VK2ME

Geocache Description:

This cache is placed to commemorate 100 years since the first regular radio transmissions started in Australia back in April 1910.

The Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905 gave control of all wireless communications to the Commonwealth Government. In 1909 the House of Representatives resolved that wireless telegraphic stations should be established around the coasts of Australia, and that merchant ships should be equipped with wireless installations to:
a) gain intelligence of the appearance in Australian waters of hostile forces, and
b) assist in saving life and property imperiled by accidents upon the sea.
The Australasian Wireless Co. of Sydney won the tender to install, on behalf of the Postmaster General, wireless stations at Perth and Sydney.

This company virtually established Australia's radio industry by taking the initiative of installing radio equipment in merchant ships and operating experimental shore stations. In 1910 they were granted a licence to operate a wireless station and conduct telegraphy tests with ships at sea. Their station was located in the Hotel Australia, Sydney. The aerial mast was attached to the hotel's chimney. Thus in 1911 the first coastal radio station was established. The transmitter had a range of 520 kilometres.

The permanent network of stations initially involved the two high powered (25 kW) stations at Sydney [Carlingford*] and Perth (Applecross), and a network of 17 low powered stations. These were installed between 1912 and 1914. [*The site of present day St Gerard's Primary School and Carlingford High School]
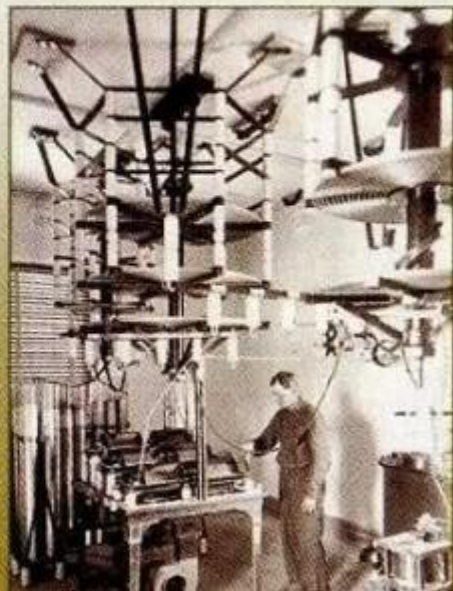
The above was officially called the Pennant Hills Wireless Station but as far as locals were concerned it was a Carlingford landmark. *Photo courtesy of Don Campton*

Left:
A postcard from Carlingford showing a koala at the Pennant Hills Wireless Station. This unique photo was taken by staff member Joe Reed.
Photo courtesy of Kay Alliband

Right:
Engineer testing the air cooled spark transmitter used for marine operations at the Pennant Hills Radio Centre 1916.
Photo courtesy of

This was also the transmitter site for 2FC and 2SM for many years.

Now onto the cache. It's only a multi because I want you to read the sign, and the prize at the end is a fair sized ammo tin a fairly short walk away.

Coords are S33 45.8BA E151 3.3CE

Look at the sign about the radio transmitter. The size of the Doonside site purchased later was ABC acres. 2FC started in 192D. E=D+1.

While I don't expect the cache to stay radio themed I have started it off with a few nice radio related items, and you don't need to trade even for those. Starting contents include a small MW/SW/FM portable radio, FM radio transmitter kit, Crystal radio kit, and a collection of stickers from various radio stations around Australia and overseas I have gathered from many years of listening as a hobbyist. If you want a sticker please only take one and leave some for others to enjoy.

Maybe the kits will inspire some kids to get into the hobby and enjoy electronics along the way.

You do not need to leave the mown grass area to find this one, so no bush bashing. Be warned that further in is a tree with a beehive in it, stay on the cut grass and all will be well.

Please replace the camo as otherwise it could well be seen by muggles.