



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, 10 August 2018

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian	
Howard Campbell	Asst Historian	
John King	Committee member	

Apologies

Tony Rogers	Treasurer
GPCAPT Pat Cooper	OC 44WG
Bob Treloar	Patron
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President
Narelle Owen	
GPCAPT Nathan Christie	
WOFF Scotty Doring	RAAFLO

ITEM 1: Meeting opening and introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees. The meeting was declared open at 1357, pausing for one minutes silence for deceased comrades. He also welcomed AC Graham Turner (a current ASOP student at SACTU). Graham had contacted the Branch seeking information on the history of 3CRU, as he and some other students have to give a presentation on that subject in September. Following that approach, he was invited to attend our meeting.

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, 18 May 2018 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 18 May 2018 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Bruce Niblett **Seconded:** John King

Motion Carried

At this point, Jim Stewart advised that GPCAPT Nathan Christie CSM and WOFF Scotty Doring tendered their apologies for the meeting. Jim also advised that Nathan was now the newly installed Officer Commanding 41WG, having recently replaced GPCAPT Lyle Holt. This came as a surprise to all present, as Lyle had only been in the role for just over 12 months.

New Action 1/4/18: Ian Gibson to email GPCAPT Nathan Christie offering the Branch congratulations on his appointment as OC 41WG, and confirming his willingness to become Branch Senior Serving Member.

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 16 March 2018 meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 18 May 2018 meeting:

- a. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey.
Ian Gibson advised that he had emailed GPCAPT Lyle Holt on 23 April this year following a conversation at this year's Branch AGM on this action. There has been no

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response. Ian then stated that he would contact the new OC 41WG and WOFF Doring in an effort to progress this action. **Ongoing.**

- b. **Action 2/6/17:** WOFF Scotty Doring to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities.
Ian Gibson stated that he would again email WOFF Doring on this action. Howie Campbell commented that CPL Camille McGrath at SACTU might be an option to take over the task of administering the Branch Facebook page, if she is willing and FB savvy. **Ongoing.**
- c. **Action 6/1/18:** Ian Gibson (or other newly elected secretary) to advise Australian Business Register of Branch office bearers immediately following the Branch AGM. **Closed.**
- d. **Action 1/3/18:** Ian Gibson to email Dave Bowden (cc Bob Treloar and Don McPherson) advising of Branch support for the plan (Patrons Presentation) and offering any assistance possible. **Closed.**
- e. **Action 2/3/18:** Ian Gibson to email absent committee members and patrons requesting input for the Branch profile. **Closed.**
- f. **Action 3/3/18:** Ian Gibson to contact Division to advise of the non-receipt of *SITREP* and confirm contact details for both Bruce and Jim. **Closed.**
- g. **Action 4/3/18:** Ian Gibson to send back copies of *SITREP* to both Bruce and Jim. **Closed.**
- h. **Action 5/3/18:** Ian Gibson draft thankyou letter to Don McPherson, for Bruce Niblett's signature.
Bruce Niblett advised that he had sent the letter to Don and received a reply; both the letter and Don's reply were read to the meeting. **Closed.**
- i. **Action 6/3/18:** Diane Taylor to liaise with Stockton RSL Club staff to ensure the Club can accommodate the changed date and time (for our subsequent meetings). **Closed.**

ITEM 4: Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received by Ian Gibson:

- a. 8/6/18: Email invitation to Battle for Australia Sydney commemoration service and luncheon, from Doug Roser via John King.
- b. 12/7/18: Letter from NSW Division inviting Branch attendance at Sydney Battle of Britain commemoration service, Friday 14 September, 2018. Ian Gibson will scan and email this letter to members and post on the website.
Discussion ensued about last year's attendance by the 3CRU RAF Exchange Officer (SQNLDR Nathaniel Christopher) at the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration and that an invitation should be extended again this year for his attendance.

<p>New Action 2/4/18: Ian Gibson to contact CO 3CRU and SQNLDR Christopher regarding attendance at the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration.</p>
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- c. 18/7/18: Email from AC Graham Turner (SACTU) requesting Branch assistance with 3CRU history assignment.
- d. 23/7/18: Email from 'KT Classics' canvassing orders for badges, ties etc (deleted as spam!).
- e. About a thousand emails from John King on various subjects of interest.

ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's report (Annex A)

In Tony's absence his finance statement was reviewed, without any issues being raised. Tony had advised by email that there is only minor change to finance in the period from May (\$22.71), due to a website charge and is offset by a subscription receipt.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

Membership Officer's report (Annex B)

Ray's report was tabled in his absence. In his report, Ray advised that he will hand over responsibility for the Membership Officer role to Dean Paterson. Ray and Dean had a productive handover session a few weeks ago and Ray will continue to work with Dean as required, until he is happy with the role. Also, Ray has taken the liberty of nominating Terry Withers as Assistant Membership Officer, subject to Terry's acceptance and Committee approval. Otherwise, there are no other changes to report.

The MMS has also been updated, and should accurately reflect our Branch List. Ray received a query from Division on 8th August, querying the status of two members, as Division records did not sync with the MMS. Ray assured Division that our list and MMS were correct regarding those members.

Awards Books: Ray has maintained a watching brief on three chosen books. Ray recommends purchasing through Booktopia (or Book Depository) as all are more expensive through bookstores. Further, Ray recommends we buy sufficient for two or even three years' worth of awards, to take advantage of the current prices and to have a store for future years.

There was general agreement at the meeting that we should **not** purchase books in advance for future years, however it was agreed that Ray should proceed with the purchase of award books for the 2019 Radar Branch awards.

