



**RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch
Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting**

**Held at the Waratah/Mayfield/Islington RSL Sub-Branch Hall, Baker St, Mayfield
NSW on Saturday, 21st May 2016**

Committee Members Present

Ray O'Donoghue	President (outgoing)	Co-Chair
Rob Saxton	President (incoming)	Co-Chair
Bruce Niblett	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Howie Campbell	Welfare Officer	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	
Jim Stewart	Committee Member	
John King	Committee Member	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee member	
David Winkelmann	Committee Member	

Apologies

Terry Delahunty	Committee Member	
Spike Davies	Senior Serving Member (OC 41WG)	AOD
Scotty Doring	RAAFLO (41WG WOFF)	AOD
Alex Culvenor	Victorian Representative	

Members/Observers

Narelle Owen	Member
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ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1115, pausing for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting (18th March 2016)

The minutes of the meeting held at the Stockton RSL Club on Friday 18th March 2016 were tabled.

Motion: That the minutes from the 18th March 2016 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Jim Stewart **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business Arising from the Minutes of the 18th March Meeting

The following items of business arose from the minutes of the 18th March 2016 meeting:

- 3a. Faded Echoes - Eulogies for passed members.
Action: President: Addressed at Item 10.
- 3d. Additional Patron - Letter of appreciation to GPCAPT McPherson.
Action: President: There is considerable confusion regarding the initial letter of invitation to GPCAPT McPherson. Details of a contact address are required.
New Action: Jim Stewart to provide contact details.
- 3f. Function - Morning tea in Sydney.
Action: President: It was noted that there are still a number of ambulant Sydney-based members. Accordingly, this will be an ongoing issue.

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New Action: Ray O'Donoghue and Tony Rogers to coordinate activities in Sydney.

3b. Future of "*Wings*".

Action: President: Ray had written to State Division, pointing out that *Wings* lacked any branch content, and resembled more of an airpower magazine. No response has yet been received from State.

Fate of the "*Advocate*". The RAAFA acquisition of a local Defence-related publication was seen as offering an appropriate venue for the Radar Branch to make contact with the wider (local) Defence community. However, the April AGM was advised by Patron, Dave Bowden, that the "*Advocate*" had in fact published its last edition and was being wound up. Ray O'Donoghue had been advised by Neil Smith that the "Welcome to Williamstown" publication still offers a venue for getting RAAFA and Radar Branch information out to at least new arrivals on base.

10. General Business

10a. ANZAC Day 2016. Covered in the President's Report.

10b. Fund-raising activity.

Action: Louise Desjardins and Scotty Doring: The ANZAC Day function has, until now featured a raffle, which has always provided a substantial subsidy for the cost of the annual Branch Awards. However, noting that State legislation has placed serious embargoes on the conduct of raffles within "public areas" (including pubs and clubs), some alternative fund-raising source was sought. Lou and Scotty undertook to investigate the establishment of a "100 Club", however no report has been received - this inability was observed with little surprise by the Committee, noting the heavy OPTEMPO of 41WG, and the positions that Lou and Scotty occupy.

The concept generated much discussion. John King enquired whether the Branch has a "Charitable Fund Number" (CFN) as most RSL Sub-Branches do (we don't). It is free, and could solve a few problems. Considerable input was provided by Narelle Owen and Dave Winkelmann, who have also had considerable experience. There are some potential disadvantages and/or administrative burdens that need to be overcome. Notwithstanding, it was felt that the concept should be pursued and fully investigated.

New Action: Tony Rogers to investigate the benefits of a CFN, with input from John King and Narelle Owen.

10c. Preparations for 2016 AGM. Addressed at Item 4.

10d. Future Nature of "*The Bulletin*". Jim Stewart advised that he had been in touch with Terry Delahunty (albeit only very recently) regarding his proposals to merge some of the elements of Radar Returns into "*The Bulletin*". The intent is to include key radar related historical aspects in "*The Bulletin*", and to provide space for "Faded Echoes", a key element of the old Radar Returns. Jimbo stated that this however, depended on advice from various sources. Frequently, next of kin are not aware, or too distracted, to consider the Radar Branch as a point of contact.

New Action: Jim Stewart to continue liaison with Terry Delahunty to determine optimum format for the future editions of "*The Bulletin*".

