



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, 29 September 2017

Members Present

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Bruce Niblett | President | Chair |
| Tony Rogers | Treasurer | |
| Ian Gibson | Secretary | |
| Diane Taylor | Events Officer | |
| William Forsbey | Advocacy Officer | |
| John King | Committee member | |
| Bruce Carpenter | Committee member | |
| Howard Campbell | Committee member | |
| Narelle Owen | Committee member | |
| GPCAPT Lyle Holt | Senior Serving Member | (OC 41WG) |
| Emma Holt | (SSM's daughter) | |

Apologies

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ray O'Donoghue | Vice President & Membership Officer |
| Bob Treloar | Patron |

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees, noting particularly the attendance of GPCAPT Lyle Holt, recently installed as the Branch's new Senior Serving Member following his appointment as OC41WG, and his daughter, Emma. The meeting was declared open at 1103, 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, 21 July 2017 had been distributed via email with the meeting agenda. There were no issues raised regarding the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes from the 21 July 2017 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** Diane Taylor

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 21 July 2017 meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 21 July 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.
Ongoing.
- c. **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.**
- e. **Action 2/3/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to investigate the provision of air relief vents in the Branch banner. **Ongoing.**
- f. **Action 3/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to procure photographs of the RADAR Branch award presentations and provide to Ian Gibson. **Ongoing.**

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- g. **Action 4/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to provide a digital copy of the RADAR Branch Charter to Bill Forsbey. **Ongoing.**
- h. **Action 5/3/17:** FSGT GJ Darrigo to approach OC 41WG about serving personnel being released to attend lunches with RADAR Branch. **Ongoing.**
- i. **Action 1/4/17:** Ray O'Donoghue to revise the Branch application form to align with extant processing requirements at Branch level. **Ongoing.**

ITEM 4: Correspondence

- 1. Ian Gibson advised that he had received (via email), a request from Queensland based member, Ingrid Clark, that her appreciation of Terry Delahunty's long standing commitment to producing the 'Bulletin', and the excellent standard of that publication be recorded in the minutes.
- 2. Ian Gibson noted that an invitation for all Branch members to attend 3CRU's 50th Anniversary celebrations had been received from 3CRU A FLT CDR, SQNLDR Christopher.

ITEM 5: Office Bearers Reports

Treasurer's report: Tony Rogers had distributed the Treasurer's report via email to committee members. There were no issues arising from the report.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** John King

Motion Carried

ITEM 6: General Business

- 1. Tony Rogers provided a brief about the procedures for introducing new Branch members under the revised Division constitution. In short, the Branch Membership officer (Ray O'Donoghue or Terry Withers) accepts the application, the MO then advises the Secretary and Treasurer, and when the initial membership subscription is received, Ray then lists the new member on the Division Membership Management System (MMS). The applicant is then ratified by the committee at the next Branch meeting. Following these introductory remarks, Tony tabled the recently received application of former WOFF Brett Nottage, an Air Surveillance Operator known to several of the committee members. There were no objections to Brett's application, which was then formally ratified. Tony then provided a short brief about the different types of membership and justifications to GPCAPT Holt. John King then asked if we should consider having the 3CRU RAF Exchange Officer (SQNLDR Nathaniel Christopher, who recently laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch at the Newcastle Battle of Britain commemoration) join the Branch. John thought this would enable Nathaniel to keep us apprised of the RAF Benevolent Society, which John believes to be 'light years ahead of us'. No decision was taken on this issue, but we should act on it at the next meeting.
- 2. Bruce Carpenter then recognised Bill Foresby, noting that he has a long way to come to the meetings - two hours up the highway...and today in school holiday traffic! Bill then gave GPCAPT Holt a short description of his work as the Branch Advocacy Officer, assisting serving members and veterans with the submission of compensation claims to DVA, and the distinction between this role and that of a Welfare Officer.
- 3. Howie, in response to a question from Bruce Niblett, then told GPCAPT Holt about his regular visits to SACTU to talk to ASOP courses; noting that his next visit will be in November for Number 30 ASOP course. Howie then said that he was also involved in the

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RADAR family group, which looks after people who have served in Air Defence over the years.

4. Ian Gibson then noted that as well as the invitation to 3CRU's 50th Anniversary celebrations, CO 3CRU had requested a Branch member who had served at 3CRU, to give a short address about something that had occurred in the earlier years of 3CRU; a funny story or anecdote that they recalled. Ian suggested that Bruce Niblett would be ideal for this 'task', and following comments by others present, Bruce accepted the 'challenge'.

