioned that he had done a podcast of his career that was now available on the Division website.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **10 February 2023**.

ITEM 10: Meeting Closure

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1200.

R O'Donoghue

President

Date:

I Gibson

Secretary (Chair)

Date:

Annexes:

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Membership Officer's Report

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

President's Report–9th December 2022

I attended the New Lambton Public School Remembrance Day service on 11th November and was delighted to be accompanied by GPCAPT Davies (COS ACG), SQNLDR Phil Lavery (XO 3CRU) and WOFF Chad Harper (WOFF 3CRU). The school treated us very well and Channel 9 was in attendance to record the event.

As reported in the Addendum to my last report, the school chose not to proceed with our brick mount for the original incline, instead opting to acquire a taller incline for our plaque. The school has since constructed a garden that is quite simple, but elegant, and the flagpoles are now far more prominent than previously. Principal Justine Abell assured me that the incline acquired by the Branch will also be incorporated into the garden – as intended and the plaques, provided by the Branch and 3CRU in 1995, will be mounted upon it. I believe that the garden is a very positive addition to the school.

The service was very good and the children were very impressed with the garden and plaque. I think that we, as a Branch, can be quietly pleased with our contribution to the commemoration of an 80-year association with NLPS. I particularly want to thank John King very much for his persistence throughout two very difficult years in seeing this project through to its conclusion in the face of all the disruptions caused by COVID.

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 – 30/11/2022.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/08/2022	883.67
Subscriptions	380.00
Grants	0.00
Donations	10.00
	1273.67

PAYMENTS

Forsbey Website reimbursement	51.95
	51.95

Balance as per Bank 1221.72

SUMMARY

Balance	1221.72
Allowance for Grants refunds (up to)	0.00
Allowance for late capitation	25.00
Allowance For PIA Capitation	145.00
	1051.72

Allowance for Member Subs from Division	5.00
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve (Incl Interest)	4282.81
Total Funds Available	5439.53

Notes:

- 1) Unused Grant Funds have been reimbursed. Final confirmation of acquittal has been provided orally to the VP.
- 2) A new member joined late July through Division. Awaiting an adjustment from Div.
- 3) To date, 50% of 2022 Financial Members and Multiple Members have renewed, including two during December. This is on par with prior years at this stage.

Ray O'Donoghue
A/Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2022-23 Meeting 6 – 9th December 2022

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** The membership renewal campaign commenced on 1st November and has got off to a steady start. There were numerous renewals in November and there have been a couple more since the start of December. At present, our membership for 2023 stands at 50% of the 2022 level. This is similar to the trend for previous years and is not a cause for concern, at this stage.
2. Undoubtedly, as the Christmas/New Year season approaches, the matter of renewals may well have been forgotten, for the present, but I will be sending out reminders in the next few days and again in mid-January. Past reminders have certainly had a positive effect, so I am hopeful we will have a similar result this time around. The only concern, for now, is the lack of new members,

MEMBERSHIP STATUS. Changes since the last report:

NEW/REJOIN	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	12	3	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY21 compared to 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
13 ⁴ /27	3 ⁴ /6	0	27 ⁴ /15	41 ⁴ /48

NON-CURRENT^{1,2}	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
41 ⁴ /37	6	47 ⁴ /43	0

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

3. **VALE.** None known.
4. **REJOINED/NEW.** See above.
5. **RENEWALS.** See above.

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

6. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List is being updated as renewals come in. An interim list will be sent to Committee members shortly.

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7. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website is being updated as the renewal period progresses.

8. **SUBSCRIPTIONS.** Notification of the increase to subscriptions was advised with the renewal notice. This does not appear to have had any impact on the rate of renewal compared to previous years.

AWARDS

9. **41 & 44 WING AWARDS.** The research into an appropriate book to accompany the awards is ongoing.

PROJECT

10. **NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** Please see the President's Report for details.

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.