



Air Force Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes for the RADAR Branch Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW on Friday 17th June 2022

Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President, Membership Off and A/Treasurer	Chair
John King	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Committee Member	
Diane Taylor	Committee Member	
GPCAPT Peter Davies	COS HQ Air Combat Group (ACG)	
GPCAPT Brett Risstrom	OC 41WG, Senior Serving Member	
WOFF Paul Argus	WOFF 41WG	

Apologies

Ian Gibson	Secretary
Narelle Owen	Committee Member
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian/Editor The Bulletin

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and one minute silence

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1109, welcomed all present and called for one minute's silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: The names of those attending and apologies received are recorded above.

ITEM 3: Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chair noted that the minutes of the previous meeting were for the AGM and that a separate Branch Meeting was not held in April. Those minutes, being for the AGM, will be signed off at the next AGM; however, actions arising can still be addressed at this meeting.

ITEM 4: Business arising from the minutes of the previous 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).

The plan was to store the history in the Defence Objective database, but nothing has been heard about progress or otherwise.

New Action 1/1/22 is related to this action

Discussion ensued during which it was confirmed that Jim is continuing to store Branch and Unit History on the Defence Objective database, and is investigating options to make the history available to members. It was suggested that we connect with FSB for guidance on how they achieve this goal. **Open**

New Action 1/2/22 The President will contact Jim to ask him to prepare a report for next meeting.

- 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.

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

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.

Action remains on hold. GPCAPTs Risstrom and Davies advised that the 41WG POC should be the 41WG WOFF - i.e., action of the position, not incumbent. Meeting concurred. **Open/Pending**

A/Secretary's Note: In light of the discussion on the future of the Branch, at Item 7(b), below, this AI (and AI 1/1/22) should be place on hold until the proposal to merge with FSB has been resolved. Spike has looked at the FSB website and believes it has a viable solution - <https://fsb.raafansw.org.au/>

- 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.

The banners were handed over at the last meeting. OC 41WG and WOFF Angus advised display options will be developed by EOY after relocation to Len Waters Building (LWB) by 41WG. **Closed**

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

A/Secretary's Note: In light of the discussion on the future of the Branch, at Item 7(b), below, this AI (and AI 2/3/21) should be place on hold until the proposal to merge with FSB has been resolved. Spike has looked at the FSB website and believes it has a viable solution - <https://fsb.raafansw.org.au/>

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

As per email from Ian, he has facilitated this request. OC41WG advised Doug Roser will liaise with 41 WG for further action. **Closed**

- f. **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.

Not achieved in the last period. Ray to action this month. **Open**

- g. **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. **Closed**

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

As per email from Ian, this has been actioned. **Closed**

- i. **Action AGM 21/5:** Ian Gibson to contact Peter Ring at NSW Division to confirm if a new badge has been adopted. If this is the case, Ian will request funding assistance from Division for production of a new mould for future award plaques.

As per email from Ian, this has been actioned. **Closed**

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

The emails between Ian and Ron Glew were discussed. The meeting decided that the current stock of plaques were to be used, not disposed of, even if they had an older version of the badge mounted. The current badges (held by Ray) are to be checked for compliance. Diane believes they should be correct.

New Action 1/6/22: Ray to check current plaques; Tony to assist.

A/Secretary's Note: Action completed. Ray and Tony compared current badges with AFA badges and found they were identical. John confirmed this view by email.

ITEM 5: Correspondence

- 3 May 2022: Email from Ron Haack, President FSB, inviting Ray and Ian to FSB meeting on 9 May. Neither Ray nor I was able to attend.

A/Secretary's Note: Ray wrote to Ron Haack to determine the date of the next FSB meeting, Ron replied that it will be on 4th July and that we are welcome to attend. Ray cannot attend that day but the invitation remains open for John and/or Ian to attend.

- 24 May 2022: Email from SQLDR Phillip Laverty, XO 3CRU, inviting Branch members to order a special edition watch being made to celebrate the 55th anniversary of 3CRU. Email forwarded to all Branch members.

- 13 Jun 2022: Email exchange between Ian Gibson and Ron Glew (NSW Division President) re new AFA Badge and funding for production of new mould for badge on plaques.

A/Secretary's Note: Relates to action Items AGM 21/5 and New Action 1/6/22, above.

ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's Report (Annex A)

Tony queried the \$100 allowance for late capitation. Ray advised that was a carryover from the last report. A review conducted after the report had been sent out showed that to have been an error - all capitation has been paid and an amended report will be attached to the minutes.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted, as amended.

Moved: Ray O'Donoghue **Seconded:** Peter Davies

Carried

President's Report (Annex B)

The President's Report highlighted the representation of the Branch at the Dawn Service, be regrettably overlooked the fact that, while not able to participate in the march, Tony and Yvonne Rogers, represented the Branch at the Newcastle Service in Civic Park. The report has been amended accordingly.

Other matters addressed included the ANZAC Day service and at New Lambton Public School, at which the 80th Anniversary Plaque was presented, and progress regarding the proposed merger with Fighter Squadron Branch.

Membership Report (Annex C)

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

The membership report noted that the recent renewal period was successful in maintaining our membership level, Unfortunately, no new members were forthcoming. The Senior Serving Member (SSM) confirmed his membership payment had not gone through and requested that a new form be sent out, which he would action upon receipt.

New Action 2/6/22: Ray to send renewal form to SSM

A/Secretary's Note: Action completed and renewal received.

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

ITEM 7: General Business

a. Update on NLPS Project (John King)

John advised the meeting that the school was not happy with the supplied stone and wanted a taller one to improve visibility from the street. The point was made that the plaque, and therefore the font size, would not be replaced or made bigger, hence the visibility issue was a bit confusing.

A quote for a replacement stone has been obtained but John advised that any grant application to obtain same would very likely not be approved before the end of the year.

Discussion also concluded that the Branch had met its obligation regarding the provision of a stone and that any replacement should be the responsibility of the school, not the Branch. The readability of the plaque from the street is dependant upon the design of the garden and placement of the stone, which the school has committed to undertake. Consideration should be given to showing the school how the stone should be set. Ray will contact the school to discuss options.

New Action 3/6/22: Ray to contact NLPS with a view to having a meeting to discuss options.
A/Secretary's Note: Ray wrote to the school before the school holidays and prior to his departure OS. No response was received. He will write again, offering to meet after his return to Australia. Open.

Discussion followed on the acquittal of the grants. Ray confirmed that the DVA grant had been fully acquitted. John advised that he is still waiting on an "Account Paid" receipt to be able to acquit the NSW Dept of Justice (DoJ) grant.

New Action 4/6/22: John to pursue the "Account Paid" receipt, finalise acquittal paperwork for the NSW DoJ grant and provide the info to the Treasurer for payment.
A/Secretary's Note: John has been able to acquire the receipt. Now waiting on acquittal details, which he will provide to the Treasurer for repayment.

b. Discussion of Branch future

As advised in the President's report, the letter to members regarding the possible merger with FSB has not yet been progressed, due to health and family reasons. Ray said that he and Ian would work to have a draft prepared for approval at the next meeting. The consensus of the meeting was that the broad content of the letter had been agreed at the AGM and that the President and Secretary were authorised to develop the letter and issue to members without Committee review.

Discussion also centred on future attendance at FSB meetings by RADAR Branch ahead of any formal merger. Options to be pursued.

New Action 5/6/22: President and Secretary to develop a letter to members regarding the proposal to merge with FSB, and to issue the letter within the next month to facilitate responses from members before the August meeting.

A/Secretary's Note: Action completed. Secretary released letter on 4th August.

New Action 6/6/22: The President is to contact FSB regarding an invitation to the next meeting.

A/Secretary's Note: Action completed. The next FSB meeting is 4th July. The President cannot attend and the Vice President and Secretary have been asked if they can attend.

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

ITEM 8: Other Business

- a. OC 41WG provided the following information:
 - i. 41WG is expected to relocate to the Len Waters Building by the end of the year.
 - ii. 3CRU and SACTU will remain in EASTROC
 - iii. The 41WG Squadron Standard has been applied for.
 - iv. 2022 Ullet and Pither awards are expected to be determined by early September
 - v. The 2020 Ullet Award is to be presented to CPL Byrne while OC 41WG is in the USA next month.
- b. In his email tendering his apologies for this meeting, Jim Stewart questioned whether the Branch could afford to continue supporting the three awards. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of support for the Branch from 44WG and whether we should continue supporting the G.E.S. Stuchbury Award. Brett said he would liaise with OC 44WG regarding the possibility of ending the Branch's involvement in that award.

New Action 7/6/22: Brett, as SSM, is to liaise with OC 44WG re the future involvement of the RADAR Branch in the G.E.S. Stuchbury Award.

ITEM 9: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 1100 on Friday 12 August, at the Stockton RSL
The President advised the meeting that he would not be able to attend as he will be in the UK.
OC 41WG also advised the meeting that he would not be attending as he will be in Darwin, on duty.

ITEM 10: Meeting Closure

The meeting closed at 1209.

Air Force Association (NSW Division)

RADAR Branch

President's Report – 17th June 2022

The President and Secretary represented the Branch at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Nobby's Beach. It was very gratifying to be able to resume our participation. Unfortunately, other commitments by various members of the Committee meant that the Branch was not present at the main march. However, Tony Rogers, accompanied by his wife, Yvonne, was able to attend the Service in Newcastle. In addition, several members attended other services in the region.

The Branch, along with 41 Wing and 3CRU representation, attended the New Lambton Public School's ANZAC Day service on 27th April, at which the plaque commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of 102 FS was presented to the school. The relocated flagpole was used for the first time. The school will undertake design and development of the commemorative garden over the next two terms, and is planning to commission the garden on Remembrance Day in November.

Discussions are progressing, albeit slowly, on the proposal to merge with Fighter Squadrons Branch. A letter will be sent out to members in the next few weeks to determine the level of support for the proposal.

Due to ill health and ongoing family issues for both the President and Secretary, Executive level activity has been limited since the last meeting. However, our indefatigable Vice President has been refining the progress of our NLPS project and will, no doubt, provide us with an update at the meeting.

Ray O'Donoghue
President
RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

Annex B to Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting Dated 17 June 2022

The Radar Branch RAAF Association (NSW Division) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To - 31/05/2022.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2022	2991.27
Subscriptions	10.00
Grants	0.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	3101.27

PAYMENTS

NLPS Project expenses - Flagpoles Pty Ltd - Flagpole	1116.50
Welfare Vale Tributes	0.00
RAAF Awards: Plaques	0.00
Ray O'Donoghue – ANZC wreath refund	111.85
DVA Grant Refund	905.25
<u>Capitation NSW Division</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	2133.60

Balance as per Bank 967.67

SUMMARY

Balance	967.67
Allowance for Grants refunds (up to)	111.75
Allowance for late capitation	0.00
<u>Allowance For PIA Capitation</u>	<u>110.00</u>
	746.92
Petty Cash	100.00
<u>Cash Reserve (Incl Interest)</u>	<u>4282.63</u>
Total Funds Available	5129.55

Notes:

- 1) A residual allowance of up to \$111.75 has been made for repayment of unused Grant Funds. Exact amount required TBD in consultation with VP.
- 2) Thanks to another Multiple Member renewal and donation, the Branch finances have improved slightly.

Ray O'Donoghue,
A/Treasurer.

**Annex C to
Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting
Dated 17 June 2022**

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

2022-23 Meeting 1 - 17 June 2022

- GENERAL NOTES.** The renewal campaign for 2022 has achieved satisfactory results, in that membership numbers are stable. However, we are not attracting newly separated or serving members in sufficient numbers to ensure the long-term viability of the Branch. Discussions on the possibility of merging with Fighter Squadrons Branch (FSB) are ongoing.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS. Changes since the last report:

NEW/REJOIN	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
0	0	1	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY21 compared to CY22 are:

FULL FINANCIAL (Incl 2 x OS, 1 x Life)	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 2 OS to SM; and 2 Non-Fin OS) ³	TOTAL ACTIVE
28/25	5/6	0	14/15	47/46

NON-CURRENT ¹ ²	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
35/37	6	41/43	0

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.

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

MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

- MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 16 Jun 22.
- MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership, including renewals.

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting - 17 June 2022

7. **SUBSCRIPTIONS.** Following discussions at the AGM, a decision on subscriptions will not be made until the proposal to join FSB has been resolved.

AWARDS

8. **NLPS BOOKS.** Books for this year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been presented.
9. **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

10. **NLPS COMMEMORATIVE GARDEN.** The flagpoles, plaque and stone incline have been purchased and delivered. John King can elaborate on the progress. The school marked the 80th Anniversary of the establishment of 102 FS at their ANZAC Day event on 27th April. The garden is expected to be commissioned on Remembrance Day.

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.