



OTVA Newsletter

July 2014
Volume 15 Page 1

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42 Keswick Street
Georges Hall NSW 2198
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Your Committee for 2014/2015

The 58th Annual General Meeting of the OTVA was held on Friday 13th June 2014 at the Sydney Bowlers Club. The following office bearers and committee members were selected to guide the OTVA through the next 12 months. The strong leadership team that has led the OTVA so successfully over the past few years has been supplemented by Bob Dean who will bring his vast expertise to the role as Treasurer. Peter Allan will be taking over the Newsletter Editor role. A big thankyou must go to outgoing Committee Member, Bob Emanuel for his service on past committees and the great work he has done with the Newsletter. Bob will be concentrating his efforts on the organisation of the Rhododendron Society show later this year.

<i>President:</i>	Peter Bull
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Kevin O'Brien
<i>Secretary:</i>	Will Whyte
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Bob Dean
<i>Auditors:</i>	Ken Theaker and Tony Farrugia
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	Peter Allan
<i>Committee Members:</i>	<i>The above office bearers and</i> Henry Cranfield, Ray Hookway, Colin Kelly, Allan Hennessy, David Richardson, Bernie Whyte.

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Coming Events:

Committee Meetings:

- Wednesday 8th October 2014

Spring Function:

Friday 26th September 2014

Xmas Function:

Thursday 6th November 2014

OTVA Financial Members - July 2014

Mr P Allan	Mr J A Dingli	Mr C J Kelly	Mr L G Perrett	Mr C Vonwiller
Mr R Anderson	Mr J Dodson	Mr G Kennedy	Mr T Pike	Mr J Vossen
Mr E Anthony	Mr J Eades	Mr G Khalil	Mr B Poulos	Mr D B Walker
Mr M Arias	Mr R Emanuel	Mr D Kinnersley	Mr R Pow	Mr J M Wall
Mr A Arndt	Mr T Etherington	Mr J Kyan	Mr R Pugsley	Mr G Waller
Mr R Askew	Mr A J Farrugia	Mr T Laundry	Mr J Purdy	Mr S Walsh
Mr I Atkinson	Mr T Fisher	Mr D Laws	Mr B Quirk	Mr I Warby
Mr L S Ayers	Mr B Fitzpatrick	Mr J Lilley	Mr J L Rath	Mr D Watts
Dr P Baker	Mr R Fitzpatrick	Mr R Lions	Mrs F Rayfield	Mr D Webster
Mr T.H. Barker	Mr P Gallard	Mr T Lowther	Mr G Rego	Mr B White
Mr R Barnes	Mr S Gray	Mr R Lukin	Mr G Reibelt	Mr W Whyte
Mr T Bastow	Mr A H Griffiths	Mrs B MacDonald	Mr D G Richardson	Mr D Wicks
Mrs J Baty	Mr W Grundy	Mr C Maiden	Mr M Roberts	Mr M Wilden
Mr G J Beaton	Mr R J Hall	Mr C Maloy	Mr P Roberts	Mr D Wills
Mr R Beckett	Mr G Hanigan	Mr G Maltby	Mr M R Rose	Mr H Wilson
Mr J W Bennett	Mr J Harte	Mr P Mann	Mr R Rudd	Mr D R Withers
Mr P Borg	Mr G J Hausfeld	Ms R Marroum	Mr G Samuels	Mr G Woloszuk
Mr K Bourke	Ms P Helps	Mr G D Martyn	Mr M Saunders	Mr A H Wood
Mr R Boyden	Mr A Hennessy	Mr A Mason	Mrs A Sheath	Mr B Woods
Mr A Bradney	Mr J Hibbard	Mr B Mayberry	Mr J R Simpson	Mr V Yen
Mr W J Breeze	Mr F C Hickling	Mr R McAulay	Mr R Smith	
Mr B Brennan	Mr J Hinwood	Mr P McCann	Mr T Smith	
Mr C Bull	Mr P Hitchiner	Mr G F McCarthy	Mr J Spry	
Mr P Bull	Mr J N Hodgson	Mr K McCredden	Mr B Stockbridge	
Mr J Bultitude	Mrs J E Holland	Mr J McDermott	Mr A G Stuart	
Mr P Burgess	Mr R E Hookway	Mr I McDonald	Ms J Sullivan	
Mr M Callaghan	Mr P Horder	Mr B McGee	Mr N Sutherland	
Mr B J Callaghan	Mr B Hoschke	Ms J McMinn	Mr T Thatcher	
Mr M Carson	Mrs J Howe	Mr P Mills	Mr K Theaker	
Mr R Cleave	Mr J G Hughes	Mr J Myors	Ms L Thomas	
Mr B Collath	Mr J Hume	Mr J Natoli	Mr B Travis	
Mr J H Collister	Mr G Ivers	Mr M Nemeyer	Mr J Tresidder	
Mr H F Cranfield	Mr N Jackson	Mr B Newman	Mr G Trevitt	
Mr B J Curran	Mr S Jewell	Mr T Nipperess	Mr R Tuckfield	
Mr B Davey	Mr W Jolly	Mr K O'Brien	Mr P Tuckwell	
Mr G Davey	Mr C Jones	Mr G Oldman	Mr C Vahtrick	
Mr M I Davis	Mr F Kannard	Mr K Oxley	Ms K Varlow	
Mr R Deane	Mr K Kearney	Mr R J Pearson	Mr D Veverka	
Mr L Deslandes	Mr T Kearney	Mr S Pengilley	Mrs H Veverka	

Financial Member?—One Easy Transfer and that's it Forever!

