



RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR Branch

Minutes of the RADAR Branch Meeting

Held at Newcastle Legacy, 1/205-207 Maitland Road, Mayfield NSW on Friday, 16 September 2016

Members Present

Rob Saxton	President	Chair
Bruce Niblett	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Ian Gibson	Secretary	
Howie Campbell	Welfare Officer	
Jim Stewart	Committee Member	
John King	Committee Member	
Bruce Carpenter	Committee member	
Diane Taylor	Events Officer	

Apologies

Ray O'Donoghue, Peter Davies, David Winkelmann

ITEM 1: Meeting Open and Introduction

The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1105, 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 the Stockton RSL Sub-Branch on Friday, 15th July 2016 were tabled.

Motion: That the minutes from the 15th July 2016 meeting be accepted.

Moved: Ian Gibson; **Seconded:** Tony Rogers

Motion Carried

ITEM 3: Business arising from the minutes of the 15th July 2016 meeting

The following items arose from the minutes of the 15th July 2016 meeting:

- a. **Web-site Administrator:** Ian Gibson commented that following publication of the previous minutes, he had contacted the current administrator, Bill Forsbey, who advised that he was happy to continue in the role and was at a loss to understand why there was a search for a replacement. Ian had been unaware of Bill's willingness to continue, and on that basis assured Bill that he would cancel the proposal to find a new administrator. Ian then asked the assembled members if there was any reason of which he might be unaware, to replace Bill. There was none; accordingly, Ian proposed a motion to cancel further attempts to seek a replacement for Bill, as he continues to do a good job and is happy to remain as the administrator.

Motion: That Bill Forsbey remain as web site administrator and that any search to find a replacement be cancelled with immediate effect.

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

Motion Carried

- b. **Battle of Britain Commemoration:** John King had attended the commemoration on 15 Sep 16 and raised the following issues:

(1) NSW division had been unaware of RADAR branch intent to participate in wreath laying, and in future the division organisers need to be advised.

(2) SQNLDR Sally Knox (RAF Exchange officer, representing 3CRU) had attended in uniform after travelling to Sydney and walking through Hyde Park to Martin Place unaccompanied. John was concerned about her safety as there was a minimal

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uniformed police presence at the commemoration. John advised that SQNLDR Knox had also been nervous in walking through Hyde Park on her own. Notwithstanding the anticipated presence of plainclothes police in the crowd, John believes there was a real risk to a sole female in uniform, particularly between where she had parked and Martin Place.

(3) John advised that there was a lunch planned to follow the ceremony, but this had not been advised to the RADAR branch. John also raised as a side issue that it was difficult to contact division as there was no email address on the (division) web site.

(4) The book laying had gone well, John having bought four books prior to the event enabling both he and SQNLDR Knox to lay books.

The issues raised by John generated significant discussion, resulting in the following actions:

Action 1: John King to provide book shop owner/manager contact details to Rob Saxton.

Action 2: Rob Saxton to write a thankyou to the bookshop.

Action 3: John King to donate the books (having been recovered after the commemoration) to New Lambton Public School and to ask about appropriate books for future donations.

Action 4: John King to develop a checklist (in consultation with others as required) to ensure that the branch better organises its participation in future events of this nature.

- c. Photographs of radar units stationed at Exmouth Gulf during WWII: Ian Gibson advised the meeting that he had contacted Mr Michael Davis and suggested he focus his search with the RAAF Museum at Pt Cook.

ITEM 4: Correspondence

- a. NSW Division had emailed a proposed RAAFA National Constitution proposal. It was apparent that not all members had received the email.

Action 1: Ian Gibson to contact division and advise of the lack of emails to all committee members and confirm that division has all correct email addresses.

The National proposal generated significant discussion, with a general consensus that the change was potentially detrimental to RAAFA functioning. Bruce Niblett advised that he had discussed the issue with David Leach (Vice President at division) and that Dave had a counter proposal involving a Federation be formed from the state divisions, with representation on a Federation committee being drawn from states who would have a direct say in any decisions. The states would also deal with state specific matters, without 'interference' from a national body. In the federation model, ACT would simply be a 'state' member of the federation, not an overarching national body located in the ACT.

State division had also drafted a counter proposal which essentially stipulated that the national board consist of state members with voting rights, rather than the proposed national board which would not be formed from state representatives, but which would apparently be able to exercise authority over state divisions. Rob Saxton noted that Ian Gibson had contacted division and gained additional time (til 23rd Sep 16) to develop our input. Rob also commented that he would like all members to email their thoughts and opinions to him for collation into a branch response. Tony Rogers commented that he agreed with Ron Glew's approach at division.

Action 2: Bruce Niblett to get detailed information from Dave Leach regarding the federation proposal and distribute to members for consideration.

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- Action 3:** Rob Saxton to draft letter to division asserting that RADAR branch is not happy with the national proposal as it stands. This response might also include comment about the federation counter proposal if information becomes available.
- b. NSW Division had emailed a proposal to establish a quarterly newsletter, asking branches for input in the form of articles of interest, jokes, notices etc. Rob Saxton stated that he sees this as an opportunity to advertise events etc. Tony Rogers said that 'Wings' was no longer branch oriented, this being the reason the newsletter has come about - that branches in general have been unhappy with 'Wings' for years. The email also included a request for a voluntary editor position for the proposed newsletter, for which (in a moment of madness) Ian Gibson commented he might volunteer.

ITEM 5: 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:** Rob Saxton

Motion Carried

ITEM 6: General Business

Senate Inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel: Tony Rogers commented that Bill Forsbey had emailed a copy of a submission he has lodged to the recently announced Senate Inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel. Bill's submission is based on the case data he has collected over the last couple of years that raises serious concerns over DVA's heavy reliance on Departmental Medical Advisors and the incompetence, or lack of training, of some DVA delegates. Ian Gibson commented that he had also reviewed Bill's submission and it was very good. If any other members were inclined to make a submission, they should send it direct to the inquiry address.

ITEM 7: Other Business

- a. **Xmas Function:** Diane Taylor wanted members to 'save the date' for a branch Xmas function, noting it should be for all members, not just for committee members. The number of attendees at the Sydney functions held at Tattersall's Club had been gradually declining due to natural attrition of members in the Sydney region and Diane suggested that a venue in Newcastle be secured, perhaps somewhere near a waterfront. Several dates were proposed; the 25th of November, the 2nd of December, or to combine the function with the next meeting on 18th November. Following some discussion, both Bruce Carpenter and Rob Saxton commented that they weren't happy with combining the function with a meeting; it was generally agreed that a combined meeting and function wasn't a good idea. There was some discussion about perhaps combining our Xmas function with that of 3CRU/41WG;
Action 1: Rob Saxton to contact Spike Davies to ascertain details of timing and venue of the 3CRU/41WG Xmas function and advise at the next meeting.
- b. Diane commented that she didn't think laying books on the cenotaph was appropriate following the earlier discussion about the Battle of Britain commemoration. Bruce Carpenter agreed with her on this issue. As the use of books had been agreed at the previous meeting and noting the time, it was decided that further discussion of this issue would be deferred until our next meeting.

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- c. Rob Saxton thanked Howie for his welfare work following receipt of an email expressing appreciation for Howie's presentation on Advanced Care Planning to The Entrance Long Jetty RSL Sub Branch. Following this, Rob then congratulated Howie on his 25 years of membership of RAAFA; the certificate for which had already been received by Howie.
- d. Howie gave early notice of the Friends of Rathmines Association family picnic to be held around 20th August next year. Howie also advised that he would be in Grenfell for ANZAC Day next year following an invitation to speak at the Grenfell RSL on ANZAC Day 2017.
- e. Diane asked that members think about options for a function to be held next year following the ANZAC Day march.
- f. Tony Rogers noted several changes that should be captured in Ray's membership report regarding the number of full and multiple members following Don McPherson and Jim Stewart's father joining the branch. Also some members won't require renewal letters as they were paid up for several years into the future. Paul Adams had also emailed Bill Forsbey indicating that he was retiring from Defence and wants to cancel his membership.
Action 2: Tony to contact Ray and discuss amendments; noting that Ray is overseas until mid-October.

ITEM 8: Next Meeting

Following some discussion about scheduling meetings in the late afternoon or early evening, it was agreed that mid-day meetings were more suitable due to the travel involved for some attendees. The next meeting was scheduled for 1100 on 18th November at Stockton RSL.

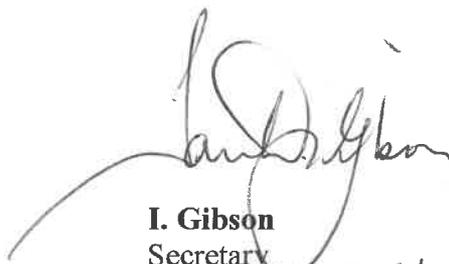
ITEM 9: Meeting Closure

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



R. Saxton
President

Date: 29 SEP 16



I. Gibson
Secretary

Date: 29 SEP 16