

*OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
VETERANS ASSOCIATION.*

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2002
SPRING SOCIAL
FRIDAY 20th September
12 Noon **CTA CLUB**
Martin Place Sydney.
Cost \$15.00 per Person.
RSVP: Keith McCredden only
By Friday 13-9-02
Ph.9858.1092 or E.Mail:
kmccredden@optusnet.com.au

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SOUTHPORT CABLE CENTENARY CELEBRATION.

An open invitation is extended to all interested to attend this function and to meet afterwards at the Southport RSL Club (No Bookings required).

Enquiries to Mick Wood phone (07)5535.2417
Deane Laws (07)5535.9854

When: Thursday 31st October 2002
Where The Southport School Southport.Q.
Time: 10:00 AM

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2002-3

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N.B.Please!

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printed on their Mailing Label. E.G. 5/02
indicates YOUR expiry date is MAY2002

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Please also note there are changes to
telephone numbers and E.mail addresses to
those printed in the previous issue.

PRESIDENT. Tom Barker's
AGM Address

Welcome to the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans' Association and a special welcome to any members or visitors attending for the first time. We have quite a big agenda, so I shall try to move through the items as quickly as possible, but having said that, if anybody has a question which seeks clarification of any matter, please feel free to make intervention.

I would like to give thanks on your behalf to all the members of our committee, for their continuing efforts; the time which they give up to attend to matters relating to the OTVA and the personal contributions which they all make towards the functioning of the Association. In particular Will Whyte and Bernie White, for their tireless efforts as our Secretary and Treasurer, Henry Cranfield, our Newsletter Editor, Allan Hennessy, who maintains our membership database and also gives great support to Henry, Fred Kannard who chairs our membership credentials sub-committee, Keith McCredden and David Richardson, who organises our functions, David Charett, who chairs our website subcommittee, Bob Dean, who organises our committee meeting venues, and Jimmy Anderson, Eamon Fitzpatrick and Bryan Nell who spend their time on occasions like this, collecting subs and issuing receipts instead of enjoying themselves with the rest of us. The Vets could not continue without the efforts of these people.

I also wish to thank Joe Collister for his work in maintaining our web-page and to Ken Theaker and Tony Farrugia, who perform the thankless task of auditing our financial reports, and Telstra, for making their meeting rooms available to us.

Lastly, Mick Wood, who has been busy up in Southport, organising a celebration of the centenary of the opening of the Pacific Telegraph Cable.

On behalf of the OTVA, may I say we are very grateful to all of you. Our reunions and General Meetings continue to be well attended and we are grateful to Keith and David for their work in that regard.

As a result of suggestions received from members, the committee is considering having a day-time, weekend reunion (perhaps a barbeque) which would be more convenient to those who are still employed and might also be of interest to members who wish to include their families. We hope to announce details of such a function in the near future, to be held sometime during the warmer months. We have a motion to consider today, which would allow us to extend an invitation to other ex-OTC employees, not members of the Vets, to attend all of these functions, which could have the effect of increasing our attendances. This could be a problem we shall have to deal with later, if that motion is carried,

We have another motion which would make the OTVA Newsletter available to non-members, at the same price as we pay for membership (currently \$10 PA).

This motion (if carried) could, of course, increase the task of distributing the Newsletter, but we hope that any such increase would bring with it economies of scale, perhaps reducing the amount of hands-on work required by our Editor and his helpers. We shall deal with both those motions a little later. We have also received a motion by mail from Mick Wood and Deane Laws, that the nomenclature (NSW) be removed from, our Newsletter titlepage and any of our official correspondence. Later, under General Business.

Regarding the Newsletter, I hope you would all agree with me that Henry and his team do a great job in making this such interesting reading for Veterans. The most recent issue was (in my opinion) the best yet and what distinguished it was those items from Ray Hookway and Des

Kinnersley, which we could all relate to and enjoy.

From time to time, Henry does receive some contributions which are quite hilarious and make very enjoyable reading, but which he would not dare to print, for fear of offending somebody. The best humour is that (like Ray's) which pokes fun at one's own misfortunes, rather than other peoples. I am sure we all have stories like that, where the joke is on ourselves and which we don't mind sharing. Please let Henry have them, so we can all enjoy a chuckle.

A number of our Committee members have indicated that they cannot make themselves available for re-election, today, for various reasons. David Charrett, Laurie McIlree, and Ron Beckett will all be leaving our Committee after today, although David has indicated that he is prepared to continue his work on the web-page development for which we are very grateful, as we are to all of these people for their contributions, over the years. I would enjoin any OTVA members who can spare the time to attend an occasional committee meeting and who could assist us in any way in the conduct of our affairs, to make themselves available for election to Committee today. We do need more helpers. Also, should anybody like to enjoy the fun of occupying the position of President, please be assured that the only qualifications required are a thick skin and a good sense of humor. This is a job which I believe should be shared around.

On the subject of the Centennial Celebrations of the Trans-Pacific Submarine Telegraph Cable, which is to take place at Southport on 31 October, I am told by Mick Wood that the host organisation for this event is The Southport School, which is a rather exclusive private school now occupying the old cable station buildings. They have co-opted a number of sponsors to assist them in organising this event, including the Gold Coast Museum and Channel Nine. It promises to be quite a big

show. With the cooperation of Brian Mullins of the Telecom Society NSW Historical Branch, we have been able to arrange the release of a small number of items of cable equipment from, the collection stored at old Sydney Radio, which were first extracted and placed in the La Perouse Museum (the old cable station) by Keith Oxley and Joe Collister then road freighted from there to Mick Wood's garage, where they will be held and have been lovingly polished with "Brasso", pending their display at the school, in October. The OTVA shared the cost of transporting these items with the Gold Coast Museum. I would like to give special thanks to Keith Oxley and Joe Collister for their valuable assistance in this exercise. Mick Woods advises me that he intends to issue personal invitations to all old Southport cable station staff members to attend this event but in any case, he assures me any Vets are guaranteed a big welcome if they can make it there. He has a plan for an informal reunion at the local RSL, after the official event is over. I hope that many of you will try to make it there, as I intend to do, myself.

Over the past five years, I have made occasional references to our attempts to ensure that what remains of the OTC archives and artifact collection is not lost to posterity. Those attempts have been quite limited in the past (despite the considerable efforts by those involved) due to an inability on our part to achieve any real commitment to cooperation on the part of Telstra management.

I have to admit that those people in Telstra do have a lot of other matters on their minds which would assume greater importance to them, than the preservation of OTC's (and Australia's) history. However, many of you would be aware that a recent re-organisation within Telstra has resulted in the creation of Reach, a Telstra subsidiary which has responsibility for the international telecommunications functions once operated by the old OTC and Hong Kong Telecom (later, Pacific

Cyberworks). It is perhaps unsurprising that many of the people who are staffing the Reach organisation, both in Sydney and in Hong Kong, where it is headquartered, are former employees of OTC. This has made it possible for us to establish a dialogue with some people who are well aware of the concerns of Veterans about the future security of the OTC archives and are prepared to help assuage those fears, to the extent that this is possible. I trust that my expressing thanks to those people, in particular, Glenn Osborne and Zenon Koechman, does not cause them any embarrassment but it has been of great assistance to us in realising our aim of discovering the whereabouts and state of many of those items. Last Thursday, 6 June, I led a party, comprising Ray Hookway, Ross Beaumont and George Maltby, to the Paddington terminal, where we were shown the archive collection, which is still held in the basement, there. The air conditioning is operating there (although, we believe that it was turned off at one stage) and the items held are quite secure and in good shape. Our tour was organised and conducted by Bob Collins and Sandra Hinchey, who were more than cooperative in answering our questions. In fact, as it transpired, we were able to bring to light a couple of things that they were unaware of. I could talk for some time about this experience, but I shall try to resist that temptation. Briefly; we were able to establish the following very important facts:

The OTC Board minutes and the associated agenda notes are not there, but are still held by the Telstra Company Secretary, who is required by statute to protect them. What is there are copies of all the issues of Transit and Contact magazines, the original 35mm film and video copies of every TV commercial ever made (even the uncut camera rushes) as well as thousands of still photographs and negatives, many of which were part of the OTC 1988 exhibition There are also, complete sets of bound volumes

of Wireless World and other publications, framed documents of historical importance and a host of other archival materials. Amongst these we found a large photograph of the initial staff at the Southport Cable station, in 1902, which Sandra Hinchey has kindly offered to have copied and made available to Mick Wood, for the forthcoming centennial celebrations, What we were unable to establish in the time available, was the whereabouts of the records pertaining to the many international meetings (ITU, Intelsat, Inmarsat.

Commonwealth Cable and other meetings) which were held in Sydney and hosted by OTC. I am hopeful that an examination of the records, in the near future will answer those questions. We enquired about (and Bob Collins searched for and found) the cabinet in which Henry Cranfield and Peter Lloyd stored microfiche copies of every drawing ever made in the OTC drafting office. This was not found amongst the archives, but Bob Collins has assured me that it will now be moved there. In the course of looking for that filing cabinet we discovered two of the display cabinets which were once on show at 231 Elizabeth Street. One of these contains the R1 repeater from Compac cable, recovered by the cable ship Pacific Guardian, off Bondi Beach, shortly after the opening of the ANZCAN cable. That cabinet and another one also contain very old and valuable radio equipment. All of these are in pristine condition. We were assured that they will be well protected.

Finally, we were assured that negotiations are taking place between Telstra and the Australian National Archives, who are looking to take those documents into their care. This is a process which will take some time, during which we shall attempt to establish a dialogue with the ANA and endeavour to persuade them of the importance of some of these items, some of which they may consider expendable.

There still remains the problem of the OTC artifacts, in which the ANA would not be interested and which we

would like to see housed in a museum, where they could be appreciated by visitors. That task is still ahead of us, but we do feel that we have made some real progress in discovering where these precious records are kept and are reassured about their present condition. On that happy note, I shall conclude this address and invite Will Whyte to read the minutes of the 2001 AGM for your adoption.

Annual General Meeting Minutes.

The following is an abbreviated version of the Minutes of the AGM held 14-6-02 at CTA Club in Sydney. **Minute:** The minutes of the last annual general meeting held on Friday 15th June 2001 were read and adopted.

Treasurer's report:

Our treasurer, Bernie White took the opportunity to thank Ken Theaker and Tony Farrugia for auditing the financial reports and to Laurie McIllree for help in receipting. He appealed to members not to send cash through the mail.

Excess of receipts over outgoings was \$2,160.

The bank balance stands at \$15,792, of which, \$5,000 received from the Provident Fund in Melbourne is isolated for use only by the National body.

OTVA Website: Dave Charrett chairs the OTVA Website sub committee and explained why we had embarked upon the project to set up a new site. He stressed the need for members to contribute their ideas on format and content. Joe Collister was happy to transfer his existing site to the new address when available.

Election of officers:

The following members were proposed and elected as Officers/committee for the coming year 2003-3

President: Tom Barker.

Secretary: Will Whyte

Treasurer: Bernie White

Bulletin Editor: Henry Cranfield.

Committee:

Allan Hennessy, Ray Hookway. Fred Kennard, Keith McCredden, Earnon

Fitzpatrick, Bryan Nell, Jim Anderson, David Richardson, Jeff Hinwood.
Congratulations to all elected and best wishes for the coming year.

General Business:

1. Moved Dave Charrett, Seconded E. Fitzpatrick: 'That in future we invite all ex employees of OTC or any other persons involved in International Communications to attend any or all of our re-unions and meetings at the same charge as for members.' Carried

2. Moved Dave Charrett, Seconded E. Fitzpatrick: 'That we offer the OTVA Newsletter to such ex-employees of OTC, as well as anybody else who is interested at the same charge as we make for OTVA (NSW) members.' Carried

3. Moved A H Wood, Seconded D. Laws: 'That the name of the Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (NSW) be altered to read Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association.' Carried.

4. Ray Hookway noted that the last transmission from an Australian CRS station VIB. (Ningi, Brisbane Queensland) will take place in July.

5. Moved Will Whyte, Seconded Henry Cranfield " That a vote of thank be extended to our President, Tom Barker, for the tireless effort and enthusiasm he has shown the association over this last year, be recorded." The meeting carried this with unanimous applause.

Meeting Closed: 1:20PM.

VETERANS EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE.

by Gordon Cupit.

When acting as Returning Officer at the recent A. G.M. I was very disappointed in the fact that only one of the three vacant positions on the Committee was filled.

Since we test the OTC funding and a Commission member as Secretary, operating our Association has been most difficult and a real credit to Tom,

Barker and his Committee that we still exist. The Committee has been re-organised so that each member is responsible for a particular aspect, and this arrangement has proved very successful.

The Industry has changed considerably in the last decade, the latest development is the merger of the International Section of Telstra with an Organisation known as Reach who are based in Hongkong. Tom Barker has already made contact with the hierarchy of Reach and is already fostering good *will with*, them. Tom has spent much time and energy in his quest to expand and keep the Veterans alive. As he is now living some distance out of Sydney, it is apparent that he needs assistance and it was agreed that a position of Vice President should be created. Unfortunately no member was nominated or volunteered for this position. I am now too old and feeble in mind to take it on, but what about one of you young members giving it a go. I am certain that you will find it very interesting and rewarding. For various reasons, the position of National Secretary has not been filled, making the position of Vice President more necessary. Any member interested, and I am sure there must be one, could call any of the Executive or Committee, including our new Committeeman Jeff Hinwood.

Notes from the Editor.

Dick Innwood ex Adelaide Radio has written a book (Fiction) entitled "Pink Gins" based on his experiences on the "China Coast" pre WW 2. This is available on The Web" from :www.writerspot.com for a modest price and he assures me it is a good read!

A note from Zyg Nilski from "Morsum Magnificat" a UK magazine for Morse Code devotees asked for permission to reprint 2 articles from our last Newsletter namely "The Pacific Cable Centenary and Life on a Remote Telegraph Station;". in his publication. This has been given, provided the source and writers are acknowledged which he has agreed to

do and he will be sending us copies of their issues containing same. He was sent a copy of our Newsletter by one of our readers. The word gets around as they say!!

Our apologies to Keith Oxley for omitting his name from the list of those who assisted in collecting the materials for the Southport Cable Centenary Project

My apologies to all our readers for wrongly numbering the pages of our last issue. Please renumber same pages 89 to 96 inclusive

This issue commences correctly at Page 97. My thanks to Joe Collister for bringing this to notice.

South Australian News.
FROM Harry Stone, S.A.
Secretary/Treasurer.

(Our thanks to Harry for this item and the tribute to Maxie Dwyer)

The following is a report on the AGM of our S/A branch held on the 30th May 2002 at the old

McLarenVale Pub and was attended by the following members, Dave Herbert (Pres.) John McGregor, Paddy Wilkinson, Dick Itiwood, Em Barrett and myself Harry Stone (Sec/Treas.). An apology was received from Max Lang who was travelling to Melbourne.

The past committee of Dave Herbert (President) & Hany Stone (Sec/Treas.) was unanimously re-elected to serve out the new term.

The proposed changes to the constitution of the OTVA were briefly discussed again and it was unanimously agreed to support these again should they be reintroduced in the near future. The importance of strengthening our rapidly thinning ranks by shortening the qualifying period from fifteen, to ten years & the introduction of nonvoting social members should be very obvious, even to the famous "Blind Freddie" This also applies to the loss of all our Archival Records & our Museum with its intrinsically valuable & irreplaceable instruments etc.,. The meeting was swiftly completed after setting the date for our next Xmas gathering the last Thursday in November with the same venue, the

McLarenVale Pub. We then continue on with lunch and refreshments and the usual exchange of news and stories/exploits from the annals of we Veterans of AWA/OTC/Telecom, Telstra ,etc..

THE SECRET SUBMARINE
CABLE THAT NEVER
EVENTUATED.

By:Cyril Vahtrick

The 1956 Olympic Games had finished in Melbourne and OTC was still trying to come back to normal, with new equipment such as T.E.D.

(Teleprinter Error Detection) and T.O.C. (Teleprinter on Cable) to be brought into service. Christmas was approaching when Chief Engineer Bob Long summoned me into his office with some excitement. He had on the table a pink covered document marked "Secret". I hadn't seen an official secret document since my Radar days with the Air Force during WW2 and was intrigued at what this might be about.

The document was quite bulky, but I was told to stay there and read it.

What it contained was a comprehensive study and recommendation for a submarine telephone cable to provide a link from Britain to Australia, proposed by a British Commonwealth group called the Cable Network Design Committee (CNDC) based in London.

We had heard sketchy reports about a coaxial submarine cable (TAT), with submerged valve operated repeaters which had been laid across the Atlantic that year, but the idea of having valves (electron tubes) inaccessible at the bottom of the ocean seemed almost like science fiction at the time.

The proposal contained in the report was to lay a coaxial cable, capable of carrying 36 simultaneous telephone circuits from UK via Ascension Island to Cape Town, thence a microwave to Durban and then a smaller capacity 24 circuit cable following the old

telegraph cable route across the Indian Ocean to Cocos Island and finally Perth. A later smaller cable across the tasman to New Zealand was also mentioned, with connection via microwave across Australia. The real jolt came with the financial analysis. With appropriate conservative design, it was estimated that such a system could be established for no more than 20 million pounds! Considering that we had felt courageous committing to purchase a few new H.F. transmitters at 10 thousand pounds each, the whole cable project looked an impossible dream to me.

Bob Long, on the other hand, not only saw this as the way to the future but, following the telegraph cable example, he immediately began to envisage a fully British Commonwealth "round-the-world" telephone cable system by also crossing the Pacific and Atlantic. As a major deviation from the route in the document, we did some great circle calculations and showed that we could save over a thousand nautical miles and a couple of million pounds in the Indian Ocean by following a great circle route from Cape Town to Western Australia via a repeater station on Heard Island rather than going via Cocos. We had earnest discussions with Phillip Law, of Antarctic fame and he enthusiastically embraced the idea of a joint station on Heard Island. OTC had experience in seconding Radio Officers to the Antarctic, so we felt we could handle the problem of staffing Heard Island. After due consideration by the Commission, PMG and Treasury, an initial response went back to the CNDC from OTC proposing firstly, a broad commitment to a 'round4he~world' concept and also the Heard Island alternative. The latter idea was opposed by Britain because of the extreme latitude of Heard Island, even though we showed that Oban in Scotland (where the Atlantic telephone cable had landed) was at a higher latitude.

Following our submission to the CNDC a Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference was arranged to be held in London in 1958. This Conference recommended to participating governments a long term plan providing for the development of a British Commonwealth communications system by incorporation, gradually, of a round-the-world large-capacity cable system. The release of information on another "secret" cable project under construction across the Atlantic (the CANTAT cable from UK to Canada) led to strong agitation from OTC General Manager Trevor Housley that the next step in the round-the-world system should be across the Pacific, thus joining Australia to Canada, USA and UK/Europe.

With support from our Government, OTC initiated a British Commonwealth Telecommunications conference in Sydney in September/October 1959. The Conference was opened by Prime Minister Menzies and recommended that a trans-Pacific large-capacity cable be constructed as soon as possible. Trevor Housley was invited by the participating parties to be the first Convenor of a Management Committee for the project. With experience of the explosive growth of telephone traffic across the Atlantic on the telephone cable and noting that CAN-TAT was going to be to a new design with capacity for a full supergroup (60 circuits) OTC successfully pressed for the same design across the Pacific. (In the event, by reducing the bandwidth of each voice circuit from 4kHz to 3 kHz, this capacity was increased to 80 circuits). It was agreed that the cable would be named COMPAC.

It is interesting to note in retrospect that, although the transistor had made its first appearance about 1949, ten years later it was still considered that there was not enough experience with transistors to use them in submarine repeaters, despite the substantial advantage in working voltage, size, etc. Therefore the CANTAT and

COMPAC repeaters would still be valve operated. At the end of 1959, I was selected to go to London to join the CNDC, commissioned with the overall design and planning of the COMPAC project. This work proceeded quickly and, in the middle of 1960, the management Committee placed contracts for 8,700 nautical miles of coaxial submarine cable and 335 submersed repeaters, making this the longest telephone cable system yet undertaken in the world.

I had the opportunity to visit the TAT and CANTAT terminals near Oban in Scotland. It was interesting to note that the TAT terminal was buried deep inside a massive cliff face, accessed through a series of bomb—proof doors and no doubt designed to withstand an atom bomb. On the other hand the CANTAT terminal was a conventional building built on a cliff facing the sea, with windows all around, perhaps indicative of a thawing of the cold war.

At home, OTC ran into stiff opposition from the PMG's Department which saw OTC involvement stopping at the cable landing at Bondi, after which they would take over the terminal equipment. The PMG planned for the cable to be treated as just another long distance trunk route and they proposed that the then current PMG internal trunk signaling system should be employed on the cable. Since this was incompatible with the overseas systems into which we would be connected. OTC successfully demonstrated that special international equipment and a specialized overseas telecommunications terminal would be necessary to interconnect with other international systems.

With support from the Treasury, OTC finally received Ministerial approval to construct and own the terminal. After much searching, a suitable site was found in Oxford Street, Paddington and we found ourselves getting into the business of constructing a multi-storey city building.

Since virtually all the terminal equipment represented new technology for OTC, Orm Cooper was selected to attend a training course in London, while Perc Day joined a group in New Zealand who were being instructed by an instructor brought out from UK in the specialized technique of jointing the special coaxial cable. Despite our lack of experience at the beginning, all the installation work was satisfactorily completed on time and within budget. Finally, the big day came when the first section of the COMPAC cable to New Zealand was ready for service. My recollection is that Orm Cooper was the first person to talk on our first international telephone cable when power was anxiously switched on after the last cable splice was in place. History records, of course, that this section of the cable was formally opened by Prime Minister Menzies on 9* July, 1962. During arrangements for the ceremony, the organizers (now extending way beyond OTC) were caught in a diplomatic dilemma as to who should call whom between the Australian and NZ Prime Minister. Protocol suggested that, since Australia was the senior Commonwealth partner, the first voice to be heard should be our PM's, on the other hand what if something happened and our PM was left on the line calling "hello, hello" with no response? A proper diplomatic solution was worked out. The call should originate in NZ. with an operator, who would have the NZ PM on the line waiting, then the phone at our end would ring and our PM would be the first to speak! Because of the exact timing required, our PM had been asked to make a short speech to the assembled people at the opening ceremony in Sydney, after which the call would take place. To guide him on timing, a light would blink when there was exactly one minute to go, so he could finish off what he was saying. When the light started blinking, the PM abruptly sat down virtually in mid sentence, leaving an embarrassingly long silent minute

while nothing happened. Lots of fingers were crossed but the call came through exactly as planned and all was well.

The final section of COMPAC was completed in 1963 and the whole system through to UK was formally opened from London by her Majesty the Queen on 3rd December 1963 (or 2nd December depending on where you were!) As for the round-the-world Commonwealth cable system, this plan came unstuck about 1961 when South Africa left the British Commonwealth, so the original cable plans routed via South Africa never eventuated. Also by then, the idea of a continuing British Commonwealth global submarine cable monopoly had been put to rest, being replaced by international joint ventures and the rapid development of satellite communications.

Closure of Australia's HF Radio Maritime Services.

Our thanks to Derek Walker in Perth WA for the following article.:
Two of the last three manned Telstra, ex-OTC, Coast Radio Stations – Melbournradio/VIM and Perthradio/VIP - have sent their final broadcasts and closed down.
The radiotelex service at Perth was taken over by Globe Wireless some time ago and the Morse services at both stations finished in 1999; all that remained was the high frequency radiotelephony service, and on 1st July at 00,00 GMT (8am WST/10am EST) that too ceased operations. At the same time the service at Brisbaneradio/VIB, the only manned station left, was closed. The unmanned stations at Darwin (VID), remotely controlled from VIP, and at Sydney (VIS) and Townsville (VIT), both remotely controlled from VIB, were closed down at the same time. The only service still operated from VIB is the remotely controlled Seafone (VHF). So has virtually ended a proud history of 90 years of not only guarding the sea lanes around the Australian coast but also of Communicating with ships out into the vast reaches of the Pacific and Indian Oceans and beyond. All three stations

commenced operations in 1912; Melbournradio on 8th February, Brisbaneradio on 2nd September and Perthradio on 30th September. They were part of a chain of government-owned stations opened in 1912-1913. Operation of the stations was transferred to Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd (AWA) in 1922 and to OTC in 1947. Control passed to Telstra when that Organisation absorbed OTC a decade ago. At the Perth International Telecommunication Centre at Onangara. WA where VIP was housed, the manager, Keith Walsh, broadcast the final announcement surrounded by a silent crowd of about 35 past and present operational staff, and the technicians then moved in to disconnect all the circuits. Keith then read out a joint letter of thanks from the Manager of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Metbureau, one from the AMSA Controllers in Canberra, and a much appreciated letter of farewell from Ray Hookway, who had so much to do with ensuring the high standard of CRS technical maintenance during his many years with OTC. Everybody then tucked into a catered breakfast while reminiscing on events of yesteryear. An hour or so later they had gone and Perthradio was just a memory. The demise of the stations, 13 of which dotted the Australian coast until the Telstra closures in the last decade, is due to the march of technology. Ocean-going ships have for years been using either satellites or the automated Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. GMDSS is now operational in Australia, with two land stations at Wiluna (WA), callsign VIW, and Charleville (QLD), callsign VIC; these are operated by TV- NZ Australia on behalf of A.M.S.A. Small ships in coastal waters now need to contact the various organisations set up by the individual states if they require assistance. It remains to be seen if these arrangements will be as good as the services provided by the government AWA, OTC and Telstra over the years.

PS. Purists may argue that the title Coast Radio **was** superseded about 15 years ago by that of Maritime Communications, but those of us who spent most of our working life in the old CRS will always remember **it** is that!

Vales:

The OTVA records the passing of the following members since our last issue and extends our sympathy and condolences to their families

Maxie Dwyer.

Max passed away on New Years Eve 2001 and we are indebted to Harry Stone for the following obituary. I am sure all who knew Maxie will second his thoughts.

‘I was requested some time ago to present a history of one of our well known and **liked** colleague from Bringelly, Max Dwyer (Senior Tech) who passed away on the 31st Dec, 2001 (New Years Eve!) at St Vincents Hospital Sydney of a Pneumonia infection aged 77 years, mourned by his wife Joyce, son Mike and daughter Pam.

Max was with DCA as a technician until 1949 and after obtaining his R/O's ticket, joined AWA/OTC and was posted to Suva, Fiji where he spent 3 years with Randy Payne, Ken Banks and Ray Moyes.(What a crew) and then seconded to the CRS/Island service in SOR Sydney from 1953/1959. Thence he was posted to the Bringelly staff as a Senior/Tech,, where he served throughout until his retirement when Bringelly was finally closed down. Max, Joyce and Michael were all very good tennis players and made full use of the tennis court at Bringelly. Joyce and Bertie Waugh were both good pianists and the many barbecue/tennis days held at Bringelly were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Max had a ready wit and smile, and it was always a pleasure to do a shift with Maxie. He will always be remembered by those who had the good luck to make his acquaintance.

73s&SK Max

Jim Nagy

It is with deep regret we record the passing of Jim Nagy on Monday 8th July 2002 after a long battle with cancer. Jim was 64 years of age. Jim and his wife Cleo, came to Sydney from Egypt in 1969 and soon after arriving Jim commenced employment in the S,O.R as an International Telecommunications Officer. Jim, performed many jobs including Roster Officer, Research Officer and finally Customer Services Superintendent S.O.R

During his employment in OTC he also spent several years in Human Resources including the role of Employment Officer where his friendly, positive attitude was ideally suited to helping many people find employment in OTC. Jim was also involved with archives and was responsible for the large archives exhibition held at Paddington. Jim left OTC in 1988 to enter the taxi industry and was highly successful, once again due to his friendly, helpful ways. He was a regular attendee at the Vets reunions and was always sought out by his ex-workmates as he was such good company over a few drinks. Wherever there was Jim there was laughter and joking. We will all miss him very much.

Several Vets attended his funeral including Pam Helps, Henry Cranfield, Bryan Nell and Fred Kannard. Jim, adored his family and our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Cleo and daughters Hala and Gigi

Max McCredie ex Sor

President Tom Barker and members extend their sympathies to the family of Max who passed away recently.

The OTC Family

By Gordon Cupit

I was pleased to see our President's note in the last Newsletter in regard to the social gatherings *of some of* the old *OTC staffers*

The pride and interest in OTC by the staff has been evident for many years. It is what George Maltby termed as the "OTC Family." This family can be traced back, really, to the old Beam

and Cable days, when so many of us were on shift work and miles apart from the clerical group and day workers.

Shift work prevents one from enjoying a regular sporting and social life, resulting us playing amongst ourselves on days off. Cricket Golf Bowls, and even fishing groups were formed. Families became involved and many friendships made, which have lasted all our lives.

The "Wagga Weekend" developed from a cricket challenge between Sydney and Melbourne developed into a multi-sport and social event. Other long lasting groups were formed such as the Radio Hams who meet annually at Trevor Thatcher's ranch at Wauchope and attended by hams from various parts of NSW, QLD and SA. The Hams have regular radio "scheds" by which they keep in touch and hear news from all over Australia. We had the "Bogga weekend" until Keith Vincent passed on. Many of the old girls still meet regularly in the city *for* morning tea. The Sports and Social Club has been a big influence, but I think a lot of the credit must be given to General Manager Trevor Housley and Managing Directors George Maltby and Peter Shore. These gents could be found at practically all social and sporting events, and taking an active part. They made it their business to know all the staff personally. They were always available to anyone with a problem. Decisions were made where possible for the staffs benefit. In addition, we have had Admin bosses, such as Torn Molloy. Dick Christoffersen and Merv Gildea, who **to** my knowledge often bent the inflexible Staff Rules for the staffs benefit, much to the chagrin of some of the ex bureaucrat section leaders. Torn Molloy encouraged me to spend as much time as possible with visiting outstation staff and Veterans. It was amazing how many of these visited Head Office. All my old workmates and staff of OTC in my day are now eligible to be Veterans, but I would like to meet those who have joined since my retirement, and think that

allstops should be pulled out to make combined functions a possibility.

The Editor's Corner

In this issue we have contributions from members in four States which speaks well for our circulation and the interest of members. We have even had an enquiry from the UK. But we need to keep them coming. There is always the next issue to follow! Over the years I was involved in Telecommunications I covered the spectrum from "Pyramid" switch boards of the Ericsson magneto telephones era to 1991,. With multi — channeling equipment with 3 channels (and valves as big as 500watt light globes) to Satellite and coaxial cable systems with hundreds of channels and HF radio. Problems! I have had a few, but my lasting memory will always be the people one met along the way. That is something money cannot buy.

"The only true gift one can give a fellow man, is a little of himself to help those less fortunate" wrote "Buddha" centuries ago.

So please! give the Vets some thought, not everyone we know is in a position to contribute. But a word of encouragement can make people climb mountains So! Why not give it some thought? Every little contribution helps?

Southport Cable Centenary Celebrations

This function celebrates the completion in 1902 of the Pacific Telegraph cable laid from Bamfield, BC. Canada to Southport via Norfolk Island, Fiji, and Fanning Island, with a branch from Norfolk Island to Auckland ,NZ.. The final stage of a "Round the world" telegraph system.

The function is to be held in "The Music School" of the Southport School in Dixon St. off Winchester St. Southport. Q'land.

The school buildings were two of the original cable station buildings moved back in 1982. A similar event will be held in Bamfield, Canada. This is a most historic event supported by the local , Gold Coast Council ,Historical Society, TV Channel 9 and newspapers.(Details on front page)

OTVA Sydney AGM
14th June 2002. Attendees.

Jim Anderson
Ernie Anthony
Roland Ayo
Erik Bachmann
Peter Baker
Tom Barker
Ross Beaumont
Brian Brennan
Brian Callaghan
Brian Curran
David Charrett
Bruce Collett
Henry Cranfield
Gordon Cupit
John Dennis
Wallace Donald
Jack Edwards
Eamon Fitzpatrick
Allan Hennessy
Jeff Hinwood
Kim Hopkins
John Hodgson
Ray Hookway
Brian Hoschke
John Hughes
David Izatt
Bill Jolly
Fred Kannard
Colin Kelly
Duyet LeVan
Bob Lions
Tony Lowther
Ron Lukin
George Madren
Charlie Maiden
George Maltby
Noel Martin
John Mattes
Maurie Matthys
Don Montgomery
John Myers
Alan Oakford
Kevin O'Brien
Maurice O'connor
Robed Orme
Trevor Pike

David Richardson
Peter Skinner
Peter Straughen
R J Taylor
Stewart Taylor
Doug Temperley
Ken Theaker
Gareth Thompson
Robin Tuckfield
Greg Waller
Bernie White
Will Whyte
George Woloszuk
Brian Woods
Len Wylde

From the Cashier's Case.

(This is known in every day parlance as Scrooge's Den)

This bloke is complaining that some of our friends are sending \$10 notes through the mail as though they aren't worth the paper they are written/printed on. Believe me, we cherish money in any form, but so many people now worship the cash moolah that it is a risk sending it through the mail.

One \$10.00 note was received in an envelope that had been opened on three sides, but the note was still there. If cheques aren't convenient to you then please send a Money Order made out to OTVA.

Some members may still be un-financial but we are still sending this newsletter out in case you have forgotten A little reminder will be shown somewhere on the newsletter especially as a reminder to you. We are having problems keeping in front on our quarterly gatherings and hence I would once again ask that if you book to come along and cannot

Please Ring

BEFORE THE DATE OF THE FUNCTION AND CANCEL YOUR BOOKING.

Otherwise we have to pay the CTA Club for your booking.

Some members have been kind enough to send along the catering fee when they were unable to come to the gathering and we sincerely thank them for this thoughtful act Keep healthy and Happy-Bernie.

- 2002.An Anniversary Year for Australia's Cable and Radio Communications.

This year 2002, marks the anniversary of four significant communications links with the rest of the world by cable and radio

- **130th Anniversary of the Darwin Telegraph Cable.**
- **100th Anniversary of the Pacific Telegraph Cable.**
- **100th Anniversary of Indian Ocean Telegraph cable.**
- **75th Anniversary of Beam Wireless Service**

The Darwin Cable.

The first successful demonstration of submarine cable telegraphy occurred in 1850. This was followed by 16 years of hard effort before the first "Trans-Atlantic" cable was laid This success triggered more such projects. Over the next 16 years cables were laid through the Mediterranean Sea to Africa, India and the East Indies. The British Telegraph Company was formed to link these two cables with Australia via cable. In 1870 the company proposed a landline across Java from the Singapore cable at Batavia to Banjoewangie and then via a submarine cable to Darwin and the "Overland Telegraph Line" to Adelaide. This section was completed in August, 1872. On the 21st of October 1872 Australia obtained its first telegraph service with the outside world.

The Pacific Cable.

The pioneer of the Pacific cable was Sir Sandford Fleming, Chief Engineer of the Canadian Government Railways who, in 1879 wrote; "that as a question of Imperial irnportance, the British possessions in the West Pacific

Should be connected by submarine cable with the Canadian line. Thus Great Britain would have direct communication with all the greater colonies and dependencies without passing through foreign countries.” This project, as a Government owned operation, was strongly opposed by the “Eastern Telegraph” companies as being uneconomical when compared with their “Eastern route to Australia. In 1900 an agreement was reached to establish a government owned Pacific Cable. The governments concerned being those of Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. In 1900 the British Government passed the “Pacific Cable Act” This in itself was a landmark, as it was the first concrete example of co-operation between the countries of the British Commonwealth. The laying of the cable, which included the longest uninterrupted stretch of submarine cable then laid between Bamford BC. Canada to Fanning Island a distance of 3,450 miles was completed on the 31st October 1902 and opened for traffic on the 7th December of that year, a century ago.

The Indian Ocean Cable

To meet the competition of the Pacific Cable and to provide a British government approved alternate all-British route to Australia via the Cape Colony, the Associated Cable companies extended their London to Cape Colony cables to Australia. This cable ran from the Cape to Perth via Mauritius, Rodriguez and Cocos Island. This segment opened in November 1901 and was extended to Adelaide, opening to traffic on the 1st March 1902. From 1902 onwards there were two competing services to and from Australia ; a position that remained unaltered

Until the “Beam Wireless” service was opened 25 years later in 1926.

The Beam Wireless Service.

In 1901, Marconi, received in Newfoundland, wireless signals transmitted from Poldhu, Cornwall, England. Until this time, wireless was used only for short distances from ships to shore. He had now bridged the Atlantic Ocean. Six years of development effort were required before a commercial long-distance telegraph service was established between Clifden., in Ireland and Glace Bay in Canada. Any rapid expansion of the service was hindered by the limited number of long wavelengths available and other technical factors, It was experimental work on short wave transmissions that led to the establishment of the “Beam Wireless” service in 1926 between England and Canada. The rapid expansion of the world -wide radiotelegraph service then commenced. Australia, played a noteworthy part in the experimental stages through government agencies which established the first Australian coastal radio stations in 1912. AWA was formed in the same year as an amalgamation of the Marconi Company’s Australian interests and it’s only rival The Telefunken company of Germany.. In 1922, AWA took over operation of the Commonwealth Radio Service from the PMG’s Department. In 1925 when commercial International radiotelegraph services were imminent; preparations were begun to train staff from the experienced radio operators in Australia. Training began in July 1925 and expanded as equipment became available. Those selected were sent to England to complete their training. The first two to go in October 1925 were messers F.C

Davis and A.R. Mancer who later became Superintendents of the Commission’s operating rooms in Sydney and Melbourne respectively. Others included D.McIntosh, H.A.de Dassel, W.P.Darcy, G.Chiltern ,J.Guy, C.M.Urquhart, G. Morrison, C.F.Griffiths, A.H.Brown, J.D.Wood, and G. Cookson Mr G. Appleby was sent to London to supervise the training. On the 8th April 1927 the Beam Wireless Service was opened between England and Australia. Full rate was 1/8 Pence per word as against the then cable rate of 2/6d. The demand for the service was immediate to the extent that staff numbers were substantially increased to cope with the traffic growth

Editor’s Note:

The above article was written in 1952 by Mr. George Appleby to mark the various anniversaries as noted above. He retired from the Commission’s service early in that year At their AGM on 17th April 1952, he was made an Honorary Life member of the Institute of Radio Engineers of Australia” in recognition of his valuable contribution to the Radio Art and particularly to this Institution as a Foundation Member, Fellow and Councilor.” The above article was passed on to me by Bernie White for which I give my thanks, The original article has been only edited to reflect the time that has passed since it was written. It is a shame that the only anniversary to have some formal function is the Pacific Cable function at Southport in Queensland,. on 31st October of this year.

