



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, 16 March 2018

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President & Membership Officer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
John King	Committee member	
Howard Campbell	Committee member	
Narelle Owen	Committee member	
Jim Stewart	Committee member	
David Winkleman	Member	

Apologies

Tony Rogers	Treasurer
Bob Treloar	Patron
Dave Bowden	Patron
William Forsbey	Advocacy Officer
GPCAPT Pat Cooper	OC 44WG
GPCAPT Lyle Holt	OC 41WG/Senior Serving Member

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees. The meeting was declared open at 1102, 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, 19 January 2018 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 19 January 2018 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Bruce Niblett **Seconded:** Howard Campbell

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 17 November 2017 meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 17 November 2017 meeting:

- a. **Action 1/6/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to clarify non-current and non-financial member status.
Closed
- b. **Action 2/2/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Mr John McCauley and ask if he's interested in renewing his membership and also if he's interested in attending ANZAC Day. Ray will also contact other WWII veterans to ascertain interest in attending ANZAC Day in Newcastle.
As Ray will be overseas from 22 March until mid-May 18, the second part of the action is considered to be overtaken by events. The membership renewal aspect will be addressed in the ordinary course of membership renewals. **Closed.**
- c. **Action 2/3/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to investigate the provision of air relief vents in the Branch banner. Ray commented that his sister-in-law is a seamstress and he will approach her for assistance with the banner.

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Ray has delivered the banner to his S-i-L who believes she can accomplish the task in time for ANZAC Day this year. The poles etc for the banner were left with President, Bruce Niblett. **Closed.**

- d. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey. **Ongoing.**
- e. **Action 5/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to approach OC 41WG about serving personnel being released to attend lunches with RADAR Branch. This action was closed as it seems unlikely that personnel could be released from duty. **Closed.**
- f. **Action 2/6/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities.
Ian Gibson stated that he had been in contact with WOFF Scotty Doring, who will follow up this action. **Ongoing. Transferred to WOFF Doring.**
- g. **Action 4/6/17:** Diane Taylor to investigate viability of and organise an ANZAC Day raffle (permissions, prizes, donors etc) for ANZAC Day 2018.
The issue of raffles was discussed at length, regarding permissions from NSW Department of Fair Trading, as well as the venue for the function, the short time frame remaining and the need to source prizes etc. Diane noted that we haven't held a raffle for two years and another issue is the number of people attending the lunch to buy tickets; she had thought of a major prize being a night at the Newcastle Crown Plaza hotel, but there is insufficient numbers to generate enough money to pay for such a prize. Bruce Niblett commented that he didn't think a raffle was viable at this stage. **Closed.**
- h. **Action 1/1/18:** Ian Gibson to contact WOFF Doring to determine a replacement RAAF Liaison officer whilst FSGT Darrigo is deployed.
WOFF Doring was happy to resume the duty of RAAFLO during FSGT Darrigo's absence. **Closed.**
- i. **Action 2/1/18:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Neville Adcock's daughter and request confirmation that old ABN has been terminated.
Confirmation received. **Closed.**
- j. **Action 3/1/18:** Tony Rogers to email Jim Stewart's 1CRU history to committee members.
Completed. **Closed.**
- k. **Action 4/1/18:** Ian Gibson to distribute Jim Stewart's 2CRU paper to committee members.
Completed. **Closed.**
- l. **Action 5/1/18:** Bruce Niblett to attempt to contact Jim Stewart to ascertain his health and if he will be returning to the Branch.
Jim's attendance at today's meeting confirms his status. **Closed.**
- m. **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.
This is a place-holder until after the AGM. **Pending.**
- n. **Action 7/1/18:** Tony Rogers to discuss web site updates with Bill Forsbey.
Updated completed. **Closed.**
- o. **Action 8/1/18:** Ray O'Donoghue to make a faux wreath and deliver to next meeting (16 Mar 18).
This action opened a discussion on the presentation books that Ray has purchased; the ones for the winners of the Branch awards, not the ones for presentation to New Lambton Public

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School. The school had not yet been in contact, so Ray intends to contact them this coming Monday (19th Mar 18) to see about Branch participation in the school's commemorative activities. The faux wreath was intended for the Newcastle dawn service, however it appears that no one will be attending. The faux wreath was almost completed and Ray would deliver in next few days. **Ongoing.**

- p. **Action 9/1/18:** Ian Gibson to organise purchase of wreath for Air Force birthday and Newcastle ANZAC Day main service.

It was determined that no committee members would be able to attend the Air Force birthday commemoration; consequently, no wreath is needed for that event. Bruce Niblett agreed to email Division President and advise the Branch's inability to attend.

New Action 1/2/18: Bruce Niblett to advise Division of the Branch's inability to attend and convey our apologies.

The wreath for ANZAC Day will be ordered in the coming weeks for collection on 24th April. **Ongoing.**

Discussion then ensued over the logistics of getting the award books and plaques to the respective Wings for presentation. Ian Gibson had been in email contact with GPCAPT Pat Cooper (OC 44WG) who had advised that the Stuchbury Award would be presented to the recipient away from Williamtown; consequently the plaque and books need to be delivered to 44WG ahead of the presentation date. It was decided that Ian Gibson would advise contact details for Diane Taylor to 44WG and 41WG as Diane has the responsibility for having names engraved for the plaques. Narelle Owen volunteered to transport the plaques and books to Williamtown but she cannot get onto the base.

While discussing the 41WG awards, a question was raised about progress with 41WG support for the AGM being held at EASTROC as in the last few years. Ian Gibson advised that he had emailed OC41WG in January and had only received a response in the last few days after pursuing the issue with WOFF Doring. WOFF Doring advised he would follow up with OC, and subsequently Ian had received email from OC asking about previous years support. As members should be given at least one months notice of the AGM, and the uncertainty over 41WG's support, a motion was put to hold the Branch AGM at Stockton RSL.

Motion: That the Branch AGM be held at Stockton RSL Club this year, pending confirmation that the club could accommodate the meeting.

Moved: Bruce Niblett **Seconded:** Howard Campbell

Motion Carried

New Action 2/2/18: Diane Taylor to confirm the Club's availability at the conclusion of the meeting.

Bruce Niblett then opined that as we had agreed to hold the AGM at Stockton RSL Club, we should also invite the 41WG award recipients to attend in order to hold the presentations concurrently, as has been the pattern over recent years.

New Action 3/2/18: Ian Gibson to advise OC41WG of decision to hold AGM at RSL and the reasons for the decision and to invite 41WG staff to attend. Also to request attendance of the award winners at the AGM to facilitate presentations.

Ray O'Donoghue then asked about AGM notification to membership. Ian Gibson responded that he will email notification shortly.

New Action 4/2/18: Ian Gibson to dispatch AGM advice to Branch members.

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ITEM 4: Correspondence

The following email correspondence had been received by Ian Gibson:

- a. Email exchange between Ian Gibson and SQNLDR Michael Evans (44WG) regarding the prize books that had 'gone astray' following last year's Stuchbury Award presentation. 44WG has had no luck finding the books, and plans to replace them from HQ funds.
- b. Email exchange between Ian Gibson and LEUT Bobby McFerran (RAN) regarding contact with FSGT GJ Darrigo over Facebook page upkeep. Ian raised this issue with WOFF Scotty Doring and Scotty has agreed to pursue the issue.
- c. Email from Dick Wills with notice and draft agenda for the forthcoming 2018 Air Force Association (NSW Division) Annual General Meeting. At this stage it seems that only Tony Rogers and Ian Gibson will be attending from RADAR Branch.
- d. Email from Ian Gibson to WOFF Scotty Doring regarding:
 - i. replacing FSGT GJ Darrigo as Branch RAAFLO; WOFF Doring has agreed to resume duties of RAAFLO.
 - ii. requesting status of Branch awards nomination process within 41WG; WOFF Doring advised that the process is well advanced and winners names will be advised early in April in time for engraving on plaques.
 - iii. follow up or response to Ian's email of 15 Jan to OC 41WG re support to Branch AGM in April and ANZAC Day support.

Regarding ANZAC Day support, OC 41WG noted in an email that '*I guess we'll also need to have a discussion about Anzac Day norms, expectations and plans at some point.*' This discussion is yet to take place and hopefully will not signal a change to the traditional support of the last decades of 41WG units providing a contingent to march with the Branch.

- e. Email from Bill Forsbey with attached copy of the paid invoice for Website Hosting renewal.
- f. Email from ex-ASOP Ian Smyth seeking RADAR list (held he thinks by Kev Funnell in Darwin) to get in contact with Steve Richardson. Ian Gibson had responded to Mr Smyth, but nothing further was heard from him.
- g. Email from John King commenting on proposed RAAFA vision strategy document. Ian thought that John had raised some useful points and considered that they should be forwarded to Division.
- h. Email request from Peter Ring (NSW Div'n secretary) for a Branch profile to be included in *SITREP* newsletter. Ian commented that the latest edition of *SITREP* is already at around 25 pages and we would need to gather some photos and material for a profile. He commented that he thought it might be better to await the next edition, allowing more time to produce a better product. This course of action met with general agreement.
- i. Email received from Division President, Ron Glew regarding the 97th anniversary of the formation of the RAAF, to be commemorated at Martin Place in Sydney. Branch attendance previously discussed at Item 3p.

ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's report

In Tony Rogers absence, Ian Gibson had emailed Tony's report ahead of the meeting.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

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Membership Officer's Report

Ray O'Donoghue went through his report - there were no issues. Ray advised that he will get the books for presentation to New Lambton Public School to Narelle Owen before he departs overseas. Ray is drafting an article about the Pither Award for inclusion in *SITREP*, but it will not be ready for this edition. Ray indicated that although he will continue in the Membership Officer role if no one else nominates, he would ideally like to stand down from the position.

ITEM 6: General Business

– Ratification of new member, GPCAPT (ret'd) Myles Thompson: (Ray O'Donoghue). Ray gave a brief history of Myles's links to RADAR before a motion to ratify.

Motion: That GPCAPT (ret'd) Myles Thompson be ratified as a member of the Branch.

Moved: Narelle Owen **Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

Motion Carried

– Approval for John King to access full member email address list in order to distribute items of interest (instead of Secretary being a speed hump in the middle!!).

John stated that for him to be given access to full email address list would contravene privacy laws. Consequently, there would be no change to the distribution of items of interest. It was also noted that Ian Gibson should be using the 'bcc' address field when emailing notices to multiple members for the same privacy principles. Ian had been unaware of this and agreed to endeavour to comply in future.

ITEM 7: Other Business

– Branch AGM

This issue had been adequately covered in earlier discussion.

A brief discussion ensued about the 41WG awards and Ian Gibson advised that the process is well underway, but winners have not yet been selected. Once they are known, the plaques can be engraved and the books prepared for presentation; as discussed earlier, hopefully at the Branch AGM.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the AGM, set down for 20th April 18.

The next general meeting was set down for Friday, 18th May 2018, commencing at 1100.

ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1245.

I Gibson

Secretary

Date:

B Niblett

President (Chair)

Date: