



**RAAF Association (NSW Division) - RADAR BRANCH**  
**MINUTES of the RADAR BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Held at the Waratah-Mayfield RSL Sub-Branch Hall,**  
**48 Baker Street, Mayfield**  
**On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

<b>Present:</b>		
Ray O'Donoghue	President	Chair
Howie Campbell	Welfare Officer	
Jim Stewart	Committee Member	T/Secretary
Bruce Carpenter	Committee Member	
John King	Committee Member	
Diane Taylor	Committee Member	
David Winkelmann	Member / President, Waratah/Mayfield Sub-Branch	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Terry Delahunty	Vice President	
Tony Rogers	Treasurer	
Alex Culvenor	Victorian Representative	
<b>ITEM 1 - Meeting Open and Introduction</b>		
<p>The Chair welcomed attendees and declared the meeting open at 1100, pausing for one minute's silence for absent comrades.</p>		
<b>ITEM 2 - Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>		
<p>The Minutes of the previous meeting, held in the Theatrette, Eastern Region Operations Centre, RAAF Williamtown, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015, were tabled.</p>		
<b>MOTION</b>		
<p>That the Minutes from the previous meeting be accepted.</p>		
<b>Moved:</b>	Howie Campbell	<b>Seconded:</b> Dave Winkelmann
<b>Carried</b>		
<b>ITEM 3 - Business Arising from the Previous Minutes</b>		
<p>The following items of Business arose from the Minutes of the 29<sup>h</sup> May 2015 Meeting:</p>		



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**ITEM 3 - Business Arising - cont'd**

- a. **ITEM 4.a - Reply to Division, re Branch membership details** - Action President / Treasurer

The President advised that Tony Rogers has been liaising closely with Dick Wills (Ballina Branch & State Council member) to resolve the current inconsistencies. Work is well in hand.

**ONGOING**

- b. **ITEM 10.a - ANZAC Day 2016** - Item for General Business
- c. **ITEM 10.b - 3CRU Anniversary** - Item for General Business
- d. **ITEM 10.c - Membership Cards** - Item for General Business
- e. **ITEM 10.f - Meeting Schedule & Location Venue** - Item for General Business

**ITEM 4 - Correspondence**

A large amount of correspondence has been received, and a list of inwards correspondence is attached at Annex A. The key issues are as follows:

- a. **RAAFA NSW - State AGM 2016.** State HQ are seeking a volunteer Branch to organise the next State AGM. Due to the wide dispersion of our membership, the Radar Branch is unable to take on this task.

**ACTION:** President to advise State HQ.

- b. **RAAFA NSW - Annual Return from Branches.** State HQ require information from Committee members. It was noted that governance requirements were, in the past, more honoured in the breach. However, with government regulatory oversight getting stronger all the time, it is essential the information be provided in order that RAAFA comply with government requirements and thus retain its status as a charitable organisation.

**ACTION:** President to coordinate Branch return.

- c. **Faded Echoes.** Correspondence has been received regarding the passing of the following members:

- (1) Bette O'Donnell;
- (2) Ken Taubman; and
- (3) John Gould.

Also, Mr Ken Maybury, President RSL Sub-branch - known for his past support.



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**ITEM 4 - Correspondence - cont'd**

- d. **RADSCL Association.** Provided link to the RADSCL Magazine web-site. It was noted that this site contains a lot of material pertinent to radar, and that Howie Campbell has been a long-standing contributor.
- e. **Request for Information.** Letter received from FSGT Aaron Poole, 114MCRU, Darwin, seeking information regarding the history of 2 CRU. (Editor's Note: GPCAPT Dick Pizzuto (former OC 41WG), HQSRG, is also involved in this project)

**ACTION:** Howie Campbell and Jim Stewart nominated as POCs for this issue.

- f. **Battle for Australia Assn.** Provided an invitation to attend a wreath-laying ceremony - Sydney Cenotaph, 2 Sep 15.

**ACTION:** Howie Campbell has volunteered to represent the Radar Branch. President to advise the Deputy Chairman for Commemorations - Battle for Australia Assn.

**ITEM 5 - President's Report**

In his report, the President delivered a verbal Report, which is attached at Annex A.

- a. **The Need for a New Secretary.** Ray is currently carrying with a large proportion of the Secretary tasks, in addition to his responsibilities as President. He expressed his thanks to Jim Stewart for carrying on as Minutes Secretary and stressed the need for a new Secretary.
- b. **Faded Echoes.**
- (1) **Bette O'Donnell.** The President advised that he had attended a memorial gathering to commemorate the life of long-standing member, Bette O'Donnell, and had made contact also with Bette's close friend Shirley Brettle - both Bette and Shirley have faithfully supported Radar functions until age and infirmity finally stopped them.
  - (2) **Ken Taubman.** The President also attended a farewell to Ken Taubman, and had been provided some details on Ken's RAAF service.
  - (3) **John Gould.** The President advised that he had passed on his condolences to the next of kin and had sought details regarding the date of the funeral.

**ACTION.** President to prepare submissions on Bette and Ken for inclusion on the Branch web-site, and to be provided to Terry Delahunty for inclusion in the next Bulletin.



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

Not available.

**ITEM 7 - Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report, through to 30 June 2015, was tabled by the President in Tony Roger's absence, and is attached as Annex B to these Minutes.

**MOTION**

That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Jim Stewart

**Moved:** Ray O'Donoghue

**Carried**

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

Howie Campbell tabled his Welfare Officer's Report, which is attached at Annex C. Key points of the Report are as follows:

- a. **Governance.** Howie noted that there is a considerable governance work-load on Welfare Officers, noting that these personnel are volunteers and most of whom do not expect, nor seek, Any form of reimbursement of expenses. This notwithstanding, the demands for governance Are becoming an increasing source of irritation.
- b. **Ex-Members - Wider Radar Community.** Howie advised that he has become an initial POC for advice and coordination for the wider Radar family (many of whom are not members of the Association). This includes notifying the passing of ex-members to others in the local area, assisting with pension/welfare issues and generally keeping the wider group in touch.
- c. **Greater Liaison with 41 Wing.** Howie is seeking to make regular presentation to the serving members of 41 Wing, with a view to addressing the need for Advanced Care Planning. This issue is a particular concern, arising from his involvement with such issues relating to emerging problems with the recent veterans' group (Iraq/Afghanistan).

**ACTION.** President is to raise this during a liaison visit to OC 41 Wing.

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

Not available.



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**ITEM 10 - General Business**

- a. **ANZAC March 2016.** The President noted that the subject of the Radar Association's move to the Hunter for ANZAC Day has been an item for consideration for some time. It was noted that any move had been delayed due to consideration of the remaining World War 2 members in Sydney, and that the 2015 March was very significant as the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ANZAC landing. However, the time has come to make a firm decision on the future Observance of this important event.

The key issues were seen to be:

- (1) Dwindling number of members in Sydney, offset by greater numbers in the Hunter;
- (2) Greater ability for SRG to support the Association;
- (3) Initial concerns regarding a less well-attended function (vice the attendance in Sydney) have been met by indications that serving members are more likely to bring their families to a local function; and
- (4) Disruption to the traditional ANZAC Day march rout caused by the light rail works in George Street - likely to take two years.

Jim Stewart noted that any World War 2 members could be provided with 41 Wing transport during the march (**Editor's Note: This was confirmed by OC 41 Wing**)

Diane Taylor enquired whether there was a WRAAF Branch or group in the Newcastle march. This was unknown, however it would be necessary to liaise with Newcastle Branch of RAAFA to determine any Air Force-specific arrangements, whilst noting that the march itself is organised by the Newcastle Sub-Branch of the RSL.

Discussion then being concluded, the issue was put to a motion.

**MOTION**

That from ANZAC Day 2016, the Radar Branch shall participate in the Newcastle March, vice Sydney.

**MOVED:** Ray O'Donoghue

**SECONDED:** Jim Stewart

**Carried**

**ACTION:** President to advise State HQ that the Radar Branch will participate in the Newcastle march wef ANZAC Day 2016.



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

- b. **3 CRU 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Whilst this event was raised at the last Committee Meeting, it was noted that 3CRU was actually formed on 1 November 1967. Accordingly, the observance is not yet an urgent item. Nevertheless, the President noted that events have a habit of getting away from us and requested that Jim Stewart, in his capacity as Honorary 41 Wing Historian, act as POC for the Radar Branch.
- c. **Radar Branch Membership Cards.** John King and Diane Taylor provided a situation report on progress with the proposed new membership Cards.

A representative costs was provided as \$70 for 250 cards. However, this will vary considerably with what is actually require. Aspects such as multi-colours, double-sided, logos and laminating will all drive the costs up.

The President, with consensus from the Committee, advised that he envisaged a card with the RAAFA crest in the top left-hand corner, with the TPS-43 silhouette in the right. Space would be needed for the member's name and membership number.

Diane advised that the tow logos would come at an additional cost.

Dave Winkelmann enquired whether the new cards would have to be cleared with State HQ. The President advised that such clearance is not required as Radar Branch is a self-administering Branch.

The determination was that the Membership Cards would be configured as follows:

- (1) Credit card size;
- (2) Light blue card with dark blue lettering;
- (3) RAAFA logo in top left corner;
- (4) TPS-43 silhouette in top right corner; and
- (5) Room for name and membership number on front, below logos.

**ACTION:**

1. President to provide the logos.
2. Diane Taylor and John King to provide a prototype design for consideration at the next Committee Meeting.



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

**d. Morning Tea for Sydney Members**

This is a joint concept of Ray O'Donoghue and Tony Rogers, and is aimed at maintaining a regular connection with Sydney-based members who are unable to get to the Hunter to attend meetings or other Hunter-based activities. The concept received strong support from the Committee, however cost is hard to estimate until an event is actually conducted.

**ACTION:** Ray and Tony to report progress to the Committee

**e. Meeting Schedule and Venue**

The Committee expressed total satisfaction with the Waratah-Mayfield RSL Sub-Branch Hall as a meeting venue, noting that the historical displays added a nice touch of military ambience. Howie Campbell was able to attest that to the convenient location of the Waratah railway station. Whilst not so close to the venue as the Hamilton station is to the Gallipoli Legion Club, the walk is not excessive.

Dave Winkelmann, as President of the Sub-Branch, advised his support for the Radar Branch to use the Hall as a meeting venue, but noted that meeting bookings would need to be coordinated through the Secretary of the Sub-Branch.

Discussion of the scheduling of the meetings then followed. It was agreed that a Saturday is the optimum and that we should continue with the second Saturday of each second month. The current system of the meetings commencing in January, followed by March, May, etc. was debated, noting that it may be difficult to get a quorum in January - due to such issues as Christmas holidays, Defence stand-down, etc. The diving factor, however, is that a March meeting is required, in order to prepare for ANZAC Day and to ensure that the Branch AGM is conducted prior to the State Annual General Meeting.

**MOTION**

That the Branch should continue to meet on the second Saturday of every second month (beginning in January), and that, subject to approval from the Waratah/Mayfield RSL Sub-Branch, the meeting venue will be the Sub--Branch Hall at 48 Baker Street, Mayfield.

**Moved:** Bruce Carpenter

**Seconded:** Howie Campbell

**Carried**



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

**Other Business - Additional Function**

The need for an additional function in the Hunter was noted, with a suitable date for a “Radar” anniversary being proposed (e.g. the Anniversary of the founding of the RAAF Air Defence Ground Environment [25 Feb 42], the anniversary of the first RAAF Radar going into action with the enemy [301 Radar Station, 19 Mar 42]). It was noted, however, that 41, 42 and 44 Wings tend to have a high operational tempo in February-March of each year, which could militate against the ability of the SRG Wings to support a Branch function during this time period.

Suitable date to be determined. **ACTION** - Committee

**ITEM 11 - Next Meeting**

Subject to confirmation from the venue hosts, the next Committee Meeting will be held at the Waratah-Mayfield RSL Sub-Branch Hall, 48 Baker Street Mayfield, commencing at 1100 on Saturday 12 September, 2015.

**ITEM 12 - Meeting Closure**

The Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 1236.

Ray O'Donoghue  
President  
Date:

Jim Stewart  
T/Secretary  
Date

**Annexes:**

- A. Correspondence
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Welfare Officer's Report