



**RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR BRANCH**  
**MINUTES of the RADAR BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held at the Mayfield Diggers' Club,**  
**Hanbury Street Mayfield**  
**On Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016**

<b>Present:</b>		
Ray O'Donoghue	President	Chair
Jim Stewart	Committee Member	T/Minutes Sec.
Howie Campbell	Welfare Officer	
Scott Doring	41 Wing WOFF / RAAFLO	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee Member	
John King	Committee Member	
David Winkelmann	Member / President, Waratah/Mayfield Sub-Branch	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Terry Delahunty	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	AOL
Diane Taylor	Committee Member	
Alex Culvenor	Victorian Representative	
<b>ITEM 1 - Meeting Open and Introduction</b>		
The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1118, pausing for one minute's silence for absent comrades.		
<b>ITEM 2a - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
The Minutes of the held at the Waratah-Mayfield RSL Sub-Branch Hall, on 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 and the meeting held at the Stockton RSL on 27 November 2015 were tabled.		
<b>MOTION</b>		
That the Minutes from the 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 meeting be accepted.		
<b>Moved:</b>	Jim Stewart	<b>Seconded:</b> Ray O'Donoghue
<b>Carried</b>		
<b>ITEM 2a - Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>		
The Minutes of the previous meeting, held at the Stockton RSL on 27 November 2015 were tabled.		



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#### MOTION

That the Minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Seconded:** Howie Campbell

**Carried**

#### ITEM 3a - Business Arising from the Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> September Meeting

The following items of Business arose from the Minutes of the 19<sup>h</sup> September 2015 Meeting:

- a. **ITEM 3.d - Faded Echoes:** Eulogies for passed members are still pending; this task has been exacerbated by the President's preparations for his impending move.

**ACTION:** Ongoing - President

- b. **ITEM 6 - Membership:** 32 members have renewed their subscriptions. Along with a number of multiple members, this gives the Branch a strength of approximately 40 financial members.

- c. **ITEM 10. a - ANZAC Day 2016:** Newcastle Diggers Club, coordinators for the Newcastle march, have made contact with the Branch and are happy to have us on board. 41 Wing have also indicated strong support. ANZAC Day 2016 is discussed in greater detail at ITEM 10 - *General Business*.

**Arrangements for Residual Sydney-based members.** This is addressed in Business Arising from the 27 Nov 15 Minutes

- d. **ITEM 10.c - Additional Patron - GPCAPT (Ret'd) Don McPherson:** GPCAPT McPherson has accepted the offer to become our third Patron. The President will write a letter of appreciation to GPCAPT McPherson in the near future.

**ACTION:** Ongoing - President

- e. **ITEM 10.d - Meeting Schedule and Venue:** The proposed meeting schedule has been accepted. Additionally, the EASTROC venue for the March AM has been confirmed.

#### CLOSED

- f. **ITEM 10.e - Additional Function - Morning Tea in Sydney:** The President reported that due to conflicting priorities, this issue is still pending.

**ACTION:** Ongoing - President



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#### ITEM 3a - Business Arising from meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 15 - cont'd

##### g. ITEM 11 a. Other Functions

- (1) **Christmas Luncheon - City Tattersalls:** Function was not held this year.
- (2) **41 Wing Christmas Function:** This function was held at the Stockton RSL Club, and followed on immediately after the Committee Meeting of 27 Nov 15 (see Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 27 Nov 15).

##### ITEM 11a - CLOSED

##### h. ITEM 11 b.

- (1) **Rules for Self-Administering Branches:** The President is to work with the Treasure in order to prepare a report for the next meeting.

**ACTION:** *Ongoing - President & Treasurer*

- (2) **Membership Renewals.** Bill Foresby agreed to print the envelopes for the Treasurer to despatch the renewal notices by mid-November. This was achieved.

##### ITEM 11b - CLOSED

#### ITEM 3b: - Business Arising from Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

At this point, the President expressed the Committee's thanks to Howie Campbell for stepping in as Minutes Secretary in the absence of Jim Stewart (see apologies).

- a. **Membership** - details of ex-members requested by OC 41: is understood that the details have been passed. President to confirm.

**Editor's Note:** Correction advised by GPCAPT Davies, OC 41WG that he has not received the details.

GPCAPT Davies requested details of Radar Branch members, with a view to informing / inviting those members to key unit events (e.g. Tarakan Day) across the various 41WG locations. OC41WG is, however, mindful of the privacy rules, and thus requests that the Radar Branch Committee obtain the individual member's consent to have their contact details passed to HQ 41WG.



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#### ITEM 3b: - Business Arising from Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 - cont'd

##### a. Membership - cont'd

The President enquired about the status of the "Air Defence List". Although dated in some areas, there are sporadic efforts to bring it up-to-date, as time and information permit. Howie Campbell was requested to see if the list could be updated - he will coordinate with Kev Funnell on this matter.

**ACTION:** *Howie Campbell to liaise with Kev Funnell to update the "Air Defence List"*

##### b. General Business - Future of "Wings" - Jim Stewart reiterated a discussion brief that he had prepared for the November Meeting, regarding the ongoing value of 'Wings' as a RAAFA journal.

He noted that in the transition to a National Magazine, all previous Branch news had been dropped as well as the list of contact details for the various Branches and Affiliated Squadron associations, and now, whilst including some welfare information, is more like a second-rate aviation magazine. By comparison, 'Wings' fails dismally when compared to 'Air Mail' (the journal of the RAF Association, which still manages to include a mix of Branch/Association & Welfare information, in addition to articles addressing Air Force history, current Air Force information and Air Power articles.

Additionally, a free Williamstown newspaper "The RAAF Association Advocate" has now appeared, which targets Williamstown serving personnel and represents the RAAFA in this region (Jimbo sought details on the level of RAAFA involvement in this journal).

Howie Campbell confirmed that RAAFA State Division had indeed acquired ownership of the local Defence newspaper (which was struggling). The President agreed to write to State Division, noting the shortcomings of "Wings", and to explore how the "RAAF Association Advocate" may be utilised to get the RAAFA message out to our prospective membership body.

**ACTION:** *President to write to NSW Division.*

#### ITEM 4: - Correspondence

Correspondence received since the November meeting is shown at the list (Annex A to the Minutes). Key issues are:

- a. Letter from State Division inviting the Branch to attend the RAAF 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Service at the Cenotaph;
- b. Letter from Newcastle Diggers regarding ANZAC Day;



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#### ITEM 4: - Correspondence - cont'd

- c. Letter from State Division re prospective transfer of Doug Roser (former GCAPT, AIRCON) to the Radar Branch;
- d. Minutes of the last State Council Meeting; and
- e. E-mails from Dick Wills to Tony Rogers, re procedures for Self-Administering Branches.

A query from SQNLDR Rob Vine (XO 114MCRU) was also received, regarding any RAAFA organisation in the Northern Territory.

**ACTION** *Howie Campbell to advise Rob Vine of contact details for NT-based former Air Defence members.*

#### ITEM 5 - President's Report

The President provided a verbal report. Issues are:

- a. Mutee Head Plaque - A contribution has been forwarded to the Victorian Radar Association. A letter of appreciation was received from Beryl Manion (Vic. Radar Assn) and tabled at an earlier meeting. An update appeared in the Vic. Radar Bulletin.
- b. Ray has had contact with Newcastle Diggers regarding ANZAC Day 2016, noting that John King has played a major role in the coordination of this event.
- c. Renewal of membership over the November-January period was coordinated by Tony Rogers, and that we are in reasonable shape as a result.
- d. Ray has had discussions with prospective new members, Doug Roser and Rob Vine.

Ray advised that he will not be standing for re-election as President at the AGM, but would stand for the Committee. He has confirmed the date and venue (EASTROC) for the AGM in March with OC 41 Wing.

#### ITEM 6 - Vice-President's Report

Whilst no VP Report was received, the President noted that The Bulletin had gone out in November 2015, and expressed the Committee's thanks to Terry Delahunty.



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#### ITEM 7 - Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report, through to 19 January 2016, was forwarded by Tony Rogers and tabled by the President in Tony's absence and is attached as Annex B to these Minutes. Tony has indicated that he is prepared to stand for re-election as Treasurer.

It was noted that Self-Administration has significantly increased the work-load - for the initial phase at least, and that this work-load has largely fallen onto Tony Rogers. The President noted that the Branch's current finances were the best shape that they have been for many years, and this was in no small measure a tribute to Tony's efforts, and expressed the Committee's thanks to Tony for this.

#### MOTION

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

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Seconded:** Jim Stewart

**Carried**

#### ITEM 8 - Welfare Officer's Report

Howie Campbell tabled his Welfare Officer's Report, which is attached at Annex C. Howie noted that demands from Division for compliance with governance requirements is impacting heavily on the ability of Welfare Officers to function. He noted that all are volunteers, and that their ability to maintain accreditation is frequently challenged, however if they do not maintain accreditation they are not covered by insurance. He also noted that Division provides no support for Welfare Officers. In his role, Howie has maintained contact with:

Mal Le Bas (currently in a nursing home in Forestville);

Liz Simmonds (widow of the Branch's historian *par excellence*, Ed Simmonds);

Stephanie Hunt (widow [this unknown at the time of contact] of WGCDR Bob Hunt, DFC, former fighter pilot and later CO of 1CRU, 2CRU and 3CRU);

Jenny Sciortino, a former ADSUP and now President of her local RSL Sub-Branch; and

Bill Kelly, former WOFF OPS at 2CRU and 3CRU.

#### ITEM 9 - Pension Officer's Report

Not available.



