



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

### Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at Stockton RSL, 29 Douglas Street, Stockton NSW  
on Friday 22nd October 2021.

---

#### ITEM 1: Meeting Opening and introduction

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1100 and called for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

#### ITEM 2: Attendees and Apologies

##### Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President and Membership Officer	Chair
John King	Vice President	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
WOFF Chad Harper	41WG WOFF Standardisation	
WOFF Paul Argus	41WG WOFF	

##### Apologies

Tony Rogers	Treasurer
Jim Stewart	Branch Historian
Diane Taylor	41WG Liaison Officer

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

The minutes of the meeting held at Stockton RSL Club on Friday 11th June 2021 had been distributed via email. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

**Motion: That the minutes from the 11th June 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 2/1/21:** WOFF Harper to develop a Branch Facebook page.  
WOFF Harper had advised (via email) that he thought the NSW Division Facebook page would be the best vehicle for RADAR Branch to have a social media presence, rather than establishing a new separate page. This was agreed by all in attendance.  
**Closed**
- b. **Action 1/3/21:** John King to send WOFF Harper historical information on a DVD.  
**Closed**
- c. **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. **Open/Pending**
- d. **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. **Open**
- e. **Action 11/1/21:** GPCAPT Ristrom to determine and advise an appropriate display/storage location for the RADAR Branch banner (and potentially the older

Branch banner) within EASTROC. WOFF Harper undertook to follow up with GPCAPT Risstrom.

WOFF Harper advised that GPCAPT Risstrom is happy to accept the banners, but no decision has yet been made about the location for storage or display. WOFF Harper commented that 41WG might be moving into the new Len Waters building at RAAF Williamstown, and consideration will be given to display options post that relocation. Ray O'Donoghue understood that the old banner was to be mounted in a display case. WOFF Harper undertook to confirm when the handover of the banners would take place.

**New 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.

- f. **Action AGM 21/2**: John King to take the lead on researching and securing a suitable grant to facilitate the completion of a 'memorial grove' at New Lambton Public School, to include a memorial plaque mounted on a plinth and three flag poles. John commented that he has encountered some difficulty obtaining a letter of agreement from the school and Ray O'Donoghue advised that he would chase this up with the school. **Closed** [See notes in General Business].

**New 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.

- g. **Action AGM 21/3**: Ray O'Donoghue to email membership forms to 41WG (for distribution) and also to Terry Withers who stated that he would pass them around at 44WG. Ray advised that he would have to check to see if he had completed this action; if not he would do so forthwith. **Closed**
- h. **Action 3/3/21**: Tony Rogers to include a draft email for PIA members in his HO/TO notes to Narelle Owen when she assumes Treasurer duties from Tony. **Closed**  
This issue will now be addressed by the temporary Treasurer, Ray O'Donoghue.
- i. **Action 4/3/21**: Tony Rogers and Narelle Owen to jointly revise the bank account signatories to include only President, Ray O'Donoghue; Secretary, Ian Gibson and both Tony and Narelle, and remove any other names from the bank approved signatories list. **Closed**
- j. **Action 5/3/21**: Ian Gibson to approach Division to arrange MMS administrator privileges for Narelle Owen. **Closed**
- k. **Action 6/3/21**: Ian Gibson to provide information about the Stuchbury Award to WOFF Harper. **Closed**
- l. **Action 7/3/21**: Ray O'Donoghue to arrange to visit school principal to finalise project details and acquire letter of agreement. **Closed**

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

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

**11 June 2021**: Email from Wayne Purcell requesting information on the history of two buildings that formed part of the Point Danger Radar Station during World War II. Ian Gibson gave some basic information and also forwarded the email to Jim Stewart for further action.

## Minutes: RADAR Branch Committee Meeting of 22nd October 2021

---

20 June 2021: Sent email to WOFF Scotty Doring congratulating him (on behalf of the Branch) on his Queens Birthday award of the Member of the Order of Australia. Also emailed a link to CONTACT magazine article on Scotty's award to committee members.

21 June 2021: Scotty emailed a reply thanking the Branch and advising his attendance at the next meeting and that it would be his shout!

Sadly, Scotty was unable to attend today's meeting...but we have long memories Scotty!

24 June 2021: Email from Mark Clayton (Research Higher Degree Candidate, School of Arts, Humanities & Education, CQUniversity Australia, Brisbane, Qld 4567) providing a link to an aeromuseums site with information about Project 1381 concerning 211 Radar Station established at Charlies Hill. Ian Gibson forwarded the email to Jim Stewart, GPCAPT Brett Risstrom, WGCDR Andrew Tatnell, WOFF Paul Argus and WOFF Chad Harper.

7 July 2021: Diane Taylor received an email from WOFF Paul 'Doc' Argus (41WG WOFF) advising the date and venue (Thursday 21 Oct 2021 at RAAF Base Williamtown Officers Mess) for the 41WG Dining In at which the Branch Awards will be presented for 2020 and 2021.

29 July 2021: Diane received a follow up email from WOFF Argus advising that the Branch had been allocated 15 places for the Dining In night.

12 August 2021: Series of emails initiated by Mr Christopher Donald contacting WGCDR Ian Gibson INTELO, (your secretary's namesake), asking about the term 'Spotted Dog'. The email trail eventually included secretary Ian Gibson, Jim Stewart and one of our patrons, GPCAPT (Ret'd) Don McPherson.

John King recalled that the 'Spotted Dog' was used to indicate where an aircraft could first be detected at various altitudes and azimuths by a radar.

3 October 2021: Email from Diane Taylor advising that WOFF Argus had sent her the names of the 2021 Ulett and Pither award winners. However, nothing has been heard from 44WG, so Diane had asked him if he might get in touch with them for her. Paul's email also advised that the Awards Dining In Night which was to be held on 21 October had been cancelled.

WOFF Argus advised the meeting that the 44WG WOFF is WOFF (first name escapes me) Knight.

6 October 2021: Received email from GPCAPT Peter (Spike) Davies requesting information about GPCAPT Neale Dewar's RAAF career, as he is retiring from the RAF after 37 years combined RAAF/RAF service.

13 October 2021: Several emails from and to Gail Skidmore inquiring about her membership application which she had submitted last year. Gail also asked if the Branch was aware that WGCDR (Dec'd) Peter Smith had gifted all his collection of radar books to the RAAF museum and they are all just stored in a back room. I forwarded Gail's email to Ray O'Donoghue re the membership query and Jim Stewart re the books.

15 October 2021: Email from Diane Taylor regarding an email exchange she has had with 44WG regarding the 2021 winner of the Stuchbury Award, but 44WG's intent is that the award will be presented in April next year and thus the winner won't be known until that time frame.

**ITEM 6: Office Bearers Reports**

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

Ray O'Donoghue advised that he had assumed Treasurer's responsibilities due to Tony Rogers ill-health, and read through Tony's comments on page 2 of his Finance Statement at Annex A.

Ray then noted that the only change would be a slight increase to funds as he had received a late renewal payment for 2021 from ex-WOFF Steve Richardson (aka Richo); the renewal had been misplaced when Richo moved house.

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

**Moved:** Ian Gibson                      **Seconded:** John King

**Motion Carried**

Ray O'Donoghue then advised that he intended to set up internet banking facilities for the Branch account today, in order to be able to bank subscriptions (from overseas) in the coming membership renewal period.

**New Action 3/4/21:** Ray O'Donoghue to establish internet banking access to the Branch Westpac account.

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

Ray noted that John King was doing an excellent job of keeping the NLPS project on track and thanked John for his efforts and the many hours he had committed to this task.

Ray then commented on NSW Division's unilateral decision to increase capitation for Branches, but noted that no decision on Branch membership fees will be made until next year's AGM.

Ian Gibson commented that our only significant outgoings were for award plaques and books, and for wreaths for various commemorations. Without an increase to subscriptions, Branch finances will diminish over time and ultimately reach a point where there would be insufficient funds to meet these commitments.

**Membership Officer's Report (Annex C)**

Notwithstanding the impact of COVID, our total member number is only one less than for last year, which Ray sees as a positive outcome.

**ITEM 7: General Business**

1. **Progress report on NLPS Memorial Project** (John King)

John reported that he has received the letter from the school indicating their agreement to the project. In addition, John tabled the design of the plaque, and those present made some amendments to the abbreviations used. Once these changes are incorporated and the grant approved, the plaque can be produced. John has spoken to Kate (NLPS P&C committee) about the location of the garden, the flag poles, the number of plaques and location of the plinths/stones in the garden area. John commented that there might be further plaques added to the garden in the future and that he was still having difficulty contacting the school principal and the deputy principal. Further, there was a meeting of the P&C last Monday (18th October), but John has heard nothing from that meeting.

Ray asked about flagpole spacing and John replied that he was unaware of any requirements, as long as the flags are not too close to tangle. John then asked about overhead or underground power in the memorial location: Ray did not believe that there were any overhead lines in the area, but was unsure about underground power. It is expected that the contractor who will install the flag poles will conduct a 'Dial before you Dig' assessment prior to commencing installation.

Ray O'Donoghue advised that he would contact the school on his way home and try for a site meeting this afternoon (Stop press: Ray has advised that he has arranged to meet with NLPS staff on Wednesday 27th October at 1430).

**ITEM 8: Other Business**

a. Our status as a self-administered Branch.

Ray described the concept of a self-administering Branch for the benefit of WOFFs Harper and Argus. The concern is that with fewer members prepared to serve on the committee, the renewal process might become too onerous for just one individual; the position in which we now find ourselves. The alternative is to become administered by Division whereby they would collect subscriptions and refund only the amount remaining after deducting capitation costs. It was decided that for this year, we will remain self-administering, in order to better control our remaining finances.

b. Transfer of Treasurer duties to the Membership Officer.

This issue was addressed at Item 6 in the Treasurer's Report.

c. Branch fee structure in light of the unilateral decision by Division to increase capitation rates for the coming year to \$25.00. The breakdown of the costs are \$20.00 for National, an increase of \$10.00 pa, and Division capitation will rise to \$5.00, an increase of \$2.00pa.

Ray commented that we will need to look at subscriptions for members at next year's AGM as we can't sustain receiving only \$5.00 from subscriptions under the new capitation guidelines.

This led to a discussion about the future of the Branch with diminishing numbers, no new members and those members we do have seemingly unprepared or unable to take on committee positions (apart from those at present incumbent). Some alternatives were discussed including winding up the Branch as a separate entity and amalgamating with a larger Branch such as Fighter Squadrons Branch or becoming part of Division (or a headquarters Branch).

WOFF Harper commented that most junior serving personnel were unaware of the AFA, and wondered about their perception of its relevance to contemporary personnel. Ian Gibson, picking up on the 'relevance' point, commented that Howie Campbell used to speak to each ASOP Basic course at the commencement of the course, however Ian understood that he spoke about pensions and DVA claims that would have been of little interest to junior personnel who are just embarking on their career. While these issues were relevant to WWI and WWII personnel, as were the social aspects of membership of the Association, such things are of little relevance to current serving members – even our contemporary veterans, who can access plentiful information about entitlements from various websites and on-bases advisory services. Further, Ian thought that perhaps a presentation about the AFA, specifically RADAR Branch, which included historical aspects and the benefits of continuing that history, might be better received at the end of ASOP and junior controller courses.

WOFF Harper suggested that a presentation at induction days might be another option.

WOFF Argus mentioned that another option might be for the 'future Branch' to become a part of the 41WG Social Club, enabling greater exposure to currently serving personnel who might then join the Branch. He suggested that we could include some information in 'discharge packs' when members were transitioning out of the permanent force. Ian thought that AFA was already represented at transition seminars.

**ITEM 9: Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **10th December 2021**. The venue for the last couple of years has been the Belmont 16ft Sailing Club, however due to the uncertain nature of

COVID restrictions and the numbers who might attend, a venue will be advised nearer the meeting date.

**ITEM 10: Meeting Closure**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 1241.

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

**I Gibson**  
Secretary  
Date:

**Annexes:**

- A. Treasurer's Report
- B. President's Report
- C. Membership Officer's Report

The Radar Branch  
RAAF Association ( NSW Division ) Inc.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, Year To , 30/09/2021.

RECEIPTS

Balance at Bank 01/01/2021	1293.22
Subscriptions	230.00
Donations	190.00
	<u>1713.22</u>

PAYMENTS

Website Fee	113.95
Welfare Vale Tributes	140.00
RAAF Awards: Plaques	345.00
Capitation NSW Division	312.00
	<u>910.95</u>

Balance as per Bank 802.27

SUMMARY

Balance	802.27
<u>Allowance For PIA Capitation</u>	<u>125.00</u>
	677.27
Petty Cash	100.00
<u>Cash Reserve (Less May Interest)</u>	<u>4282.36</u>
Total Funds Available	5059.63

A-2

Notes: 1) RAAF Awards Plaques, \$345 represents qty 6 plaques and some engraving for presentation in late 2021. Award presentation books were purchased in advance and included in 2020 accounts. See my email 4/10/21.

2) The donation increase of \$90.00 represents a PIA amount received, where the member was already PIA two years in advance. The amount is converted to a donation in lieu of refund, generously as instructed by Jimbo, in memory of his late father and Radar Branch Member, Rob. See my email 23/9/21.

3) Note that the Subscription value in statement above is for 2021 FY year receipts and does not include 2021 subs received post renewal period 2020. The amount also includes a late 2021 subs receipt ( Ray will refer to member prior to processing with Div).

3) To avoid the requirement to arrange cancellation charges and additional work it would be better if recipients provide bank details when refunds for expenses are required. The Treasurer would then arrange for direct credit.

C.A.(Tony)Rogers,  
Treasurer.

## **Air Force Association (NSW Division)**

### **RADAR Branch**

#### **President's Report**

Just when we thought we may be returning to “normal”, COVID-19 raised its ugly head and caused havoc. Consequently, our August meeting was eventually cancelled and our October meeting was delayed by two weeks..

Despite the lack of meetings, work had to continue not the least of which has been the NLPS Commemorative Garden project. John has done a terrific job of keeping the project on track, as well as preparing and submitting the relevant grant application. I am immensely grateful to John for the many hours he has devoted to this task and I hope that his efforts will be rewarded with a successful outcome.

Late last month, our erstwhile Division made a unilateral call that capitation would be increased by almost 100%. While the motivations are laudable – improved and new projects intended to provide better support for our members and vets – the timing and total lack of consultation was very hard to take. John, Ian, Tony and I discussed the ramifications over a few days and determined that subscriptions should not increase for 2022, but that the matter of subscription fees be considered by committee and a proposal put to the AGM regarding the future direction of our fees. I am very grateful for the insight and support provided.

Tony's health remains a matter of concern and, due to the effects of his ongoing treatment, Tony felt that he had to step down from the role of Treasurer, a move he foreshadowed some months ago. Unfortunately, restrictions imposed as a result of COVID, and Narelle's own health issues, have prevented them from conducting a timely HO/TO of Treasurer duties. Given the imminence of the membership renewal period, it has been decided that I will take on the Acting Treasurer role for the duration of said period. There is no way this is going to be a permanent arrangement!

Thank you all for your continued support of and service to the Branch. I am hopeful that our efforts will see the Branch continue on for quite some time to come.

Ray O'Donoghue  
President  
RADAR Branch

## MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

### 2021-22 Meeting 3 – 22 October 2021

- GENERAL NOTES.** The period since the last meeting in June has been fairly quiet, but positive, on the Membership front. Our numbers increased with one new member and two late renewals, which brought our total active members to just one shy of our 2020 numbers. Given the difficulties imposed by COVID, this is a positive result.

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

NEW/REJOIN	RENEWALS	MULTIPLE	RESIGNED	DECEASED
1	2	0	0	0

Current membership numbers for CY20 compared to CY21 are:

FULL FINANCIAL	MULTIPLE	FULLY SUBSCRIBED	TOTAL ACTIVE
30/28	4/5	0	34/33

NON-CURRENT <sup>1 2</sup>	NON-FINANCIAL (Incl 8 OS to SM; and 6 Non-Fin OS) <sup>3</sup>	LOST CONTACT	TOTAL NON-ACTIVE	VALE THIS CY
31/37	17/14	6	54/51	2/3

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES.

- VALE.** Not current members, but we did hear of the passing of SQNLDR Ron Guthrie.
- REJOINED/NEW.** One new member since the last meeting.
- RENEWALS.** Since 10 Jun 21, we have had an additional two renewals.

### MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

- MASTER LIST.** The Master List has been updated up to 7 Oct 21.
- MMS.** The MMS on the RAAFA (NSW) website has been updated to reflect our current membership.
- SUBSCRIPTIONS.** In light of the recent decision by AFA (NSW Div) to unilaterally increase capitation by almost 100%, and the imminent start of the renewal period, the executives conducted an out-of-session discussion to decide on a strategy for the renewal subscriptions. It was decided that our fees would

**C-2**

9. not increase until they were 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.
10. **RENEWALS.** The renewals period commences on 31 Oct 21. After a review of the invitation to renew letters, we will commence our renewals programme about a week early.

**AWARDS**

11. **NLPS BOOKS.** Books for next year's ANZAC Day gift to the school have been purchased.
12. **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.

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.