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# S.A. GROUP NEWSLETTER



**Alan's Magnificent Eagle Receiver**

## Historical Radio Society of Australia Inc. – S.A. Group

Web Site: [www.hrsasa.asn.au](http://www.hrsasa.asn.au)

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### Planned Forthcoming Meetings (some are tentative)

Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Bill Verrall's auction
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Crystal Set display at St. Cyprian's
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Instructional day
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Auction at St. Cyprian's
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Visit to the ETSA Museum to identify their radios.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	One valve or one transistor radio project.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit to the National Military Vehicle Museum at Edinburgh
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM and auction.

### Retiree's Luncheons

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work at the Buckingham Arms Hotel (for the time being) on the corner of Walkerville Terrace and Northcote Terrace, Gilberton. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are:

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Committee Meetings

The tentative dates for the committee meetings are given, not that you are expected to attend, but if you have anything that you wish to have discussed by the committee. The dates are 19<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## Front Cover

This month the front cover features Alan Taylor's magnificent 5.C.L. Eagle receiver. The Eagle is a 5 valve neutrodyne tuned radio frequency (t.r.f.) receiver made by *5.C.L. Radio and Electrical Co. Ltd.* in Adelaide during the mid-1920s. It is battery operated with an 'A' (filament), 'B' (high tension) and C (bias) batteries. The 'A' battery was probably a rechargeable 2-volt lead-acid type.

While the following notes are sourced from the Jack Ross book (presumably "A History of Radio in South Australia 1897-1997"), the actual author is unknown.

"Glass Fronted Eagle De Luxe five valve Neutrodyne receiver with three tuners manufactured by the *5.C.L. Radio and Electrical Co.*, Adelaide in 1926. The company also manufactured receivers under the Demon brand name. There is no evidence that the company had any association with the local A Class station 5CL.

"The locally made Eagle range of receivers made by the 5.C.L. Radio Electrical Co. Circuits used were tuned radio frequency and Neutrodyne types. A feature of the construction was a cast aluminium framework on which Bakelite baseboard was mounted. Coils were mounted in Aluminium cans for screening purposes. This was one of the first locally built receivers to adopt this method. Additional screening was provided by silvered mirrors. The glass front panel gave a pleasing effect and the De Luxe model with a beautifully finished cabinet was the subject of many favourable comments."

## Editorial

I hope that all members had a safe and enjoyable Festive Season. I agree with the President that the well-attended Christmas Luncheon was most enjoyable. A great venue.

The year started with an early 'Retirees' Luncheon', which was enjoyed by all attendees, and the sale day where there were many bargains to be had. I must confess that, although I had my camera on my belt, I was so pre-occupied with events that I forgot to take any photographs. I had a number of items from a deceased estate that I was determined to get rid of. Thanks Ray for the help.

As we continue with the busy start to the year, your attention is drawn to the President's comments regarding the location of the attendance register and donation box adjacent to the entrance door for events held at St. Cyprian's Church Hall. I think the requirement for an attendance register is probably mandatory, so that should there be a disaster, such as a fire, there can be confirmation that hopefully all escaped.

Ed.

## Presidents Report

Greetings, from our President Chris Ratcliff,

Fellow members, another year has started and you are reminded of the list of forthcoming events listed on the inside of the front cover. Please contact our Secretary, Ian Smyth for more details or, if you are on the web, please use our web site for more details.

For those meetings at St. Cyprian's, the attendance register and the donation box for the hall hire will be located just inside the door. You are requested to sign the register and place a gold coin or two in the

donation box. The latter helps pay for the hall hire and enables the committee to provide other benefits to members.

The Christmas Luncheon was well attended and I am sure that all enjoyed themselves. It was a very successful event. Happy New Year and let us start the New Year well.

Christopher

## **Meeting Details**

Some details from our Secretary, thank you Ian.

### **BILL VERRALL'S ESTATE AUCTION**

This coming Sunday 16th February - 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Members should have received the address separately. If not, please telephone the Secretary.

This is a SPECIAL AUCTION restricted to HRSA members and their family or friends (including members of AHARS, the North East Radio Club and the SA Telephone Collectors Society.)

- Warren Lane will be the Auctioneer.
- Members are reminded to please bring a chair to sit on.
- There WILL be afternoon tea. We can't expect Warren and our runners to go 3 hours without a break!! So bring a chair and a plate as we usually do at meetings held in member's homes. John and Elizabeth agreed late last year to bring their chattels to this special auction and this has just been confirmed. There is a nice covered area by the back door away from auction space for us to have afternoon tea.