<p><u>New Action 3/4/18:</u> Ray O'Donoghue to purchase Branch award books in time for presentation to winners next year.</p>
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ITEM 6: General Business

a. Committee Member Profiles (Bruce Niblett): Bruce wants all committee members to send individual profiles of their service history to the secretary, Ian Gibson. The profile should not include pre or post service employment, unless it is related to their military service.

<p><u>New Action 4/4/18:</u> Ian Gibson to email Bruce's request to all committee members.</p>

b. Howie commented that he'd been in contact with Carol Evans (nee McDonald) from the first WRAAF course (10 Aircraft Plotters Course); she is one of only four remaining. Diane then commented that she had been on the first Plotters course held at 2CRU in Darwin.

ITEM 7: Other Business

a. Branch banner repairs (Bruce Niblett): Bruce advised that he was still exploring; he doesn't think that we should have holes put in the banner. The banner has four guy ropes and Bruce thought that we should have (perhaps Air Training Corps cadets) two people march ahead and two behind the banner holding these guy ropes to stabilise the banner. He is also looking at new ways of bracing the banner after the top spar was broken on ANZAC Day this year. With the new bracing it might be better to have it mounted externally in eyelets, rather than the current internal sleeve system; this should allow any air to spill out more easily, thus making the banner

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easier to carry. He asserted that the banner would be ready prior to next ANZAC Day, and that he would hold onto the banner and all fittings.

b. Jim Stewart advised that he had touched base with new OC 41WG (Nathan Christie) who had handed Jim two boxes of Branch material that had been in the OC's office for some years. The material had apparently originated from past president, Walter Fielder-Gill. Jim asked what we should do with all this stuff as the Branch has no storage facilities. Diane wondered if we could approach Fighter World, for example, to have it stored there. Bruce Niblett volunteered that he would store it in his garage if Jim can bring the boxes to the next meeting.

c. Jim Stewart handed out copies of the latest Branch Bulletin that he had produced since taking over editorial responsibilities from Terry Delahunty. The Bulletin contained a brief article about 114 MCRU's 75th Anniversary and Ian Gibson asked if Jim could get the email address for CO 114 (WGCDR Brett Risstrom) in order that Ian could put an article in the next RAAFA newsletter, *SITREP*.

d. Diane asked all present to consider potential venues for our end of year meeting and lunch function, as she thought we should find an alternative to the Stockton RSL for this event.

e. Taking advantage of AC Graham Turner's presence, Ian Gibson asked if Graham would canvass his course-mates to see what sort of things they would like to see from RAAFA in general and the RADAR Branch in particular. Graham was happy to oblige.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 12th October, commencing at 1400.

ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1505.

I Gibson
Secretary
Date:

B Niblett
President (Chair)
Date:

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 27/07/2018.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2018	1469.10
Subscriptions	510.00
Donations	10.00
Interest	.51
	1989.61

PAYMENTS

Postage	26.25
Office Supplies	3.00
Website Fee	129.40
Anzac Day Awards: Plaques	150.00
" " " RAAF	493.97
" " " NLPS	90.42
" " " Engraving	40.00
Commemoration Wreath	70.00
Capitation NSW Div.	507.00
	1510.04
Balance	479.57
O/S Cheques	<u>41.95</u>
Balance as per Bank	521.52

SUMMARY

Balance	479.57
Allowance For Advance Subs	<u>150.00</u>
	329.57
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve	<u>5272.16</u>
Total Funds Available	5701.73

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2018-19 Meeting 2 – 10 Aug 2018

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** At the conclusion of this meeting, I will hand over responsibility for the Membership Officer role to Dean Paterson. Dean and I had a productive handover session a few weeks ago and I will continue to work with Dean as required, until he is happy with the role.
2. **MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** One renewal has been received since the last Report:

NEW	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	1	0	0	0

Current membership numbers for this CY are:

FULL FINANCIAL	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	TOTAL ACTIVE
41	8	7	56
NON-CURRENT¹ ²	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 6 OS to SM)³	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
32	9	41	0

3. **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.** Terry Withers has renewed.
4. **VALE.** None known.
4. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated to reflect Committee and membership changes and has been emailed to Committee Members.
5. I have taken the liberty of nominating Terry Withers as Asst Membership Officer, subject to Terry's acceptance and Committee approval. Otherwise, there are no other changes to report.
6. The MMS has also been updated, and should accurately reflect our Branch List. I did receive a query from Division on 8th August, querying the status of two members, as Division records did not sync with the MMS. I was able to assure Division that our list and MMS were correct, regarding those members.
7. **AWARDS BOOKS.** 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 \$112.50, (\$54.89)
 - The Mask of Command \$26.25 (\$22.62);
 - Australia and the War in the Air \$22.75 (N/A)

8. All are more expensive through bookstores. We have previously paid between \$60 and \$100 for *Beyond the Horizon*; as much as \$30 for *Mask*; and between \$40-50 for *War in the Air*. Based upon current prices,
9. I recommend we purchase *Beyond the Horizon* and *Mask* from Book Depository (\$77.51 pp, or \$232.53 for all three awards – no postage cost); and *War in the Air* from Booktopia (\$68.25 for three copies). The above would cost \$300.78 (plus one lot of postage) out of our \$600 allowance.
10. Furthermore, I recommend we buy sufficient for two or even three years' worth of awards, to take advantage of the current prices and to have a store for future years.
11. At the moment, I have not investigated books for New Lambton PS.
12. **ACTION ITEMS UPDATE.** Due to hosting overseas, for several weeks, I have not progressed the following outstanding action item since last meeting.
 - a. **Action 2/3/17 - Contact with WWII members.** NSTR.

Ray O'Donoghue

Immediate Past 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, seven 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 Service Member (SM). All Non-Financial members appear on the Current Membership page.