

NEWSLETTER.

Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia)
Registered Address: P.O. Box 8 Georges Hall N.S.W. 2198

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2003-4

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N.B

Please mail all subscriptions & changes to;

OTVA.
PO Box 8.
Georges Hall. NSW 2198

Visit our Web Site:

www.otva.org or www.otva.com

OTVA SPRING SOCIAL.

When:

Saturday 27th September 2003

Time:

12.00Noon

Where:

*Rhodes Park, Concord Rd. Concord.
[Kokoda Memorial, Walk]*

Cost: \$5.00 per family

*We supply: -Sausages and Bread
Rolls(you, provide the rest) RSVP by
24th September for catering purposes
to;*

David Richardson.

Phone: 9487 1985

E-mail:

d_s_richardson@yahoo.com.au

XMAS RE-UNION, Friday 28th November- The Mandarin Club

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N.B.Please Members.

We ask all members to check the expiry date, printed on their Mailing Label. E.G. 5/03 indicates that, YOUR expiry date is MAY 2003 and you are now un-financial. Subs payments, changes to e-mail or postal addresses and telephone numbers to; OTVA, PO Box 8. Georges Hall NSW 2198 or e-mail to allanrh@ozemail.com.au

AGM. Notes: Held in Sydney, 4th July 2003

Acting President Keith McCredden's Address:

2002 - 2003 has been a mixed year for the OTVA. Our President for the past 6 years, Tom Barker, was forced to retire due to a serious medical condition. Fortunately this has proved to not be as bad as the first reports indicated. Tom has had an operation and is now quite fit and well. Out of my respect for Tom I accepted the position of Acting President until this AGM and made this quite clear at that time. Fortunately we have at least one nomination for the position and this will become clear later in the proceedings. Members of the OTVA have been concerned over the Archives and Artifacts that were in the care of OTC and now are the responsibility of Telstra. It is good to report that the OTC archives have been taken over by the National Archives the long term care of these very important historical documents about Australia's international telecommunications is assured.

The Powerhouse Museum has inspected the artifacts held at La Perouse and have expressed interest in obtaining some of them for their displays and will be approaching Telstra to seek transfer of these items. We thank Eric Bachmann, who does some volunteer work for the Powerhouse Museum for his assistance. One of the great events for

the year was the 100 year- anniversary of the completion of the first Pacific Ocean cable. This was held at The Southport School on the 31st October 2002 in the original cable station building, which has been moved there and is used as their Music Centre. Many of our members attended and a very enjoyable time had by all. It was a great opportunity to meet up with friends who have not lived in Sydney for many years. Our thanks go to the Principal, Dr Cook, his staff and the students of TSS as well as Mick Wood and Dean Laws for the work they did on our behalf in Southport. A number of cable artifacts were obtained from Telstra for a display at the school and these are now located at the Southport Museum. I understand these items are displayed in glass cases with labels and explanations provided by Mick Wood.

For the first time we held a get together on a Saturday this year. We met at the Kokoda Track Memorial Park at Concord last February and this was very successful. So much so that we will be holding our Spring Reunion at the same location on Saturday 27th September this year. Full details are shown on the coversheet of this Newsletter.

The members of the Committee continue to put in many hours looking after all the various aspects of running this organisation. On behalf of the OTVA I extend thanks to the following :

Will Whyte for his work as Secretary and Bernie White as Treasurer. Henry Cranfield for his constant work as Editor of the Newsletter. He has been getting the usual production assistance from Allan Hennessy and Bernie White and I am sure you would all agree that the Newsletter is improving and very informative. Please continue to send items to Henry. It is important that we all put down our written recollections of installation and operational maintenance of the various centres at Paddington and Broadway as well as the Satellite Earth Stations and Cable Stations. Allan Hennessy for his work on maintaining the database of members and Fred Kannard for his work on handling the paperwork for new members.

The organisation of reunions has been my task and I thank David Richardson for his

assistance. Bob Dean who has arranged our Committee meeting facilities is finishing with Telstra today and will be missed.

Ray Hookway, for his work on keeping track of the ex OTC artifacts.

This year has seen the OTVA web site come to fruition. Following the work of Joe Collister providing a web site for Vets information we decided to get our own web site name registered. Initial work by David Charrett and then Jeff Hinwood, along with some help from Robert Brand the site has now been established. www.otva.org. Joe Collister is still maintaining the site for us.

(Ed. we now also have registered the web address www.otva.com)

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Barker for his work over the past 6 years as President of the OTVA. Tom has put in a lot of work to make sure the OTVA would continue to exist as a viable group. Life was pretty good for the Vets during the OTC days but we had to move into a period of self-support, which will continue in the years ahead. Without Tom's drive OTVA could have disappeared along with the disappearance of OTC. I would like to ask Tom to come forward and accept a small presentation in appreciation of his work as President.

Presentation to Tom Barker:

Tom was presented with a plaque engraved with the following inscription: "In appreciation of the dedicated service given as President of the OTVA between 1997 and 2003." In reply Tom said that he was deeply moved by this gesture and that he had found an enormous amount of satisfaction in the job.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer Bernie White reported the following high lights:

- Excess income in 2003 was \$1714 compared with \$2162 in 2002.
- Donations amounting to \$1120.00 were received.

Election of Officers:

Cyril Vahtrick took the chair and after declaring all positions vacant, took nominations and the following members were elected:

President: Henry Cranfield.

Vice President Bob Lions

Secretary: Will Whyte

Treasurer: Bernie White

Newsletter Editor Bob Lions

Retiring from Committee: Tom Barker, Bob Dean & Bryan Nell

New committee members: Bob Lions, Bob Murray & Kim Hopkins.

Committee for 2003-4

Henry Cranfield, Bob Lions, Will Whyte, Bernie White, Allan Hennessy, Keith McCredden, Fred Kannard, Ray Hookway, David Richardson, Jeff Hinwood, Bob Murray, Kim Hopkins, Jim Anderson and Eamon Fitzpatrick.

New President's address:

Henry Cranfield stressed the need to build up the organisation noting particularly that the CRS is under-represented today. The Association is financially secure and the outlook is good. We need to work on strengthening our relationship with Telecom Society of Australia. Henry said he took great honor in being elected and thanked Keith McCredden for acting as president lately and to Bernie White and Allan Hennessy for their assistance in the Newsletter production.

COMPAC Meeting in Sydney

By Gordon Cupit.

The "Secret Cable" story (told by Cyril Vahtrick) and planning of Compac brought many memories, particularly the Commonwealth Cable Meeting held in Sydney. As, this was the first really big and important meeting ever held in Sydney. Well prior to the meeting a group of selected staff were called together by Trevor Housley, where it was stressed that we were to prove that we were capable of handling the job. Different members were advised of the roles they were to play, and Tom Molloy was put

in charge of arranging venues, accommodation of delegates, entertainment, Secretarial services, Duplicating and necessary supplies. Tom delegated these functions mainly between Cyril Manning and myself. The Secretary Branch under Edgar Harcourt was to supply the meeting Secretaries, but I had to find Stenographers, Typists and duplicating staff.

At the time, we only possessed a hand operated Roneo Stencil Duplicator, which was neither fast nor the copy suitable. Small Offset Office printers were then in their infancy and Cyril and myself spent much time in inspecting and having demonstrations of such machines. Metal plates had not then come in, and these machines *used* a type of thin cardboard plate. The image was typed on to the plate using a ribbon soaked in glycerin, this plate was put on a large roller, and then passed over an ink roller and finally over a dampened roller. The principle being that the grease on the image would attract the ink, and that the rest of the plate being damp would not take up any ink. The only problems being that the plates must be handled extremely carefully, so that the grease was not smudged or finger prints not appear on the plate. Another advantage was that used plates were much easier and cleaner to store than the old style wax stencil, of the Roneo. There were a lot of teething troubles, and the Company, Chartres Ltd, found that they had to supply a resident representative in the early stages. The grease on the ribbons was not stable and many a typist was upset when a plate had to be retyped. After some time the machine became operational and did a job that was far superior to the old Roneo. It was not the end of troubles, however, as both ribbons and plates caused many problems.

Cyril Manning did a fine job of ordering stationery and supplies, selecting and booking venues, arranging accommodation, catering, transport etc. I was lucky to be involved with him on these tasks. As the day of the Conference drew near, all staff involved were briefed and arrangements made for their release from normal duties and in some cases agency staff were employed. It was intended that duplicating and secretarial staff would be required mainly at night and overtime -rosters were put into effect General briefing sessions

were held of all planning officers, who then called meetings down the line.

First day of the meeting dawned, and it appeared that everything had gone to plan and all was well. Everyone had completed their required tasks. The proposal was that senior members of the Secretary's Branch in relays would take notes of the proceedings, then, retire to have the notes typed up. The next Secretary would do the same. Edgar Harcourt edited these notes. However, Edgar was tied up in the meeting so this final stage was done in the evening. When finalized, they were typed up by a group under the supervision of Molly Condon. Finally, the notes were duplicated so as to be ready for delegates to confirm them the next morning. Unfortunately, this resulted in some of the girls knocking off quite late. If, I remember right the meetings went on for 4 weeks, but Edgar would know better than me. After a couple of weeks the girls found that they were doing too much overtime and were reluctant to continue. Molly became a nervous wreck and had to be released from the responsibility. I had to take over the overtime rostering and this was far from simple.

When the conference was in its latter sessions, it was decided that it would be nice if the delegates could take the final report home with them. The Report, if I remember right was in two parts, the first approximately 250 pages and the second about 150 pages making a total of approx 400 pages. It was intended that the Govt Printing Office would undertake the job, but they wanted a minimum of six months for the task. It was impossible to wait that long and it was finally decided to do it in-house on our new beaut (far from perfect) offset machine. What a bombshell.

By this time, experiments had shown that the grease medium on the plates could be carbon, not so easily smudged, and that electric typewriters could be used. It is pointed out this was well before computers and word processing, and collating machines. All stencils (plates) had been preserved so we had quite a library of them. Originally 50 copies had been run off, then through the time some had been increased to 150 and finally some of the last ones had 200 copies made. It was decided that 200 copies of the report would

be needed. To collate ready for binding, we were allotted a full floor of the Spring Street building and enough tables for 200 heaps of pages to be laid out. Then came the problem of reprinting the pages when we found that we had insufficient copies. As the majority of these were the early ones, most were useless and had to be retyped. Geoff Reynolds, clerk in the Secretary's Branch was selected to organise this task with a minimum of staff. Geoff was a guy that never became flustered, and it was apparent that at the rate it was progressing that it would take months. I was pressed into service, and with the aid of my typing pool and Assistants from Records we completed it in two weeks, and copies were posted to the Delegates and interested parties. It was amusing to see so many people walking around tables picking up sheets at the end. I worked from 8am to midnight, most days including week -ends for six weeks. It was the best pay packet that I ever received, but it did not buy a new car.

The Opening of the Compac Cable is a story for another time.

The Editors Corner:

We have this year, 3 new members on our committee and we bid them welcome and look forward to their participation. A few challenges loom in the year ahead but these I am sure, we will overcome. My thanks to all for their support of our organization and we look forward to an even better 2003-4.

My apologies for non -attendance at the Concord social but we will be in W.A to view the wildflowers.

Thanks to Bob Lions who takes over the role of "Newsletter Editor" from our next issue.

We are desperately in need of articles for our Newsletter.

Henry

Concord Spring gathering!

Saturday 27th September 2003 at 12.00 Noon

The Venue - Rhodes Park is on the bank of the Parramatta River near Concord Bridge and Hospital at Rhodes. It has a large shelter

shed, which is booked for our use, BBQ, tables, seats, large lawn area, toilets, also a coffee shop nearby.

It has plenty of parking. Either in the Hospital Car Park, in the street or the park.

You supply; plates & cutlery, salads sweets and drinks. We provide Sausages, Bread Rolls, Onions & Condiments..

Cost is \$5.00 per family (1 or more members)

Tale from The Ceduna 1 Earth Station Installation.

By Henry Cranfield.

During the installation of the HPA's at Ceduna 1, it was discovered that our engineering group did not realise that a crane was needed to put the cooling system on the lower platform of the antenna. Discreet local enquiries revealed that the South Australian Railways were using a suitable unit to repair a railway bridge just out from Ceduna and H/O was advised. The then Chief Engineer, Dave Abercrombie, had a mate who was Chief Engineer of the S.A.R. in Adelaide. He was approached and advised Dave that their job was most urgent and we could not have use of it.

However, unknown to H/O; I had arranged with the local S.A.R. Engineering Manager to have the crane for a whole Saturday. They would provide the labour and the crane would be available for an early start on the agreed Saturday. It duly arrived and the job was successfully completed by N.E.C. On completion of the task, the crane was taken out of the station compound and parked at the side of the road outside the front gate. Overnight it rained (unusual for Ceduna?).

Come Monday, the S.A.R crew arrived to drive the crane back to their job, started it and drove over the cattle-grid ramp into disaster!! In response to the large number of complaints I had lodged regarding the poor state of the road plus the large sum of money OTC paid to have it upgraded; the local council had filled a depression on the town side of the ramp with a mixture of clay, gravel and local limestone which turn into a quagmire when wet. The crane sank to the floor pan and the driver burnt the clutch out trying to get it unstuck. Worse was to come, as the clutch had to come from Melbourne?

This took some weeks to arrive and a council bulldozer was used to shift the crane off the road to give access to the station.

H/O were duly advised that the job was successfully completed and then, in usual fashion the questions arrived by telephone and telex as to Who did the job? How was it done? When was it done? And the cost?? Cost was minimal 4 cartons of South Aussies finest lager and 2 bottles of Johnny Walker's Red' officially "incidental costs" Ah Yah!! As the Chinese say, all hell broke loose. A cauliflowered right ear for the writer, from those outsmarted? Praise from those who appreciated a little initiative.

Some 2 weeks later on arrival of the clutch from Melbourne, it took a bulldozer, a farm tractor, plus our 4 wheel drive and fire pump to free the crane out of the mud hole as the suction on the flat bottom was enormous. Then the clutch had to be replaced and a path was cleared to the road. These costs were carried by the railway and took 3/4 days. Oh Happy Day when it left!!

That was when my wife noted that I had grey hairs coming!

W.A. Vales;

Our thanks, to Derek Walker for the following tribute and our apologies for omitting it from our last issue. Ed;

Derek Moore.

Derek Moore, who was one of the Supervisors at Perthradio (Gnangara) before his retirement in 1993, passed away on the 26th April last, after a long battle with cancer. He was 70.

Derek was born in England in 1932 and did his obligatory National Service as a Wireless Operator in the Royal Air Force between 1951 and 1953. In 1955 he joined the P & O shipping line as a Radio Officer, leaving in 1961 to join the British Post Office, coast radio service, working at Niton radio on the Isle of Wight. In 1964 he emigrated to Australia and until his retirement worked on several of OTC's coast stations, including Sydneyradio, Adelaidradio, Darwinradio, Broomeradio, Melbournradio, Geraldtonradio and finally Perthradio.

Derek will be remembered by his many colleagues, as an excellent and meticulous

worker, with a good sense of humour. One of his specialities was the precise drafting of many of the complicated rosters that were required at Perthradio and he was the only person I've ever met who was completely ambidextrous – he could write equally well not only with either hand but with both at the same time!

He left a widow, Wendy, three children and three grandchildren.

NSW Vales:

The President and Members extend their condolences to the families of the following;;

The Mullen Family on the passing of Ailsa wife of our late member Ken on the 23rd May 2003. from a stroke.

The Needs Family on the passing of Bernie who worked in H.O Accounts

The Basten Family on the passing of Mark who worked in H.O Records Section

A.G.M Attendees and Apologies:

Present: Ernie Anthony, Len Ashlin, Eric Bachmann, Tom Barker, Ted Bastow, Ross Beaumont, Brian Bourke, David Bourne, Brian Brennan, Alan Cabrera, David Charrett, Bruce Collett, Ron Connolly, Henry Cranfield, John Crowe, Brian Curran, Wallace Donald, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Dennis Grant, Allan Hennessy, Jeff Hinwood, John Hodgson, Ray Hookway, Brian Hoschke, David Izatt, Gordon Jesson, Bill Jolly, Colin Kelly, David Laufer, Duyet Le Van, Robert Lee, Bob Lions, Tony Lowther, Noel Martin, Allan Mason, Keith McCredden, Peter Mills, Don Montgomery, Paul Nagar, Maurice O'Connor, Geoff Oldman, John Phillips, Trevor Pike, David Richardson, Tony Richardson, Peter Skinner, Tony Stuart, Annette Taylor, RJ Taylor, Doug Temperley, Ken Theaker, Gareth Thompson, Cyril Vahtrick, Bernie White, Will Whyte, David Wicks, Brian Woods, Len Wylde.

Apologies: Roland Ayo, Tony Bradney, Peter Bull, Peter Burgess, Brian Callaghan, Gordon Cupit, Geoff Day, Bob Dean, John Eades, Mike Elliott, Bob Emanuel, Tony Farrugia, Alex Griffiths, Peter Grove, Kim Hopkins, John Hughes, Steven Jewell, Fred Kannard, Bill Kay, Charlie Maiden,

George Maltby, Peter McInnes, Allan McPherson, Bob Murray, Bryan Nell, Brian Peacock, Mick Quinlan, Martin Ratia, Alf Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Darrel Savage, Jim Simpson, Bruce Stewart, Trevor Thatcher, Roger Thompson, Robin Tuckfield, Mick Wilden, Joan Willis (Little)

Michael Faraday.

Michael Faraday was the genius and founder of today's electro technology. Who would of thought, that from such simple beginnings, we, today share the ensuing developments and take for granted many things arising from his work. This is made all the more wondrous if one has had the privilege of viewing the equipment he utilised for his experiments in the British Science Museum in London.

Michael Faraday's scientific work laid the foundations of all subsequent electro-technology. From his experiments, came devices which leading directly to the modern electric motor, generator and transformer.

The Royal Institution Christmas lectures for children, begun by Faraday, continue to this day.

Michael Faraday was born on 22nd September 1791. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to a London bookbinder. Reading many of the books in the shop, Faraday became fascinated by science, and wrote to Sir Humphry Davy at the Royal Institution asking for a job. On 1st March 1813, he was appointed laboratory assistant at the Royal Institution. It was here that Faraday immersed himself in the study of chemistry, becoming a skilled analytical chemist. In 1823 he discovered that chlorine could be liquefied and in 1825 he discovered a new substance known today as benzene.

However, his greatest work was with electricity. In 1821, soon after the Danish chemist, Oersted, discovered the phenomenon of electromagnetism, Faraday built two devices to produce what he called electromagnetic rotation: that is a continuous circular motion from the circular magnetic force around a wire. Ten years later, in 1831, he began his great series of experiments in which he discovered electromagnetic

induction. These experiments form the basis of modern electromagnetic technology.

On 29th August 1831, using his "induction ring", Faraday made one of his greatest discoveries - electromagnetic induction: the "induction" or generation of electricity in a wire by means of the electromagnetic effect of a current in another wire. The induction ring was the first electric transformer. In a second series of experiments in September he discovered magneto-electric induction: the production of a steady electric current. To do this, Faraday attached two wires through a sliding contact to a copper disc. By rotating the disc between the poles of a horseshoe magnet he obtained a continuous direct current. This was the first (DC) generator.

Although neither of Faraday's devices is of practical use today they enhanced immeasurably the theoretical understanding of electricity and magnetism. He described these experiments in two papers presented to the Royal Society on 24th November 1831, and 12th January 1832. These were the first and second parts of his "Experimental researches into electricity" in which he gave the law which governs the evolution of electricity by magneto-electric induction". After reading this, a young Frenchman, Hippolyte Pixii, constructed an electric generator that utilized the rotary motion between magnet and coil rather than Faraday's to and fro motion in a straight line. All the generators in power stations today are direct descendants of the machine developed by Pixii from Faraday's first principles. Faraday continued his electrical experiments. In 1832 he proved that the electricity induced from a magnet, voltaic electricity produced by a battery, and static electricity were all the same. He also did significant work in electrochemistry, stating the First and Second Laws of Electrolysis. This laid the basis for electrochemistry, another great modern industry.

Faraday's descriptive theory of lines of force moving between bodies with electrical and magnetic properties enabled James Clerk Maxwell to formulate an exact mathematical theory of the propagation of electromagnetic waves.

In 1865, Maxwell proved mathematically that electromagnetic phenomena are propagated as waves through space with the velocity of light, thereby laying the foundation of radio communication confirmed experimentally in 1888 by Hertz and developed for practical use by Guglielmo Marconi at the turn of the century.

In 1865, Faraday ended his connection with the Royal Institution after over 50 years of service. He died at his house at Hampton Court on 25th August 1867. His discoveries have had an incalculable effect on subsequent scientific and technical development. He was a true pioneer of scientific discovery. Michael Faraday's scientific work laid the foundations of all subsequent electro-technology. From his experiments came devices leading directly to the modern electric motor, generator and transformer. Faraday was also the greatest scientific lecturer of his day, who did much to publicise the great advances of nineteenth-century science and technology through his articles, correspondence and the Friday evening discourses he established at the Royal Institution. The Royal Institution Christmas lectures for children, begun by Faraday, continue to this day.

Our thanks to Harry Stone for the following:

Greetings and salutations from South Australia. Trust that you are still enjoying retirement & good health. My apologies for the delay in the composition and transmission of this report on the activities of members of the OTVA South Australian branch over the first half of 2003, but better late than never. Our mid-year meeting was held on the 29th May (Thurs) at our usual venue of the old McLarenVale pub. Apologies were received from John McGregor (caravanning in Queensland with family) and Harry Stone (spending a month in HongKong with son & his family). Those present were David Herbert (past Pres.) Dick Inwood & brother Eddie, Ern Barrett, Max & Todd Lang, Paddy & Anne Wilkinson, Harro Krause & Mike Kay. A pleasant afternoon was spent wining & dining and of course, reminiscing

. Wives & friends were invited to help swell our rapidly thinning ranks.

Another function was a barbecue afternoon at the old VIA (Adelaide Radio) station, sponsored & hosted by Harro & Yvonne Krause (owners of the property) to celebrate the closure of VIA on the 31st Jan 1993. As previously reported, Harro & wife Yvonne are both keen "Hams" (VK5HK & VK5YK) Harro reactivated the special callsign of VI5VIA/VK5CRS for the week proceeding, with special QSL cards to acknowledge QSO contacts. A great deal of time, money & effort has been spent by Harro and Yvonne in converting the old station buildings and facilities into a beautiful home which also contains a museum commemorating AWA/OTC's Coastal Radio functions & equipment, especially during the early years of the last century now replaced by modern Satellite Hy-Tec systems around the Globe.

When you consider the vast difference in the treatment of AWA-OTC's historic achievements and those of the giant organisation Telstra. If it were not for the tremendous efforts of people like Harro & Yvonne, the past would be completely ignored & conveniently forgotten. This brings to mind the very successful TV "Ad" launched by OTC some twenty odd years ago (pre-Telstra) it was called "Memories." And most certainly was popular.

I will be moving up to Clare valley when my house is built, which wont be for quite some time because of the building boom here in Adelaide. Regards and cheers to all me old mates.

A Diary Note for those needing to plan ahead;

The Xmas gathering this year will be held as usual in the "The Mandarin Club," Goulburn. St Sydney on Friday November 28th 2003.

Didah didahdit