



NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SECRETARY

In the newsletter issued in December, 1972, nominations were called to fill the position of National Secretary and on the closing date, the only nomination received was that of Mr. Charles Carthew, who is at present the Secretary of the Victorian Association. The New South Wales Committee have considered the arrangements associated with a National Secretary and it is their considered opinion that the title of General Secretary would be more appropriate than that of National Secretary, and it is recommended that the Notice of Motion be amended accordingly.

Should Mr. Carthew be duly elected, he will still carry on his present duties as Victorian State Secretary in addition to those of General Secretary. As recommended in the newsletter, it would be desirable for the State Committees to select the General Secretary rather than bring the matter to members at the General Meeting. It is therefore recommended that you confirm this arrangement at your General Meeting.

Should the proposal for a General or National Secretary be confirmed, it will be necessary for certain changes of the Constitution and for his duties and arrangements for the General Secretary's expense account to be determined. In accordance with the Constitution, alterations to the Constitution can only be made by a majority of State Associations voting in favour thereof. Proposed amendments are to be submitted by the Secretary of each State Association by notice in writing 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting or a special General Meeting. The result of such submissions is to be conveyed by the President of each State Association to the President of the New South Wales Association. The New South Wales President will then convene a meeting of the Central Administrative Committee to consider the variations to the Constitution.

On confirmation of the proposal for the General or National Secretary, it is planned that the New South Wales Secretary submit proposed amendments to the Constitution as above for consideration by the Committees. It is suggested that special General Meetings be called on the night of the annual Reunions to consider and confirm or otherwise the amendments. Further details will be provided in the October Newsletter.

VALE

It is with regret that we have to record the passing of a number of our members since we issued our last Newsletter:-

Norm Calloway, (Melbourne), a rather young member who was still serving A.W.A. as the Chief Accountant in their Melbourne office.

Jack McGinley, (Melbourne), who served for many years in the Melbourne Beam Room.

Ray Harris, so well known in Sydney for his many years as Secretary of S.L.A.P.S. and Sydney representative of the Provident Fund. Over the years, Ray has been most helpful to so many of the retired people. He was one of the younger Veterans and still serving with O.T.C. at the time of his death.

Gus Hart, (Melbourne), a life-long member of the Coastal Radio Service.

Mark Mortimer, (Sydney), for many years Superintendent of the Sydney Beam Room and later Traffic Superintendent for O.T.C.

Harry Rowe, (Melbourne), past Manager of A.W.A.'s Melbourne office. Also a past President of O.T.V.A. (Victoria).

Jack Chalkley, (Melbourne), who spent his life in the Melbourne Beam Room.

John Pavia, (Melbourne), who came to the Melbourne Beam office after many years with Cable and Wireless in the Mediterranean area.

Vince Joiner - Victorian technical stations, Technical Superintendent, Melbourne, and Manager, Paddington from its opening in 1963, until he was invalided from the service about 12 months ago.

We also have news from Auckland that Paul Lennan, H.W. Scott, H.R.B. (Bert) Fox and Winstan Warner have gone to greener fields.

Our sympathy also goes to Les Farnsworth (Melbourne), on the loss of his life partner, and to our Victorian Secretary and Mrs. Carthew on the sad loss of their grandson Graeme who had been ill for some time.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS

The Adelaide annual reunion was held in the lecture room of the old P.M.G. Telephone Exchange Building on 30th November, 1972. Previously, they had met at the Brecknock Hotel but costs have arisen, and as money is limited, they are required to find a cheaper venue. For many years, C.& W. had supported the South Australia Association but unfortunately, this support has now been withdrawn. The new meeting place proved satisfactory as Brax Horrocks arranged the catering in a capable manner and there were no complaints.

The number attending has improved and those present were Longun Evans, Bert Dudley, Cecil Shortt, Eric Story, Norm McKay, George Rowe, Ron Ward, Keith Roberts, Harold Oats, Harry Chinner, Graham Little, Leo Gleeson, Ken Collett, Gerald Shaw, Norm Giles, Ken Springbett and Alf Kerr. Although Brax Horrocks arranged the evening and the catering, it was unfortunate that he was unable to attend himself.

Apologies were received from other members, including Muhlie Mulhan, who is not very well these days and so unable to travel to the meetings. He is just on 90 years of age. Rockie Gordon also has not been well and unable to make the trip from Mannum. Cliff Birks was on holidays in Canberra and our stalwart Eric Symes was very ill in hospital.

The subject of a General Secretary was discussed during the evening by the members and they are all quite happy with the suggestion.



- 3 -

The mid-year meeting of the South Australian Association will be held at the Public Service Club, 73 Wakefield Street, Adelaide on Thursday 17th May, 1973, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The meeting has been put forward two weeks as Bruce Sutherland is over from New Zealand and will be in Adelaide at that time. He is anxious to renew old friendships and any Veteran in Adelaide at that period, would be welcome.

VICTORIAN NEWS

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the basement of O.T.C. House on Monday, 21st May, 1973, commencing at 5.30 p.m. Notices have already been forwarded by the Secretary but any Veteran from other States who may be in the vicinity on that date would receive a cordial welcome. It is expected that the Chairman, Commissioners and General Manager of O.T.C. will be attending the function to be held after the meeting.

We are proud to welcome Chris Fox and his good wife Barbara to Australia. Members may remember them attending our Sydney and Melbourne General Meetings approximately seven years ago whilst on a world tour. It would appear that they were impressed by Australia as they have now settled down here. They have brought with them a tape recording of greetings from old communicators in the U.K.

Friends of George Morrison will be pleased to hear he is back home and recuperating after his accident.

We are also very glad to hear that Arthur Ross is improving and now convalescing after an operation to both of his hips.

Interesting to relate Cliff Culter, in his 91st year, looks back a half century to the time he was the very first to broadcast a horse race in Victoria. Cliff built the pioneer weather station at Willis Island and was also closely associated with the Caulfield Race Course electrical installation.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Willington departed last month for a four months' overseas tour.

Whenever Veterans meet, Tom Finch is there - another personality in his own right and ageless at 91 - a colleague always true-blue.

Although not a Veteran, Norm Stubbs keeps in touch with his mates of the early beam days - a nice gesture.

Our reunion was once again a very successful function with 76 in attendance.

A copy of the attendance record is in this newsletter.

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16th ANNUAL REUNION

10-11-1972

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA)

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| N. A. ... | J. Healer ... |
| J. E. ... | C. Green ... |
| T. ... | E. ... |
| M. ... | J. ... |
| J. ... | J. ... |
| John Hunter | C. ... |
| W. Bentley | J. Jones |
| C. ... | A. ... |
| B. ... | H. ... |
| G. ... | S. ... |
| H. ... | B. Lake |
| A. ... | A. ... |
| B. ... | M. ... |
| E. ... | M. ... |
| W. ... | A. ... |
| M. ... | A. ... |
| M. J. ... | A. ... |
| Tom ... | A. ... |
| A. ... | A. ... |
| F. ... | A. ... |
| M. ... | A. ... |

- 5 -

OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
(VICTORIA)

Edna Dennis	Long Green
F.R. Ash	G. S. Steward
E. Trezise	Geo. Higgins
A. Thornton	W. Hart
P. Foley	Cherle Short
John R. Jordan	Peter S. Lisoni
Pam. Murray	A. Graham Little
Bert Chadwick	Prof. Whitman
Jack Chackley	
Francis McCormack	
Joseph Micallef	
Col. Benson	
W. H. D. Day	
Lee Benvenuti	
L. A. Lippitt	
H. Moor de Kuyie	
J. B. White	
J. W. Taylor	
Chas. Kerwick	
Magnum	
M. Fernando	
Edwards	

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 21st June, the venue being the dining-room of the G.P.O., which is situated on the 9th Floor, Pitt Street entrance. At that time, O.T.C. is having a Station Managers' Conference and we are taking the opportunity of inviting the Managers to the get-together after the General Meeting. Any interstate Veterans in Sydney at that time are cordially invited.

