



RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Committee Meeting

Held at the Stockton RSL Club, Douglas St, Stockton NSW on Friday, 15 Jul 2016

Committee Members Present

Rob Saxton	President	Chair
Bruce Niblett	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Ray O'Donoghue	Membership Officer	
Howie Campbell	Welfare Officer	
Jim Stewart	Committee Member	
John King	Committee Member	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee member	
Peter Davies	Senior Serving Member (OC 41WG)	
Scotty Doring	RAAFLO (41WG WOFF)	

Apologies

Diane Taylor	Events Officer
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Members/Observers

Bob Treloar	Patron
Narelle Owen	

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1130, pausing for one minutes silence for deceased comrades.

ITEM 2: Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held at the Waratah/Mayfield/Islington RSL Sub-Branch Hall on Saturday, 21st May 2016 were tabled.

Motion: That the minutes from the 21st May 2016 meeting be accepted.

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

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 21st May 2016 meeting

The following items arose from the minutes of the 21st May 2016 meeting:

- a. Additional Patron: Don McPherson contacted and has accepted the offer of becoming a patron, although nothing received in writing yet. No further action required.
- b. Sydney - based functions: Tony Rogers – the problem is attrition which leads to reduced numbers of Sydney based members. Proposed sending an email/post letter to see who available and able to attend. Ray O'Donoghue suggested Hornsby RSL as a possible venue for a get together. Ray/Tony will send mail out to gauge interest. No further action required.
- c. Charitable Fund Number: John King sent an application form for CFN to Tony Rogers who in turn went to Division who hold that status – called a Charitable Fundraising Authority. Under the umbrella authority of Division's certificate, we can conduct raffles; Ballina branch has been doing so for years. In licensed premises, permission for the raffle must be sought from the management of the premises. Of note, the extant fundraising authority certificate expires on 20th February 2017; however by ANZAC Day 2017, the certificate will have been updated.

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- d. Future nature of The Bulletin: Jim Stewart has been in contact with Terry Delahunty about the content of the Bulletin, including a section for 'Faded Echoes'. The deadline for submission of articles for the next edition is mid-August 2016. This is an on-going issue on which Jim and Terry will continue to liaise.
- e. Web-site: Ian Gibson advised that he had contacted Mr Grant Robinson (ex 41WG member) who is currently too busy to offer his services as an administrator for the web-site. Peter Davies asked that the issue be left with himself and Scotty Doring; they expect to be able to find a serving member who would be able to assist.
New Action: Peter Davies and Scotty Doring to pursue and advise committee.
- f. Committee Members List: Ray O'Donoghue advised that he had distributed an updated list.

ITEM 4: Correspondence

- An invitation to become a patron of the Radar Branch was dispatched to GPCAPT (ret'd) Don McPherson – no response yet received.
- Invitation received to attend the Battle of Britain ceremony (no lunch invitation). Jim Stewart proposed encouraging the RAF exchange officer (SQNLDR Knox) at 3CRU to attend. Peter Davies will pursue.
- Invitation to attend Fall of Singapore commemoration received. Ian Gibson to send email notification to members advising anyone interested to apply to DVA for details and arrangements.
- John King received invitation for Battle for Australia commemorations. Ian Gibson to send email notification to members advising anyone interested of details and arrangements.
- An invitation was received to attend the Ex HMAS Adelaide Mast luncheon: Howie Campbell advised that he and his wife will be attending.

ITEM 5: President's Report

Following some confusion over the President's email address, Rob Saxton advised that the email address shown on the latest membership list is correct. The president had no other significant items to report.

ITEM 6: Vice-President's Report

Apart from clarifying the relationship between president and vice-president, Bruce Niblett had nothing of significance to report.

ITEM 7: Treasurer's Report

Tony Rogers had distributed his 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:** Jim Stewart

Motion Carried

ITEM 8: Membership Officer's Report

Ray O'Donoghue had distributed his report via email to committee members. Ray read his report to the meeting. Bob Treloar enquired about membership trends, in particular about younger members joining the branch. Peter Davies noted that he and Scotty Doring are working on initiatives to increase younger membership, which will be an ongoing issue.

Motion: That the Membership Officer's report be accepted

Moved: Howie Campbell **Seconded:** Bruce Carpenter

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Motion Carried.

ITEM 9: Welfare Officer's Report

Howie Campbell reviewed his report, highlighting the issue of young members of 41WG not having wills. Although junior Air Force members are apprised of the benefits of making a will at initial training and also at subsequent specialist training units, many do not make a will. John King asked about the access to legal advice on bases for these junior personnel. It was advised that all bases have legal officers available to assist personnel to make wills, but doing so is not mandatory.

Motion: That the Welfare Officer's report is accepted

Moved: Peter Davies

Seconded: John King

Motion Carried.

ITEM 10: Pension Officer's Report

Report submitted by Bill Forsbey, but not presented due to an oversight by the secretary.

ITEM 11: General Business

- a. RAAFA NSW Division AGM Report: After several attempts to get the minutes from the Division AGM, Bruce Carpenter had finally succeeded the morning of this meeting and accordingly tabled the minutes. Committee members were asked to review the minutes and raise any issues either out of session or at the next committee meeting.
- b. New RAAFA website: Ray O'Donoghue discussed the new RAAFA NSW website and in particular the new membership site which has been largely driven by Mr Dick Wills. The new members list is more user friendly and has many advantages over the old NATMEMs list. Although still under development, Tony Rogers advised that the new web site will have an accurate NATMEMs listing in the next couple of days (as advised by Dick Wills). Bruce Carpenter noted that the new web-site already appears to be working as Canterbury Bankstown Branch section was working. Ray O'Donoghue had to leave the meeting, however he handed prize books to Peter Davies for presentation to prize winners.
- c. Battle for Australia Commemorative Service, Martin Place, 7 Sep 2016: Addressed at Item 4.
- d. RAAFA Attendance at Battle of Britain commemorative service 15 Sep 2016: Addressed at Item 4.
- e. Domestic Commemorations for the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore - February 2017 - Ballarat, Victoria: Addressed at Item 4.
- f. Photographs of radar units stationed at Exmouth Gulf during WWII: Howard Campbell suggested that Mr Davis contact the RAAF Museum at Pt Cook. He advised that approximately 83 books about RAAF radar had been donated to the museum. Jim Stewart also noted that there is a Radar Archive at the RAAF Museum which might be of value.
New Action: Ian Gibson to contact Mr Michael Davis and advise him to contact the RAAF Museum.

ITEM 12: Other Business

- a. Committee meeting schedule: In regard to attracting younger members, Rob Saxton asked if there was some historical basis for conducting meetings on Saturdays as it might be a reason for younger personnel not attending as weekends were their down

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time. It was discussed that it had begun as a trial to avoid clashing with work commitments on Fridays. Peter Davies noted that the current 24/7 operations make any day problematic for some of the serving personnel. In an effort to make the association more attractive to young folks, both Jim Stewart and Tony Rogers voiced that Saturdays didn't work well with family activities. Rob Saxton proposed a motion that future meetings be held on Fridays.

Motion: That future branch committee meetings be held on Fridays.

Moved: Rob Saxton **Seconded:** Ian Gibson

In discussing the motion, Peter Davies suggested making the meeting in the late afternoon or evening, to be followed by dinner. Bruce Niblett voiced a similar suggestion regarding social functions. Rob Saxton noted that many junior personnel ask 'What's in it for me?'. Bob Treloar and Howard Campbell agreed that we need to make it attractive to these personnel.

The motion was carried.

Bruce Carpenter then asked about timing for subsequent meetings and Peter Davies suggested 1600 or 1630 and then roll into dinner after the meeting. This suggestion was generally agreed.

- b. Web site update: It was generally agreed that this issue had been adequately addressed at Item 3 e.
- c. Associate Members: Howard Campbell raised the idea of other types of membership for members' family and or friends and proposed associate membership. Jim Stewart advised that the proposed constitution covers this issue in term of categories of membership. Rob Saxton noted that if we struggle to get primary memberships, there is probably little chance of associate memberships being a viable proposition. Tony Rogers noted that there is or was a type of membership called 'kin members', however he didn't know how up to date the list of those members might be.
- d. *(this item not previously advised for agenda):* Howard Campbell raised the issue of laying wreaths at commemorative ceremonies, suggesting that wreaths are usually thrown out and that books would be a better option; the money would be better spent on books rather than being wasted on flowers. Narelle Owen offered an interesting insight having worked for some time in school libraries, saying that books need to be relevant to the school's curriculum, otherwise the books don't get used. In many cases, books donated with good intentions end up being thrown out due to the lack of shelf space in libraries. Peter Davies suggested that we should ask each school or organisation about their specific needs in terms of appropriate book titles. Jim Stewart suggested identifying an Air Training Corps flight to donate the books to, after the books had been laid at a ceremony. John King also suggested that if the school was contacted, the donated book(s) could be used not only as a commemorative gift, but also as an award at the school's prize giving. Rob Saxton asked what we normally do for (for example) Battle of Britain commemoration and Tony Rogers replied that a wreath is normally purchased to the value of \$100.00. There was general discussion that books worked out better value than wreaths as a high quality book or more than one book could be purchased for the equivalent amount of money; and a determination just needed to be made about which school or AirTC flight would be the recipient. This could be noted with the book when laid as a commemorative gesture instead of a wreath. Narelle Owen also advised that as schools don't pay GST and typically get discounts from suppliers, an alternative might be to have a cheque made out to the school for a fixed amount, as the school can potentially get better value and choose an appropriate title.
Motion: That in future, books be used instead of wreaths.

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Moved: Howard Campbell

Seconded: John King

Motion Carried.

- e. *(this item not previously advised for agenda)*: Bruce Niblett advised that Stockton RSL sub-branch was facing demise as Stockton RSL Club looks like being amalgamated with the City of Sydney RSL. Bruce tabled a brochure with amplifying information. From the brochure it appears that Stockton RSL will be sold to City of Sydney RSL, perhaps remaining as a subsidiary of the City of Sydney RSL Club. The impact of this sale on the sub-branch is uncertain, however the amalgamation of the club with City of Sydney RSL should not impact on the use of the club facilities for future Radar Branch meetings.

ITEM 13: Next Meeting

The next meeting was set down for Friday, 16 Sep 2016 at Mayfield, Waratah, Islington RSL Sub-branch rooms commencing at 1100. It was noted that as this timing was in the middle of football finals series, it was not an opportune time to begin the new evening timings for the meetings. Also, as per the previously produced schedule of meetings, the next meeting had been set for Saturday, 17 Sep 2016, although in view of the motion carried today, Saturday meetings will no longer be held. Consequently, the booking for the meeting room will need to be changed to the 16 Sep 2016.

ITEM 14: Meeting Closure

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1300.

R Saxton

President

Date:

ID Gibson

Secretary

Date: