



## 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, 19 January 2018

### Members Present

Bruce Niblett	President	Chair
Ray O'Donoghue	Vice President & Membership Officer	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
John King	Committee member	
Howard Campbell	Committee member	
Narelle Owen	Committee member	
David Winkleman	Member	

### Apologies

Diane Taylor	Events Officer
Bob Treloar	Patron
William Forsbey	Advocacy Officer
GPCAPT Lyle Holt	OC 41WG/Senior Serving Member
SQNLDR D Paterson	Member
Terry Withers	Asst Membership Officer

### 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, 17 November 2017 had been distributed via email with the meeting agenda. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

**Motion: That the minutes from the 17 November 2017 meeting be accepted.**

**Moved:** Bruce Niblett      **Seconded:** Ian Gibson

**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.  
**In progress**
- 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.**  
Ray talked about the numbers of WWII members, saying there are two in Canberra and two in Sydney, and he will call them this coming week to see if they can attend ANZAC Day with us as guests of honour. He also stated that he has had no contact with John McCauley.
- 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.**

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Ray advised that he has tried unsuccessfully to contact FSGT G J Darrigo in order to collect the banner, without success. Ian Gibson noted that GJ is currently undergoing deployment training and will soon deploy overseas; consequently he will be unable to provide assistance into the foreseeable future. Bruce Niblett commented that we need an alternate contact at EASTROC as it seems that GJ has become too busy to provide assistance. Ian Gibson noted that WOFF Scotty Doring was currently in Adelaide, but he might be able to resume the role of RAAF Liaison officer.

**New Action 1/1/18:** Ian Gibson to contact WOFF Doring to determine a replacement RAAF Liaison officer whilst FSGT Darrigo is deployed.

- d. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey. **Ongoing - nothing heard from GJ.**
- e. **Action 5/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to approach OC 41WG about serving personnel being released to attend lunches with RADAR Branch. **Ongoing - nothing heard from GJ.**
- f. **Action 2/6/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to contact LEUT McFerran and clarify status of Facebook page and determine future responsibilities. **Ongoing - nothing heard from GJ.**
- g. **Action 3/6/17:** Tony Rogers to brief the next meeting on the cash reserve. **Closed.** Tony briefed that the cash reserve had been established years ago in an effort to raise additional funds through higher interest accounts; however in the ongoing low interest rate environment, it has little effect. He noted that in the past some funds were taken from the cash reserve to cover expenses, and then repaid into the reserve; however there has been no need for such action in recent years.
- h. **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. **Ongoing.** Diane has requested a budget for prizes for the raffle, but is otherwise happy to progress this action.  
Howie noted that in the past, prizes were donated by committee members. Narelle also stated that we would need permission from the club (the venue for the ANZAC Day lunch) to hold a raffle. John King asked if we have a charitable number (needed to conduct raffles) and Tony Rogers replied that we are covered by the NSW Division number.  
**Secretary's note:** Perhaps it's worth attempting to sell tickets in such a raffle at EASTROC prior to ANZAC Day?

### ITEM 4: Correspondence

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

- ANAO Audit entitled: 'Efficiency of veterans service delivery by the Department of Veterans' Affairs'. John King described the audit and the type of responses expected. Howie commented that he had seen many DVA surveys in the past. Ian Gibson noted that this was an Australian National Audit Office audit and thus was a bit 'weightier' than a DVA survey. John agreed.
- Current ABN and earlier ABN established by Neville Adcock. Ian Gibson had received an email from Bill Forsbey detailing the current ABN which he had established in 2013, but Bill wasn't aware of the earlier one set up by Mr Adcock. Ray O'Donoghue advised that he had spoken to Neville Adcock's daughter regarding the old ABN that Neville had set up, and she was quite happy to terminate that ABN on our behalf. Ian Gibson asked if Ray had confirmation that she had done so; Ray didn't have any confirmation.

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**New Action 2/1/18:** Ray O'Donoghue to contact Neville Adcock's daughter and request confirmation that old ABN has been terminated.

- Possible move of 114MCRU to RAAF Amberley: Ian Gibson advised he had forwarded Howie's email request to OC 41WG for comment. The OC's reply was a short, sharp "not correct"!

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

#### Treasurer's report

Tony explained that this report was only a preliminary report prior to the full-year report in March. This report does however, show the status as at the end of the RAAFA financial year, which runs from January to December. Subscription payments received so far are approximately 75% of the anticipated amount. Tony commented that our patron, AVM (ret'd) Bob Treloar also donated \$90.00 as he has done for many years. Also, as a life member, Tony is not required to pay subscriptions, however he has contributed the subscription amount as a donation. Ray O'Donoghue, who was owed an amount expended for postage costs, has donated that amount rather than having it paid to him. Tony also noted that there is a great advantage (financially) in Ray buying books for Branch award winners in lieu of cash prizes, as this has saved us money. In summary, our financial position is very healthy at this time.

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

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

**Motion Carried**

#### Membership Officer's Report

Ray stated that he had received 17 ordinary member renewals, seven multiple member renewals, and there has been one resignation from the Branch. After some discussion of renewals received this morning, the active members total 44 and non-active total 52. Ray also commented that he continues to chase former members to encourage them to renew their membership.