12. Next Meeting. The next Committee Meeting was scheduled to be held on 22 April 16, immediately following the AGM to be held at EASTROC, RAAF Williamstown. This arrangement was changed, following a proposal from OC 41WG

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(Spike Davies) and Scotty Doring, who suggested that we break the link between the AGM and the next Committee meeting. The intent was to hold the AGM, followed by the Annual Branch Awards, and then a BBQ function with 3CRU. Finally, the day would be topped off with a tour of EASTROC. The proposal was readily accepted by the Committee, and the result is that this initiative has proven to be very sensible and successful. (This is also addressed in later reports).

ITEM 4: Report on AGM, 22 April 2016.

Covered in the President's report.

ITEM 5: Correspondence

Ray advised that much of the correspondence during the period was e-mail traffic relating to the AGM and/or ANZAC Day. A full summary of correspondence has been submitted electronically, and is attached as Annex A to these minutes

ITEM 6: President's Report

Ray has submitted electronic and hard copies of his report, which is attached as Annex B to these minutes. Significant issues are as follows:

a. **ANZAC Day.**

This was the first ANZAC Day in Newcastle, and the President attributed much of the success to OC 41WG (Spike Davies) and the 41WG WOFF (Scotty Doring). The Dawn Service was noted as well-run and well-attended. The march was well-conducted, not as long as in Sydney. The lunch was low-key; with longer planning, next year's function should attract a large turn-out. The President again expressed his appreciation to the OC and Wing WOFF, and as well as to the CO and members of 3 CRU.

b. **New Lambton Public School**

The OC 41 and the President attended New Lambton Public School's ANZAC Day commemoration on 28 April, where they presented books to the school, and were able to speak to the senior pupils about the links between the school and the RAAF Radar organisation.

c. **AGM**

Ray once again expressed his thanks to the OC 41, Wing WOFF for the success of this event. The BBQ (and thanks to CO 3 CRU for the function) was a good venue for presentations, and it allowed the Branch members to mix with the younger (serving) members and get their input (Editor's Note: This aspect borne out in the Events Officer's Report). Two serving personnel have now signed up as new members of the Branch.

ITEM 7: Introduction of New Executive

At this point, Ray O'Donoghue proposed to hand over the Chair to the incoming President, Rob Saxton. This action was however, actually delayed until Item 14.

ITEM 8: Vice-President's Report

Terry Delahunty submitted an e-mail report, which was subsequently delivered on his behalf by Jim Stewart.

"From VP, would ask that the committee note that the Vic president GpCapt Carl Schiller is well known to me as a friend and colleague and he could be approached if there are any future initiatives between two radar groups. Carl is very pro active and took on the position for the challenges facing the RAAFA that we are all aware of. Secondly, while I thank the

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AGM for voting me again into the VP position, I wish to make it known that I think it would be beneficial now to have the VP assist the Pres in Newcastle and I would recommend that a candidate be identified. I would be happy of course to stay on the committee and do the bulletin etc.

Regards,

TC

Acting on Terry's statement above, suggesting that the VP should be located in Newcastle, Jim Stewart noted that the VP has a function supporting the President, much as an XO supports the CO in the RAAF, we have a Newcastle-based committee member, with substantial XO experience from his RAAF service. He then proposed Bruce ("Knocker") Niblett as Vice President.

Motion: That Bruce Niblett be voted in as new Vice President

Moved: Jim Stewart **Seconded:** Ray O'Donoghue

Motion Carried

Bruce Niblett accepted the nomination and was elected as Vice-President. The Committee noted Terry's offer to remain on the Committee, and continue as editor of "*The Bulletin*". This has been gratefully accepted.

ITEM 9: Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the period was presented by Tony Rogers, and is attached as Annex C. Tony noted that funds appear low, however the current report does not reflect that a number of new/renewed subscriptions have been received post the report cut-off date. Tony also reiterated concerns discussed regarding an alternative funding initiative to replace the ANZAC Day raffle. A new source of funding needs to be found, otherwise the expenditure on the Branch Annual Awards will be unsustainable within a couple of years.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Tony Rogers **Seconded:** Jim Stewart

Motion Carried

ITEM 10: Membership Report

- a. This was an inaugural report by Ray O'Donoghue, in his new appointment as Membership Officer. Ray advised that he and Tony Rogers have met to determine the best way ahead to manage membership requirements. A briefing on NATMEMS has been arranged with Dick Wills, and will be conducted in conjunction with the State Assembly. Ray has the latest membership list, which shows that we have 59 Active Members, with some 27-30 non-financial members (a couple of whom have recently returned to the fold). Howie Campbell has despatched seven applications to former Air Defence members who may join the Branch.

