



**Above Left:** the restored Fireplace at the Capri.

**Above Right:** Some of the H.R.S.A. crowd in the foyer of the Capri in late August.

**Left:** More of the crowd. I recall this style of chair in green in our kitchen when I was a child.



**Below:** The Retirees' Luncheon at the 'Buck' in mid-September.



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# **S.A. GROUP NEWSLETTER**

**September-October 2016**



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

Web Site: [www.hrsasa.asn.au](http://www.hrsasa.asn.au)

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### Forthcoming Events

Sunday 25 September 1300 Visit to the home of Rob Doran. His address will be announced by email just prior to the event.  
Sunday 30 October Traditional internal auction at 1200 for sellers, 1230 inspection and 1300 start at 13 Brussels Street Broadway.  
Sunday 4 November 0900 AHARS annual buy and sell at Goodwood.  
Sunday 27 November 1300 Rob Gurr will talk about his time at the South Pole and perhaps his time as a radio inspector in Adelaide. The location will be St. Cyprian's Church Hall.  
Saturday 3 December Christmas Luncheon at the Maylands Hotel, 67 Phillis Street, Maylands, meeting at 1200 for a 1230 seating.  
Sunday 29 January 1200 Possibly a picnic at Belair National Park.  
Sunday 26 February 1300 Dennis Haseldine, a former 'spook,' will talk of his experiences. At St. Cyprian's Church Hall.  
Sunday 26 March 1300 Meeting at the home of John and Libby Wagener.  
Sunday 30 April 1330 Auction at St. Cyprian's Church Hall.  
Sunday 28 May 1330 Possible visit to GMH in Elizabeth.  
Sunday 25 June 1330 Possible safety testing presentation at St. Cyprian's Church Hall.



Above: The Art Deco Capri theatre was originally the 'New Goodwood Star Theatre' when opened in 1941. Greater Union bought the theatre in 1947 and it was known as the New Cinema Curzon. In 1978 the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (SA Division) purchased the theatre and renamed it 'Capri Theatre'. The star can still be seen above the outside sign.



Above: The main foyer, restored to its former glory. The theatre Organ Society has placed considerable effort in restoring the theatre to its original appearance.

Left: Capri 'Wurlitzer', which rises through the stage. The first concert was held in April 1983



### Retirees' Luncheons

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

Wednesday 9 November  
Wednesday 11 January  
Wednesday 8 March  
Wednesday 10 May

### Front Cover

Although the A.W.A. Model 32 Empire State appeared on the front cover as recently as Autumn this year, that was a modern colour photograph. I recently came across the advertisement in Volume 30 No. 7 of *Wireless Weekly* dated August 13, 1937 and could not resist using it in my last Newsletter. Unfortunately the cost of the wireless set was not given, but the *Wireless Weekly* cost 3<sup>d</sup> (2.5 cents in today's money).

### Editorial

It is with some sadness that I prepare what may be the last S.A. Group Newsletter. I stepped in as temporary editor for the Jul-August 2013 Newsletter. In the intervening period we had one volunteer, however unfortunately that did not work out. So 3 years later I am still preparing the Newsletter. At the August Committee Meeting it was decided that I would not continue editing the Newsletter and unless a new editor comes forward, we will not have a newsletter at all. This is unfortunate on a number of fronts. Getting information to those without e-mail, showing those that cannot attend meeting what has been happening and it is an ideal method of preserving our history. However, you have been warned. What is possibly more concerning is that I believe at least two of the committee will not be standing next year and without a committee, it may be the end of the S.A. Group.

For those concerned that it is difficult and time consuming, it need not be. My first Newsletter (second time around) in 2013 was a simple 4 x A5 pages, a single double sided A4 sheet. While the President is preparing his report, original writing can be minimal. Thank you to those that have presented material over the last 3 years. Thank you to John Crawford for reformatting the A4 version of the Newsletter, Warren Lane for e-mailing it and to Peter Hartung for putting the Newsletter on the website. Au revoir.

Ed.

### President's Report

For this President's Report I would like to cover three topics, namely The Science Alive project, succession planning for our club and the Newsletter.

While I have mentioned the solid work put in by the Science Alive working group on a number of occasions, it was not until I attended the stand on the Saturday morning of the event that the full impact of the task became really apparent. I was greeted by a well laid out



**Top:** Senior school children at the H.R.S.A. display on the school information day on Friday.

**Above:** Younger children escorted by their parents at the H.R.S.A. display on the Sunday.

**Right:** The robot with a human escort visits our display.



display of vintage equipment, several 'hands on' items demonstrating historical aspects of radio and communication, and a comprehensive set of instructions and material for use by those staffing the stand. What an excellent job the working group had done!

I understand that some 27,000 people attended the Science Alive event, and while it was not possible to record the actual number of visits to our stand, our observation was that we achieved a very worthwhile interest. From my own Saturday morning stint, it was particularly heartening to see many young people being fascinated with the hands on displays and asking lots of questions.

We are very much indebted to all concerned for the many hours of planning and set up work, together with the promotional and educational benefits delivered. Well done team. Tony Bell, John Crawford, Miles Essery, Don Hosking, Rob Olding, Norm Scott and Alan Taylor.... Take a bow!

In regards to other club matters, our Committee is becoming increasingly concerned as to how the club might be managed in the future, given that no new nominations for office bearers were received at the AGM. For the past year the committee has met bi-monthly to plan and organise the meeting program, and ensure financial accountability is maintained. These tasks are not onerous, (and speaking for myself at least), have occurred with enjoyable camaraderie.....But, the present Committee can't go on indefinitely, and new ideas and approaches need to be considered to maintain vitality.

So....(grammatically incorrect I know)...with a view to addressing at least the latter, and with the (secret) agenda of encouraging future nominations, we will be inviting one or two from our general membership to come along to a Committee meeting to 'get the feel of it all'.

However, we do have an immediate problem regarding the Newsletter. As all will be aware, no nomination for Editor was received at the last AGM, so really you should not be able to read this. The suggestion was made that a blank sheet should be sent out to all members to emphasise the point, but Tony agreed to 'one for the road.' This newsletter will be the last unless a volunteer comes forward.

I hope this is not the case, as notwithstanding our Website, the Newsletter is a pleasant and collegial way to disseminate information. Please consider carefully and talk to Tony or myself if you feel you can help.

Morrie Rieger.

### *Science Alive 2016*

Planning for an event to mark the Group's milestone of 25 years started nearly 12 months ago. The first idea was to have a display in a public place and the Flinders University Gallery near the entrance to the State Library was considered. However this venue was not available. At the November's meeting I presented a series of photographs of *Science Alive 2015*. This event was agreed upon, application made and accepted, and a committee formed. The committee proved ideal, with everybody having a different speciality. Rob's garage proved very useful as it was the same dimensions as our allocation at the event and enabled the layout to be pre-determined to the best effect. After a lot of hard work and many meetings, everything came together for a great display, perhaps one of the best at the event. An interesting phenomenon was that the children immediately homed in upon the 6 'hands-on' and were not particularly interested in the fine collection of radios.

My sincerest thanks go to the committee of John Crawford, Don Hosking, Rob Olding, Norm Scott and Alan Taylor. A special thanks must go to Chris Ratcliff for the black and white television system and Miles Essery for testing all of the power leads. Although we had a slow start for volunteers to man the display, many rallied to the call and my thanks to all of those, too many to individually name.

Ed.



**Above:** Some of the crowd of members at the A.G.M. and auction at the end of July  
**Below:** A general view of the H.R.S.A. exhibit at *Science Alive 2016* in early August.