Secure your “Enduring” Membership of the OTVA for the one off payment of \$50.

The OTVA is dedicated to organising reunions to maintain valuable friendships forged while working in the telecommunications industry. The regular meetings provide a great networking opportunity for those still in the workforce. Our 250 plus members have a common desire to preserve the history of international telecommunications in Australia.

To ensure that the OTVA can continue to preserve your part in Australia's history—become a financial member it is easier than ever!

Enduring Membership—One-Off \$50 Transfer!

Enduring Membership is open to any person wishing to join the OTVA. You will secure a full membership for the rest of your days or as long as the OTVA exists as an association without having to pay any future membership fees.

Two Easy Steps:

1. Transfer Funds from your bank account to:

ACCOUNT NAME: **OTVA**

BSB NO: **802155** (Bankstown Credit Union)

ACCOUNT NUMBER: **2081816**

Remitter: '**SUBS: your name**'.

2. Email the Treasurer and President

If possible, take a screenshot of your transfer confirmation and send it to:

treasurer@otva.com cc president@otva.com

If you cant take a screenshot—please email the treasurer (cc President) anyway to let them know that your have paid your subscription.

Annual Membership remains at \$10—please use the steps above to transfer your annual membership fees.

If you do not have access to funds transfer you can mail a cheque to OTVA PO Box 702 Riverwood NSW 2210.

Spring Function

Please come and join us at this years Spring Function—catch up with old friends, a great networking opportunity!

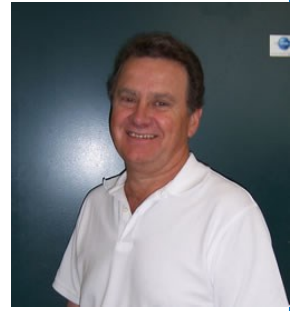
When: 12 noon Friday 26th September 2014

Where: The Red Room
The Bowlers Club
99 York Street Sydney

What: Buffet Lunch and Bar Service (pay on the day)

RSVP: president@otva.com

Incoming President's Address



Thank you for electing me to the position of President of the OTVA once again. In accepting the presidency I recognise that your support is a reflection of the excellent work performed by your Committee over the past 12 months.

I congratulate the other members who have been nominated and accepted positions on the Executive for year 2014/15. I look forward to working with the members of the outgoing team that have been re-elected as well as the new members of the committee to respond to the challenges that will confront us in the next 12 months in our task of delivering positive outcomes for the membership of the OTVA.

In the next 12 months the Executive will continue to improve the flow of information to you and we will continue to seek your input in relation to what things you want to see as benefits from being members of the OTVA.

Once again we, your Committee, will seek your advice on how you want the OTVA to develop and grow over the next few years. A critical ingredient in this task is your input so please think about it and write or email your thoughts with respect to that challenge.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you, the membership of the OTVA, to continue to make the OTVA a worthwhile and relevant part of your lives.

Peter Bull

"In the next 12 months the Executive will continue to improve the flow of information to you and we will continue to seek your input in relation to what things you want to see as benefits from being members of the OTVA".

More Stories Needed!

The focus of the Newsletter this year will be on people and places—Des and Colin have provided us a great example in this newsletter. I'm sure there are thousands of stories out there, and some that we can print! Do we have members that were in PNG? It would be great to hear about it. How about Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos—there was some great work done there by OTC. Other international operations such as Kazakhstan, Georgia—there must be someone that was on that famous Antonov flight to transport the Satellite dish from Australia? What about our business offices in London, NZ and New York. Of course most of OTC's work was done onshore—The SOR, MOR, BOR, Coastal Radio, Stations, Paddo, Broadway etc....lets get those memories working and preserve it for posterity.

Articles can be lodged by email, letter or recorded over the 'phone. Your editor is a very proficient touch typist thanks to OTC and Mrs Eastern at the Sydney Business college—but that's another story!

The best story (as judged by the committee) in each issue receives a \$50 prize.

Life on the Islands 1955-1962—Des Kinnersley

Des Kinnersley has kindly shared his recollections of OTC life on the Suva and Fanning Island Cable Stations between 1955 and 1962. This issue features the OTC Life in Suva. Next issue will feature Des's stint on Fanning Island.

My first posting to Suva was in October, 1955. As air travel was very expensive in those days, we had the pleasure of a six day cruise from Sydney to Suva via Auckland on the SS Orcades.

Accommodation was provided in a Guest House whilst I was undergoing familiarization training at the Suva Cable Station.

When the training was completed, a bungalow was allocated by Cable & Wireless for the duration of my tour. The bungalow was rent free except for the utilities.

Previous Cable and Wireless's assets in Australia, NZ and Canada were now operated by OTC, NZ Posts and Telegraphs and the Canadian OTC (later Teleglobe). This meant that staff at Suva and Fanning after 1950 had to be seconded to C&W.

The cable station was a two storey building located on Victoria Parade right on the sea front (see picture). The ground floor housed the Clerical, Administrative staff plus the emergency diesel and cable batteries. The upper floor contained all the Cable Station equipment for the four cables terminating at Suva (i.e Suva-Norfolk, Suva-Auckland, Suva –Fanning1 and Suva-Fanning2). The Clerical, Administrative and Telegraph Operators at the Cable Station were Cable & Wireless staff while Technical staff were all OTC on secondment. Telegraph Operators, Danny Yee and Vernon Yen subsequently emigrated to Australia and joined OTC. Others went to Canada and joined COTC.



The OTC Technical Staff consisted of a Technician, 4 Cable Officers on rotating shifts, 1 Cable Officer on Day Duties and the equivalent of an STO2.

The 4 Cable Officers on 6 hour rotating shifts were the Shift Supervisors responsible for ensuring the equipment operated satisfactorily during their shift. Their additional duties were the supervision of the telegraph operators.

The Revisor handled the checking of the incoming and outgoing cablegrams and organised their delivery.

The OTC technical Staff were transferred to Suva for a 3 year term with no leave until the completion of their term and return to Australia. The staff on rotating shifts worked Mon – Sat every week and 6 Sundays out of every 8 week spell.

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Some of the OTC staff serving at Suva during my 6 years there were:

Randy Payne, Trevor Thatcher, John Hodgson, Jim Rodda (who won the Fiji A Grade Golf & Tennis Titles, as well as being the Snooker Champion of the Defence Club), Bob Wright, Gunny Shepherd, Keith Oxley, Alec Griffiths, Paul Borg, Bruce Collett, Bruce Sutherland, Val Litchfield, Dud Treliving, Monty Montague, Joe Collister, John Newlyn, Jack Fisher, Jim O'Toole - my apologies to those who I have forgotten, but at 85 my memory is not what it used to be!

Life in Suva was very pleasant with excellent swimming, snorkeling, boating, tennis, golf and cricket although the humidity and high temperatures could be trying at times.

The local Fijians were a very likeable people and very easy to get on with. The Indians who formed the majority of the population at the time, were very industrious and owned and operated most of the shops and businesses.

With the advent of the COMPAC cables in 1963, the telegraph cables became redundant. OTC staff were no longer required as C&W Personnel manned the new COMPAC Cable Station which had been built at a new location.

“Life in Suva was very pleasant with excellent swimming, snorkeling, boating, tennis, golf and cricket although the humidity and high temperatures could be trying at times”.

Back Row L to R:

Charlie Raecke, Geoff Day, Geoff McDonald, Keith McCredden, Len Martyn.

Front Row L to R:

Unknown, Unknown, Randy Payne, Unknown, Alec Griffiths



In the next issue Des will give us an insight into life on Fanning Island. Above is a picture of Des's colleagues during that time. Not all the people in the picture have been identified. If you can help in the identification—please drop the editor a note to:

editor@otva.com

Back to Bondi Beach after 40 years—Colin Kelly

Way back in 1974, a group of young Trainee Technical Officers descended on Sydney from Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. This group had managed to survive four years of technical training under the capable stewardship of Ray Baty, Joe Collister, Darryl Heggarty and Brian Woods.



After a brief, but enthusiastic stay at the Eversham Guest House in Manly we were asked to find alternate accommodation. Consequently a group of us managed to rent a house at 15 Consett Ave, Bondi Beach.

This house was the scene of many a wild party over the years and many of us remember the 'Bondi Birthday Cake' on our 21st.

Some of those who lived in or were associated with the infamous house are:

Colin (Ned) Kelly	Mark (Doc) Roberts
John (Joe Cool) Robinson	Steve (Slim) Marshall
Harley (Scruff) Vague	Ray (Colonel) Pow
Kevan Bourke	Garry Chapple
Bruce Mayberry	Chris Collison
Bill Kay	Craig Doyle
John Smith	John Pavy

In November this year, we will be returning to Bondi Beach for a 40th Reunion commencing with the OTVA Annual Christmas Lunch at the Bowlers Club in the city on Thursday 6th November and the party will continue all weekend. For more information, please contact Colin Kelly at colin.ned.kelly@gmail.com or 0412 703 522.

Northern Rivers Welcome

The Northern Rivers sub branch would like to welcome any OTVA members travelling up this way the opportunity to have lunch and, of course, a few beers.

We meet **every Wednesday** in the restaurant from 12pm until about 4pm at the Riverview Hotel 267 Tweed Valley Way Murwillumbah.

Should you need to stay overnight a double room will cost \$60 at the hotel.

Those present in June were [from left to right] John Bennett, Gary Samuels, Bill Newman, Steve Marshall, John Toland, Bob Collins, Dave Kidd, Alan West [not present].

Should you feel the need to make arrangements in advance you can contact John on 0418163779.

