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**October 2020**



# **S.A. GROUP NEWSLETTER**



**Modified Clandestine Type 3 Mark 2 Transmitter-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 25 <sup>th</sup> October	0930 Depart North Park Shopping centre for a visit to Craig Thomas at Gulnare with a picnic luncheon. Besides Craig's interesting radio collection, he also has a number of stationary engines including one very big one. Further details inside this Newsletter and detailed information in the supplement.
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	1300 A special auction of the late member Ian Pepper's collection. The venue will be advised separately. Our Secretary has prepared a special web page giving a background on Ian and list of items for sale. Visit <a href="https://hrsasa.asn.au/styled-4/page-14/">https://hrsasa.asn.au/styled-4/page-14/</a>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	1300 Sale day, set your own prices for your surplus gear in The Pavilion at the National Military Vehicle Museum, 10 Sturton Road, Edinburgh.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	1200. Christmas Luncheon at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, South Road, Edwardstown.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	1300 "My Biggest Lemon... or Bad Radio Day" at the NMVM, 10 Sturton Road Edinburgh
Sunday 28 February	1300 Auction at the NMVM, 10 Sturton Road, Edinburgh.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Instruction Day. Venue to be advised.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	1300 One Valve or One Transistor Radio Project. NMVM, 10 Sturton Road, Edinburgh.
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	1300 Visit to the ETSA Museum, 31-33 Broughton Avenue, Kurralta Park
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	1300 Home Visit. Looking for a volunteer.
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	1300 Technical Film Day at the NMVM, 10 Sturton Road, Edinburgh.
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	1300 AGM and Auction at the NMVM, 10 Sturton Road, Edinburgh.

### Retiree's Luncheons

The last luncheon was held at the trial venue of the Hampstead Hotel. As it was considered not particularly suitable I have trialled another venue recently and it ticks all the desirable features other than one, wide variety of food, cheap prices (roast or T-bone steak and soft drink for under \$18), pleasant atmosphere and

pleasant staff. Its only downer is not as central as I would like, but access from the south will improve when the present section of South Road upgrade is completed. It has both bus and rail access and good parking. The Hotel is The Reepham Hotel on the south-eastern corner of Churchill and Regency Roads, Prospect, meeting at 1200 in the Bistro on the southern side of the Hotel. Attendees post luncheon comments will be sought regarding the venue for future lunches. Dates for future luncheons are;

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## Committee Meetings

The tentative dates for 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> November, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

## Front Cover

In the June 2020 edition of the S.A. Group Newsletter, I featured a World War II era AR8 aircraft receiver modified by ACE Radio so that it could be used as a general-purpose ground communications receiver. Surplus equipment was not only modified by companies, but suitable equipment was also bought by radio amateurs for use on the amateur bands. In this case a World War II clandestine Type 3 Mark 2 Transmitter Receiver was probably bought directly from a disposals store and modified by Warwick “Pansy” Parsons, VK5PS, probably sometime in the 1950s. I do not know the origin of “Pansy”, but it almost certainly had a different connotation then than the word does today. Pansy was well known in amateur radio circles and at one stage worked on the technical staff of 5DN. Pansy must also have been quite handy at woodwork as the case is nicely made with dove tail joints.



There were originally two versions of the Type 3 Mark 2 transmitter-receiver used by Special Operative Executive (SOE), that built in to two steel cases for operatives in remote areas, such as forests and a suitcase version for operatives moving around in cities and large towns. The top of the left box is the continuous wave (c.w.) transmitter with the receiver below it. The centre box contains the 12-volt d.c. or various mains voltages of a.c. power supply. The next blank panel is the front of the accessories box, in which the various loading coils can be stored. The panel on the right probably has a modulator so the transmitter could transmit voice and an audio amplifier so that the receiver can drive a loudspeaker.

As with the modified AR8 Receiver, I intend to keep this as is as an illustration of how surplus equipment was utilised after World War II. **Ed.**

## Editorial

The forthcoming programme is heavily biased towards events at the National Military Vehicle Museum. This is far from an ideal situation, particularly for members living south of the city. Should we be able to return to St Cyprian’s Church Hall or another central alternative be found, this will be utilized. The situation

is slightly different regarding the luncheons, it is a matter of finding a venue that the majority of attendees feel comfortable with. For those retired, you are reminded that November is a luncheon month

The Wednesday night 2 metre radio net is continuing smoothly with an average of about 6 participants each week. Most are HRSA members, but we have the odd 'ring-in'.

With the centenary of the first commercial broadcasting approaching, when it is generally recognised that KDKA, Pittsburgh commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, we are still looking for ideas for our own centenary of broadcasting in SA in 2024.

## President's Report

My fellow collectors,

I am so glad that we have been able to start our monthly club meetings again! We began in August with the AGM and our visit to the *National Military Vehicles Museum* at Edinburgh. This was followed by our September meeting (also held at the NMVM) where we heard six members speak about *"My Favourite....."* "The items chosen were a favourite portable multi-test device; a favourite first home-made radio; a favourite unknown valve; a favourite English Philips radio; a favourite French Philips radio, and a favourite oscilloscope!

Our next meeting will also be unusual. We will be travelling north to visit Craig Thomas at Gulnare, which is near Spalding, about 2.5 hours north of Adelaide. We have hired a small bus for those who do not wish to drive (with a small charge to passengers to cover the cost.) Other members may choose to arrange car-pooling with colleagues. More details are in this Newsletter.

There is an extra meeting in November with an Auction (at an address to be provided later) to dispose of our late member Ian Pepper's remaining collection of radios. The regular November meeting will be a special "Sale Day" to be held at the NMVM at Edinburgh.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our "Annual Christmas Lunch" for members and guests at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, South Road, Edwardstown. Once again, the club will offer a \$10.00 discount to all members, so please, do not forget to pay your \$15.00 to John Crawford as soon as possible. We urge you to pay as early as you can so we can confirm the numbers. Do not wait until the last minute as it creates difficulties on the day!

The long-awaited display of "One Valve or One Transistor Radio" building projects will be held at our March 2021 meeting, so dust off what was started before Covid-19 stuck and let us finish it with a big display!

Although this year has been a bit of a write-off as far as club activities go, we hope that 2021 will be a lot more promising for us all.

*Chris Ratcliff*  
(President)

## Secretary's Report

It has been great seeing so many members at our first two meetings since re-commencement in August! One of the saviours of our activities has been The National Military Vehicles Museum (NMVM) thanks to Tony's influence. While it is quite a trip out there for many of us who live on the "wrong" side of town, we



are very grateful that they can accommodate us. Most of the other Halls and Community Centres we have been investigating are unlikely to re-open to groups like ours until after January at least!

Our next meeting is the trip up north to Gulnare, near Spalding, about 2.5 hours north of Adelaide. All members are asked to please RSVP to Ian Smyth by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October if they are intending to take part. Not only does Craig Thomas have a great collection of radios and other communications equipment, he also has a large Traction engine and other curious features. Please ring, or SMS to Ian on 0488-488-776 or send a message by email. Our host, Craig Thomas needs to know final numbers as soon as possible. Also, we have hired a 21 seat Mini-bus for the day and we need to know how many passengers there will be. The cost will be \$15.00 to \$20.00 per-person depending on the numbers. (**NOTE:** This is cheaper than the petrol costs of driving there and back – and a lot less stressful!) All members who intend to come on this trip are asked to meet in the carpark at 9:30am at the North Park Shopping Centre, Main North Road. Meeting point is under the veranda of Discount Grocers which is in the north west corner of the southern building, well away from the Mall entrance.

We will be hosting a special Auction event on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. The remainder of our late member, Mr Ian Pepper's collection of radios will be sold. Please visit the HRSASA website where we have published a tribute to Ian Pepper and a list of all the items to be auctioned. Radios are listed in different categories with photos and descriptions of their maker; age; valve line-up and cabinet details. There is a huge range from the 1930's to the 1970's in all shapes and sizes. The home address for the auction will be sent out to members closer to the date. In the meantime, visit: <https://hrsasa.asn.au/styled-4/page-14/> and take a look at the auction items in advance for yourself.

Ian Smyth  
Secretary  
Ph: 0488-488-776  
E: [ian.smyth@me.com](mailto:ian.smyth@me.com)

### **Travel Arrangements for Visit to Craig Thomas' home at Gulnare, SA.**

**Date:** Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Time:** 09:30am to 5:30pm (Northpark and return).

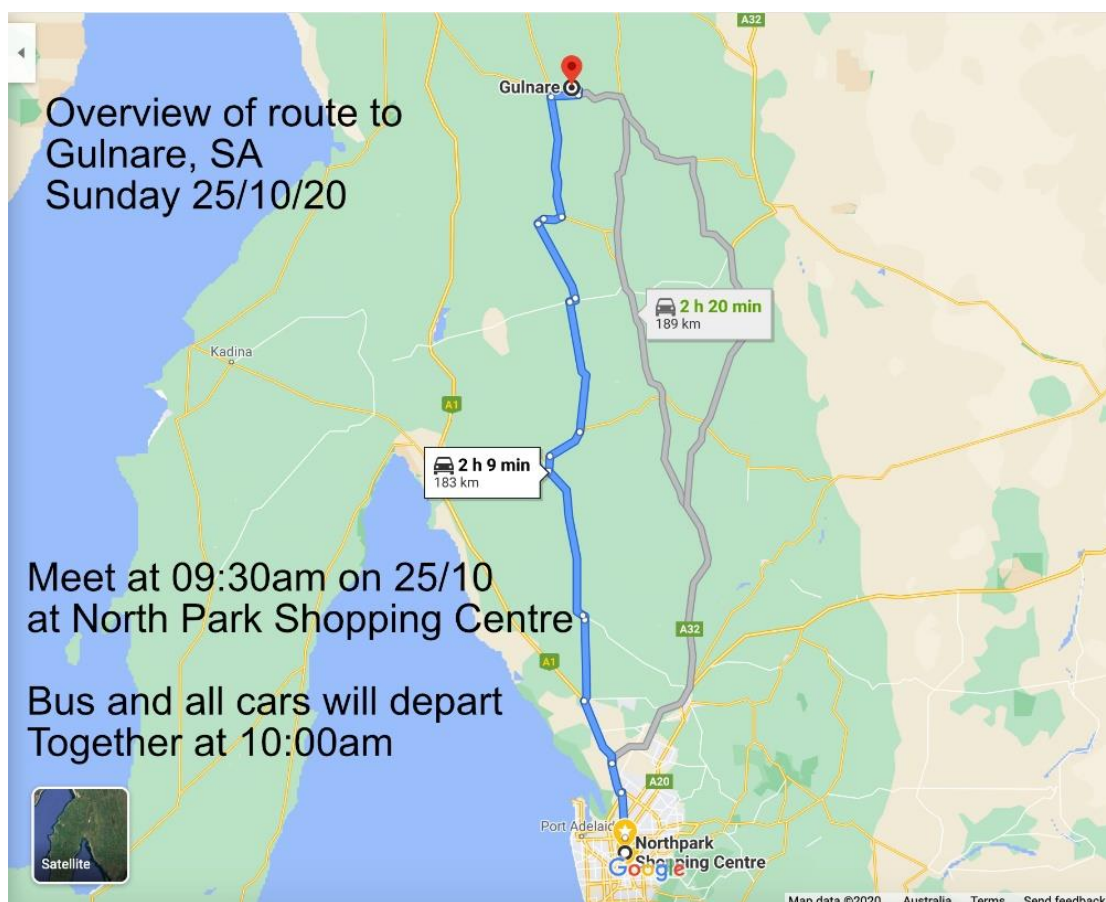
#### **If you intend to come to this meeting:**

1. Please RSVP to Ian Smyth (Secretary) by phone, SMS, email or phone-call to confirm your attendance as we need to know final numbers by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
2. Confirm to Ian Smyth if you would like to travel on the bus (cost \$15 to \$20 per person – also by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.)
3. Confirm to Ian Smyth if you intend to drive your own car.

#### **Notes:**

1. All members, whether travelling by car, or via the bus we have booked are asked to meet at North Park Shopping Centre, 264 Main North Road, Prospect at 09:30am for a 10:00am departure. (Assemble under the veranda outside Discount Grocers – located in the Southern building, away from the Mall entrance.)
2. Detailed location instructions to Craig's house are in the supplement to this Newsletter or will be given to drivers at the point of departure. (Map and GPS coordinates of the location.)
3. We will travel together in convoy for safety.
4. By meeting together first we can arrange car-pooling for those who do not want to drive themselves.

5. The minibus booked can take up to 20 passengers. The cost will be between \$15.00 and \$20.00 per passenger to cover the cost of hiring the bus for the day. (NOTE: It will cost that much, or more in petrol if you are driving up and back!)
6. Bring your own food and snacks – we hope to arrive at 12:30 and have a lunch break before the meeting. Remember – No sharing! (Covid-19 rules.)
7. We will depart Gulnare at 3:30pm and be back at North Park by 5:45pm.



Ian Smyth: Phone: 0488-488-776

Email: [ian.smyth@me.com](mailto:ian.smyth@me.com)

## Posted S.A.-Group Newsletters

Over this year, especially with the constraints presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been very conscious of doing our best to ensure all our HRSA members in South Australia stay in contact, and are updated regularly on our activities.

When I joined HRSA (over 10 years ago), we circulated a printed newsletter by post. But cost and printing constraints made us change to distribution by email. This worried me, particularly for those country members who do not have easy access to email. Hence of our over 100 SA members, I have a list of 15 who do not have easy access to email, and without printed and post news, would never hear from us.

In addition, we have recently expanded our newsletter circulation to also include the emailed *HRSA National Newsletter* from Kevin Poulter, HRSA National President, as well as *Radio Happenings*, the monthly newsletter from the NSW North Coast Group, and the quarterly SE Queensland, *Wireless Review*.

Feedback has been most encouraging, with frequent messages saying how interesting people find the wider range of information. So much so, that during this year some members on my postal list have made generous donations towards the cost of printing and postage.

Encouraged by this, I asked our SA Group Committee if it might be justified printing in the larger A4 format, and, if the cost is felt to be worth it, in colour as well. Photos and circuits are so difficult to read in the smaller A5 booklet form, especially for those where age is a factor. This has been a change much appreciated by the recipients.

As the SA Group Treasurer, I feel I may be a little too conscious of the cost. I believe that you will agree with me, that having joined HRSA, all our SA members deserve to be looked after as best we can. Over 12 months the cost of printing and postage has been around \$500, and with the increase in the postage cost, A4 printing and colour, will exceed this for this financial year. I still think it is worth it.

I have lately realised, that while some of our members do have access to an email address, it may not be convenient. Not having the hardware facilities that might make an emailed newsletter easy to read. Having been told how much more enjoyable the A4 colour printed version has been, I wish to offer any member with such constraints to let me know, so I can add their name and address to the small list of postal members. If you would like to receive the newsletters this way, please contact me.

*John Crawford*, HRSA SA Group Treasurer. 3 Church Terrace, Walkerville 5081. Phone: 8344 4978, Mobile: 0402 710 291. Email: [johncraw@internode.on.net](mailto:johncraw@internode.on.net)

## Retiree's Luncheon

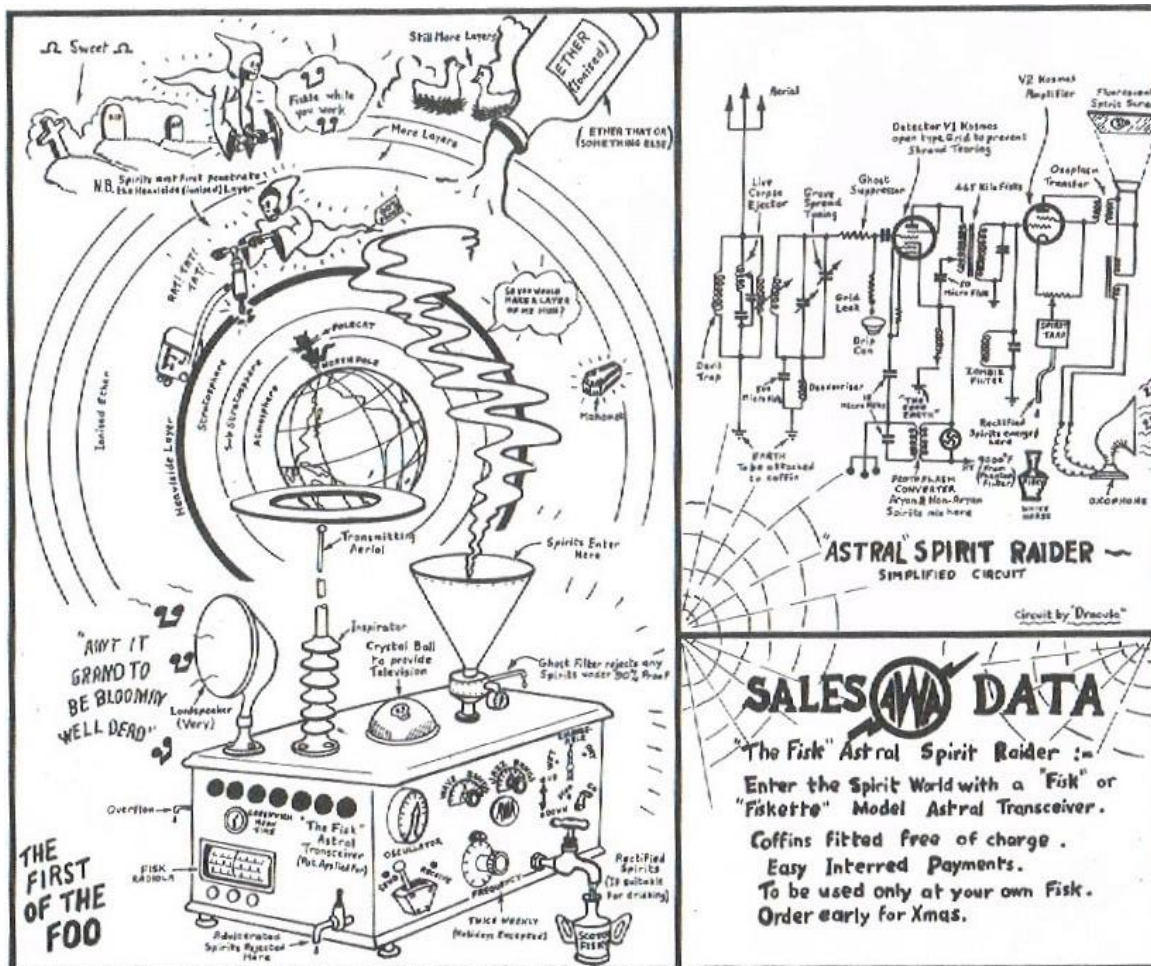


**Above Left:** The September Retiree's Luncheon looking north at the Hampstead Hotel.

**Above Right:** The September Retiree's Luncheon looking south at the Hampstead Hotel.

**Left:** An extract from "ELECTRONICS Australia", September, 1971 article "Spook-Easy, elicit spirits in your own home" by Tung N CHIQUE





Left: A cartoon from the same article as that on page 7

Below: A little of what you will see at Craig's on the 25<sup>th</sup> of this month.



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