Annual Reunion

The annual reunion held late last year, was once again a very successful function with an attendance of 100. Those who came are:

Dave Fleming	Eric Richardson
Jock Cowie	Jack Simpson
Charles Carthew	Bernie Kelly
Don McIntosh	John Grosbard
Ted O'Donnell	Dick Christoffersen
Keith Vincent	Jack Guthrie
Claude Dalley	Arthur Oliver
Roy Doohan	Charles Swinney
Des Woods	Bert Waugh
Arthur Wells	Peter Frost
Gordon Cupit	Frank Stanton
Ray Baty	Sid Zuber
Val Litchfield	Ron Smith
Keith Greenhill	Vin Sim
Shaddy Meynert	Ray Wood
John Lee	Tom Heatley
Harry Cook	Alan Ritchie
Bill Jenvey	Tufty Baker
Jack Bullen	Nell Donoghue
Keith Oxley	Eric Cackle
Dick Osborn	Wilf Ellershaw
Bill Chant	Fred Doolette
John Patiniott	John Mulholland
Murray Hill	Jim Shore
George Wheeler	George Brown
Mick Wood	Jack Bassett
Jim Vasek	Cec Bardwell
Doug Passmore	Bill Luke
Reg Towner	Bill Brown
Ted Bishton	Blue Easterling
Harry de Dassel	Orm Cooper
Percy Day	Charlie Barden
Rus Welbourn	George Broadbent
John Creswick	Les Hunt
Jack Creswick	Eric Burbury
Trevor Thatcher	Fred St. Julian
John Hodgson	John Rowley
Horrie McInnes	Ted Gunning
Tiny Greenlees	Jack Burgess
Ron McDonald	Ken Erickson
Bernie White	Charles Raecke
Tony Ebert	Albyn Gregory
Ray Moyes	Phil Chapman
Ernie Anthoney	Arch Barrie
Bill Day	Doug Wood
Albert Sheppherd	Bob Adams
Max Dwyer	Gavin Trevitt
Len Vella	George Weston
Bob Reeks	Don Miller
Harry Stone	

Barbecue

The barbecue held at Bringelly on 8th April for Veterans, families and friends, was a very successful day. The weather was particularly kind and those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Unfortunately, the attendance was not good and only one retired Veteran was there. Our thanks go to the Bringelly staff for the good work etc., in setting up the champion facilities.

Congratulations to Harry Stone on his recent appointment to Manager of O.T.C. Cable Station at Madang. His organising and drinking abilities will be a loss to Bringelly.

Sickies

We are sorry to report that 'Snow' Ewart, Don Soraghan and Claude Dalley have been hospitalised. Claude is now back home and getting fitter every day. Don Soraghan is in the Tweed Heads Convalescent Home and would be pleased to see any of his friends who may be up that way.

Bowls

Bowls days, held in conjunction with the O.T.C. Sports and Social Club, are proving very popular and it is hoped to see more Veterans amongst the gathering. Any bowler wishing to have his name included on the distribution list for notices, should contact Gordon Cupit.

PERTH NEWS

Although there is no Association in Western Australia, a group are considering forming an Association and a circular letter has been forwarded to all known pioneer communicators in that area.

Another successful Xmas function was held at Ron Cocker's home at Myaree on 12th December, 1972. Those in attendance were A.J. Black, F. McCay, V. Gibson, H. Clark, C. Watt, A.N. Wells, J.L. Thomas, N. Odgers, G. Warner, B.D. Morrell, T.J. McCarthy, J.G. Tacey, R. Cocker and P. Beebar. Our thanks to Mrs. Val Cocker for not only her catering efforts but the entertainment on the piano later in the evening. It was good to see three old wireless pioneers at the gathering and we hope to see more at our next function.

Melbourne Treasurer, George McDonald, enjoyed a very pleasant evening in the company of past and present members of the O.T.C. during his visit to Perth. The gathering was held in the lounge of the Imperial Hotel, Wellington Street and included Herk Clark, Vernon Gibson, Ron Cocker, Jerry Tacey, Jack Thomas, Harold Burdett, Brian Morrell, Tim (Bimbo) McCarthy, Betty Randell (nee Griffiths).

Apologies were received from Frank McKay and Bill Wells.

George also took the opportunity of visiting Arthur Black and Alan Gilmore.



NEW ZEALAND NEWS

The Annual Meeting and Reunion of the Veteran Cablemen's Association was held in Auckland on 8th December. In attendance were:

- R.T. Atkins, D.C. Baker, H.C.C. Bradnam, R.J. Collins,
- T.B. Condon, W. Craig, P. Cowlshaw, O. Crossley, L.H. Davison,
- D. Erson, H.G. Evetts, C.H. Forder, H.J. Fox, B. Giles,
- L. Gladding, F.N. Harry, K.J. Healy, R.K. Hosking, R.G. Marchant,
- S.W. Meeks, A.G. Miller, H. Mortensen, C. Nielsen, H. Norton,
- O.G. Robertson, L. Sedman, F.C. Studman, J. Walker, also K.M. Baker and P. Bailey.

Unfortunately, the following were unable to attend and sent apologies:

- H.W. Anketell, W.E. Coates, C.H.H. Heaps, H.N. Jacobs,
- J.B.C. Henderson, R.C. Langford, R.S. McCombie, G.K. Richmond,
- A.R. Rockley, R.L. Sextie, A.N. Smales, W.C. Steward, C.L. Smyth,
- W.J. Stoupe, H.B. Sutherland, G.A. Thomson, N.C. Wylie,
- H.W. Verrall, also R.J. Bell (Fiji), R.P. Connolly (Aust.), K. Clark and D.H. Thompson.

Bill Craig was re-elected as Chairman, F.C. Studman as Secretary and Treasurer, and Committee; L.H. Davison, R.T. Atkins and L.C. Gladding.

It was interesting to note that the meeting decided to continue sending Xmas gifts to widows and to hold a mid-year luncheon.

WELL EARNED REST

A number of our members have now reached retirement age and we wish them a long, healthy and happy retirement. We are listing some of these and should others have been missed, it would be appreciated if they could advise the Editor so that they can be included in the next newsletter.

Tom Lang, Senior Technical Officer, O.T.C. Melbourne. Tom joined the industry over 40 years ago as a junior Clerk but the majority of his life has been in a technical capacity. He served at Rockbank, Braybrook and Fiskville.

Rowley Lane, Shift Controller, O.T.C., Melbourne, also with over 40 years service in the Beam Room, Melbourne.

Viv Molineux, Traffic Superintendent, O.T.C., Melbourne, also over 40 years. Viv, an old Cableman, served on a number of Pacific Chain Stations.

Trev Hughes, Administrative Officer, O.T.C., Sydney, joined the Marine Service over 40 years ago, but the majority of his working life was spent in the clerical and administrative field.

HONOURS

Lately, a number of people retiring from Government organisations such as O.T.C., have been honoured with the Imperial Service Medal. Some of our members have received this honour and they are to be congratulated. However, there were certain conditions governing the issue of honours and as a result, some of our members were disappointed on not receiving an honour, particularly when they felt that their service was such that they



were more entitled than others who received a medal. Any member in doubt or requiring information should have a chat with the Secretary.

Unfortunately, the policy of our present Government is not to recommend awards and honours and therefore, while this Government is in power, it would appear that such awards will not be issued.

O.T.C. STAFF MAGAZINE

Veterans are fortunate in having their names included in the distribution list of the O.T.C. Staff Magazine "Transit" and for us to have a corner in that magazine for our news. However, it is a policy of the Editor to keep such sad news as deaths, illnesses and accidents out of its pages if possible and therefore such news must be delayed until our newsletter is published. Due to the fact that this policy was not realised, it was unfortunate that the deaths of the life partners of Dave Fleming and Bob Wright were omitted from our last newsletter. To these gentlemen we offer our deepest sympathy.

It is difficult at times to give the Editor news items for our corner, and we would appreciate any news that Veterans may have. A letter or phone call to your State Secretary would suffice.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

The first direct wireless message transmission from England ✓
to Australia received at Wahroonga in 1918.

The first public demonstration of radio broadcasting in 1920 ✓
from the Royal Society of New South Wales in Sydney.

The complete broadcasting of a concert from Federal Parliament ✓
House, Melbourne in 1920.

The first regular broadcast programme transmitted by A.W.A. ✓
from its Melbourne offices in 1921.

The first press message direct by wireless from England to ✓
Australia also in 1921. It was received at A.W.A.'s experimental station
at Koo-Wee-Rup.

The publication of the first daily newspaper on board a ship ✓
in the Pacific. This was "Wireless News" on the "Niagara".

The opening of 2FC (Farmer & Co.) in 1923. ✓

The first successful transmission of low power short-wave signals
from England to Australia received by A.W.A. at Vacluse.

The establishment of the first radio telephone communication
between England and Australia in 1924.

Also in 1924, the first transmission of wireless telegraphic
signals from Australia to England and the record working distance of
7,000 miles between V.I.S. and the "Niagara".

The new record working distance of just on 10,000 miles between
V.I.S. and the "Jervis Bay" while docked at Tilbury, 1926. ✓

- 10 -

The opening of the Beam Wireless Service in 1927.

Also in 1927, the first empire broadcast programme through 2FC. ✓

The epic flight by the "Southern Cross" across the Pacific.

The opening of the radio telephone service between Australia and Europe.

The commencement of the Facsimile Service in 1934.

The opening of the North Brighton Radio Beam for aircraft.

FLASHBACK - THOSE HECTIC WAR YEARS

In March, 1942, General McArthur made his temporary headquarters at Menzies Hotel, Melbourne and a swarm of journalists were not far behind him.

The American newsmen were obviously impressed with the Aussie way of doing things. Their press messages contained the usual doubles, triples, evasions, coined expressions, deletions, alterations - the lot! All were accepted, costed and sent on after censorship scrutiny.

In the disposal of traffic, perforated tape fell into wire baskets 3' x 3' x 18" across. When full, each basket was collected and placed on the outward circuit where the tape was reversed into an empty basket prior to transmission.

Peacetime routine just simply went by the board without efficiency being impaired and adjustment to pressure merely automatic. Constant strain took its toll - a few days off to rest and recuperate and then back again to rostered 8 hours daily continuous duty plus overtime.

On the lighter side, the night shift, when relieved, invariably drifted across to the back entrance of a nearby pub and the magic words "You there, George?" meant admittance to the bar, a round of drinks and then home. George was quite a personality!

However, the time to reminisce is at the reunion.

BARKLEY SOUND

Bruce Scott, a Canadian Veteran has written a very interesting book called "Barkely Sound", a history of the Pacific Rim National Park area. He has sent copies of the book to the Melbourne and Sydney Secretaries with best wishes to ex-P.C.B.-ites. With his kind permission, we are reproducing a chapter on the Bamfield Cable Station which will be included in the next newsletter. Members who would like to read this most interesting book, may have it on loan.

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MARCONI GUILD

An extract in the newsletter from the Marconi (Transoceanic) Guild Newsletter is rather interesting. It is from the President's address and is a suggestion that we could give a lot of thought to:

"As we start the new year, our thoughts must surely turn to colleagues who have reached the end of life's journey, and we remember them with gratitude for their friendship and comradeship. Our thoughts also turn to those of our colleagues who are not so young and are, perhaps, lonely for want of friendship. If there are colleagues living in easy distance of many of you, may I ask you to spare time to look them up and see if they need a helping hand. Perhaps someone could organise groups of visiting guilders in various areas so that distances to be covered will be kept to a minimum. See what you can do guilders; I am sure our lonely and less fortunate members would appreciate a visit."

It is apparent from the Annual Reunions and General Meetings that Veterans get a great deal of joy from meeting their old comrades but what about those who for illness and other reasons, we never see. Some of these are being visited by your Secretaries and committees but they would appreciate seeing also other old colleagues.

Membership of our Associations in Australia is close to 500, whereas those attending reunions would be about half of our membership. How about a thought for the other 50% we never see. Should you have any old friend for various reasons forgotten, your Secretary would be pleased to give you his address.

For those that have been unaware of the Marconi (Transoceanic) Guild, it was formed in January, 1952, and at one time, membership totalled 400. At present, it is down to about 200 only. Membership is open to all persons who served in the Marconi (Transoceanic) Service prior to September, 1929, whether retired or still employed in the Overseas Telegraph Service. That date was chosen following merges which resulted in the Overseas Telegraph Service becoming the Imperial and International Communications Limited. This Company subsequently became known as Cable and Wireless Limited with a home service operating branch being taken over by the Post Office in 1949.

The objects of the guild are:

1. To renew and sustain friendships developed in the Overseas Telegraph Service, and,
2. To issue a regular news sheet or small magazine.

Known members in Australia are your Victorian Secretary, Charles Carthew, and Mr. J.W. Nichols of 1 Barr Smith Street, Tasmore, South Australia. We would be interested in the names of any other Veterans who are also in this guild.



EXILES CLUB, LONDON

The Secretary of the Exiles Club, London has sent the following information which will be of interest to members proposing an overseas trip. All Veterans are quite welcome at the Club and should you require any first-hand information, Percy Day, Jack Bassett, Geoff Cox or Jack Hansson, who have stayed there, would assist.

There is a priority given to members of the Club and on a top rung are their overseas members. The membership applicable to people from Australia, New Zealand or Canada who have served or are serving on respective staffs thereof, are, unfortunately, the last on the so-called priority list and such people usually join the Club as Associate temporary members during their stay and have paid a subscription of 3 Pound Sterling.

The address of the Club is - Exiles Club,
"Meadowbank",
27 Cambridge Park,
Twickenham,
Middlesex.

It is situated near Richmond Bridge, which crosses the River Thames about half a mile away and is about 11 miles from the centre of London. Access to London is quite easy and quick and is served by both underground and normal electric train services from Richmond Station (about 15 minutes' walk).

The Club stands in 7½ acres of grounds, which run down to the tow-path of the River Thames. In the grounds there are three tennis courts, a bowling green and a squash court. The building has available 14 double bedrooms and 14 single rooms, each of which has a shower unit embodied, but regretfully, there are no private bathrooms attached to the bedrooms. On the ground floor there is a fairly large dining room adjacent to a comfortable lounge, also a television room and a billiards room, together with a further games lounge at the other end of the building, where the bar is situated.

The present tariff rate is £1.80 per person per day, which includes both breakfast and dinner - a simple table-d'hote is served; luncheon and tea is available but must be paid for as separate items. 10% is added to all accounts as a service charge.

The Secretary advises that they are unable to accept reservations too far ahead, but realises that some degree of flexibility must be exercised in the case of people coming long distances. Normally, for overseas people, they can take bookings 2-3 months ahead of the arrival date.

Should you wish any further information, it is suggested that you write to the Secretary of the Club, (Mr. T.G. Terence Wilson), who is most helpful.

FISH STORIES FROM COCOS

Brax Horrocks has forwarded a priceless scrap of paper issued by Tufty Baker at Cocos Island in 1943. The actual piece of paper went through the company accounts and it is felt that in all the history of accounting, there has never been anything like this.

The piece of paper was a portion of a message form which read as follows:

"Pay Brax R/s 2.20, being the cost of two beers. A/c my sail fish that got away. Break yr bldy heart!

H.C. Baker"

Pat Sykes, as well as being one of the watch engineers, was also the accountant, and he has marked on the scrap of paper the words: "Dealt with April accounts" together with his signature. At Cocos in those days, there was neither paper nor coin money; any services by the natives were paid for in goods such as clothing, knives, fishing gear and so on.

On Direction Island (a fragment of the Cocos atoll) where Cable and Wireless had their repeater station, there was a small staff of seven. The Manager was Tufty Baker, his number two was Frank McCay and there were four watch engineers; Bruce Sutherland, Pat Sykes, Peter Wolfe and Brax Horrocks. There was a maintenance engineer, "Chum" Chumley.

All staff money transactions, such as mess accounts, were done through the company's books. Salaries (less deductions) were paid into individual bank accounts in Australia and the U.K. Most of the stores came from Colombo and these were paid in Rupees - again through the company's accounts.

One of the main recreations was fishing and the competition to bring back the largest fish on a Sunday morning (when all except the watch engineer on duty could go out) was very keen, and many a tin of "Peacock" cigarettes and bottle of beer changed hands at the Curry Tiffin they had, after the catches had been weighed and admired.

So it was that on one occasion, Tufty had bet Brax that he would that morning bring back a bigger and better fish - the bet, two bottles of beer. (Value in those days at Cocos, R/s 2.20). However, Brax managed to pull a decent size green-fish from the depths and the sail fish that Tufty hooked got away, so next day through the company's accounts went this priceless piece of paper.