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S.A. GROUP NEWSLETTER



GERARD & GOODMAN 'CONSOLE'

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 27 th June	1300 Technical Film Day at St. Cyprian's Church hall.
Sunday 25 th July	1300 A.G.M. and Auction at St. Cyprian's Church hall.
Sunday 29 th August	1300 Audiophiles meeting at Warren Lane's home.
Sunday 26 th September	1300 Possibly practical workshop on Bakelite repair.
Sunday 31 st October	1300 Book and Magazine sale day.
Sunday 28 th November	1300 Possible practical workshop on wooden cabinet restoration.
Saturday 4 th December	1200 Combined 30 th Anniversary and Christmas Luncheon.
Sunday 30 th January	1300 Auction.

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 22 at the May meeting is a good indicator of the popularity of the Reepham. It is again the turn of the Reepham Hotel to host the July 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 14th July 2021 at the Reephram

Wednesday 8th September at the Earl of Leicester

Wednesday 10th November at the Reephram

Wednesday 12th January 2002 at the Reephram

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 date for the last meeting for the present committee is the of 22nd July.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting shall be held on Sunday 25th of July at the St. Cyprian's Church Hall, a short General Meeting will be held at approximately 1300, followed by the A.G.M. At the A.G.M., all elected positions will be declared vacant and elections held to fill the vacant positions. Should only one person be nominated for a particular position, a vote will not be required. Nominations of either oneself or another person (with their permission), should be sent to the Secretary.

Front Cover

We have a contender to Miles' Hemac Puretone pedestal wireless set featured in last December's edition of the S.A. Group Newsletter. Alan has had the Gerard and Goodman, illustrated on the front cover, in his workshop for servicing. There is little known about this radio. It is a five valve (including rectifier) mains broadcast band only superhet of fairly basic design. Besides its overall unusual design, perhaps the unique feature is that the set will rotate on its plinth, thus enabling the dial and speaker to be easily directed anywhere in the room. It is unknown who manufactured the chassis and the cabinet was probably manufactured by an Adelaide cabinet maker. It is of about the 1932 era.

It is not known when Gerard Industries stopped making radios, but the illustration on the right is of a 1937 Gerard using an Eclipse chassis and presumably a locally manufacture cabinet and is presently for sale. **Ed.**



Editorial

In mid-May I held the first sale of Don's collection. This was quite a successful day with a clearance rate of the radios and loudspeakers being 72% with a further 8% sold in the meantime, leaving 41 radios. All the speakers, except for the floor mounting speaker, have now been sold. There were actually 206 radios to start with.

The second sale will be on the 26th of June (the day before the meeting) and will consist of test equipment, tape recorders, microphones, headphones, valves and a wide range of components. The sale will generally be by the container, whether it is a box, bag or whatever. Details may be found at www.hrsasa.asn.au website under AUCTIONS.

The forthcoming A.G.M. marks the 30 years since forming the South Australian Branch/Group. Although I

have written on the formation of the Group in this Newsletter previously, I will present an abridged version for the benefit of newer members.

When the H.R.S.A. was originally formed in Melbourne in 1982, the founding president, Ray Kelly, envisaged Branches in each State. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, South Australian members held meetings at private homes and was led by the late Roger Johnson, who distributed notice of meetings by post. There was no committee, minutes, bank account or Newsletter, as such. As I remember it, in 1991 the Bland family sold the remaining family interests in Bland Sales & Service, which had substantially declined to just transformer manufacture. The new owner was only interested in the transformer winding equipment, so an agreement was reached that the SA members would sell the remaining radio components amongst the SA member and split the proceeds 50-50% with the new owner. At one stage, we were holding weekly auctions, and this was where our 'nest egg' term deposit originated. At one stage I had the money under my mattress and moved it to the safety of my bank account. To open an account, we needed a formal organisation and there was much controversy on how the organisation would operate. As an independent group, I think we still own the name Historical Wireless Society of S.A., or as a part of the Melbourne group. The late Mike Eager, then the HRSA President, came to Adelaide for a meeting with Roger, the inaugural Secretary, Peter Holland, the Treasurer, and me, as President. Mike was somewhat concerned that an interstate group would bring the HRSA into disrepute. I think he was under some pressure from the late Ray Kelly and late Rex Wales to bring into reality Branches in each State. So, the HRSA-SA Branch was born. Some time later, we were asked to change the name to HRSA-SA Group for legal reasons. Most other States have at least one Group and NSW has several. Queensland is a 'lone ranger' with the Historical Wireless Society of South-East Queensland only affiliated with the HRSA. To the best of my knowledge, no Group has ever brought the HRSA into disrepute.

The May Retirees' Luncheon with, I think some 22, including 3 ladies, attending was a phenomenal success. I seem to recall 16 was our previous record. This certainly indicates that the Reephams is a popular venue.
Ed.

President's Report

Greetings fellow members. It was wonderful that in May, we were able to hold our first home visit meeting since the outbreak of Covid-19 at Peter Howard's workshop. It proved to be highly successful. The wood turning demonstration was in the hands of a very skilled artisan who performed with great ease. It was a very impressive display.

The auction held in mid-May at the warehouse at Ottoway also proved to be very successful.

The July meeting will not only be our AGM and auction, but it will also be the 30th anniversary of the founding of our club, which Tony Bell among others, originally set up.

I will see you at the June meeting,

Christopher Ratcliff (President)

Wanted

An AWA "Big One" automatic gain control limiter used with a.m. broadcast transmitters in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The unit is about 4 rack units (7 inches or 178mm) high for mounting in a 19 inch rack. If you know of any, please contact the Editor.

Philips Memorabilia

Recently I was given this ladies brooch by my wife's uncle. It was given to his grand-mother in the 1920's by a representative from Philips who was hosted by the family whilst visiting Adelaide. (This is well before Philips had a manufacturing presence here.) The family also purchased a 1929 model Philips 2510 radio through him, which I have just inherited and am in the process of restoring. This was the first model of imported Philips's radio sold in Australia.

I have done some homework on this brooch and thought that others in the club might be interested in this bit of Philips memorabilia!

“Have you ever seen one of these?”

It is a ladies' brooch from the 1920's – It was a marketing and promotions product made especially for the Philips Head Office in Eindhoven (Netherlands) by the famous Delft Ceramics Factory in Holland for the Philips Company. They are made from fine Dutch silver with the classic blue Delft artwork. It also has a nautical “rope” design around the edge.



Such gifts were given to exclusive clients and agents worldwide as rewards and for promotion, as well as advertisement pieces. Philips commissioned Delft to produce these Brooches, as well as plates, mugs, and much more. This brooch is from the early part of the 20th Century, around 1920 or so, and has been in the same Adelaide family since it was presented. Today they have a value of \$75.00 - \$100.00 “

Submitted by Ian Smyth. Thanks Ian. I consider the original email of Ian's a great introduction, so included it, along with the formal part of the story. Ed.

AWA Memorabilia

Not to be outdone, I dug out my recently acquired AWA memorabilia sourced from Don's collection. It is a cigarette box (I gave up the need for these many years ago) to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Limited in 1963. **Ed.**



Photo Gallery



Above: Warren hard at work, looking for the fault in Wally's radio at the April meeting held in early May.

Below: Alan giving Rob some fine advice on the problem with his radio.





Above: The crowd, looking south, at the May Retirees' luncheon.

Below: The crowd, looking north, at the May Retirees' luncheon.





Above: Peter Howard showing some of his previous work during the May meeting at his home.

Right Peter demonstrating his skill at wood turning to the large and interested group.



Below: Some of Peter's fine radio collection.

