

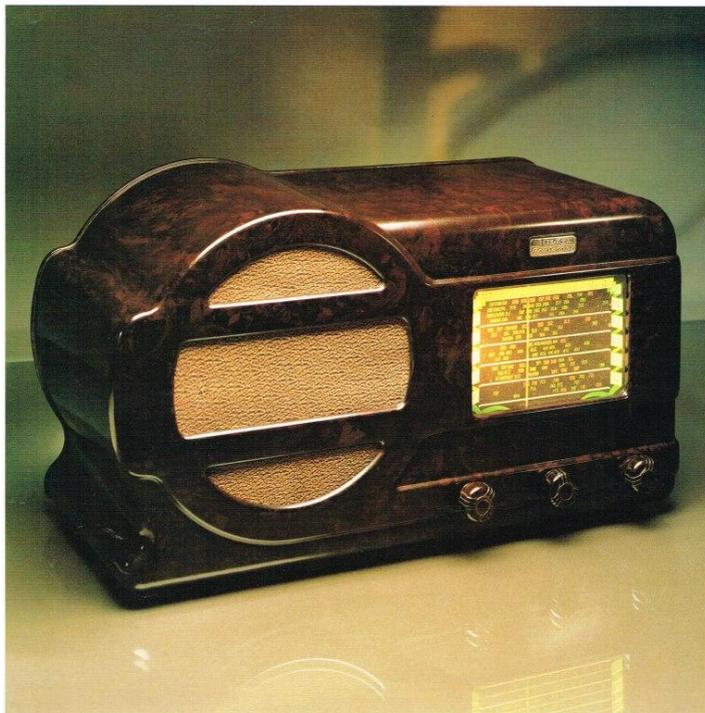


Volume 24 No. 7

S.A. GROUP

NEWSLETTER

November-December 2014



Tecnica "Aristocrat" Model 750.

Aristocrat Model 750

Historical Radio Society of Australia Inc. – S.A. Group

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Forthcoming Meetings

Sunday 30 November	1300 Show and Tell at St. Cyprian's Hall, Melbourne St., North Adelaide
Saturday 6 December	1200 Christmas Luncheon, Maylands Hotel.
Sunday 18 January	1200 Annual Picnic, Cruickshank Reserve.
Sunday 22 February	Component Distribution, venue to be announced.
Sunday 29 March	Visit to the National Military Vehicle Museum.

Retirees' Luncheons

Luncheons are held for retirees at the Buckingham Hotel, corner of Walkerville Terrace and Northcote Terrace, Gilberton. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. Forthcoming luncheons are;

Wednesday 14 January
Wednesday 11 March
Wednesday 13 May
Wednesday 8 July
Wednesday 9 September
Wednesday 11 November

President's Report

We held the October at Colin Wagener's home at Wistow. As usual John was showing off the new(!) radios in his collection as well as his dad's metal electric train set from the 1920's which still works. I missed out on seeing the Model T and the Jeep, but others got the chance. Thanks Colin and John.

I apologise for the late notice changing the auction day. We discussed the change at the October meeting and hoped word would get around. As a result a few faces were missing. We got lucky with the weather, but the mosquitoes were biting early. Some members got to arrive home in daylight not 2 am.

The next meeting at St Cyprian's Hall in Melbourne St on 30th Nov is a "Show and Tell". If you have a project or anything you think may be of interest to the members please come along and tell us. Bring items to demonstrate your talk, which will be limited to about 20 minutes.

The Christmas Lunch will again be at the Maylands Hotel on 6th Dec starting at 12.00. Please let Alan Taylor know if you will be attending.

The committee has decided that the club will pay the lunch from our funds, but you will have to buy your own drinks.

The club picnic will be held at the Cruickshank Reserve on the 18th Jan 2015. The theme will be battery portables.

Miles Essery

President

An Early Minute?

I hope the perpetrator will forgive me for putting on the record this story from the Philips Hendon memories of notable misdeeds.

In the 1965 the Hendon Works had more than 2,500 employees working in a wide range of areas. There were usually 40 apprentices taken on each year who, during the three years of their apprenticeship, spent a period of time in various production departments and laboratories around the factory. The work

An Early Minute continued

they were given ranged from the utterly and absolutely uninspiring for a young and active mind, to quite challenging tasks. They all offered an opportunity to work alongside notable professionals in the electronics field.

This story relates to a rather mundane task given to a well-known member of the HRSA in South Australia. I will call him Warren.

His job was to carry out a sequence of final tests on a radiogram. Warren tells me it was a model RF4 with 6W8 audio valves. Discovering it gave an amazing amount of sound for a modest specification, this was the trigger. This radiogram was one of the first to also include a tape recorder.

Final testing was not a very interesting job, especially if problems were few and far between, and under the circumstances it is hardly surprising that Warren had a bright idea.

Knock-off time at Hendon was a time when one always avoided getting in the way of the homeward rush. Especially on a Friday. Either in a corridor, or in the main driveway to the front gate, it was a rush. Each afternoon Hendon had its own traffic cop on duty outside the main gate on Tapley's Hill Road to control the traffic—both foot traffic and any passing cars. If I was ever driving back to the factory near 4.05, I would park around the corner for a good 10 minutes before trying to drive in against the foot traffic stream.

One afternoon at 4.05 pm Warren used the tape deck microphone to record the factory knock-off whistle. Then on Friday afternoon he turned up the volume, and played it back five minutes early. Usually the assembly workers tidied up a few minutes early, and although were required to wait in their workplace until the hooter went, it was like the start line up at the Olympics, and they were ready to go. The moment they heard the recorded sound off they went, streaming into the main corridor to line up at the time clock.

In vain, the foreman stood in the corridor waving his arms, trying to be heard while he yelled "Stop! Go Back! That wasn't the hooter! It's not time yet!" He knew immediately who to blame, even though there were a number of test booths, and he sacked Warren on the spot. "Don't come Monday," he said.

An Early Minute continued

On Monday morning Warren did turn up, and went to face the music.

An apprentice was only allowed to be sacked for a deed that might involve the police, and would receive a fair hearing in court. A foreman could not sack anyone without consulting Personnel first. The personnel manager, Doug Brown, and the apprentice supervisor set out to give Warren a good telling off. It was a difficult task. If they moved him into another department any other job would be more interesting and less soul destroying. It was difficult enough anyway, because how can you tell someone off effectively while you are laughing so much you can hardly talk.

He was immediately 'demoted' from Radio Production to the TCA labs, working on Carrier Telephony development with a thoroughly likeable Engineer by the name of Nick Kloppenborg. He learned much about filter design and implementation from that learned gentleman, who believed even an apprentice was capable of usefully thinking for himself.

I still give Warren full marks for initiative. And thank you for a good laugh.

John Crawford.

Front Cover

If you think you have seen this photograph before, you are probably correct and no, it is not my Aristocrat, mine is dual wave. This photograph is from a Resurrection Radio calendar way back when Arthur Courtney owned the firm.

Editorial

For the more astute, you will notice that the Newsletter has not changed volumes this year. The reason is that I intend to get the volume number aligned to the year and since we started in 1991, we should start Volume 15 next year. The error was made by a previous editor.

Since the last Newsletter, we have had two meetings. The first, to see Colin Wagener's magnificent collection at Wistow. It is always a joy to see this

collection and thank you John for organizing the visit. September saw my annual auction moved from the traditional Friday night to the last Sunday of the month at the request of the committee. Numbers were down a little from usual, and there were many bargains to be had.

The Retirees Luncheon was well attended this month with 9 at the table. A most enjoyable and relaxing occasion.

We have a 'super' sized edition this month to cater for John's most interesting rendition of Warren's misdemeanours in his youth. Thank goodness for photographs to fill out the remaining space. This month's 'team photograph' of the Retirees Luncheon is courtesy of John Wagener.



Left: Retirees' Luncheon 'team photograph' for November 2014.

Right: Some of Colin's early radios.





Left: Colin's timber, Bakelite and plastic mantles.

Right: More of Colin's timber, Bakelite and plastic mantles

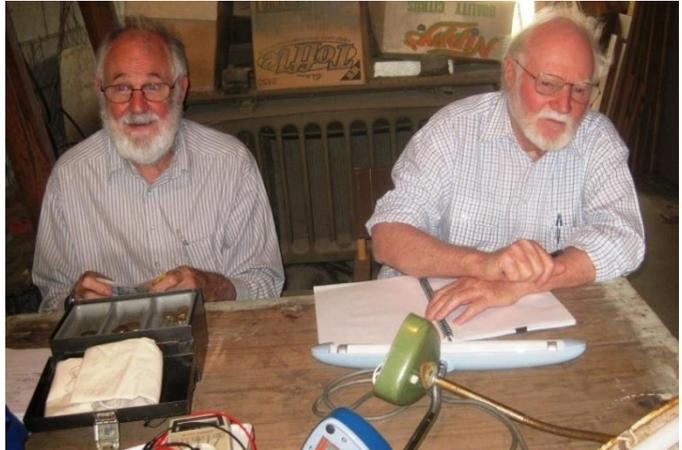


Left: Inspection time at the October auction.



Left: Ready and waiting at the October auction. JC has found time for a siesta!

Right: Our intrepid treasurer, John and scribe, Craig, hard at work keeping track of finances at the October auction.



The committee wishes you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. A safe Festive Season to all.