Diane Taylor enquired about the membership trend - are we losing members, or is the membership level stable? Jim Stewart noted that at one point, the Branch was the fastest-growing in NSW Division, however that was in an era when there was still a large group of World War 2 veterans, supplemented by a slowly-growing number of post-war radar personnel. Today, we are rapidly losing the WW2 group.

Tony Rogers advised that we have actually stabilised, and have maintained the current level for the last few years. Howie Campbell noted that he had personally signed up 20 serving members at an ANZAC (2010 maybe), but only two had subsequently renewed their membership.

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Dave Winkelmann advised that the RSL had taken a bold initiative some years ago by posting out new, free, memberships to a group of soldiers recently returned from active service – not one renewed the membership, and not one RSL badge was returned.

Knocker Niblett observed that it is a case of “location, location”; the Branch’s re-location to the Hunter should attract serving members to the Branch, along with former members who have settled in the area, and that should be our primary focus.

- b. Faded Echoes: It was noted with sadness that Mr Paul Ogden, a former member of this Committee (and Treasurer for many years) and stalwart supporter of the Radar Branch, had passed away in May 16. Paul was also remembered as having been the Branch Honorary Auditor for many years, and as having led the Radar Contingent in the Sydney march 2 years ago (in a wheelchair, pushed by the then WOFF OPS, 3CRU, WOFF Scotty Doring). The funeral was held at St John’s Anglican Church, Warrane Rd North Willoughby on 11 May 16 and was attended by Howie Campbell, with Scotty Doring and a SNCO from 41 WG also attending in uniform; a gesture much appreciated by the NOK.

ITEM 11: Welfare Officer’s Report

Howie Campbell tabled his Welfare Officer’s Report, which is attached at Annex D to these minutes. Howie advised that he had been in contact with Mrs Liz Simmonds (the widow of the Branch’s pre-eminent historian, Ed Simmonds. Liz is now in a Retirement Home in Port Macquarie; however she welcomes all ongoing contact with the Radar Branch and is a keen recipient of “*The Bulletin*”. Stan Burge, another World War 2 stalwart, is currently ill in Royal North Shore Hospital.

Howie observed that the issues facing Welfare Officers are growing, and the mental health problems facing veterans (and children of veterans, who have suffered the effects of their parents’ disorders). He also advised that new rules regulating the way that Welfare Officers will conduct their duties, are expected by June 2016. It would appear that on-line courses are going to be introduced to qualify the Welfare Officers for their duties (Editor’s note: It remains to be seen how many of these volunteers have the time to do these on-line courses, and at what detriment to the role for which they have volunteered).

ITEM 12: Pension Officer’s Report

Nil Report received.

ITEM 13 - General Business

- a. Report on ANZAC Day 2016

- (1) March: }
(2) Lunch Venue: } These topics have been addressed at Item 6.

- (3) Sydney members:

Stan and Pat Burge were hosted by 41 Wing, and provided with transport to and from Newcastle. Local accommodation was also provided courtesy of the Wing, whilst a RAAF vehicle was provided to transport them during the march.

- b. RAAFA State Division - Assembly & Dinner

Five members have advised that they will be attending, with four members also attending the dinner. The Assembly has seen a great deal of discussion within the

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wider RAAFA community. Ray O'Donoghue has suggested that the meeting could be "interesting".

c. Events

Diane Taylor tabled an Inaugural Report for the newly-created Events officer position, which is attached as Annex E to these minutes. Diane has already been active in seeking input from current serving members (3CRU BBQ), and was observed conducting an ISR mission at the Wests City Club on ANZAC Day, to gauge the suitability of the facilities available at that venue.

Possible functions (for later discussion) include:

- (1) Dining-In Night (suggested by young female officer at BBQ); and
- (2) Family beach day.

