



## Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

# Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW  
on Thursday 17th February 2022.

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### ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1107 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

### ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

#### Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President, Membership Officer and Acting Treasurer,	Chair
Tony Rogers	Committee Member	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian	
Narelle Owen	Committee Member	
GPCAPT P. Davies	Branch Member	

#### Apologies

John King	Vice President
Diane Taylor	41WG Liaison Officer
Dave Bowden	Patron

### ITEM 3: Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at Stockton RSL Club on Friday 22 October 2021 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

#### Motion: That the minutes from the 22 October 2021 meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Ian Gibson                      **Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

#### Motion Carried

### ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the 11th June 2021 meeting.

- a. **Action 10/1/21:** Jim Stewart and WGCdr Tatnell to liaise and determine how best to digitally record and store Radar history. (Secretary's note: In addition, consideration should be given to how Branch members might be able to access the stored information). Jim Stewart advised that the current radar/air defence/airspace control history database is indeed embedded in the Defence Objective database (on the Defence Protected Network [DPN]), within an SRG/41WG directory, which those outside of the ADO are unable to access. This notwithstanding, there are examples RAF and RCAF where history databases have been embedded within websites that allow public access. Although Jim is notionally the 41WG historian, much data has also been passed to OC 44WG and that data incorporated in the appropriate database. Recent discussions with OC 42WG indicate that similar submissions would be welcome (all three OCs are on the distribution list for a 'this week in history' brief).

He also reported that unfortunately, we can no longer access the Radar Returns Website in Queensland, initially set up by Pete Smith then taken over by Warren Mann. The website has been closed by Google and is thus no longer available. Fortunately, Jim has a lot of the material in hard copy, but there remains the problem of making digital copies and storing the digital files. The plan was to store the history in the Defence Objective database, but nothing has been heard about progress or otherwise.

GPCAPT Davies advised that once material is entered into the Objective database, it becomes difficult to access as it becomes Defence data. He advised that we need to

establish a separate database, but the questions of how to set it up, where it would be hosted and who would administer it remain.

Tony Rogers commented that NSW Division has set up a database on their website – this might be an option. Narelle Owen thought that perhaps the War Memorial or RAAF Museum might be options. Jim Stewart noted that he had contacts with the Museum, now dated, but the last time he had contact with them they had a lot of Air Defence material, but were unable to address it all. The situation was compounded by the apparent loss of material when the Ted Dellitt Library at EASTROC was closed by a previous OC 41WG. **Ongoing**

**New Action 1/1/22:** Jim Stewart to explore the potential for Radar Branch history storage on the AFA NSW Division Web Site.

- b. **Action 2/3/21:** Ray O'Donoghue to email Branch 'mission' material to WOFF Harper. In addition, Ray O'Donoghue commented that he has some experience with building websites using a tool called 'SimpleSite'. Ray offered to have a look at this as an alternative to the Facebook page.  
Ray had made a start on the SimpleSite page but was not far into it. It was agreed that this would be put in abeyance pending discussions on the future of the Branch to prevent nugatory work. At today's meeting Ray confirmed that nothing further had been done since the October 21 meeting.  
**Open/Pending**
- c. **Action 1/4/21:** WOFF Chad Harper to advise a date for 41WG to take possession of the Branch old and new banners for safekeeping, storage and possible display. GPCAPT Davies stated that he would undertake to talk to OC 41WG on behalf of the Branch on this issue as WOFF Harper has moved on from WOFF 41WG position.  
**Open**
- d. **Action 2/4/21:** John King to coordinate the final stages of the project including: detailed layout of memorial garden from NLPS (including flag poles), procurement of memorial plaque on confirmation of grant funding, and coordination of installation of flag poles, plinth(s) and plaque prior to 80th anniversary of formation of No 2FS at NLPS. **Closed**
- e. **Action 3/4/21:** Ray O'Donoghue to establish internet banking access to the Branch Westpac account. **Closed**

