



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

Held at Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, The Parade, Belmont NSW  
on Friday 14 December 2018

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### Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Howard Campbell	Asst Historian	

### Apologies

SQNLDR Dean Paterson	Membership Officer
GPCAPT Nathan Christie	Senior Serving Member, OC 41Wing
GPCAPT Pat Cooper	OC 44Wing
Bob Treloar	Patron
Dave Bowden	Patron
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian
John King	Committee member
Narelle Owen	Committee member
Bill Forsbey	Advocate and Website Administrator

### ITEM 1: Meeting opening and introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees. The meeting was declared open at 1100, 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, 12 October 2018 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

**Motion: That the minutes from the 12 October 2018 meeting be accepted.**

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

**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.  
Ian Gibson advised that he had emailed FSGT Darrigo, but had received no response to date. **Ongoing.**
- b. **Action 2/6/17:** WOFF Scotty Doring to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities. At the last meeting, this action was updated, indicating that FSGT GJ Darrigo was awaiting advice about how to proceed. Ian Gibson reported that as for the previous action, he had emailed FSGT Darrigo on this issue, but again without response. **Ongoing.**
- c. **Action 1/5/18:** Ian Gibson to contact FSGT GJ Darrigo and advise him of Bill Forsbey's email address.  
Ian advised that he had emailed FSGT Darrigo, but had received no response to date. **Ongoing.**

- d. **Action 2/5/18**: Ian Gibson to contact FSGT GJ Darrigo requesting a copy of the draft digital proposal.  
Ian reported that as for the previous action, he had emailed FSGT Darrigo on this issue, but again without response. **Ongoing.**
- e. **Action 3/5/18**: Ian Gibson to forward profiles to Jim Stewart for publication in the Bulletin.  
Ian advised that he had emailed all the (received) profiles to Jim. A couple of profiles were still outstanding. Bruce Niblett commented that his profile was a different format from those that Jim had published in the most recent Bulletin and wondered about a consistent format. Ian replied that there were several different formats used and that for Jim's purposes any would be suitable. **Closed.**
- f. **Action 4/5/18**: Jim Stewart to contact Redland City Council on behalf of the Branch requesting assistance with cleaning/refurbishing the memorial plaque. In Jim's absence, and without any advice on resolution, this action remains open. **Ongoing.**
- g. **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. **Ongoing.**
- h. **Action 6/5/18**: Dean Paterson/Ray O'Donoghue to remove Shirley Brettle's name from membership iaw her son's request.  
Ray advised that he had not completed this action, but will do so. **Ongoing.**
- i. **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. **Closed.**

#### **ITEM 4: Correspondence**

The following correspondence had been received by the Secretary:

27/11/18: Email (to Jim Stewart) from GPCAPT Pat Cooper advising the 44WG Change of Command (to GPCAPT Ruth Elsley, CSC) will take place on 29th Jan 19, other details TBA. Ian Gibson commented that he had followed up with GPCAPT Cooper, who had advised that branch members "would be welcome, but not expected".

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

##### Treasurer's report (Annex A)

Tony noted that eleven subscriptions had been received, as well as a generous donation from Bob Treloar, improving the balance of the account. We are in good shape, with more subscriptions expected to flow in during the coming weeks as members renew.

**Motion:** That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

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

**Motion Carried**

##### Membership Officer's Report (Annex B)

Ray O'Donoghue gave a precis of his Membership Officer's Report which he had emailed after agreeing to continue as Membership Officer while Dean Paterson is deployed on active duty. Ray advised that he had emailed membership renewals and also dispatched 'snail mail' renewals to those members without an email address. Ray noted that at this stage we have 19 financial members for 2019, but he expects this number to increase in the coming weeks.

**ITEM 6: General Business**

a. Ray O'Donoghue noted that he has purchased all the books for the 2019 awards, but not yet for presentation to New Lambton Public School; accordingly he requested authorisation to purchase these additional books, which will probably come from 'the Book Repository', an on-line retailer. He said that although the books come from the UK, postage is free and the prices are very good.

**Motion:** That Ray O'Donoghue be authorised to spend up to \$200.00 to purchase books for presentation at New Lambton Public School's ANZAC Day service in 2019.

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

**Motion Carried**

b. Following publication of the most recent issue of the NSW RAAFA Newsletter, *SITREP*, including an article about Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) successful recruiting of new members, Diane Taylor asked what they are doing to increase their membership that we aren't. Ian Gibson commented that FSB have made a couple of visits to RAAF Williamtown and talked to serving members of 77SQN 'on the hangar floor'; these visits and informal approaches have apparently been quite successful in generation interest in the Association. Bruce Niblett said that we need the support of members of 2SQN, who although now in aircrew roles, all began their careers and training on ground-based RADART units.

Tony Rogers noted that he and Ian Gibson had attended the FSB lunch at Hornsby in November and sat with several serving members from 78 Wing - young pilots and instructors - they were quite happy to attend such functions. Howie Campbell commented that this isn't a new problem; he recalled that 16 years ago, he sent out 132 letters...and received not one reply! Tony then advised that he had been in contact with WOFF Scotty Doring this week; Scotty advised that all Wing personnel were very busy and that today was the last day for most personnel. In addition, the Wing Xmas function was being held tonight, so difficult to attend both. Diane wondered why we (the Branch) hadn't been invited.

Tony noted that FSB was made up from the previously independent fighter squadron associations, which had swollen it's numbers. Tony then stated that when we get the final renewals for the year, it might be time to look at the future viability of the Branch; perhaps it's time to merge with another branch, FSB for example. He urged that we all think about this and discuss at the next meeting in February, 2019.

c. Diane spoke about Peter Ferry, a WWII pilot, whose son is the secretary of Diane's RSL sub-branch. Diane then handed Ian Gibson a hardcopy of a possible article for the next issue of *SITREP* or the Branch Bulletin. Ian asked if it was in electronic format, and Ray O'Donoghue then searched for and found the article on his tablet. Ray then forwarded the link to Ian's email address.

d. Howie then commented that he and Diane had attended a Central Coast DFWA meeting at which there was an veterans Assistance Dog. Diane said that these are rescue dogs, not specially bred, and they are trained for the assistance role at Bathurst Gaol complex at a cost of \$7600.00. Diane said the program was a win, win, win; for the Gaol, the prisoner (trainer) and the recipient.

**ITEM 7: Other Business**

a. Branch banner repairs (Bruce Niblett): Bruce advised that he has repaired the old banner, but he is still experimenting with a new cross spar design.

b. Bruce then noted that AIRCDRE (Ret'd) Tim Owen has recently taken a job heading a group of Hunter people bidding for military contracts. Bruce said it was good to see Tim using his background to assist Newcastle.

## Minutes: RADAR Branch Committee Meeting of 14 December 2018

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c. Howie then said he had received a card from Elizabeth Simmonds (widow of Ed Simmonds who researched and wrote most of the history of RADAR during WWII).

### **ITEM 8: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Friday 8th February, 2019 at Stockton RSL, commencing at 1100, although Diane stated that she liked the 16 Ft Sailing Club as a venue!

### **ITEM 9: Meeting Closure**

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1154.

**I Gibson**  
Secretary  
Date:

**B Niblett**  
President (Chair)  
Date:

The Radar Branch  
RAAF Association ( NSW Division ) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 28/11/2018.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2018	1469.10
Subscriptions	510.00
Donations	10.00
Interest	.65
	1989.75

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	194.90
Balance as per Bank	194.90

SUMMARY

Balance	194.90
Allowance For Advance Subs	150.00
	44.90
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve	5276.62
Total Funds Available	5421.52

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

**2018-19 Meeting 4 – 14 Dec 2018**

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** As the Membership Officer, Dean Paterson, has been deployed, I have agreed to continue in the role until at least the AGM. I was absent OS at the last meeting.
2. **MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** To the best of my knowledge, there were no membership changes up to the time of renewals. The renewal process is now in train.

NEW	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	0	0	0	0

Current membership numbers for this CY are:

FULL FINANCIAL	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	TOTAL ACTIVE
41	8	7	56
NON-CURRENT <sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub>	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 6 OS to SM) <sup>3</sup>	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
32	9	41	0

3. **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.** The renewal period has begun. E-mail renewals have been sent to all Financial, Multiple and Paid in Advance members, as well as to as many Non-Financial Members as I have email details for. Snail mail renewals have also being sent out.
4. At the time of reporting, eight financial members have renewed; two Multiple Members have renewed; we have one Life Member; six Fully Subscribed; and two Paid in Advance Members, for a total of approximately 19 members who are already financial for 2019. I expect that number to grow in the coming weeks.
5. **VALE.** None known.
4. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List, and MMS, will be updated as renewals come in and an up to date list will be provided to Committee before the first meeting of 2019..
5. **AWARDS BOOKS.** The Award books have been purchased as authorised and I am currently holding them at home.
6. I will investigate possible books for New Lambton PS in the New Year and make recommendations t the February meeting.

Ray O'Donoghue  
Membership Officer