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**ITEM 10 - General Business**

**a ANZAC Day 2016**

- (1) Update on March: John King has submitted an e-mail report (see Correspondence list). Assembly will be at the corner of the Hunter Street Mall and Wolfe Street. There was discussion on attendance at the Dawn Service and the post-march service, and the intent is that the Branch will participate (including tributes).
- (2) Update on Lunch Venue: Issues such as venue, numbers and funding limits are yet to be determined, however there is a general consensus that a sit-down meal is preferred, vice a buffet. There is an estimate that 50-60 41 Wing personnel will attend, and that in view of the local march, a large number of families may attend.

Scotty Doring advised that the Bar Beach Bowling Club has been used as a venue for previous 41 Wing/SRG events and that that have facilities for a function allowing club catering or event self-catering.

**ACTION** *Scotty Doring and John King to work together on the selection of a function venue, and provide a report to the AGM.*

- (3) Awards/plaques/cheque, etc: It was identified that then Branch needs to commence action to acquire the necessary plaques and individual presentations to the Award recipients. It was noted that cheques can no longer be presented to serving members, due to RAAF legislative rules. I would appear that book prizes are now more appropriate.

**Motion**

**That the Branch be authorised to acquire 2 - 3 plaques for engraving and placement on the respective trophies.**

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Seconded:** Jim Stewart

**Carried**

**Editorial Note:** The plaques have been ordered from RAAFA National.

- (4) Sydney-based Members: OC 41 Wing has offered transport for the remaining Sydney-based members and Mess accommodation should this be required.

**ACTION** *President & Treasurer to coordinate with Sydney members and advise OC 41WG*

**Editorial Note:** The only Sydney member able to march on ANZAC Day is John McCauley, however others (e.g. Stan Burge) could be interested in attending the Newcastle program.



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#### ITEM 10 - General Business - cont'd

- b. **Self-Administration Update (Tony Rogers).** Due to Tony's absence, this will be deferred to the next Committee Meeting.
- c. **Preparations for 2016 Annual General Meeting.** The venue for the 2016 AGM has been confirmed as EASTROC, RAAF Williamtown, and will be held on Friday 18 March, 2016. The president will coordinate the arrangements, including notification of members and calls for nomination of office bearers.

The nomination status for the 2016 Committee (from the current Committee) is as follows:

**President:** **Vacant**  
**Vice-President:** Terry Delahunty  
**Secretary:** **Vacant**  
**Treasurer:** Tony Rogers  
**Welfare Officer:** Howie Campbell  
**Committee:** Ray O'Donoghue  
Jim Stewart  
Diane Taylor  
John King  
Bruce Carpenter  
David Winkelmann

#### ITEM 11 - OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **RAAF 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

The President, Ray O'Donoghue, will attend the ceremony at the Cenotaph (Martin Place, Sydney) and lay a wreath on behalf of the Branch.

**Editor's Note:** Should a wreath be required, Treasurer will refund by cheque. Vendor receipt required for records.

#### Motion

**That Howie Campbell be authorised to spend up to \$100 for a wreath to be laid at the Sydney Cenotaph on 31 March 2016**

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Seconded:** Howie Campbell

**Carried**





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**ITEM 11 - OTHER BUSINESS - cont'**

**b. ANZAC Day Wreaths**

The President noted that there is now a preference to make presentations to schools, in lieu of laying wreaths. To this end, it was suggested that a book would be an appropriate presentation item and he invited suggestions for a preferred school for the Radar Branch.

Jim Stewart suggested that New Lambton Public School was clearly the most appropriate school for Radar. This is based on the fact that New Lambton Public School was the original site for 2 Fighter Sector Headquarters (which was later re-titled 102 Fighter Control Unit) and was host unit for the RAAF Air Defence Central Training School.

**Editorial Note:** The Operations Room was located in the School Building, while the Unit HQ was located in the Headmaster's Residence.

He also noted that the previous and current OCs 41 WG were keen to establish firmer links between the Wing and New Lambton Public School. A brief summary of 2FS/102 FCU is attached at Annex D to these Minutes.

**ACTION** *President to contact OC 41 Wing, to determine a joint approach to New Lambton Public School.*

**ITEM 12 - Next Meeting**

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the Eastern Region Operations Centre, RAAF Williamstown, on Friday 18th March, 2016, immediately following the Annual General Meeting.

**ITEM 13 - Meeting Closure**

The Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1238.

**JR O'Donoghue**

President

Date: 18 Mar 16 -

**AJ Stewart**

T/Secretary

Date 18 Mar 16



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**Annexes:**

- A. Correspondence
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Welfare Officer's Report
- D. Summary - 2 Fighter Sector Headquarters/102 Fighter Control Unit



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- C. Welfare Officer's Report
- D. Summary - 2 Fighter Sector Headquarters/102 Fighter Control Unit