#### **ITEM 5: Correspondence**

Ian Gibson briefly went through the list of correspondence as follows:

- **26 Oct 2021:** Email from WOFF Rob Ceradini, (SQNWOF at 114MCRU) seeking contact details for Ingrid Clark following her ordering a 114MCRU watch. I provided Ingrid's email address.
- **15 Nov 2021:** Email from SQNLDR Daniel Olsen, thanking the Branch for his award of the Stuchbury Award earlier this year. Forwarded to Ray who replied on behalf of the Branch.
- **16 Nov 2021:** Email from Donna Newton Donna Newton of the library of the Royal Australian Historical Society requesting permission to use an image of Alfred George Pither for an article titled *Doovers' in the rainforest: A history of four radar stations at Paluma, Mount Spec, during World War II*, in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*. Forwarded to Ray and then

replied supporting her use, but not providing approval as the Branch doesn't 'own' the copyright.

- 7 Dec 2021: Email from Donna Newton of the library of the Royal Australian Historical Society re a JRAHS Doovers' article about radar station, Paluma. Forwarded to Jim Stewart, GPCAPT Risstrom and WOFF Harper.
- 1 Jan 2022: Email from Mark Clayton re an article he had written about Bowen Radar Station. Forwarded to GPCAPT Risstrom, Jim Stewart, WGCDR Clinton Morris and WOFF Chad Harper.
- 24 Jan 2022: Email from Victorian Radar Branch: advising of a Dedication ceremony for 13RS Cape Otway RAAF Radar interpretive exhibition Saturday, 19 February 2022. The ceremony is scheduled to commence at approximately 1230 pm.
- 10 Feb 2022: Email from GPCAPT (Ret'd) Doug Roser inviting the Branch to provide a speaker for a webinar to be held by Engineers Australia explaining the use of radars by Defence and particularly the RAAF, eg OTHR. The email was forwarded to Ray O'Donoghue and OC 41WG (as the Branch SSM). Tony Rogers noted that Doug Roser is also a past president of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).  
GPCAPT Davies suggested that the Branch contact Air Force Events or request that OC 41WG does so on our behalf, as these type of requests are usually dealt with by the Events section. He provided the following email address:  
*airforce.eventsupport@defence.gov.au*

**New Action 2/1/22**: Ian Gibson to contact Air Force Events (cc OC 41WG) requesting support for the Engineers Australia webinar.

- 14 Feb 2022: Email from a landowner, Mr Frank White, requesting information about a previous owner of his land, a Don Kennedy, who was apparently known to have been in the 39-40 war (sic), and possibly served in New Guinea. Mr White wants to piece together a history of his land and wants any details we have of Don Kennedy – whose name he claims he found on-line as being in the Branch. Jim Stewart has some memory of a Don Kennedy, but from a long time ago. It was questioned how Mr White would have found the name on the internet as being connected to the Branch, as names are not usually publicly available.

## **ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports**

### **Treasurer's Report (Annex A)**

Ray noted that income and outgoings for last year were virtually identical, meaning the Branch ended last year in as sound a position as it began. Membership renewals were trickling in and Ray is hopeful of maintaining the same membership numbers as last year. Tony noted that our website renewal costs have recently been paid, but have yet to be captured in the financial statement.

Tony also handed over to Ray the plaques for the 41WG and 44WG awards for 2021, as well as a replacement engraved plate for last years winner of the Pither trophy; the original having the incorrect abbreviation for Flight Sergeant engraved on it. The 41WG awards were to have been presented late last year, however the presentation was cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

**New Action 3/1/22**: Ray O'Donoghue to approach 41WG and 44WG to determine how to get award plaques to the recipients for 2021 awards.

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

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

**Motion Carried**

Tony Rogers then advised that the Constitution requires two signatures for payments and that now we are conducting on-line banking (including payments), the same requirement exists. This is an issue we must look into.

Ray then moved that he be authorised to conduct any transactions on his own recognisance until the AGM.

