

Volume 29 No. 5

April 2020



S.A. GROUP  
NEWSLETTER



**Magnavox AM-2 Transistor Radio**

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

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

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, HRSA-SA Group, 2-13 Chester Street, Glenelg South, S.A. 5045.

## **Committee**

President:	Chris Ratcliff	0419 834 502	<a href="mailto:pres@hrsasa.asn.au">pres@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Vice President:	Keith Ellison	0407 304 028	<a href="mailto:vicepres@hrsasa.asn.au">vicepres@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Secretary	Ian Smyth	0488 488 776	<a href="mailto:sec@hrsasa.asn.au">sec@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Treasurer:	John Crawford	8344 4978	<a href="mailto:treas@hrsasa.asn.au">treas@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Editor:	Tony Bell	8269 4095	<a href="mailto:editor@hrsasa.asn.au">editor@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Public Relations	Alan Taylor	0417 859 074	<a href="mailto:alantaylor47@bigpond.com">alantaylor47@bigpond.com</a>
Shop Keeper:	Rob Olding	8365 3168	<a href="mailto:shop@hrsasa.asn.au">shop@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Web Master	Ian Smyth	0488 488 776	<a href="mailto:sec@hrsasa.asn.au">sec@hrsasa.asn.au</a>
Valve Bank Manager	John Crawford	8344 4978	<a href="mailto:vbm@hrsasa.asn.au">vbm@hrsasa.asn.au</a>

## **Planned Forthcoming Meetings (some are tentative)**

To be announced  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July                      Hopefully AGM and auction.

## **Retiree's Luncheons**

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work, at the Buckingham Arms Hotel (for the time being) on the corner of Walkerville Terrace and Northcote Street, Gilberton. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are: To be announced.

## **Committee Meetings**

The tentative dates for the committee meetings are given, not that you are expected to attend, but if you have anything that you wish to have discussed by the committee. The date is scheduled to be the 24<sup>th</sup> May, but most unlikely to occur due to the coronavirus regulations.

## **Front Cover**

I would like to think that this Magnavox Model AM-2 is the oldest transistor radio in Australia, however somebody is bound to have imported a Regency TR-1, the worlds first production radio, released in October 1954 or a Sony TR-55, released on the U.S. market in March 1955. It is reported that the broadcast band only Magnavox AM-2 was first released soon after in 1955. This particular radio was sold by the Liberty Music Shop Inc., New York City on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1956. The radio was donated to the S.A. Group and became a part of the Group's assets until the committee of the time decided that the Group would no longer own hard assets and it was sold at an auction. I seem to recall that I made a low sensible bid of \$20 and that was the only bid. It has 6 germanium transistors and uses a now unobtainable 4.2 volt 2 Ah mercury battery, similar in appearance to a 'C' cell. Three colours were available, red, black and ivory. Ed.

## **Editorial**

I trust that all members are maintaining isolation and avoiding the dreadful coronavirus. I am certainly missing the Group functions and interaction with other members. If there is any bright side, I am getting far more work done, some of which has been on the agenda for many years. Perhaps the thing that I find most difficult, besides pubs not being open for meals, is in not knowing when life will return to normal, thus allowing future planning.

The number of amateurs participating on the Sunday morning 6 metre call back has increased since restrictions have been placed on social interaction and the Adelaide Hills Amateur Radio is conducting a 2 metre Thursday night call back in place of their weekly get-togethers. I am proposing that we conduct an informal Group call back for licenced amateur starting at 2000 local time or perhaps a little later on Wednesday nights using the Houghton repeater, as this receives far less use than the Crafers repeater. The way I see it working is that I, VK5UA, invite HRSA Group members to call in and members respond with their call sign and name. We then work through the list with participants making any comment that they wish, preferably on the subject of historic radio. As we do not have control of the repeater, we will have to be very careful of ‘time-outs’. So in brief;

2000 to 2030 Wednesdays, commencing on 29 April, Houghton Repeater, 146.85 MHz Receive, 146.25 Transmit, for about an hour.

I note that *good bye* or any of the many similarities has been largely replaced by *keep safe*. It will be interesting to see how long this lasts after the virus has been totally controlled.

Keep safe.

Ed.

## **Presidents Report**

My fellow members, indeed we do live in interesting times. COVID 19 has changed, as humans, how we interact with each other. The committee has received a couple of complaints because of the sudden cessation of meetings. This was most certainly not taken to annoy members. The decision was taken just before the State and Federal governments imposed a restriction on the number of people associating in a group. The committee also has a responsibility for the safety of member, you. When we can legally and safely commence meetings again, we will do so. Please watch the website and the Editor will prepare a Newsletter or information sheet for the Secretary to circulate with meeting details. There was no way that members could maintain a 1½ metre separation for safety, the hall is simply too small.

I wish you well and good health.

Christopher

## **Valve Bank Update**

The Valve Bank team is in temporary suspension due to the virus. However valves are still available from Aztronics in the city. Don’t forget to ask for your member’s discount when buying the valves.

# HRSASA Presentation to the BREIF Club Luncheon – 27<sup>th</sup>. February



**BREIF Club** Adelaide is a monthly luncheon event for members and friends from the broadcasting, radio and electrical industries.

