

# Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia)

*Bringing generations of communications professionals together...*



June 2015  
Volume 15 Page 38

Registered Address:  
42 Keswick Street  
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## Annual General Meeting Friday 12th June

*The 59th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association will be held on Friday, 12th June 2015 at the NSW Bowlers Club, 95-99 York St, Sydney NSW 2000.*

*Doors will be open at 11:30 am for the 12:00 noon meeting.*

*A pay as you go lunch will be held in the Red Room at 1pm for those who wish to attend and catch up with old friends.*

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### ***Coming Events:***

#### ***Spring Social Event***

Thursday 10th September, 2015

#### ***Christmas Function***

Friday 27th November, 2015

#### ***Committee Meetings –10 am:***

- Wednesday 22/7/15
- Wednesday 7/10/15

#### ***AGM***

Friday 12th June, 2015

# Message from the President



Peter Bull—President OTVA

Fellow Members of the OTVA,

The 2015 AGM will be held on June 12 at the Bowlers Club in York Street Sydney. Where has that 12 months gone? I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families in good health and enjoying life.

## VACANT TREASURER POSITION

The OTVA once again finds itself without a Treasurer. Bernie White has once again joined with Allan Hennessy to fill the position until a suitable applicant can be found. I thank Bernie & Allan for their hard work and support recognising that Bernie cannot continue to support us in this manner.

The OTVA must have a new Treasurer to allow it to operate effectively. To assist a new applicant to grow into the role the duties of the Treasurer has been condensed. The role of the Treasurer has become a much less onerous role since the introduction of the Subscriptions Officer who handles all of the membership renewals.

## DIGITAL LIBRARY OF MAGAZINES

A highlight of the past 12 months has been the project to digitise Transit and Contact magazines. More than 150 DVDs have been distributed to members since the beginning of November 2014. The Committee of the OTVA has received many commendations from those who have reviewed the contents of the DVD with no negative comments. If you have still not obtained a copy of the DVD and would like one please email [president@otva.com](mailto:president@otva.com) to request a copy.

## OTVA NEWSLETTER

Since joining the Committee of the OTVA Peter Allan (Editor) has done an excellent job in generating very good quality newsletters. The role of Newsletter Editor can be a very rewarding job especially as you get to see first-hand many wonderful stories about the people that made OTC a great place in which to work as well as details of things that happened in OTC between 1946 and 1992 when it merged with Telecom to ultimately form Telstra. Unfortunately not all of these stories can be printed for legal, moral and ethical reasons.

Peter has used his own memories and established contacts to generate some very interesting articles that focus on the more personal aspects of OTC and its people. I congratulate him on his success in this endeavour.

The Newsletter Editor continues to seek stories from members without which the newsletter could lose value to its readers. Des Kinnersley won the **\$50 award** for his entry in the last newsletter: *Life on the OTC Cottesloe Telegraph Station 1952-1954*. If you have a story that can be printed and is assessed by the committee to be the top story in that edition of the newsletter you too could receive \$50. You have to be in it to win it!

## LIST OF FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Prior to the AGM in June, an email containing a list of all financial members of the OTVA will be circulated to all of the email addresses that your committee has on file. If you did not receive an email please email [president@otva.com](mailto:president@otva.com) so that your email address can be added to the email distribution list. I will do my best to keep your email address private unless you specifically ask for it to be shared with others.

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## OTVA BLOG

The OTVA BLOG (<http://www.otva.com/blog/>) continues to be the primary point of reference for information to our members. The number of hits each month is consistently high and your committee continues to receive correspondence from ex-OTC personnel, their families and members of the public asking questions about many aspects of OTC.

## EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Email continues to be a great source of communication with you, our members. If you send an email to [president@otva.com](mailto:president@otva.com) I will review it and where appropriate email it out to those on the email distribution list as well as upload it to the BLOG site where deemed appropriate.

## MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

I extend my sincere condolences to the families of our ex-OTC brothers and/or their partners who have departed this life since I last addressed you. We are saddened by their passing but are gladdened by the fullness of their rich and long lives.

Warmest regards,

Peter Bull

0411 260542

[president@otva.com](mailto:president@otva.com)

## OTVA Treasurer Required

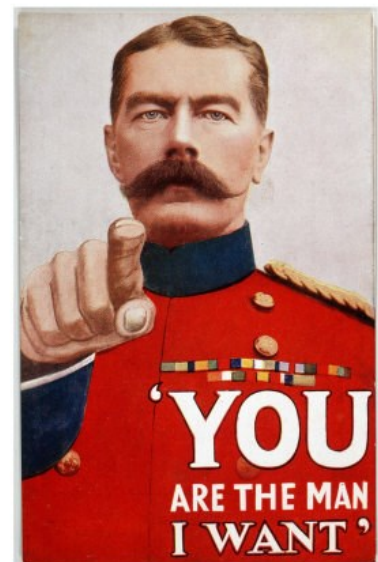
The OTVA is in need of a Treasurer. The job is not very onerous and will be suited for anyone with a modest amount of experience in this area.

The main duties are:

- Monitor cash flow and prepare documentation each year for annual report and auditors.
- At each committee meeting present a brief financial summary .
- Maintain control of account and investment strategies. ( 4 at the moment. )
- Pay all accounts when submitted electronically or by other means . (Currently less than 15 per year. )

Full assistance will be given from our committee members- your efforts will be greatly appreciated by all of our OTVA members.

For more information and description of duties please contact Peter Bull on 0411 260 542 or [peterbull@otva.com](mailto:peterbull@otva.com).





## Blast from the Past—20 Years ago this month

As Mark Proctor heads Telstra's new endeavours in Vietnam—its good to look back and see where he started

### Danang office opens

**T**ELSTRA'S third office in Vietnam, in the central provinces capital city of Danang, was officially opened on 22 May 1995.

Guests included high-level representatives from many local and national businesses and government administrations, including our partners Vietnam Telecom International; the Quang Nam-Danang People's Committee; Police Department; and Post & Telecommunications authority; Telstra management and staff; and local and national media. Guest speakers at the ceremony were Mr Doan Ngoc Minh, Director of the Foreign Economic Relations Department of the People's Committee of Quang Nam-Danang, and the Director of Quang Nam-Danang P&T, Mr Ho The.

Commenting on the decision to open an office in Danang, Telstra's General Manager Vietnam, David King, said Telstra has recognised the potential for growth in Vietnam's central region.

'With tourism, manufacturing and mining set to attract increased foreign investment in the area, we believe a regional presence is integral to our business strategy of long-term commitment to the growth and development of Vietnam and its people', he said.

Initially, Telstra's Danang office will have a permanent staff of three: Business Manager Mark Procter (formerly with C & G Sales, Melbourne); Operations Manager Geoff Carnegie-Smith (formerly Operations, Kalgoorlie); and locally-hired receptionist and office manager, Miss Huynh Mai Linh.

Telstra's Business Manager Vietnam, Peter Allan (2nd from left) and General Manager Vietnam, David King (right) with Mr Truong Hoa Trang (left) and Mr Nguyen Xuan Hung, of Vietnam Telecom International, Danang.



As increasing numbers of foreign companies seek to invest in Vietnam, a prerequisite is a sound telecommunications infrastructure — including direct links into the global satellite and cable networks — and the Danang office opening coincides with construction and installation of a new international gateway exchange in the city.

The new facility will complement existing international exchanges installed by Telstra and partners, Vietnam Post and Telecommunications (VNPT) and Vietnam Telecom International (VTI), in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

According to Mark Procter, the Danang

Director of Quang Nam-Danang P&T, Mr Ho The (left), and Deputy Director Mr Pham Long Tran, present Telstra's General Manager Vietnam, David King (centre), with a gift at the official opening of Telstra's Danang office.

exchange will utilise state-of-the-art digital technology to significantly increase international telecommunications capacity for the central region of Vietnam.

'It will also allow for the expected future growth of international telecommunications in the region', Mark added. 'And give Telstra the ability to pursue new business opportunities.'





## Compac Plaque at Paddington-Peter Bull

Through the support of Charlie Rudd and Geoff Parr the committee of the OTVA has been granted approval by Telstra for the installation of a plaque on the exterior of the Paddington Terminal building at 363 Oxford St Paddington.

The plaque commemorates the landing of the Compac Cable in 1962, the opening of Compac on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1963 by HM Queen Elizabeth II and the role of OTC staff in facilitating that successful venture. The opening of the Compac Cable was a significant event



The soon to be mounted plaque manufactured by Charlie



Charlie Rudd

in Australian telecommunications history as Australia moved from HF Radio to Cable transmission links that connected Australia to the rest of the world and enabled Australian commerce to overcome Australia's remoteness from global commercial centres and its overseas trading partners. From this single event OTC embraced cable & satellite communications to better enable Australians to communicate with business associates as well as friends and relatives overseas and the vision of **"No one's Far From Anyone, Anymore"** emerged.



The plaque unveiled at the recent committee meeting.

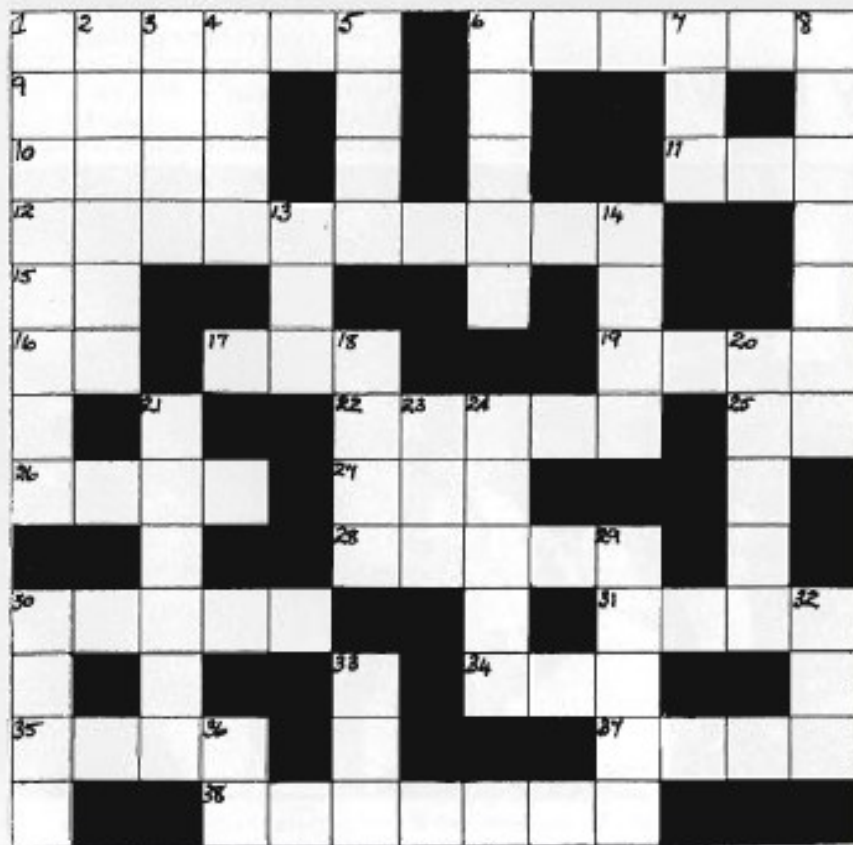
# Quick crossword #3

by Andrew Long

## ACROSS

1. The Dark Continent (6)
6. Ancient grave-mound (6)
9. Unmarried woman (4)
10. Without clothing (4)
11. Please turn over (abv) (3)
12. Simple (10)
15. Street (abv) (2)
16. Interim year (int) (2)
17. High mountain pass (3)
19. Noise of a lion (4)
22. Bitter and hot (5)
25. Travel allowance (abv) (2)
26. Scottish family group (4)
27. Grief (3)

28. Begin (5)
30. Tool of a carpenter (5)
31. Hasty (4)
34. Weeding implement (3)
35. The red planet (4)
37. Jealous feeling (4)
38. Mountain of the Gods (7)



## DOWN

1. Person with a lost memory (8)
2. Defective (6)
3. Travel on a horse (4)
4. Legal word for sounds the same (4)
5. Related (4)
6. A sodium salt of Boracic acid (5)
7. A new way to dance (3)
8. Aboriginal throwing stick (7)
13. Your conscious thinking self (3)
14. Enclosed piece of ground (4)
18. The rules society lives by (4)
20. Book of maps (5)
21. At risk (6)
23. Child's bed (3)
24. Succeed in touching (5)
29. Largest plants (5)
30. Gifts to the poor (4)
32. Mown and dried grass (3)
33. Purchase (3)
36. Accordingly (2)

Solution page 2



# 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](mailto:treasurer@otva.com) cc [president@otva.com](mailto: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.***