**Motion:** That the Ray O'Donoghue be authorised to conduct on-line transactions under his own authority.

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue    **Seconded:** Jim Stewart

**Motion Carried with the proviso that Ray advises another authorised signatory of any expenditures.**

### **President's Report (Annex B)**

Ray commented on the progress of the No 2 FS commemoration works being undertaken by the Branch at New Lambton Public School (NLPS). John King continues to push the project forward and Ray had met with school staff last Tuesday.

Ray then reminded all attending that we will consider a change to subscriptions at the AGM, following the increase in capitation imposed by Division last year.

### **Membership Officer's Report (Annexes C and D)**

Ray sent out renewal notices late last year, followed up by a reminder earlier this week. Although numbers are down 13 members from last year at this point, Ray is optimistic of maintaining our numbers by the end of the renewal period. Ray then noted that our community grants request had been successful, albeit not for the full amount requested. Although the grants were not approved in time for the 80th anniversary of the formation of No2 FS as initially hoped, the school has advised that they hope to 'commission' the commemorative garden at their ANZAC Day service on 27 April. Ian Gibson read out an email from John King (Annex D) giving a precis of the project to date, some of which has been overtaken by events, as described by Ray.

GPCAPT Davies suggested that Air Force might have some funds remaining from the centenary events and we could possibly approach Air Force to 'top up' the funding shortfall from the grants. He suggested this should be done through 41WG and must be done well before midnight on 30 March. GPCAPT Davies looked up the email address, which is: *airforce2021.airforce.gov.au/100*

**New Action 4/1/22:** Ray O'Donoghue to approach OC 41WG requesting support for the NLPS commemorative project in the form of a request to Air Force for top up funding.

John King has also emailed Ian Gibson documents from Veterans Affairs NSW which need to be completed and returned in order for the grant funds to be transferred to the Branch account.

**New Action 5/1/22:** Ian Gibson to complete and return paperwork to Vet Affairs NSW.

### **ITEM 7: General Business**

1. **Meeting dates for 2022:** Ian Gibson advised that the following are the meeting dates determined for this year:

17 February 22	12 August 22
8 April 22 ( <b>AGM</b> )	14 October 22
10 June 22	9 December 22

Ian then reminded members that these dates are proposed and could be changed as circumstances dictate (such as revised COVID restrictions).

2. Update on NLPS Project: This issue has been addressed at Item 6.
3. Discussion of Branch future?: Although it had been decided that a decision on the future of the Branch would not be made until the AGM, a great deal of discussion ensued. Several options were discussed including amalgamating with Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB), or alternatively, seeking to join the 2SQN Association of which it seems many members of 2SQN and 42WG are members, notwithstanding their radar-based 'roots'. This is based on 2SQN being the operational squadron for Air Force's AEW&C capability. In the event that the Branch joined the 2SQN Association, GPCAPT Davies raised the possibility of 'elevating' the RADAR Branch awards to Air Force awards. Amalgamating with FSB has the advantage of preserving Branch funds; whereas joining with the 2SQN Association would mean the funds would be absorbed by Air Force Association NSW.

Tony Rogers commented that he had written a paper discussing the Branch future some time ago and Ian Gibson asked that Tony re-send it to him.

**New Action 6/1/22**: Ian Gibson to approach FSB to evaluate the possibility and process of RADAR amalgamating with FSB.

**New Action 7/1/22**: GPCAPT Davies to discuss the issue of RADAR Branch amalgamating with /joining 2SQN Association.

#### **ITEM 8: Other Business**

Jim Stewart advised that a number of historically significant events will be occurring (or in some cases, recently occurred) over the coming months, in particular to mark the 80th anniversary of the events. These events will doubtless be recorded in the next Branch Bulletin.

#### **ITEM 9: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **8th April 2022**. The venue will be Stockton RSL Club, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW. Note that this will be the AGM.

#### **ITEM 10: Meeting Closure**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1303.

**R O'Donoghue**  
President (Chair)  
Date:

**I Gibson**  
Secretary  
Date:

#### **Annexes:**

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. President's Report
- C. Membership Officer's Report: 4–10 December 2021
- D. Membership Officer's Report: 5–17 January 2022

The Radar Branch  
RAAF Association ( NSW Division ) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 31/01/2022.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2022	1292.27
Subscriptions	30.00
Donations	0.00
	<hr/> 1322.27

PAYMENTS

Website Fee	0.00
Welfare Vale Tributes	0.00
RAAF Awards: Plaques	0.00
Capitation NSW Division	0.00
	<hr/> 0.00

Balance as per Bank 1322.27

SUMMARY

Balance	1322.27
Allowance For PIA Capitation	125.00
	<hr/> 1197.27
Petty Cash	100.00
Cash Reserve (Incl Interest)	4282.48
Total Funds Available	<hr/> 5579.75

Notes: 1) Since end Jan, a further 1 x Member and 3 x Multiple Member subscriptions have been received. These will be recorded in the Financial Report for the April Meeting.

3) Note that the Subscription value in statement above is for 2022 FY year receipts.

Ray O'Donoghue,  
A/Treasurer.

**Air Force Association (NSW Division)**

**RADAR Branch**

**President's Report – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Once more, we had to cancel a meeting (Dec 21) along with our planned social activity with 41WG. COVID played its part in those cancellations, but also our lack of numbers. I was overseas on a planned visit, but enough other committee members were unable to attend for a variety of reasons, meaning a quorum could not be reached. This underlines our urgent need to recruit more members.

Fortunately, our positive impact on our community continues. The NLPS Commemorative Garden project, which John has managed extremely well over the last 12 months or so, finally achieved grant approval at the beginning of February. John has provided an update, by email to Ian, regarding the process from here. In the meantime, I have had a meeting with the Principal and senior staff at NLPS and they have decided to hold their ANZAC Day event on 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is the first day back at school for Term 2. They are planning on incorporating the commissioning of the Commemorative Garden into that event. I will be attending (via Zoom) a meeting of the school's P&C committee on the evening of 21 Feb, so would appreciate any questions you may have that could be aired at that meeting

As noted in my last report, the NSW Division almost doubled our capitation obligation from \$13 to \$25. This was prompted largely by National, but also includes an increase for Division. As previously noted, the Executives determined that our subscription for 2022 would not increase, but the matter should be considered at our next AGM. Please consider this matter over the next few weeks and bring your thoughts to the table in April.

The Renewal programme has been proceeding fairly well. For more information, please refer to the Membership Officer's report.

I would like to thank our Committee for their continued dedication and support during a difficult couple of years – and especially over the last four months.

Ray O'Donoghue  
President  
RADAR Branch

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT**

**2021-22 Meeting 4 - 10 December 2021**

- GENERAL NOTES.** Renewal notices were sent out to all financial, non-financial, past, and multiple members between 29 October and the first week of November. The response has been encouraging with 13 new or renewed memberships having been received at the date of writing (3Dec), including one Service Member who has decided to become a financial Ordinary Serving member. Reminders will be sent out in the next week or so, and again early in the New Year

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** Changes since the last report:

<b>NEW/REJOIN</b>	<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>MULTIPLE</b>	<b>RESIGNED</b>	<b>DECEASED</b>
2	11	0	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY20 compared to CY21 are:

<b>FULL FINANCIAL</b>	<b>MULTIPLE</b>	<b>FULLY SUBSCRIBED</b>	<b>TOTAL ACTIVE</b>
TBA	TBA	0	TBA

<b>NON-CURRENT<sup>1</sup> <sub>2</sub></b>	<b>NON-FINANCIAL</b> (Incl ? OS to SM; and ? Non-Fin OS) <sup>3</sup>	<b>LOST CONTACT</b>	<b>TOTAL NON-ACTIVE</b>	<b>VALE THIS CY</b>
TBA	TBA	6	TBA	

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.**

- VALE.** None known.
- REJOINED/NEW.** See above.
- RENEWALS.** See above.