## What IS the BREIF Club of Adelaide?

BREIF Club was established in 1947 to encourage good fellowship and interests within the then thriving Broadcasting, Radio, Electrical Industries Fellowship. The original members represented a wide range of the industry. In its foundation years, over 100 members attended the luncheons, as they were a good meeting place for members to network. Unfortunately, with many changes within the industry, and the natural ageing of members, membership is down to about 30.

The HRSA-SA was invited to be the guest speaker at their February meeting and Warren Lane and Ian Smyth were asked to develop a 30-minute presentation to showcase our Group. We were ably supported by our President, Chris Ratcliff who also attended.

After a short introduction to the HRSA, Ian went first and told the story (using a PowerPoint presentation of pictures) of the restoration of his 1938 Philips “Junior P” V4LU radio acquired from a street market in southern France in 2017.....

110v – 5 valves and a Barretta – no transformer

**“Theatrette” style – Made by Phillips (France)**

....and in true French “laissez faire” style

- no chassis
- no earth
- and all point to point wiring...





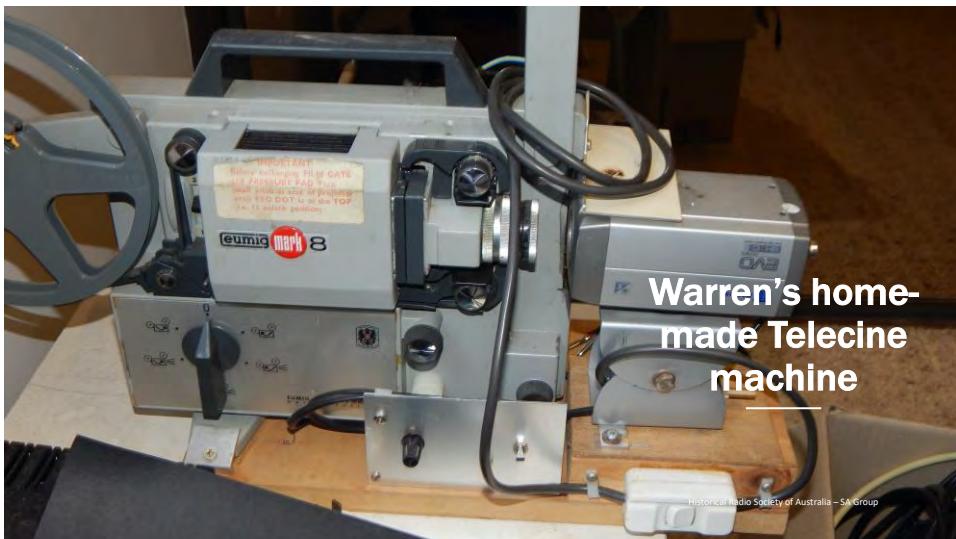
Then it was Warren's turn to paint a broader-brush picture, using PowerPoint photos of some of his favourite restorations of radios, speakers and broadcast TV equipment from his days at SAS/ADS and AUSTERO and beyond!



**Freed Eisemann radio  
(USA)  
Model FE-18 from 1925**

- Tuned Radio Frequency (TRF)
- Broadcast only (MW)
- 3 radio circuits
- 5 valves
- Battery operated

Historical Radio Society of Australia – SA Group



A home-designed and built HiFi amplifier using NO negative feedback.

Historical Radio Society of Australia – SA Group



Warren finished with a lively discussion with the audience about his work as several members of the audience were former colleagues. They were particularly interested in his personally designed and built Class A audio amplifiers and his experiments with designs using no negative feedback.

It was a great day, and a lovely lunch at the Arkaba Hotel in Fullarton. It was made even more remarkable at the end as their Club President presented the HRSA-SA with a cheque for \$300.00 which was a totally unexpected surprise!

## Record Players for the Aged Programme

The first of hopefully 3 stereo/record players has been installed at the RSL Aged Care facility in Myrtle Bank but due to Coronavirus concerns, the Secretary has not been able to go inside and take photos of the residents using it. This unit was the one donated by Bill Verrall's sister so it is a bit special!! More from the Secretary on this subject later.



Congratulations on good work by all involved. Ed

## Wanted

As the result of the virus, I have had an opportunity to go through some of my periodicals. In particular, all of my *Silicon Chip* magazines are in one place. What I discovered is that I have 5 issues missing, 10 issues that have been badly water damaged and that I need to replace and 3 issues duplicated. I would appreciate anybody with spare copies or wishing to dispose of their *Silicon Chip* to contact me. Contact details are on the inside front cover. Ed.

Classifieds are available to all members. Ed.

## Photo Gallery next



**LEFT:** Inspection time of the vast range of equipment at the late Bill Verrall's auction.

**RIGHT:** A part of the crowd at the auction.





**TOP LEFT:** A part of the crowd at the February general meeting.

**TOP RIGHT and ABOVE:** Some of the crystal sets on display at the February meeting.

**LEFT:** The small group at the March Retirees Luncheon before hotels closed due to the virus.



**ABOVE:** Instruction Day, I wonder what the problem could be!

**ABOVE:** Instruction day, I wonder if I can find the problem on the Computer!