5. As a follow on from Bill Forseby's earlier comments about his advocacy role, John King mentioned that there is some work being done by the RSL to develop a list of advocates for those people in regional areas. Privacy issues have so far prevented such a list being made, however policy is being developed and legal advice awaited about what can and cannot be 'advertised', ie posted on the RSL website. In the interim, people are being encouraged to contact the Regional Manager (Allan Thomas for NSW) if they are looking for an advocate.

ITEM 7: Other Business

GPCAPT Lyle Holt gave a brief introduction to the members present: he was a third generation war fighter, his grandfather having served at both Gallipoli and the Western Front in WWI, his uncle having returned after being a POW in WWII and subsequently serving again in the Korean war. Lyle has been in the military for 27 years, joining the Navy initially for pilot training and ending up a navigator on helicopters, before 'seeing the light' (secretary's words, not Lyle's!) and joining the RAAF. Prior to his appointment as OC 41WG in May this year, Lyle had postings in Flight Test, Electronic Warfare, F111 squadron flight commander and CO 5FLT (Heron UAV). He has operational experience in Iraq (2006), Afghanistan (2009) and a posting to the US in 2014 as an air war planner for the ongoing Iraq conflict. He is a military history 'buff' and he uses his knowledge of history to inform how he does his Air Force roles and how he leads his personnel.

For his current role in 41WG, he wants to provide the Wing with a real operational focus: with the introduction over the next five years of new systems; the re-introduction of air defence missile capability in approximately 10 years; and increasing capability in over the horizon (OTH) and space-based systems. He wants to instil in personnel that 41WG does persistent air and space missions. He acknowledged that 41WG personnel are working hard - 24/7 operations and their families are working hard in supporting those personnel.

Over the next five to 10 years he wants personnel to think more about how to transition new capabilities. He is keen to hear how capabilities were transitioned to service over the years; he wants to take from past to focus his team. He wants a community in Australia that is forward focussed and believes the best way is in partnership with industry, which has a big presence in Newcastle and Adelaide. He wants to start driving Defence contractors to achieve his goals and thinks there are real opportunities for the RADAR Branch to contribute through historical lessons. He also wants to target local industry folk into joining the Branch to assist the move into domestic air and missile defence.

Tony Rogers commented that he didn't think it would be too difficult to tap into the commercial aspects of the local contractors. Lyle said it wasn't so much the commercial aspects - he was more looking for veterans who have moved into industry to become 'thought leaders' or to run think tanks and cited the example of AVM (ret'd) John Blackburn who writes papers for the Williams Foundation on contemporary air defence issues. John King commented that open discussion might be the biggest bugbear; although the discussion shouldn't be 'top secret' - the rest of the world is doing it, just look at You Tube! Lyle responded that he 'gets' security, but believes a lot can be done at the unclassified level before needing to delve into classified areas. Lyle then stated that he is

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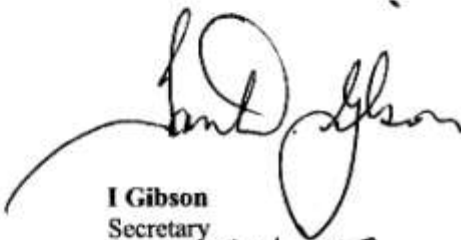
transforming the current '1990s' force to a more 5th generation force, integrated seamlessly with other systems, but questioned how we take those lessons from past capability introduction to apply to new capability acquisitions. Diane wondered what happened to the missile systems we used to have? In short, the missile role went to Army Air Defence regiments which were equipped with the now obsolete Rapier and RBS-70 systems. Narelle noted that while she was at Det E, an Army captain had been posted there to develop a way for the Army systems to 'talk' to the CRU systems. Ian Gibson also stated that in the Sector Air Defence Operations Centre (SADOC) in the 1980s and 90s, there were established positions for an Army Air Defence Liaison Officer (AADLO) and Navy Air Defence Liaison Officer (NADLO) in an attempt to coordinate resources and capabilities. Bruce Niblett then noted that a previous problem in capability development and acquisition was that Air Force stuck with old technology systems (citing ADGESIM as an example) when there were far better systems available.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting


The next meeting was set down for Friday, 17 November 2017, commencing at 1100.

ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance, in particular Lyle Holt for making time (whilst on leave!) to attend his first Branch meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 1232.



I Gibson
Secretary
Date: 17 NOV 17



B Niblett
President (Chair)
Date: