



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, 17 November 2017

Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President & Membership Officer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
John King	Committee member	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee member	
Howard Campbell	Committee member	
Narelle Owen	Committee member	

Apologies

Tony Rogers	Treasurer
Diane Taylor	Events Officer
Bob Treloar	Patron
Dave Bowden	Patron
William Forsbey	Advocacy Officer
Gail Snell	
Terry Withers	Asst Membership Officer
FSGT GJ Darrigo	RAAF Liaison

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, 29 September 2017 had been distributed via email with the meeting agenda. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 29 September 2017 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson **Seconded:** Bruce Carpenter

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 29 September 2017 meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 29 September 2017 meeting:

- a. Service Members (carried over as Action 2 from 15 Dec 16 meeting).
Amended Action 2: Ray O'Donoghue to investigate and contact NSW Division with a suggested amendment to the web site or the constitution to ensure consistency. **Closed**
Although this item was closed, Ray stated that he intended to contact Division (Dick Wills) regarding non-current and non-financial members.

New Action 1/6/17: Ray O'Donoghue to clarify non-current and non-financial member status.

- 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. **Ongoing.**

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- 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. **Ongoing.**
- d. **Action 3/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to procure photographs of the RADAR Branch award presentations and provide to Ian Gibson. **Closed.** This action has been overtaken by events; the submission of the photographs now would serve no purpose.
- e. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey. **Ongoing.**
- f. **Action 5/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to approach OC 41WG about serving personnel being released to attend lunches with RADAR Branch. **Ongoing.**
- g. **Action 1/4/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to revise the Branch application form to align with extant processing requirements at Branch level. **Closed.**

ITEM 4: Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received by Ian Gibson and he gave a brief precis of the import of each.

- 3CRU 50th Anniversary invitation
- 3CRU 50th Anniversary memorabilia email
- Women's Veteran's Network Australia letter to Legacy
- Email from SQNLDR Michael Evans re 44WG Stuchbury Award books MIA
- Email from LEUT (RAN) Bobby McFerran (formerly RAAF WOFF) re Branch Facebook presence

Ray O'Donoghue commented that he thought CPL Drew Raisbeck had (in the past) had some involvement in the establishment of the Branch Facebook presence.

New Action 2/6/17: FSGT GJ Darrigo to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities.

ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's report: Although absent from the meeting, Tony Rogers had distributed the Treasurer's report via email to committee members. The only issue arising from the report was a question that arose over the cash reserve.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson **Seconded:** Narelle Owen

Motion Carried

New Action 3/6/17: Tony Rogers to brief the next meeting on the cash reserve.

While discussing finances, Howie Campbell suggested that the Branch should reinstate the ANZAC Day raffle as a means of raising funds. This suggestion met with general agreement.

New Action 4/6/17: Diane Taylor (Events Officer) to investigate viability of and organise an ANZAC Day raffle (permissions, prizes, donors etc) for ANZAC Day 2018.

Membership Officer's report: Ray O'Donoghue clarified the difference between serving members and service members following a question from Narelle Owen. Ray distributed his report and noted the inclusion of new members Brett Nottage and if ratified in General Business, John Thyrd. Ray continued with a brief summary of the report. Narelle Owen asked Ray about item

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15 of his report (late delivery of book prizes); Ray replied that the issue was listed for discussion in Other Business and would be dealt with then.

Howie Campbell asked if he could present an 'unofficial' welfare report (Howie stood down from the Welfare Officer role late in 2016). Howie had been in contact with Dick Hewson's daughter; Dick is suffering from dementia, but is assisting his daughter to compile and catalogue photographs etc from his time serving. Howie noted that Dick made a significant contribution to Air Defence, and was the inventor of 'gizmos' (more properly AMPIs or Air Mass Position Indicators) which were used by generations of fighter controllers until quite recently, when computer displays fitted with movable cursors and line drawing functions rendered their use obsolete.

Howie also noted that ex-CPL Ray Green has suffered 'a few' heart attacks but remains in good spirits living in Darwin and is still his 'sarcastic, mongrel self'. Howie also mentioned ex-SGT Jenny Martino; she's not well, her husband has MS and her daughter has a brain tumor. Jenny is now living in WA following a long career with ASIO, which she joined on leaving the RAAF. Howie then stated that he had addressed No 30 Air Surveillance Operator (ASOP) Course at Surveillance and Control Training Unit (SACTU) on Wednesday, 8th November and handed out membership applications to all the graduating students. Howie noted that this is the sixth or seventh course he has addressed and was advised by Leigh Thornton (the OIC of the course), that his talks are having an impact.