ITEM 14: Other Business

- a. **Advice of New Branch Executive:** Memberships for the new President and Secretary have been ratified by the State Council, along with the promulgation of the new Committee for 2016. The new Committee can now be placed on the Branch web-site.
- b. **Web-site:** It was noted that the web-site is seriously out of date. While this in no way reflects the capability of the web-manager - it reflects the slowness with which information is provided to the web-manager for incorporation. In addition, it was noted that Bill Foresby performs the role of administrator, but Bill would prefer that someone else took on that role. Ian Gibson suggested that there is an ex-Air Defence Officer (Mr Grant Robinson) now working at the ADFWC at RAAF Williamtown as a civilian software specialist who might be amenable to assuming the role.
Action: Ian Gibson to investigate whether Mr Grant Robinson would be interested in becoming our web administrator.
- c. **Introduction of New Executive:** At this point, Ray O'Donoghue, formally handed over the Presidency to Rob Saxton, who stated that, owing to the shortage of time remaining, he would elect to describe his radar and air defence background over lunch. This was also the point at which Jim Stewart was delighted to yield the Minutes function to the new Secretary, Ian Gibson.
- d. Tony Rogers noted that his personal PO box is currently used for all correspondence and perhaps some other arrangement should be made to reduce double handling mail for the secretary etc. Ray O'Donoghue advised that he would be happy for all membership related correspondence to be addressed to his home address.
- e. Howie Campbell requested an updated list with contact details of committee members.
Action: Ray O'Donoghue to produce and disseminate the latest committee list.

ITEM 15: Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held at (*EASTROC, RAAF Williamtown or Stockton RSL - venue and time tba - co-ord with OC 41WG*) on Friday 22 Jul 2016, commencing at (*tbc*).

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ITEM 16: Meeting Closure

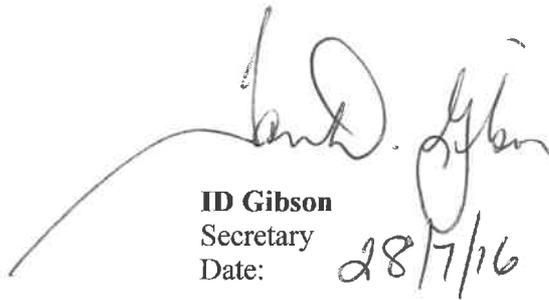
The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1258.

JR O'Donoghue
Outgoing President
Date:



R Saxton
President
Date: 25/07/16

AJ Stewart
Outgoing T/Secretary
Date



ID Gibson
Secretary
Date: 28/7/16

Annexes:

- A. Summary of correspondence
- B. President's Report
- C. Treasurer's Report
- D. Welfare Officer's Report
- E. Events Officer's Report

Correspondence Report

See separate Excel file.

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President's Report

Anzac Day 2016

Our first ANZAC Day in Newcastle and, thanks to all the hard work in planning by the Committee, but John and Scott in particular, it could not have gone much better. Even the weather was extremely kind! The Dawn Service was very well done and strongly supported by the local community, and the March itself was excellent. I want to record my very deep thanks to OC41 WG, CO3CRU, and the men and women of both units that turned up to support us on the march. Lunch was quite low-key, but with more time for planning I would anticipate a better attended event next year. From the feedback I have received, I am sure all the members who attended the march and lunch were well pleased with the day.

NLPS

On 28th April, OC41 WG and I attended the ANZAC Service at New Lambton Public School. The school produced a very respectful and moving service, and the OC and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to some of the senior children afterwards. It was a great opportunity to honour the long historical link between RADAR and the school, and I trust we can maintain this as an annual event.

AGM 2016

The AGM was hosted by 41 WG. All who attended enjoyed a very full and interesting day – many thanks to Scott and OC41 WG for making it possible. Highlights included:

- * New President; new Secretary, Membership Officer, Events Officers elected.
- * Tour of SACTU and the Ops Room
- * BBQ lunch with the serving members
- * Book Awards vice cash seems to have been well-received.

As I retire from the Presidency, I would like to thank everyone who has served on the Committee with me - you have all made my life considerably easier. I would also like to thank Rob and Ian for taking on the President and Secretary roles and assure them that they will have my full support in the years to come.