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**OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**  
**SYDNEY**

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BOX 7000 G. P. O. ,

-SYDNEY.

Secretary - G. O. Cupit  
Telephone. 20333 Ext 563

NEWS LETTER

Sydney News

Sorry to hear John Comber has not been well and is now a patient at the Palm Grove Nursing Home, MacIntosh Road, Dee Why. He would be pleased to see any of his old friends.

Jack Bassett is making a name for himself writing lyrics for Rolf Harris. Jack spends his time commuting between Lismore and Sydney and we hope to see him at the Reunion.

We seem to have lost the present address of some of the Veterans and anyone knowing their present whereabouts, please inform the Sydney Secretary. These are: H. Sharpe, W. Telford, A.J. Money, A.E. Fox, S. Fabre, J. "Murray" Johnson, Gordon Berry and George "Pat" Riley.

Our sympathy goes to Jim Donnelly on the recent sad loss of his wife.

Many of the A.W.A. and O.T.C. people will be sorry to hear of the recent death of Bert Mealey. Bert, although not a Veteran, will be remembered for his early years in "Shipping Newspaper".

It is hoped that the O.T.C. staff magazine "Contact" will soon be back in publication. Staff shortages have made its publication difficult in the past, but the Commission now has two new men in Public Relations.

Sydney Veterans were very pleased to see Melbourne Secretary Charles Carthew at the Annual General Meeting. Our thanks to the General Manager of O.T.C., Mr. Harold White, for making this possible.

Old PAC people will be pleased to hear that Fred St. Julian has retired and has taken up residence in Sydney. He can be contacted at Flat 20, 614 Pacific Highway, Chatswood, 2067. Welcome to our ranks, Fred.

Melbourne News

Sad to see that A.W.A. has sold "Wireless" House, 167 Queens Street, home of the old "Beam". It is understood that the building is to be pulled down.

Our sympathy to Tom Finch on the sad loss of his life partner.

Congratulations to Al Boord on his election to President of the Richmond Football Club.

Glad to find that Claude Waite is back home convalescing after an operation to his leg.

Gus Hart is at present in Bed 25, West 2, Heidelberg Military Hospital, convalescing after a leg operation. Gus would receive enjoyment out of a visit from any of his old colleagues.

### "Flash Back"

During the 1930's, the Australian public was treated to a free message day - one overseas greeting per person. Thousands of messages literally poured in to be stacked high awaiting disposal. Meanwhile ordinary transmission was not interrupted. It took three days to clear the racks and return to normal. The following week, replies from all over the world were handled without fuss or bother and that, to be sure, proved quite an achievement.

After Pearl Harbour, the NPM (Honolulu) circuit in M.O.R. was really something out of the box. Gumming down and scrutinising Morse slip (90% code) at 250 to 320 wpm and keeping both undulator and relay at precision adjustment called for alertness plus. The keynote of it all was unexcelled enthusiasm plus pride in the job. The young operators who manned NPM from 1942-1943 were Les Brown, Bill Bentley, Norm Seabrook, Frank Handley, Doug Crabtree, Norm Stubbs, Ron Tevlin, Jack Noseda, Vic Sutcliffe, Jack Cornish, Don Cameron and P. Townsend. Incidentally, Eddy Saunders took personal pride in keeping the gear always in good trim and when NPM was transferred to Monterey under American administration Tom Johnson, Frank Stuart and Ted Turner were seconded to help supervise the changeover.

### News from New Zealand

Our first Satellite Station was officially opened on the 17th July, 1971 at Warkworth, about 40 miles north of Auckland.

Pleased to see that Bert Fox, our old Secretary, is making steady improvement after quite a long illness.

Old colleague from Adelaide, Dick "Albo" Evans passed through Auckland on a Pacific cruise on the "Himalaya". Bill Craig arranged a luncheon and Les Davison, Col Smyth, Bob Collins, Ray Sextie, Harry Fox, Bert Fox, Roy Hosking, Tom Atkins, Reg Langford, John Phillips, Fred Harry, Fred Studman attended. A very enjoyable 2 hours was spent reminiscing over old times.

Regret to add J.A. MacKenzie and A.N. "Anno" Ohlson to our memorial list. These members passed away late last year.

### Perth News

There is no actual Veterans Association in Perth, but a number of the old cable station staff hold an annual reunion and they would welcome any old Telecom people to their ranks, so anyone interested should contact Brian Morrell, 146 Virgil Avenue, Yokine, 6060.

The old Cottesloe Cable Station is still carrying out services to the community by providing a home for crippled children.

### Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meetings of the Melbourne and Sydney Associations proved very successful functions. As usual the business did not take very long and the "get together" afterwards consisted of the usual tall tales over a glass of ale. 60 attended the Melbourne meeting and 109 the Sydney.

Sydney people who attended the Melbourne gathering were Mr. T.J. Molloy, Director (Administration) and Messrs. G. Gosewinckel, R. Christoffersen and A. Barrie.

Through the courtesy of the General Manager of the Commission, Mr. H. White, the Melbourne Secretary, Charles Carthew, came to Sydney for the Sydney meeting. The chance for Charles to meet the executives and members of the Sydney Association proved most beneficial and a number of ideas were exchanged.

The attached list of signatures of those who attended the meetings should give you a few hours of enjoyment trying to decipher some of the hand writing. Also some of the signatures will bring back many memories, particularly to investigation officers who had the task of issuing P.E.'s.

Melbourne Office Bearers 1971-72

President - C.W. Purvis  
Hon. Treasurer - G.E. McDonald  
Hon. Secretary - C.W. Carthew

Committee -

Ex-officio Immediate Past President - F.G. McCormack  
J.M. Heathershaw  
E.M. Dennis  
F.L. "Les" Brown  
T.J. Chalkley

Auditors - J.R. Hunter  
A.S. Hart

Sydney Office Bearers 1971-72

President - J.G. Guthrie  
Hon. Treasurer - K.E. Vincent  
Hon. Secretary - G.O. Cupit

Committee -

H. Cook  
D. Woods  
K. Wilmot  
J. Collister  
T. Thatcher

Auditors - B.L. White  
J.M. Hansson

Annual Reunions

Melbourne Association

Friday, 12th November, 1971

commencing 5.30 p.m.

Venue: O.T.C. House,  
382 Lonsdale Street,  
Melbourne.

(By courtesy of the management)

Subscription - \$2

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Sydney Association

Friday, 26th November, 1971

commencing 6.00 p.m.  
(doors open from 5.00 p.m.)

Venue: 12th floor,  
O.T.C. House,  
32 Martin Place,  
Sydney.  
(By courtesy of the management)

Subscription - \$2.50

\* \* \*

National Secretary

The subject of a National Secretary was considered at both the Sydney and Melbourne Annual General Meetings. The Melbourne meeting was held prior to that of Sydney and that Association rejected the proposal unanimously on the basis that they wished to retain the independency built up over the years. Under the circumstances, the Sydney Association Committee had no alternative than to advise the Commission that the proposal would have to be abandoned. However, the Commission was requested to keep the offer open in the event of it being raised at a later date.

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we advise the passing of Alf Colbey, South Australia; Tom Jones and Jim Lynch of the Sydney Association.

Deceased Members - Melbourne

E.M. Bain	J.R. Gilligan (Past President)	T.J. O'Leary
E.G. Brook	C.F. Griffiths	J. Oliver
A. Baldacchino	G.H. Gordon	H. Oliver
I.J. Brown	L.T. George	G.B. Pickering
H.L. Byrne	H.G. Holmes	M.G. Pope
H.M. Bain	E.L. Huxtable	W.F. Richards
J.P.J. Curran	R.L. Hayes (Past President)	G.D. Reynolds
G.W. Condon	J.J. Hardy	R. Simons
Sir Giles Chippindall	H. Jaeger	W.E. Spargo
J.M. Dobbyn	N.H. Laws (Past President)	L.P. Stevens
A.G. Dixon	A.R. Mancer	E.V. Sutcliffe
A.L. Eichstadt	A. Malcolm	L. Sherburn
R.R. Freeman (Foundation President)	W.H. McHugh	L. Ternes
F.P.G. FitzGerald (Past President)	G.G. McKittrick	M.C. Tregenza (Past President)
J.C.S. Flanagan	T. Neale	J. Thornborrow
G.C.A. Williamson	C.A.K. White	F.N. Toohey
		A.W. Wynne

### Visitors to the United Kingdom

Any members thinking of visiting the United Kingdom and requiring accommodation would find it worthwhile to consider staying at the Exiles Club in London. This club is part of Cable and Wireless and all those who have stayed there have been very welcome and have given glowing reports on their return. Attached is an advertisement giving some details.

### Centenary

The centenary of the first cable landing into Australia will be celebrated this year and O.T.C. will be giving this event some publicity. About the same time, the overland telegraph line was constructed between Darwin and Adelaide and the South Australian president has found an article of a cycle ride along the route of the line. As it is rather long, it is being included in serial form. Any member who has a story of historical nature which they think would be interesting to other veterans should forward it to the Sydney Secretary for inclusion in the news letter.

