



HRSA SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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From the Secretary

Now that I am officially your Secretary and Editor I am going to share some of my personal thoughts regarding the club and the coming year.

I feel that an important aspect of the club is the communication. How we communicate to you, the public, potential new members and how we give you, the member the opportunity to communicate back to the committee. We welcome feedback, comments and suggestions. You would have noticed that there has been an increase in the emails that you are receiving. This is so that you can be informed on what is happening, even if you are unable to attend the meetings.

Ian Smyth has taken over the role of webmaster from Peter Hartung, and at this point I would like to give our thanks to Peter for his time and his effort to keep the web page going up to now. If you go to our website, you will see that it now looks very different. The plan is to have more information regarding the club activities available to you. I will be providing Ian with the information as I receive it so that he can upload it and you will be able to go and look up event details and in some cases before it is announced at the club meetings.

The newsletter will also be used to keep you informed. It is however time consuming and there are periods where the other parts of my life keep me occupied and there is little time left to sit in front of a computer and write articles. When this happens I will keep it short and focus on the information, rather than the articles.

We have been having periodic committee meetings where we discuss the coming events to make our meetings as interesting as we can. October will see another auction and in November there is something new. It is a meeting when you can bring a project that you have made or are still working on, as long as it is still in the scope of our hobby. There will be prizes awarded, and it will be judged by the members.

Our annual Christmas lunch has already been booked, and the venue is the Maid of Auckland Hotel and is at 926 South Rd, Edwardstown.

As you can appreciate venues are booked early in the year so we needed to act quickly to ensure that we had one. The Hotel that we booked last year has changed owners and the quality of the food and service has since deteriorated. Chris contacted me and said that he has found another potential venue and could we meet for lunch to check it out. We had lunch on a Saturday and I was able to inspect the place. There is a large private room that was already set up and would cater for 100 people if required. The car park was reasonable and the quality of food is good. I decided to make a tentative booking for the 8th December.

Yours Sincerely,

Victor Besz

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Coming Events

28th October

Auction at the St Cyprian hall

25th November

Project (Anything) at the St Cyprian Hall

8th December

Christmas Lunch at the Maid of Auckland Hotel

VISIT TO THE WEST END BREWERY



When we plan events for the club, a number of things are considered, including how practical the logistics are in organizing the event. This one was not the easiest to organise because we were requesting to have a tour on a day that the brewery is closed and we needed to find guides willing to come in on their day off, and it needed to be on the day that we have our meeting. At one point we thought that we would not meet the minimum number of members required as a condition of the arrangement.

Once the planning was over, the day went smoothly and it was an enjoyable day for everyone who attended. When we arrived we were directed to a room that was dedicated for tours and waited for the others to arrive. We were then given a safety briefing and were taken to another room to watch a video on the brewing process. It was there that we tasted barley in various stages of being roasted which is a key part of the beer taste. We then walked through the processing plant and watched a video on the operations of the brewery, and yes there was tastings, which was really more like drinking.

I had a number of requests to make the brewery our permanent meeting venue. There was a range of beers and ciders on tap and a couple of cheese platters. Beers and ciders available for purchase for those who wanted to bring some home. It was a good day out for all that attended and an opportunity to catch up with other members of the club.

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Taking photos in some areas was prohibited due to showing the way in which the plumbing is connected, however I found the photo (above left) on the net, so it is either an older design or taken by someone without the brewery being aware of it. Either way it would be difficult to follow the network of connections without a brain drain.



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The July AGM and auction ran smoothly and we finally have the mystery box(s) of components from AHARS pictured below. It was good to see that the entire contents of the boxes disappeared before the end of the meeting, with a little help from Alan.



LEFT:

Photo courtesy of Tony Bell of the latest Retirees Luncheon.

The Luncheon is reoccurring on the second Wednesday every other month. All members are welcome whether you are retired or not.

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BOYS RADIO

The Japanese-made Boy's Radio was the ultimate in a cheap, personal radio, as these were the radios that the average boy wanted, at a price that his parents could afford, and they caught radio manufacturers asleep at the wheel. Although they were disregarded as merely a toy by radio manufacturers, designed for a small niche market, more than two million were imported and sold in the United States in 1959 and 1960. Japanese manufacturers thrived by making these radios, while gaining the experience and knowledge that would allow them to ultimately dominate the whole electronics industry to such an extent that their counterparts could no longer compete.

The Boy's Radio was built in Japan, using only two transistors, in an era when the typical American-made transistor radio boasted six, eight, or more transistors. Although cheaply built with a very simple design, these two-transistor radios were powerful enough to pick up local radio stations and even power a small speaker. These radios were small enough to fit in a shirt pocket, and cheap enough to fit into the budget of a high school student. The radios even had Boy's Radio pressed into the plastic case, usually near where the battery compartment was hidden.

A major difference between the expensive multi-transistor radios and the cheaper Boy's Radio was the design of the radio circuit. The more expensive radios usually employed a variation of the radio design, called the Superhet, used in modern tube radios, while the cheaper two-transistor Boy's Radio used a much simpler reflex circuit.

They were also the source of a popular myth that persists even to this day - it is commonly believed that the Japanese were forced to create these miniature transistor radios as a way to circumvent a custom duty the United States had put on imported transistor radios. This myth claims that Boy's Radios were viewed by U.S. custom agents as only a toy and, thus, not restricted to import quotas or subject to import tariffs.

I have written permission from Phil Nelson to use the photos of the Windsor Boys Radio below:



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Radio in Hospital by Joshua Boxer

The following article sent to me from Joshua who is interested in contributing articles to the newsletter. I hope this will encourage other members to do the same.

Radio has been a big part of the Hospital Patient experience here in Adelaide since 1928 and similarly around Australia.

Little is known about the original system installed in the RAH but would appear to be a more conventional radio, single channel and distributed around the Ward through High impedance headphones.

An excerpt from the 1928 Hospital Annual Report shows it was quite popular:

"Wireless has been installed in all of the wards at the Hospital, with the exception of Flinders and Light. The apparatus is proving a great boon to those patients who are able to avail themselves of this entertainment, a pair of headphones being installed at each bed. The Board very much appreciates the efforts of those concerned in the installation, the whole of the apparatus being purchased, and the work of installation being carried out free of cost to the Hospital. (List of people were included who donated towards the 'Wireless Fund'). Efforts are being made to equip Flinders and Light wards in a similar manner during the coming year."



RAH Lomman Ward 1946



Lomman Ward McEwin Building 1950

As time went on the technology progressed along with a greater concern with the transmission of germs.

In the 1950's Patient panels were installed with the ability to select one of three stations and also the listening volume, depending on the State you were in there was a variety of listening options.

The South Australian version was a set of hard plastic air powered Headphones that allowed easy cleaning between patients but from personal experience were very uncomfortable to wear! (Photo next page)

Also the Volume adjustment was a tad crude with an air valve that simply narrowed and cut off the air flow. NSW used an air powered Pillow speaker and also had a more conventional volume control on the Panel. Tasmania in some hospitals used a "Pillotone" pillow speaker

By the 1970's some all in one Hand pieces were used that along with Volume and Radio Channel had Nurse Call, Light and even TV controls.

By the 1980's most Hospitals had Television's available, people had small transistor radio's so they had full control of what they listened to so the old Hospital systems were just left to fail and by the 1990's were being removed.

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Wall Panel RAH 1971



Audio Engineers Hospital system that was originally installed in the Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital NSW, installed in 1952



Pillotone Speaker



Air Pillow Speaker



Multi Hand Piece

Acknowledgment:

Photos and Information from the Royal Adelaide Hospital Heritage Office.

From The Hendon Files: The embarrassing TV test pattern:

The same apprentice who did not stand on the KEEP OFF sign, one day spat the dummy over something the production manager did. The test pattern the ladies used to set up new TV sets was generated by a TV camera pointing at a test pattern wall chart so the apprentice wrote across the test pattern in permanent marker pen "Snow Colbatch is a Bastard". Snow quickly discovered why all the ladies on the production line were giggling but he couldn't do anything about the sign without halting production so it remained until a new test pattern could be obtained.

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The latest move in Germany is the establishment of a huge network of television transmitters for disbursing propaganda.

I usually like to include an article which is either fringe or unusual or different to stimulate your imagination. This extract is taken from Radio Craft, Jan 1935. I have downloaded the entire magazine if anyone is interested.

Within the last month, Radio Craft has received a report that Chancellor Hitler is preparing a huge network of television stations in Germany which will probably be used as an aid to broadcasting as a medium for disbursing Nazi propaganda. As mentioned in the report, Hitler's plan includes the making of cheap television sets available throughout the country.

This will make Germany the first nation to establish extensive television programs on a large scale. Short waves will be employed for these transmissions, so that the required number of channels can be obtained. In this way with numerous stations properly spaced, it is expected that even the outlying districts will be adequately covered.

Television transmitters manufactured by the Baird Television company of England are said to have been ordered by the German officials. These transmitters are of special design to cover the conditions required for each individual installation. They include sound facilities as well as the vision units so that the voices of Hitler and his Nazi orators will be heard, in addition to visualising the speakers themselves.

It is expected that only a single design, approved by the government, will be manufactured by all the manufacturers. This is in line with the present plan in Germany to make Hitler's Own receiver (a set of small size, and relatively insensitive so that only local programs can be picked up) the distinctive set. Thus the citizens of Germany will be prevented from hearing the powerful transmitters of Russia and other foreign countries from which undesirable programs can be heard.

Committee

Members of the public are requested to direct all enquiries, including those regarding membership, information on radios (wireless sets) and the estimated value of radios (wireless sets), to the Public Relations Officer please.

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