



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, 12 October 2018

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian	
SQNLDR Dean Paterson	Membership Officer	
Howard Campbell	Asst Historian	
Narelle Owen	Committee member	
John King	Committee member	

Apologies

Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President
GPCAPT Nathan Christie	Senior Serving Member
Bob Treloar	Patron
Dave Bowden	Patron

ITEM 1: Meeting opening and introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees. The meeting was declared open at 1400, 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, 10 August 2018 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 10 August 2018 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson **Seconded:** Howie Campbell

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 10 August 2018 meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 10 August 2018 meeting:

- a. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey.
Dean Paterson advised that FSGT Darrigo (now in Darwin) has a digital copy of the Charter and has been awaiting an email address to which to send the digital file. Ian Gibson stated that he was unaware that GJ has been waiting, as nothing has been heard from him since he deployed in 2017. Ian will provide Bill Forsbey's email address to GJ to enable the Charter to be sent and uploaded. **Ongoing.**

<p>New Action 1/5/18: Ian Gibson to contact FSGT GJ Darrigo and advise him of Bill Forsbey's email address.</p>
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- b. **Action 2/6/17:** WOFF Scotty Doring to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities.
Dean Paterson advised that FSGT GJ Darrigo had last year submitted a proposal for a revised approach to a Branch digital presence to then OC 41WG (and senior serving member) Spike Davies and to then Branch President Rob Saxton. This draft proposal

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included, inter alia, a part about Facebook. Ian Gibson stated that he recalled seeing a hard copy of the draft, but understood that Rob had intended to revise the draft before circulation to the committee for consideration. It was soon after this that Rob resigned from the Presidency, and in effect nothing has since occurred in regard to the proposal. Dean advised that GJ is awaiting a response from the committee regarding the proposal. Ian Gibson commented that he would contact GJ and request a copy of the proposal be emailed to him; he would then distribute to the committee for consideration. Discussion ensued about the use of Facebook as a means of disseminating information, rather than simply emailing lots of information in separate emails. Dean noted that many serving members (himself included) would prefer a Facebook approach rather than using work email addresses. He thought that a Facebook approach would enable personnel to view the information at a time of their choosing, rather than trying to fit it in around work activities. Further, he thought that the information would be more widely distributed as a result, and potentially arouse more interest in Branch activities. Ian Gibson commented that as long as he was able to submit material to a Facebook page, he was happy with that approach. This still leaves the matter of finding someone suitably interested and capable of being a Facebook page administrator, an issue to be addressed following review of the draft digital proposal. **Ongoing.**

New Action 2/5/18: Ian Gibson to contact FSGT GJ Darrigo requesting a copy of the draft digital proposal.

- c. **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.
GPCAPT Christie accepted the invitation to become SSM. **Closed**
- d. **Action 2/4/18:** Ian Gibson to contact CO 3CRU and SQNLDR Christopher regarding attendance at the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration.
SQNLDR Christopher was unable to attend this year; consequently Branch President Bruce Niblett laid the wreath. **Closed**
- e. **Action 3/4/18:** Ray O'Donoghue to purchase Branch award books in time for presentation to winners next year.
Ray advised that all the books for next year have been purchased. **Closed**
- f. **Action 4/4/18:** Ian Gibson to email Bruce Niblett's request for profile details to all committee members.
Most committee members have submitted a profile to Ian. Discussion ensued about distribution of the profiles with Tony Rogers suggesting that in the past, similar profiles had been published in the Branch Bulletin. Ian thought that some recent photos should accompany the profiles for the Bulletin.

New Action 3/5/18: Ian Gibson to forward profiles to Jim Stewart for publication in the Bulletin.

ITEM 4: Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received by Ian Gibson:

- a. 1/12/16: Received an email (at the secretary@raafradar.org.au address) from Mr Frank O'Shannessy enquiring about joining the Association.
Ian had sent a reply, but nothing had been heard since.

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- b. 4/9/18: Email from FSGT David Bell of the Static Display Aircraft Support Section History and Heritage – Air Force, re plaque for the RAAF Radar Site (No 49)
Jim Stewart requested a copy of the email and noted that No 49 was a short-lived site. He also stated that Redland City council looked after Stradbroke Island, commenting that in the past, the "rotund red rabbit" (aka the late WGCDR Pete Smith) had looked after Queensland stuff. Tony Rogers noted that the Branch has funded the provision of plaques in the past, stating that we had helped with one at Muttee Head (site of 52 Radar/RDF Station) a few years ago. Dean Paterson said that he would be visiting Brisbane next year and he could clean it up; although this won't be until July August timeframe following his return from deployment.

New Action 4/5/18: Jim Stewart to contact Redland City Council on behalf of the Branch requesting assistance with cleaning/refurbishing the memorial plaque.

New Action 5/5/18: Dean Paterson to attempt to clean the plaque when visiting Queensland next year in the event that the approach by Jim Stewart to Redland Council proves fruitless.

- c. 16/9/18: Email notifying of the death of Shirley Brettle.
Jim Stewart asked if we had a date of Shirley's death; no nothing apart from the notification and a request to remove her name from our membership list from her son. It was noted that Shirley had been a long serving member and former committee member of the Branch. Contact had been lost when she moved into a nursing home. Apparently, Shirley was famous for having seen (on radar) the submarine that sank the Centaur. Tony Rogers noted (for Jim) that Bob Treloar knew of Shirley's involvement at the time she had been interviewed (by the ABC?). Jim Stewart also noted that Terry Delahunty might have some information, but Terry had not replied to Jim's email yet. Tony also noted that she would not be listed in Division's MMS database as she hadn't been a financial member for years.

New Action 6/5/18: Dean Paterson/Ray O'Donoghue to remove Shirley's name from membership iaw her son's request.

- d. 19/9/18: GPCAPT Nathan Christie (OC 41WG) emailed acceptance of the Branch invitation for him to become the Senior Serving Member.
- e. 19/9/18: Email invitation from Stephen Finney (Vice President, The City of Newcastle RSL Sub-Branch) for the centenary Armistice Day commemoration.
Ian Gibson passed the hard copy invitation around the room. Tony Rogers requested the email be forwarded to him.
- f. 20/9/18: Email from AC Graham Turner re SACTU course members interest in joining the RADAR Branch.
Ian Gibson advised the meeting that Graham had reported that there was little interest in joining the Branch. This generated a lengthy discussion which centred around how we communicate with the current serving members. Dean Paterson suggested that as noted earlier in the meeting, Facebook was a better vehicle than emails for getting information out - he thought that if people could see information on Facebook, that over time it would engender interest in the Branch - such things as DVA notices etc as well as Branch information. Dean said that when he receives the emails on his work email address, he just drags and drops them to a separate folder to clear his Inbox and usually forgets about them, whereas on Facebook he could read the notices at home (for example).

Bruce Niblett commented that Graham and his course mates these days need only join for two years; Howie Campbell remarked that you can't teach anyone RADAR in two years; they could only get a basic understanding.

Tony Rogers commented that we need someone like CPL Drew ?? (from a couple of years ago) who was interested in setting up Facebook, but nothing eventuated. Diane Taylor said that such a person doesn't need to be local to utilise Facebook, describing how she started a page for a family fun day years ago, and is still getting 'likes'. Howie mentioned CPL Camille McGrath at SACTU - she is apparently unpostable from Williamstown, but he isn't sure how keen she would be to do it. Dean thought that if Ian Gibson could put material on Facebook, we would get access to many more people than at present. Howie commented that he hadn't been invited to SACTU to address this last ASOP course.

Ian Gibson said that the Patron's Presentation that Dave Bowden had commenced working on earlier this year might provide more impetus to the graduating course members, particularly if it was presented by some of our contemporary, still serving veterans - the presentation would likely resonated better with course members on a number of levels.

ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's report (Annex A)

Tony noted that he had closed the accounts at the date of statement, obtained at the bank on 26/09/2018. The only change that will occur by the end of the month is the small amount of interest earned on both accounts.

There are two items of expense in the period from 27th July; those being the advanced purchase of books for 2019, as approved (\$234.81) at the last meeting and Battle Of Britain Commemoration Wreath (\$50.00).

Tony also noted that he thinks there will be another bill for books as he had only received one and he thought that Ray used two separate suppliers. Tony commented that money was down a bit, which is normal for this time of year. It will lift again with the payment of subscriptions later in the year in line with membership renewals.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

ITEM 6: General Business

a. Dean Paterson advised that he is deploying for six months from 6th November, and that with deployment leave, he'll be out of the picture for up to eight months.

b. Howie talked about some members of the RADAR family, mentioning Kel Campbell whose wife had had a stroke but was now home and ok. Also Joe Anderson who's had three heart attacks and a stroke. Also SGT Jenny Sciortino whose husband has MS and her daughter has three tumours on the brain, and FSGT Phil Roy who has died - Howie has been in contact with his daughter. Howie also noted that he had given an address to the Anglican Aged Care Women's Group in Terrigal.

ITEM 7: Other Business

a. 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. Diane said she had contacted just about every venue between Newcastle and the Central Coast and they all wanted 'a good sum of money' to provide a meeting room, with many having minimum number restrictions as well. Discussion then revolved around having a 'casual meeting' followed by lunch. The 16 foot Sailing Club at Belmont was suggested as an ideal venue; the

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'meeting' could be held on the verandah at the same tables as lunch with no need to book (or pay for a separate room); simply book sufficient tables for those attending.

New Action 7/5/18: Diane Taylor to contact 16 Footers Club and book tables for approximately 12-15 attendees. In addition, Diane to advise Stockton RSL of cancellation of the scheduled meeting on 14th December and to advise Jim Stewart so he can put a notice in the next edition of the Bulletin.

b. **Branch banner repairs** (Bruce Niblett): Bruce advised that he has been doing research and that putting vents in the banner would only reduce the amount of drag by around 5%, so it's not worth pursuing that course. He has also effected some repairs where the top cross spar had broken. He has been to the hardware store looking at all types of rods and connections etc. Bruce has purchased a new rod for the top which is larger diameter than the previous one and is working on making connectors for the three sections so that they would screw together. He also considers that the side stay ropes should be utilised in future to take some of the strain from the banner pole carriers. Prior to next use we will need to find out if we can get support from 3CRU to carry the banner (as has been provided in the past) and/or the Australian Air Force Cadets, who might be used on the stay ropes, unless 3CRU could provide additional personnel.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 14th December, commencing at 1100. The venue will tentatively be Belmont 16 foot Sailing Club.

ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1528.

I Gibson
Secretary
Date:

B Niblett
President (Chair)
Date:

The Radar Branch
RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 26/09/2018.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2018	1469.10
Subscriptions	510.00
Donations	10.00
Interest	.59
	1989.69

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
" " " 2019 Advance Purchase	234.81
Commemoration Wreaths Anzac-BOB	120.00
Capitation NSW Div.	507.00
	1794.85
Balance	194.84
O/S Cheques	<u>284.81</u>
Balance as per Bank	479.65

SUMMARY

Balance	194.84
Allowance For Advance Subs	<u>150.00</u>
	44.84
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve	<u>5274.42</u>
Total Funds Available	5419.26