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT**

- MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 30 Nov 21.
- MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership, including renewals.

**C-2**

- 8. SUBSCRIPTIONS.** As discussed at the last meeting, subs will not increase until they have been appropriately considered and a proposal discussed at our next AGM. Subscriptions will therefore remain at \$30 for Ordinary Members and \$10 for Multiple Members, for 2022.
- 9. RENEWALS.** The renewal programme has commenced and the early response has been encouraging.

**AWARDS**

- 10. NLPS BOOKS.** Books for next year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been purchased.
- 11. 41 & 44 WING AWARDS.** Plaques and books have been purchased for this year's awards. However, due to the COVID situation, it is not yet known when the awards will be presented.

**PROJECT**

- 12. NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** We have recently been advised by DVA Community Grants that a decision on our application will not be made until February 2022. Consequently, the project cannot be completed in time for the 80th Anniversary. The management at NLPS has been advised and are considering whether to hold an event in Feb, anyway, or make it a combined effort on ANZAC Day. This, of course, is also dependent upon a successful outcome for our grant application.
- 13.** In the meantime, I am preparing a sketch for the proposed garden to submit to the school.

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.

**MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT**

**2021-22 Meeting 5 - 17 January 2022**

1. **GENERAL NOTES.** Renewal notices were sent out to all financial, non-financial, past, and multiple members between 29 October and the first week of November. Due to multiple family illnesses, reminders were delayed until 13 Feb 22. The reminder prompted a small flurry of renewals in the last few days, including three Multiple Members. Another member inadvertently renewed for a second time. That member will, of course, be reimbursed and the second payment is not counted in the numbers below.
2. We are down 13 members compared to last year, however we have also gained one new member and one previous member who has rejoined. Given our history of late renewals, I feel we may be close to last year's membership numbers by the end of the renewal period.

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS.** Changes since the last report:

<b>NEW/REJOIN</b>	<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>MULTIPLE</b>	<b>RESIGNED</b>	<b>DECEASED</b>
0	2	3	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY21 compared to CY22 are:

<b>FULL FINANCIAL</b>	<b>MULTIPLE</b>	<b>FULLY SUBSCRIBED</b>	<b>TOTAL ACTIVE</b>
28/15	5/5	0	47/48

<b>NON-CURRENT<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>NON-FINANCIAL (Incl ? OS to SM; and ? Non-Fin OS)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>LOST CONTACT</b>	<b>TOTAL NON-ACTIVE</b>	<b>VALE THIS CY</b>
37/36	14/27	6	43/42	0

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.**

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

**MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT**

6. **MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 15 Feb 22.

**D-2**

7. **MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership, including renewals.
8. **SUBSCRIPTIONS.** As discussed at the last meeting, subs will not increase until they have been appropriately considered and a proposal discussed at our next AGM. Subscriptions will therefore remain at \$30 for Ordinary Members and \$10 for Multiple Members, for 2022.
9. **RENEWALS.** The renewal programme is ongoing and response has been encouraging.

**AWARDS**

10. **NLPS BOOKS.** Books for next year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been purchased.
11. **41 & 44 WING AWARDS.** Plaques and books have been purchased for this year's awards. However, due to the COVID situation, it is not yet known when the awards will be presented.

**PROJECT**

12. **NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** We have recently been advised by DVA Community Grants that our application was successful. The management at NLPS has been advised and I had a meeting with the school on Tuesday. The school has made a decision to hold the garden commissioning event at their ANZAC Day event on 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is the first day back for students for Term 2. John King has more details on the grant.
13. I have prepared a sketch for the proposed garden, which I submitted to the school on Tuesday. They will determine the final design in consultation with John King and the P&C committee.

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.
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