



OTVA NEWSLETTER

Overseas Telecommunications Veterans Association (Australia)

Registered Address: P.O. Box 8 Georges Hall N.S.W. 2198

ISSN 1322-1906 February 2004. Volume. 9 Page 1

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Coming Events

NSW: The next social function will be another barbecue at Kokoda Park at Concord on 20 March at noon. Apart from the weather, all other arrangements are left in your hands. Bring your own food and drinks –as little or as much as you want. We will provide the barbecues and make arrangements for wet weather. The arrangement allows for families and those still working

AGM: Please put this date in your diary -- **16 June 2004.** The AGM will again be in the CTA Club in Martin Place at 12:30 and the subscription will be \$ 15 to cover the cost of room hire and finger food.

WA: The next meeting of the WA Group will be on Tuesday 23rd November 2004. Contact Derek Walker

COMING EVENTS, SYDNEY

30 years ago, a group of trainee TO's descended on Sydney from Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. A dozen or so established themselves in a house at Bondi which became rather legendary. They have set 24 Oct 2004 as the date for a 30 Year Reunion with people coming from all over Australia. They would like to meet up with those ex-OTC types who were around 30 years ago. The venue will be in the Eastern Suburbs with Centennial Park the current favourite.

Mark it in your wife's diary and plan to be there! More details in the next Newsletter.

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Subscription:

\$10 p.a. -- Due in May each year.

(Please check your mailer as the indication "5/03" indicates you are seriously unfinancial)

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As a New Year starts, may I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to you all, for your efforts over the past 6 months and may we look forward to even better things in the rest of this OTVA year. We need I feel, to look to the future, promote better relationships with kindred minded organizations such as AWA Vets et Telecom Society Museum Group. We will not progress if we sit on our hands and become a totally social organization. We have the support of Robert Brand and his web site to distribute our message which includes making better use of our own. David Rogers in Brisbane is trying to rescue our Queensland group for which he holds all the old records. This is a start. With the fresh ideas our new committeemen have brought, together with their enthusiasm we will go forward I am sure. Enough of my sermon.

With Sincere wishes to you and yours for a Peaceful, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Henry Cranfield, President

REPORTS FROM THE STATES

(Editor's Note: Attendance list for Reunions, where known, are at the end of this section.)

NSW

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION IN SYDNEY: A total of 99 people attended the Vets Christmas function at the Mandarin Club on 28 November 2003. (I would suggest you mark your diary on 26 November for the 2004 function – more details later).

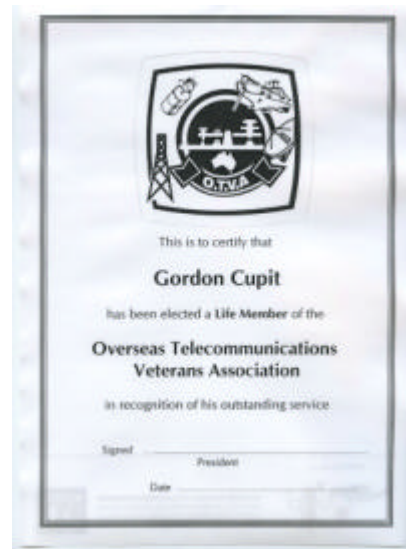
El Presidente, Henry Cranfield welcomed the members present and noted the names of a large list of apologies (23). He also had the pleasure of presenting Life Membership Awards to Pam Helps and Jimmy Anderson. The third award, to Gordon Cupit was not presented as he was not able to make it.



Henry has presented a certificate to Pam



Jim has his certificate and is saying a few words. Unfortunately we are missing Gavin Trevitt who would have had the recipients posed with their certificates. This is what Gordon will get when Henry has signed it



Gordon Cupit's Life Member Certificate

The crowd munched its way through the usual food and a few words were exchanged over the occasional glass of

Christmas cheer. Some of them are depicted in the following shot.



A view of some of the crowd, with Tom and Fay Barker in the centre and our new Life Members on the left

As noted above the dose will be repeated on 26 November 2004. Anyone from interstate who can be here will be most welcome.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The AGM of the WA Vets was held on 25 November 2003 at Gnangara. Attendance was 21 with 13 apologies. Des Kinnersley was re-elected President and Derek Walker as Secretary/Treasurer. Next meeting to be on 23 November 2004. The meeting took five minutes so it is assumed that other activities filled in some time after the meeting.

VICTORIA: Victorian Vets. Held their 47th Reunion at Legacy House on 1st December 2003

QUEENSLAND/NORTHERN NSW: David Rogers is endeavouring to revive the Queensland group so if anyone is interested or knows of potential members in Queensland, could they contact him. At this stage do so via one of the addresses on the front of the Newsletter.

WANDERERS

From Chris Maloy

I have once again moved locations and am currently in Dhaka, Bangladesh. You can either send the newsletter via email to chrismaloy.ceo@citycell.com or to me at P.O. Box 5428 Chittaway Bay 2261,

Australia. Mail to this address is bundled and sent via courier every 2 weeks. Please convey my regards to all at OTVA. rgds, Chris Maloy

ATTENDANCES:

NSW: Present -- Jim Anderson, Eric Bachman, Fay Barker, Tom Barker, Ted Bastow, Gary Beaton, Ross Beaumont, John Bennett, David Bourne, Robert Brand, David Charrett, Bruce Collett, Dennis Collins, J Corban, David Cowie, Ross Craig, Henry Cranfield, John Crowe, Max Davis, Trevor Duff, Alan Durham, John Eades, Mike Elliott, Eamon Fitzpatrick, Pam Helps, Allan Hennessey, Yvonne Hennessey, Gary Heslin, Jeff Hinwood, Peter Hitchener, Ray Hookway, Kim Hopkins, Brian Hoschke, Chris Hoschke, Judy Huddelsfield, Graham Huddy, John Hughes, Keith Hungerford, Neil Jackson, Fred James, Gordon Jesson, Bill Jolly, Fred Kannard, Ted Kearney, Colin Kelly, Bob Lions, Peter Lloyd, Tony Lowther, Ron Lukin, George Madren, George Maltby, Mary Maltby, Robert Manning, Greg Martin, John Mattes, Keith McCredden, Muriel Mee, Peter Mills, Donald Montgomery, John Morrison, Tom Jesson, Brian Nell, Martin Nemeyer, Kevin O'Brien, Maurie O'Connor, Robert Orme, Brian Peacock, Trevor Pike, Bob Rawkins, David Richardson, Chris Rogers, Max Rose, Mrs Rose, Jim Simpson, Peter Skinner, Barry Stockbridge, Tony Stuart, RAF Taylor, RJ Taylor, Doug Temperley, Ken Theaker, Gareth Thompson, Jim Tresider, Sylvia Tresider, Robin Tuckfield, Greg Waller, Peter Whisson, Bernie White, Evelyn Whyte, Will Whyte, David Wicks, Phillip Willis, Joan Willis (Little), David Wills, Donald Withers, George Woloszuk, Brian Woods, Neil Yakalis.

Apologies: Alan Arndt, Joan Arndt, Stephen Arndt, Peter Bull, Gordon Cupit, Geoff Day, Rita Day, Peter Dean, Dennis Grant, John Hodgson, Stephen Jewell, Dyuet Le Van, Ron MacDonald, David Munro, Geoff Oldman, John Phillips, Mick Quinlan, Darrel Savage, Trevor Hatcher,

Cyril Vahtrick, Peter Warrilow, Mick Wilden, Len Wylde

VICTORIA : Present -- Ray Birch, John Caulfield, Denis Chambers, Mervyn Cooper, John Davey, Peter Dennis, Ray Donald, June Ferguson, Nancy Ferguson, Jim Fes, Vance Findlay, Robert Geake, Robert Hall Judith Hall, Bruce Henderson, Marie Hughes, Mervyn Jessop, Jim Kennedy, Murial Lovett, Jenny Milledge, Michael Murray, Graeme Mckenzie, Barry Mcmillan, Angelo Scambiaterra, Kevin Shea, Mary Tancheff, Jack White, Geoff Whitmore And Brian Williams.

Apologies: Les Foley And Paul Murphy

WA: Present -- Des Kinnersley, Colin Benporath, Tore Boe, Ron Cocker, Jim Congdon, Paul Cooper, Heb Farrar, Kevin Hills, Reg Jones, Derek Kaighin, John Knight, Sean Leahy, Tom McKnight, Ray Parkinson, Rod Pernich, Wal Perryman, Brent Schofield, Bob Smallwood, Tom Swarbrick, Dirk Veldhoen, Derek Walker.

Apologies: Jim Bairstow, Barry Field, Ron Fisher, Geoff Goddard, Fred James, Doug Mason, Barry O’Keeffe, Val Parker, Roger Pugsley, George Rogers, Graham Watts, Bernd Wendpaap, and Barry Whittle.

A CENTENARY TO CELEBRATE

On 19th February, Mrs. Aileen Gowanloch celebrated her 100th Birthday. As wife of Lyle Gowanloch, she was not afraid of the male chauvinists and accompanied him to the Wagga weekends at which Lyle had been the first captain of the victorious Sydney team. Her interest in the Vets continued after Lyle’s death and we were delighted that we were able to send some flowers to help her celebrations. The report of the epic first match is included below. (The report from the Wagga Daily Advertiser, 26th January 1948, following the 1st Wagga cricket match.)

MORSE CODE “TALKS” ON INTER-CITY CRICKET AT WAGGA

Cricket enthusiasts of the Melbourne and Sydney offices of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission were so keen to anticipate the results of a cricket match between the two offices that they discussed the match by morse code message six months in advance.

The match was played yesterday at the Wagga Cricket Ground.

In a keenly contested match, Sydney defeated Melbourne by 61 runs.

But the cricket was only a secondary concern.

Players said after the match that they had not enjoyed themselves so much for many years.

The visit to Wagga was such a success, they said, that the match would be an annual affair in future. The match was the first one played between the two teams.

The origin of the match is quite a story in itself. About six months ago, Lou Sherburn, secretary of the Melbourne team, and Lyle Gowanloch, Captain of the Sydney office team, were “talking in morse” during an idle moment on a Sunday night.

Their discussion turned to cricket and each man argued that his office had the better cricket team.

The two men became so enthusiastic that they arranged a match “half-way,” at Wagga, and set yesterday’s date for the game.

When the two teams arrived in Wagga on Saturday, they were keyed to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

Most of them had communicated by morse during the months before the match, and said they felt “quite at home” when they met face to face.

A social evening was arranged on Saturday night at the Masonic Hall.

Most of the men worked overtime for several weeks to amass enough time off to make the trip. Some finished their work early on Saturday morning, after working throughout the night, and then set off immediately by car to Wagga, without resting or sleeping.

Twenty-six players and supporters comprised the Sydney team, and 31 came from Melbourne. All were executives or staff members of the Commission.

Prominent among the representatives were the chairman of the Commission (Mr. Jim Malone). The secretary of the Melbourne cricket team (Mr. Lou Sherburn), the manager of the Melbourne team (Mr. T. B., Edwards), Chief Superintendent of the cable service in Sydney (Mr. A. D. Gregory), Superintendent of the Melbourne office (Mr. A. R. Mancer, and the treasurer of the Sydney team (George Sheppard).

50 At Match

About 50 spectators watched the match.

The Sydney team scored 208 in 160 minutes. J Rhodda top-scored with 80 in 95 minutes.

Lou Sherburn, a medium pace spin bowler, took 3 wickets for 33.

Melbourne were all out for 147 at 5.34 p.m.

Scores: Sydney 208 (J Rhodda 80. F. Hall 19. R Studd 14. L Hunt 10. J. Connaghan 2. L. Gowanloch 21. J. Jackson 12. A. Griffiths 3. D. Glowanloch 11. H. McInnis 1. H. Stone 17. Waugh 2).

Melbourne 147 (Norris 14. Starr 45. Wood not out 25. Stubbs 18. McCormack 20. Curran 2. Cornigh 3. Sherburn 2. McGrory 0. Magnus 8. Vincent 0. Gordon 10).

After the match, Mr. Malone presented a batting trophy to J. Rhodda (Sydney) and a trophy for the bowling average to J. Norris (Melbourne).

Much of the success of the visit was due to the efforts of the Wagga postmaster (Mr.

W. I. West) and "Doc" Everett, senior post officer clerk, members of the team said.

The teams will leave Wagga early today.

Umpires at the match were Alan Anderson and F. Dowsett, both of Wagga.

TELSTRA MUSEUM: Our President has recently had contact with the Telstra Museum (14 Kitchener Street Bankstown). With our own interests in preserving elements of Australia's communications heritage, we should be encouraging others with similar objectives. Henry has suggested that some of us may be interested to visit it. We will endeavour to arrange an OTVA visit but if you can't make that, you will be welcome at other times. It is open on Wednesdays from 10:00am till 3:00pm. They have asked us for assistance in restoring an undulator to working order.

Vale: Bruce Stanford-Starr

Bruce joined AWA/OTC in Melbourne around 1946 - He attained a PMG 1st Class Commercial Operators Certificate of Proficiency and in about 1949 he took a 12 month leave of absence and spent a year at sea as a ships R/O. Returning to OTC he spent time in the Melbourne Facsimile department then was selected to undertake the Cable Training Course in Sydney.

Passing out in 1954 he was posted to Fanning Island, after which he undertook the advanced cable training in Sydney and then served at Norfolk Island. After Norfolk he went to Southport and was responsible for maintaining that station in reserve until finally it closed in 1962. Thereafter he returned to Melbourne Operating Room as Supervisor and relieving traffic superintendent.

He retired on the grounds of ill-health late 70s. He later spent time at sea on various oil rigs including a delivery voyage from Zeebrugge (Belgium) to Western Australia. After finishing with the oil rigs he took out

an amateur licence and was active as VK3DHS.

Bruce was an excellent sportsman, excelling at cricket and Australian football and golf. Whilst stationed at Southport he won the Gold Coast Golf Championship and I think he also was Norfolk Island Champion.

Bruce passed away on 3 February 2004.

Vale: Doug Mason

Thomas Douglas Mason, ex-OTC Maritime Communications Officer, Doug (or "Duggie" as he was popularly known) was born in Scotland on 30th March 1925 and joined the British Merchant Service in 1943 as a Radio Officer with the Marconi Company, sailing on a variety of both cargo ships and tankers for the next nine years. In 1952 he left Marconi and joined the New Zealand Shipping Company, serving on that company's cargo liners and passenger ships until 1962, when he left the sea.

In August 1965, having emigrated to Australia, he joined OTC's Coast Radio Service and served at Sydney, Thursday Island, Melbourne and Perth Stations until his retirement in Perth in November 1989.

Doug was a popular character, an excellent worker and had a good sense of humour, with a strong streak of sympathy for the underdog.

Doug died on 27th December 2003, aged 78. He had been battling severe illness in hospital for several months. He is survived by his widow, Mary, three children and four grandchildren.

Vale: Jack Whittaker

Jack (C E) Whittaker passed away 19th December 2003.

Note: Our mailing address is changing. See the commercial on the front page!

FINALE:

Some of the photos of Southport Cable Station copied from the commemorative booklet



The Cable hut



Landing the cable at Southport Beach



Interior of the Cable Station