### Epic Cycle Ride

" The Overland Telegraph, one of the wonders of the early telegraph world, was put through from Darwin to Port Augusta and thence to Adelaide in October 1872. Over two thousand miles of overhead wire supported on countless poles through some of the harshest terrain in the world.

Now Albert Macdonald was a young telegraph operator, born at Orroroo in South Australia, a quiet little township which suffered from the Postmaster General's quip that he hesitated to instal a Post Office there on the grounds that Orroroo would never have more than two letters.

Albert trained at Adelaide and was transferred to Port Darwin in 1893, where he conceived the notion of cycling to Adelaide on his next leave. He was far from being a tough type, spare of frame, but with his target in view he inured himself to a simplicity of life and trained until he built up a tremendous physical condition which, with his determination, was to give him success.

In 1895 he was transferred 550 miles down the line to Powell's Creek. Here his duties and training schedule sometimes dovetailed when that interruptor of telegraphic communication no less troublesome than teredo worm, trawler and earthquake - the swagman in trouble, would struggle up a pole to cut the wire and sit down to await inevitable rescue. Albert rode many arduous miles to such interruptions. He improved his knowledge of the route from chats in morse over the wire and from few and far between travellers, and toughened himself by sleeping on sacks on concrete flooring, progressing to bare concrete while his leave drew nearer.

Two pioneer attempts by two others to cycle up from Adelaide at this time were rather half-hearted and took 63 and 74 days respectively. Albert learned much from these efforts, from which he was to profit.

He sought a sponsor in a Melbourne firm, the Austral Cycle Agency, and his bargaining letters make fascinating reading. He asked for a "Swift" machine, showing high technical knowledge of gears and cranks most suitable for the journey, plugging his suitability for the project - one aspect of which was that he was a telegraph operator and would carry a pocket instrument to be able to come in on the line without interrupting it should he get into difficulties. The firm at first demurred, saying that if the journey took 63 days for 2000 miles, it could hardly be regarded as a suitable track for testing the quality of a machine, especially bearing in mind the terrible difficulties - hundreds of miles that must be walked and ranges over which the machine must be carried."

... To be continued in next news letter

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

( VICTORIA )

B. Davis  
Canner  
J. Eustace  
Robinson  
H. Hunter  
B. L. Lane  
Schiffman  
Dobson  
Benson  
C. White  
McIntyre  
L. Quinn  
J. Gentry  
H. G. G.  
C. G.  
M. C. C.  
M. J. M.  
J. J. J.  
K. S.  
J. H.  
C. G.  
M. J.  
J. R.  
H. S. Lake  
W. C. W.

J. H.  
D. H.  
7 North Handley  
M. J.  
E. J.  
John J. K.  
J. M.  
W. Bentley  
D. R.  
K. L.  
W. G.  
M. C.  
B. T.  
R. L.  
A. S.

C. W. Carthew  
Secretary.  
Charles Carthew,  
7 Lantana Street,  
CLAYTON. 3168

Telephone: 544 2514  
G. E. McDonald  
J. E. Conner

Office bearers  
1971-1972  
President C. W. Purvis  
Hon. Treasurer G. E. McDonald  
Hon. Secretary C. W. Carthew

- Committee -  
Ex officio Immediate  
Past President  
F. G. McCormack  
J. H. Heathershaw  
E. M. Dennis  
F. L. (Les) Brown  
T. J. Chalkley

Auditors  
J. R. Hunter  
A. S. Hart



REGISTER

GENERAL MEETING.  
10TH JUNE 1971

SYDNEY

PRESENT

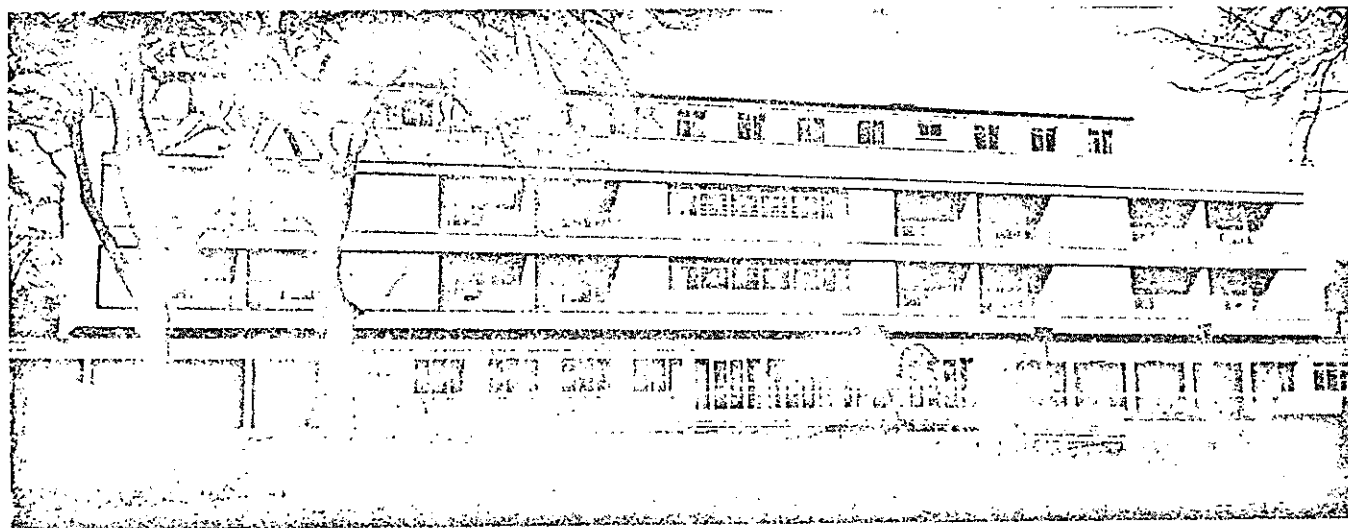
J. Day	att. Sanjilands	
K. Stone	J. B. Hartley	94
R. Brown	H. Mich	VII
<del>Edwards</del>	H. W. Brown	VIP
K. Barnes	P. Gannis	
E. G. Gunning	H. G. Fisher	101
R. R. Lawrence	B. W. Nelson	VIR
W. J. Nash	D. K. Gundersen	
B. N. Kellert	A. J. Jones	V.I.E.
H. K. Arnold	A. K. Mahoney	CR
D. Harris	J. Black	
A. G. Barber	J. M. Gussone	
K. J. Smith	K. Long	VIA
K. W. Wilby	L. G. Hughes	VIT
A. J. Stravland		
M. J. Boyd		
V. Linn		
Robinson		
G. Brown		
H. J. D.		
A. J. Loomis		
S. J. M. Yamaw		
Pat Cross		VID
H. J. Stravland		
R. J. Hoopes		
J. J. Crook		
J. J. Linn		
J. J. Linn		
Christway		
J. J. Linn		
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J. J. Linn		
J. J. Linn		

(109)



# EXILES

are you a member? feel like a break?  
on leave from Foreign Service?  
pensioner visiting London—stay at



Meadowbank—Exiles Club—London

# MEADOWBANK

For accommodation or catering arrangements, please telephone the Resident Manager.

Telephone:—01-892 4602 To contact residents—01-892 1787

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1971-72

Friday April	23	Annual Dinner (7.30 pm—8 pm)	Saturday November	6	Fireworks Party (6.30 pm) Dance (8 pm—midnight)
Saturday May	8	Dance (8 pm—midnight)	Saturday November	27	Dance (8 pm—midnight)
Saturday July	17	Garden Party (2.30 pm—6 pm)	Friday December	31	New Years Eve Dance (8 pm—1 am)
		Dance (8 pm—midnight)	Saturday January	8	Children's Party (2.30 pm—6 pm)
Saturday October	2	Dance (8 pm—midnight)			

*All events take place at Meadowbank.*

Details from Hon. Social Secretary D. P. Martin. Telephone (Smale House) 242 2311. Ex. 34. Home Telephone No. 01-894 0304.

## TARIFF

	Decimal Currency		Daily	Weekly
	Daily	Weekly		
<b>ADULTS</b> —Single Room	£ 1.40	£ 9.80	£ 1 8 0	£ 9 16 0
Double Room	2.60	18.20	2 12 0	18 4 0
<b>CHILDREN</b> —Child in Single Room				
Under 6	0.75	5.25	15 0	5 5 0
Over 6 but under 14	1.05	7.35	1 1 0	7 7 0
Two Children in Double Room				
(Age of Eldest Child) Under 6	1.30	9.10	1 5 0	9 2 0
Over 6 but under 14	1.90	13.30	1 18 0	13 6 0

Daily Charges include Breakfast, Dinner and Sunday meals. Charges for Residents Weekday Lunches 25p. (5s.). Charges for Casual Meals: Dinner/Sunday Lunch 45p. (9s.). Lunches/Sunday Supper 32½p. (6s. 6d.). 10% Service Charge added to residents accounts—no other gratuities.