### **CRYSTAL SET EXHIBITION AND DEMONSTRATION DAY:**

Sunday 23rd February - 1:00pm to 4:00pm (One week after Bill Verrall's Estate

Auction) St. Cyprian's Church Hall, 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA,

This is NOT a competition, but a day to showcase the wonderful history of this early form of radio receiver. Lots of members have old (and newer) crystal sets in their collections, so this is an opportunity to dust them off and bring them along. If they are working then we will have an AM Radio signal source and an amplifier & speakers in the Hall to connect to them so we can compare different models and designs. NOTE: If you do have one that you'd like to demonstrate, please could you fit an RCA connector to it so we can feed its output into the amplifier?

### **"INSTRUCTION DAY"**

Sunday 15th March - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

St. Cyprian's Church Hall, 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA,

This is a special workshop for those with minimal experience at radio restoration and needing some special guidance.

- We will be setting up 3 workstations inside the Hall.
- Each workstation will have an experienced tutor from the Club and there will only be 3 or 4 members per tutor, who will work with them for the whole afternoon. Therefore, there are only 12 places available.

- The three tutors will be Alan Taylor; Warren Lane and Chris Ratcliff.
- The 12 members will bring their own restoration project and pay \$10 each to cover Hall hire costs. Some possible projects might include tuning alignment; a "motor boating" chassis; unwanted interference and general fault-finding in a project where help is needed.
- The HRSASA shop will be open for purchasing spares etc. during the day.
- 4 of the 12 places available for members are already booked, so get in early to reserve your place! Please ring Ian Smyth on 0488 488 776 or by email at [ian.smyth@me.com](mailto:ian.smyth@me.com) to make your booking.

(NOTE: This is Not a regular club meeting, but it's open to members who are interested in signing up for 3 hours of tuition. Other members are welcome to come along during the afternoon and just observe the action - for free!)

## Valve Bank Update

We are working our way through recent donations totalling some 2,000 valves and sorting them to get them into stock. Remember there is a quite a delay between our receiving them and finally giving an updated file to Aztronics for them to be included in their stock listing. An uncommon valve might not yet be listed on the Aztronics listing, but you can always phone me (08 8344 4978 or email [vbm@hrsasa.asn.au](mailto:vbm@hrsasa.asn.au)) and ask if there is an equivalent in stock or any in the new arrivals.

Part of the recent donation included a lot of CV valves. These not only have equivalents but have also been subject to additional qualification and reliability testing. While a given type may not be in stock under its commercial number we can look at whether we have its CV equivalent. Obviously this is not helpful if the valve you need was well pre-war.

While testing valves we have been putting quartz crystals aside, wondering what we might do with them. Duncan McDonald has tested over 500 of them, checking whether they oscillate, and their frequency. While we are not sure that we want to place them in stock on the Aztronics data base, they are available as well. If you want a specific crystal ask me for our valve listing file (which includes the crystals) or come into Aztronics on a Thursday morning and ask if you can see us upstairs. Norm, Duncan and I are usually there between 10 am and 1 pm, and visitors are welcome.

We are also putting valve sockets and valve screening cans aside. Like the crystals, they accumulate in one's junk box, and invariably all one can find is the wrong one. We feel a few dollars for the right one might see it make a useful contribution to club funds.

John Crawford, Valve Bank Manager, phone 08 8344 4978, email [vbm@hrsasa.asn.au](mailto:vbm@hrsasa.asn.au)

## Buyer Be Ware

Some years ago I went on the hunt for some brass Fahnestock clips. Unable to buy brass, I finally bought some tin or zinc plated from *Antique Radio Supplies* in the U.S. While recently looking for something else, I came across brass Fahnestock clips available from *Element 14* in Sydney. Somewhat elated, I ordered some clips on-line. Imagine my disappointment when the clips arrived tin plated. Enquiries with the company resulted in their comment that the catalogue is correct, they are made of brass, the catalogue simply fails to mention the tin plating. However, the detail drawing, separate from the catalogue, does indicate both material and finish correctly. That means that if I order a grey car and they deliver a pink vehicle, they are correct as it has grey undercoat!. They did offer to accept the return of the clips, we did not enter into who would pay for postage.

Ed.

## Photo Gallery next

## Christmas Luncheon



**Above:** The eastern most table looking north.

**Right:** The eastern most table looking south.

**Below:** The central table looking north.





**Above:** The central table looking south.

**Right:** The western most table looking north.

**Below:** The western most table looking south.



## Other



**Above:** The January 2020 Retirees' Luncheon at the Buck.

**Right:** Braxie, my vote for the HRSA-SA Group mascot.



**Left:** A period advertisement, probably for the Second Radio Trade Exhibition in Adelaide during April 1927, for *The 5.C.L. Radio & Electrical Company Ltd.*, manufacturers of the Eagle receiver previously discussed. Note the printing error of S.C.L. rather than 5.C.L.