On the subject of ANZAC Day awards, Ray has purchased the book prizes, although the prices at Booktopia had gone up significantly, consequently he had purchased the books at Dymocks at a saving of around ten dollars per book with the added advantage of not having to pay postage. One title was substantially cheaper at Booktopia than elsewhere, and these are on order and should arrive well before the ANZAC Day award presentations. Ray then reported that he is yet to get the books for the New Lambton Public School presentation, but he intends to source books for that prior to the next meeting. Ray also noted that he will be away in April and will need to hand off the books to someone else prior to the AGM.

Howie then noted that in terms of membership, he is scheduled to give another talk at Williamstown to SACTU ASOP course in March. He intends to be a bit 'heavier' in regard to joining the Branch, emphasising that serving members can join at no cost.

### **ITEM 6: General Business**

- Future of Radar Branch Bulletin: Terry Delahunty has emailed Ian Gibson advising that the February Bulletin will be the last that he will produce. His mailing list is down to only 10 and he is retiring from the PAF in March this year; he intends to remain a member of the Branch, but will resign as editor of the Bulletin. Tony Rogers commented that he has spoken to Terry and he had indicated last year that he wanted to hand off the Bulletin; there was some interest shown by Jim Stewart, but nothing has been heard from Jim since early last year following significant health issues. Although the Division newsletter (*SITREP*) provides some information, once the Bulletin ends, there

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will be no method of giving notice to RADAR Branch members of upcoming events. Tony then asked Bruce Niblett if he had heard from Jim Stewart, but he also hadn't had any contact for a long time. Bruce thinks that Jim would be the ideal choice to take on the Bulletin as he has a demonstrated interest in Branch history. Howie offered to assist Jim if he takes it on.

Tony said that Jim had produced a brief history of 1CRU and he might still have a copy of the draft on his computer. John King then handed Ian Gibson a copy of Jim's 1CRU paper. Tony said he thinks the one he has on computer might be more recent than John's hard copy and he will email to committee members, although it might not be the absolute final version. Ian said he thought that he had a hard copy of a brief history that Jim had done on 2CRU.

**New Action 3/1/18:** Tony Rogers to email Jim Stewart's 1CRU history to committee members.

**New Action 4/1/18:** Ian Gibson to distribute Jim Stewart's 2CRU paper to committee members.

**New 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. Bruce will also ask if Jim is willing to adopt the role of editor (ably assisted by Howie) of the Bulletin.

- **Current ABN procedure, requirement to update Radar Branch Executive post any AGM changes:** Tony Rogers stated that as a result of the earlier ABN (established by Neville Adcock) coming to light, he had recalled that Bill Forsbey had established one to purchase software. Tony then said that the Australian Business Register requires ABN records to be kept current in terms of office bearers of the Branch; he believes that new details should be updated with the Register within two weeks of the AGM, and we should have a procedure to do so. Tony believes that our only obligation if we want to keep the ABN is to keep the Business Register current.

**New 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.

- **Addition of a further signatory to Radar Branch Bank Accounts:** Tony Rogers advised that he, Ray O'Donoghue and Bill Forsbey are the current signatories on the Branch accounts. With Ray often travelling and Bill being very busy with advocacy work, Tony believes he needs someone else as a co-signatory and noted that he had spoken informally to Ian Gibson following the last meeting. Bruce Niblett asked Ian if he was happy to become a signatory and Ian agreed.

**Motion:** That Ian Gibson become an additional signatory to the Branch bank accounts.

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

**Motion Carried**

Following the motion being carried, Tony then had Ian sign the relevant paperwork for submission to the bank.

- **Radar Branch Website updates:** Tony Rogers commented that Bill Forsbey has done an excellent job of looking after the web site for many years, but when he recently checked the site, he found some of the material outdated and thought this was likely due to the volume of advocacy work Bill is doing. One of the issues was the membership application

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form being an old version; Ray O'Donoghue commented that he had sent the revised form to Bill. Ian Gibson commented that he didn't send the latest meeting minutes to Bill until they had been accepted and signed at the subsequent meeting. He could change this to send draft minutes, enabling the web site to better reflect current topics.

**New Action 7/1/18:** Tony Rogers to discuss web site updates with Bill Forsbey.

### **ITEM 7: Other Business**

- There was a brief discussion of commemorative wreaths: Ray O'Donoghue said he would make a faux wreath by the next meeting; this wreath for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. In addition there were three other wreaths required during the year, which are: one for the Air Force birthday, one for main service on ANZAC Day and one for the Battle of Britain commemoration.

**New Action 8/1/18:** Ray O'Donoghue to make a faux wreath and deliver to next meeting.

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

- Tony Rogers asked about the award books that went astray last year. Ray advised that he had been in contact with HQ 44WG as he had hand delivered the books to the headquarters. He had no idea what happened to the books after that time.

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

The next meeting was set down for Friday, 16th March 2018, commencing at 1100.

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

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1214.

**I Gibson**  
Secretary  
Date:

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