

*OVERSEAS  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION.*



REGISTERED ADDRESS:  
POBox 8 GEORGE'S HALL, NSW2198  
ISSN 1322-1906

*Special General Meeting.*

*A Special General Meeting of the OTVA  
has been called for:*

*Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2002 at Noon (12.00)  
C.T.A. Club; Martin Place. Sydney.*

*Business:*

*"The proposal to adopt a new  
constitution for this association."*

*This will be followed by lunch. (Finger Food)*

*Cost: \$15.00 per head.*

*RSVP to David Richardson by 8/3/02*

*E.Mail: d\_s\_richardson@yahoo.com.au*

*Tel. (02) 9487.1985*

**NOTICE  
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
O.T.V.A.  
NOON.FRIDAY 14th JUNE 2002**

I think most of our Veterans would be well aware of the enormous changes which have occurred in the Australian telecommunications industry over the past fifteen years. Not only has OTC ceased to exist, but there are so many competing companies active in the industry today, that only a few people would be *aware* of them all, and virtually none of these specialises exclusively in international telecommunications. Employment is also no longer likely to provide any security of tenure. This being the case, it is almost impossible for anybody to aspire to achieve (say) fifteen years in that particular line of business, which is the OTVA minimum requirement for membership.

In such an environment it might be reasonable to suggest that an association like the OTVA, which is based exclusively on people who have worked in international telecommunications, is an anachronism and doomed to expire very soon.

It is therefore all the more remarkable that so many n-employees of OTC continue to attend the OTVA reunions and ACMs, and many more go to the trouble of organising social occasions and web pages for ex-OTC employees who are either inelligible to join the OTVA, or who find our reunions are scheduled at times which do not suit them.

These facts have troubled your Committee for some time. We feel that it is the obligation of the OTVA to provide an opportunity for our fellow ex-OTC employees to join with us socially and share the same spirit of camaraderie as we Vets have enjoyed for many years. For these reasons we have spent many hours considering the type of organisation we believe the OTVA should be today, and preparing a new Constitution which reflects those values.

This proposed new OTVA Constitution, which is contained in this issue, represents your Committee's views on the shape which our Association must assume in order to survive and prosper in the years ahead. Our existing Constitution is based upon a State Branch structure, which was quite appropriate in those days when all reunions and AGMs were fully funded by OTC and the costs associated with producing and distributing the OTVA Newsletter were also carded by the same employer organisation. However, this concept is no longer feasible in our present day environment where we must all contribute towards the costs if we wish to enjoy these benefits. This does not preclude OTVA members in each State organising their own reunions and other functions; far from it. It simply means that the production of the Newsletter and the activities we undertake to endeavour to save and protect the OTC archives are centralised, and we are able to take steps to make this organisation as accessible to other ex-OTC employees as possible.

The adoption of a new Constitution is not an insignificant step and we have pondered long and hard about the most democratic way to accomplish this, given the fact that many of our members are located too far away to be expected to attend the Special General Meeting to vote on this issue.

The process which we have decided to follow is therefore as follows: A Special General

Meeting of the OTVA, followed by a reunion, will be held at the CTA

Club, Martin Place, Sydney, at noon on 15 March, 2002. Official notice of that meeting is contained in this issue of the Newsletter, together with an optional postal vote, which financial members may lodge if unable to attend the SGM.

At that meeting, members will vote upon the adoption of the new OTVA Constitution. Discussion will be encouraged and any questions will be answered, but no amendments will be accepted from the floor, since postal voters would not have the opportunity to consider such proposals.

The proposed new Constitution will be either adopted or rejected by that meeting

Should a majority of the voters at the SGM vote for the adoption of the new Constitution, I shall write to each of the (two) surviving State OTVA Branches and request that they put this issue before their respective memberships and advise me of the outcomes. Members who have taken part in the postal vote option will be asked to abstain from voting in their State Branch polls on this issue.

Should a majority of voters in either of those State Branches vote in favour of the adoption of the new Constitution, I shall ask attendees at the next Annual General Meeting to formally adopt that Constitution.

I ask you to give your complete support to this proposal. It represents the unanimous view of your Committee and it presents a unique opportunity for the OTVA to gather new strength and to provide the focal point for all international telecommunications veterans (and survivors) for years to come.

I commend the proposal to all OTVA members.

Yours fraternally,  
Tom Barker.

*Vales.*

The President and members extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the following members who passed away since our last issue. Time precludes a longer obituary but we hope to cover this in our next issue.

Max Dwyer ex Bringelly.  
Jimmy Davis ex Stores.  
Guido Linssen ex Engineering Branch

South Australian News.

Our thanks to Harry Stone for the following item.

Seasonal greetings to you & yours with fraternal greetings to all fellow members of the OTVA. Herewith a short report of the Xmas meeting of our South Australian Branch held on 30th Nov Thursday at our usual venue The old McLarenvale Pub, which has lately been completely refurbished & redecorated but despite this still serves our purpose as our meeting place.

Those in attendance were Dave Herbert (ex-President) Dick Inwood, Ern Barrett, Paddy Wilkinson, John McGregor, Max Lang and Harry Stone.

A letter from Tom Barker (President-OTVA) concerning three proposed changes to the constitution of the OTVA, namely, shortening the qualifying period for full membership, establishing a new Associate (non-voting) membership and the question of incorporation of the OTVA. This was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to support these

propositions. A reply letter has accordingly been posted off to Tom Barker expressing our support in this matter.

I still maintain contact with OTVA members & exmembers in Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia by means of our daily "Ham" sked on 14150 khz and will endeavour to re-activate their interest & participation in the OTVA. It would be a shame if the already flickering & faltering flame was to be extinguished by the relentless passage of time, when there is possibly a large number of potential members who would join our thinning ranks if the proposed changes to qualifying periods were adopted. After all the word Veteran does necessarily mean old age but also means lengthy period of service. I, myself, would have been a veteran when I reached the age of 34 years, having commenced work with the Beam Wireless Service in 1931 at the age of 14 along with Gordon Cupit, Ross Herrington, Phil Chapman and a many, many others, too numerous to mention. So, veteran doesn't necessarily mean a hoary old octogenarian like myself..

Our next A.G.M. will be held at the same venue the McLaren Vale Pub on the last Thursday in May 2002, same time, same conditions.

Dick Inwood's novel "PINK GINS" is being published by Writspot Publisher International, Brisbane as an E-book and should appear on the Website [www.writersspot.com](http://www.writersspot.com) close to Xmas.

- A story of five adventurous years on the China Coast living life to the full.. Ex-mariners will enjoy it! Follow the prompts to the 'Bookshop' or 'Reading room' and a secure order can be placed ( protecting your card ) and the publisher then downloads it to your computer or sends a disc. It can be read a chapter at a time on the screen or printed out bit by bit Price at this stage is unknown but it'll be cheaper than in print form.

"An impoverished author who spends his time breaking dry biscuits with bony fingers seeks your help." (The above paragraph contributed courtesy Dick Iwood)

Thats all from Adelaide. Cheers & 73s

Harry Stone (Sec-Treas-SA)

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West Australian News.

Our thanks to Derek Walker for the following item

Herewith report on the 27<sup>th</sup> ACM of the OTVA WA Branch, held at Gngangara on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

President Des Kinnersley opened the meeting at 1.03pm and welcomed WA Veterans Jim Bairstow, Cohn Benporath, Ron Cocker, Jim Congdon, Paul Cooper, Heb Farrar, Ron Fisher, Geoff Goddard, Allan Headley, Kevin Hills, Reg Jones, John Knight, Sean Leahy, Doug Mason, Row McKnight, Derek Moore, Barry O’Keeffe, Rod Pernich, Mark Roddy, Brent Schofield, Ken True, Derek Walker and Graham Watts. One minute’s silence was held for WA Veteran Pat Sykes, who died during the year aged 92

At the election of office bearers, President Des Kinnersley and Sec-Treasurer Derek Walker were re-elected unopposed.

President Des read to the meeting a letter from OTVA (NSW) President Tom Barker regarding the proposal to change the constitution to reduce qualification for membership to OTVA to ten years and to make provision for Associate Membership. The overwhelming feeling from the meeting was that a reduction in qualification time would not be consistent with the meaning of veteran and that associate membership was not an option wanted in WA. A motion that the present qualification for membership remain at 15 years was carried, as was a motion that provision for associate membership be rejected. In other business fraternal greetings were passed to the meeting from Harry Stone of the South Australian Branch.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26 November 2002.

The meeting closed at 1.27pm.

*Postal votes cut here*

*Returning Officer. O.T. V.A.*

*P. O. Box 8*

*Georges Hall NSW 2198*

*I*

*(Name)*

*OF*

*( Address )*

*Please Print name and address*

*Wish to vote on the adoption of the new OTVA Constitution and wish my vote be recorded as follows:*

*For ( )*

*Against ( )*

*Please tick one box only.*

*Signed*

*//*

*Please note ALL votes MUST reach the above address by Friday 08/03/02 to be counted,*

*No*

*lnits.*