ITEM 6: General Business

- Membership Renewals: Ray O'Donoghue has sent out renewal forms, but is yet to send them out to non-active members. The new application and renewal forms should be put on the web site in due course. Ray noted that he had received ten responses so far, including one from SQNLDR Dean Paterson who had responded from the United Arab Emirates (where he has been posted). Patto is due to return from the UAE at the end of the year and is reportedly keen to get involved in the Branch.
- Ratification of new member, Mr John Thyrd: Ray gave a precis of John's application, indicating that although John was not a former serviceman, he had accrued 42 years service with the Department of Civil Aviation as a technician working on RADAR and communications systems. In addition, he has been a private pilot for 45 years and has rebuilt a Tiger Moth aircraft.

Motion: That John Thyrd be accepted as a member of the RADAR Branch

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

The motion was carried.

ITEM 7: Other Business

- Earlier purchase of the books for award winners (Ray O'Donoghue): Ray described how he had delivered the prize winners books earlier this year. Some of the books had arrived too late for the formal presentations, due to late delivery from Booktopia. Consequently, Ray asked that the meeting agree to Ray ordering and purchasing the books for next years awards immediately. There are three different titles to the value of originally, \$200.00 per award winner, however now the books can be purchased for approximately \$140.00.

Motion: That Ray O'Donoghue purchase prize books immediately for next year.

Moved: Narelle Owen; **Seconded:** Bruce Niblett

The motion was carried.

- Feedback from 3CRU 50th Anniversary celebrations (Bruce Niblett): Bruce remarked that the family day activities were good...although he only got one sausage for lunch!! He noted that he saw Rick Hackworthy from Canberra and also Col Peat. Bruce thought he was the only Branch member to attend the evening function, but it was a good night. During his address, there were some rowdy people at the bar behind him which annoyed AIRCDRE

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Craig Heap (CDRSRG) who spoke after Bruce, and was followed by WGCDR Jason 'Bart' Burstow (CO 3CRU) . The finger food served at the night function was really good, and it kept coming! During his address, Bruce talked about how we operated during the 70s and 80s, with the introduction of computer systems and HQAC Det E (later to become the Software Development Unit) and the consequent drain on controller resources as controllers were 'taken' to become software programmers. He also related how during this period the first female controllers were trained, noting that Andrea Masopust (later Tardent) was the first female controller.

- Branch Facebook page: Ian Gibson talked about the action he had taken following receipt of the email from LEUT (RAN) Bobby McFerran (formerly RAAF WOFF) re Branch Facebook presence, noted earlier in Correspondence. Bobby was hoping to relinquish responsibility for the Facebook page or to close it down if it wasn't wanted or needed. Ian had replied, advising Bobby that 41WG's FSGT GJ Darrigo was interested in establishing a Facebook presence for the Branch and the two should coordinate their efforts. GJ was copied in on this reply email.
- 77 Squadron Association Lunch: Bruce Niblett advised that the 77SQN Association was planning an end of year lunch at the Sydney Junction Hotel in Hamilton for the 15th of December and there was an open invitation to Branch members. Bruce is already an associate member and if anyone was interested in attending, to let him know and he will then advise 77SQN Association.

Howie then talked about an email he had received from Ron Glew (RAAFA NSW) about a WWII radar veteran whose family had been in touch about a plaque on the coffin for his funeral. This is not normally done and Howie couldn't recall the veteran's name.

Bruce Niblett then commented that he was quite disappointed with the apparent split between the AEW&C trained personnel and the ground radar folks; his point is that all the AEW&C personnel have been trained on the ground systems initially, but once qualified as aircrew on AEW&C, prefer to associate themselves with flying squadrons. It seems there is little that can be done about it, notwithstanding that many of these AEW&C personnel are posted back to ground radar units as they progress through the ranks.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

The next meeting was set down for Friday, 19th January 2018, commencing at 1100.

ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1225.

I Gibson
Secretary
Date:

B Niblett
President (Chair)
Date: