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S.A. GROUP NEWSLETTER



S.A. GROUP MASCOT

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

Web Site: www.hrsasa.asn.au

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Planned Forthcoming Meetings (some are tentative)

Sunday 2 nd May	1300 Instruction Day at St Cyprian's Church Hall.
Sunday 30 th May	1300 Home Visit to that of member Mr Peter Howard.
Sunday 27 th June	1300 Technical Film Day at St. Cyprian's Church hall.
Sunday 25 th July	1300 AGM and Auction at St. Cyprian's Church hall.

Component Corner

Many new members are probably wondering where to obtain components and valves. The following is a list in order of preference;

HRSA-SA Group Shop (See the Directory above). We are working towards a publishable catalogue,

AZTRONICS, 170 Sturt Street, Adelaide. Houses the HRSA-SA Group valve bank and modern components,

HRSA Melbourne (see *Radio Waves*) Houses the HRSA valve bank and odd passive components and kits.

AZTRONICS, 470a Main North Road, Blair Athol for modern components.

WES Components, Sydney. The catalogue is viewable on-line and orders through the Shop Keeper or Secretary, as the SA Group has an account.

Retiree's Luncheons

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work for the day on the second Wednesday of the odd month. An excellent attendance of 16 at the March meeting is a good indicator of the popularity of the Earl of Leicester. However, it is the turn of the Reepham Hotel to host the May meeting. The Reepham is on the corner of Churchill and Regency Roads, Prospect. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are:

Wednesday 12th May 2021 at the Reepham

Wednesday 14th July 2021 at the Reepham

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 20th May and 22nd July.

Front Cover

Louis Armstrong, commonly called Satchmo, is no stranger to the Group, once attending a meeting some 20 years ago. I can remember the meeting being in a back yard, but whose backyard I cannot recall. He recently came into my possession and I put it to others on the committee that he would make a great mascot and there was agreement to do so. His new position in the Group can be considered a part of our 30 year celebrations. As Satchmo was born in 1901, his popularity was probably enhanced in the United States by the new fangled radio broadcasting, so it is appropriate that he be associated with a Group interested in broadcasting. Although he will stay under my custodianship for the time being, my intention is to either donate or bequeath him to the Group. I am sure he will attend some of the meetings and on special occasions.

Talking about broadcasting and jazz, there was considerable discussion in Adelaide during the introduction of broadcasting in the 1924/1925 period of whether jazz was actually music. I recall similar discussions when rock and roll started becoming popular in the mid -1950s and to a lesser extent with the Beatles in the early 1960s.

For the benefit of the younger members, Satchmo became a cornetist in his early teens and became well known for his excellent playing on the streets of New Orleans and on the Mississippi riverboats. In his early twenties he moved north to the more lucrative Chicago jazz scene. He played in various bands and led his own, touring widely. I saw him at the Regent Theatre (now the Rundle Mall entrance to the Regent Arcade) when I was still a teenager in 1964. I still remember the concert as the best that I have ever attended. I thought that this was his only concert in Adelaide, but somebody recently commented that they saw him at Centennial Hall. Perhaps his best known songs today, that are often played on *Cruise*, are tunes from *Hello Dolly* and the 'stand-alone' *What a Wonderful World*. Satchmo died in 1971.

Technically, Satchmo does sing. He has a small amplifier and speaker in his plinth (stage) driven by a MP3 player. I will need to master the MP3 player or replace it with a CD player. I will also need to digitize my vinyl LP records to increase his repertoire.

I do hope that the general Group membership enjoy him as mascot. **Ed.**

Editorial

First of all, I must apologise for the somewhat of a debacle in the coming events' section of the last Group Newsletter. This was largely due to the change in venue and the change in forthcoming meetings with the relaxation of COVID-19 regulations.

You are reminded that afternoon tea will be provided by the Group and under COVID-19 regulations, members are not permitted to bring food as it must be appropriately wrapped.

I think the rumour has probably circulated amongst members that I have bought Don's magnificent collection in its entirety, including components, valves, books and so the list goes on. As much as I would like to keep the collection together, this is not possible due to space. I am presently leasing a warehouse in

Ottoway and this will be used for temporarily storage, sorting, recording and sale of those items that I do not have room to keep or require. This possibly promises to be the biggest sale in the Group's history.

The sale will be in two parts, firstly the radios and secondly all of the ancillary items partially listed above. I would expect the first to be in early to mid-May and the second sale a few weeks later. I would hope all is completed before the 12th of June. The sale is being conducted as a Group event and the Group will receive a donation from the proceeds.

The sale of the valves and components are going to be a problem as they are often boxed in like function e.g., converters, rf/lf amplifiers etc. The ideal would be for a consortium of members to buy the boxes and divide the boxes up. Unfortunately, I do not have the resources to do so. A photograph is included to whet your appetite. There are some 150 plus radios, many very nicely restored, through to some "restorer's challenge". **Ed.**

President's Report

Greetings fellow members. The last meeting of a 1 valve radio construction project was a roaring success. There were plenty of entries and ideas on the various type of circuits, their layout and construction, using either valves or transistors.

Our next meeting is a technical meeting to be held in early May as an April meeting would coincide with Anzac Day. Although the main theme is instructing those that would like assistance in fault finding or aligning their radio, other members will have the opportunity to chat or 'Network'. I am sure some interesting topics will be discussed.

Please check the web-site for further details.

Christopher Ratcliff (President)

Have fun with web-based digital radio!!!!

Did you know that you can listen to almost every broadcast (and many non-broadcast) radio-stations from around the world on your computer?

Most broadcasters simultaneously "stream" their broadcasts via the internet while using traditional transmitters. Many new stations broadcast online only.....

....this opens up a whole new world of possibilities when listening to music, talk , sports etc/ or just reminiscing about places you have visited or lived in over the years.

Google Earth <https://www.google.com/earth/> is a powerful web-based tool for exploring planet earth. Its developers have combined forces and resources with many specialist developers to invent new tools, and this one is amazing!

Click on the link below and you will be able to explore the world of digital broadcasting from around the world.

<http://radio.garden/live/toulouse/radiopresence/>

The green dots on this Google Earth globe represent a radio station anywhere in the world.

Click in any of the dots and you will immediately listen to that station with very good sound.

Perhaps some stations are undetected but mostly OK, Enjoy this.

Frank Massalsky

HRSASA Member No: 1868

Lou Ottens, inventor of the cassette tape, dies aged 94.

Friday 12 March 2021

Lou Ottens twice revolutionised the world of music. The Dutch engineer was also instrumental in development of first CD in his work at Philips.

Lou Ottens, the Dutch engineer credited with inventing the cassette tape and playing a major role in the development of the first CD, has died aged 94 at his home in the village of Duizel in North Brabant.



(Photograph: Jerry Lampen/EPA News)

As product development manager at Philips, Ottens twice revolutionised the world of music, but he remained modest to the end. “We were little boys who had fun playing,” he said. “We didn’t feel like we were doing anything big. It was a kind of sport.”

Ottens, born on 21 June 1926, showed an early interest in engineering, building a radio as a teenager through which he and his parents could receive Radio Oranje during Germany’s wartime occupation of the Netherlands. He equipped the device with a directional antenna that he called a “Germanenfilter” because it could avoid the jammers used by the Nazi regime.

Following the war, Ottens obtained an engineering degree, and he started work at the Philips factory in Hasselt, Belgium, in 1952. Eight years later he was promoted to head of the company’s newly established product development department, and within a year he unveiled the EL 3585, Philips’s first portable tape recorder, which would go on to sell more than a million units.

But it was two years later that Ottens made the biggest breakthrough of his life – born out of annoyance with the clumsy and large reel-to-reel tape systems of the time. “The cassette tape was invented out of irritation about the existing tape recorder, it’s that simple,” he would later say.

Ottens’s idea was that the cassette tape that should fit in the inside pocket of his jacket. In 1963 the first tape was presented to the world at an electronics fair in Berlin with the tagline “Smaller than a pack of cigarettes!”

Photographs of the invention made their way to Japan, where substandard copies started to emerge. Ottens made agreements with Sony for the patented Philips mechanism to be the standard.

It led to the mixtapes beloved by teenagers across the world and the frustration of the unspooled tape, albeit largely fixable with the insertion and twirl of a disposable pen.

In 1972 Ottens became director of audio at Philips’ NatLab, where he became involved in the next major music innovation: the CD. A collaboration was entered into with Sony and in 1980 the 120 mm Philips-Sony CD standard was ready for the world.



More than 100bn cassette tapes and 200bn CDs have been sold. When asked about his regrets, Ottens lamented that Sony had brought out the first Walkman. “It still hurts that we didn’t have one,” he said.

“Nothing can match the sound of the CD,” he had told the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad. “It is absolutely noise and rumble-free. That never worked with tape ... I have made a lot of record players and I know that the distortion with vinyl is much higher. I think people mainly hear what they want to hear.”

Submitted by Ian Smyth. Thanks Ian. Ed.

Photo Gallery



Above: The 16 at the last ‘Retirees’ Luncheon’ at the Earl of Leicester last March



Above: Most of the radios coming up for sale in May.

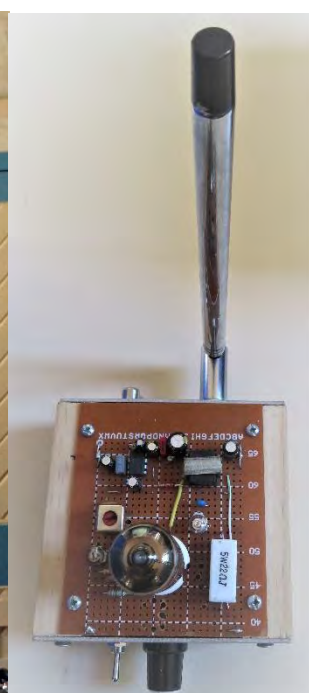


Left and Below: The crowd of members at the March meeting in St Cyprian's Church hall.

Bottom Left: Rob Habel discussing one of his one valve contributions.

Bottom Centre: Daryl Sampson put a new twist on the project with an one valve ultra-low power transmitter.

Bottom Right: A close-up of Daryl's ultra-low power transmitter.



SA History Festival 2021 Event

FERRY SOUND INDUSTRIES

TALK AND EXHIBITION



FERRY SOUND INDUSTRIES: Clapham 1950s

Talk and AV presentation by Keith Ellison

Ferry Sound Industries were a Clapham based garage manufacturer of valve radios, wire and tape recorders in the 1950s founded by Jack Ferry, son of Adelaide racing identity Syd Ferry.

Wednesday 19th May 6.30pm -7.30pm

Mitcham Memorial Library,

Cost: Free

Bookings essential.

Phone (08) 8372 8255 or at the library.

POP- UP EXHIBITION:

Ferry Audio Recorders & Radios

Ellison Museum of Radio & Magnetic Recording

Visit the Mitcham Memorial Library gallery space to see a pop-up exhibition of Ferry Reel to Reel recorders made in Clapham during the 1950s and a collection of vintage radios from the 1930s-1960s, many of which were manufactured in Adelaide.

Throughout May during opening hours

Mitcham Memorial Library

Cost: Free

Bookings not required



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www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au