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**S.A. GROUP
NEWSLETTER**



BRITISH WARTIME CIVILIAN RECEIVER

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

Web Site: www.hrsasa.asn.au

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Planned Forthcoming Meetings (some are tentative)

Sunday 28 February	1300 Auction at Cyprian's Church hall, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide.
Sunday 14 th March	1300 Instruction Day at St Cyprian's Church Hall.
Sunday 28 th March	1300 One Valve or One Transistor Radio Project at St. Cyprian's Church hall
Sunday 2 nd May	1300 Visit to the ETSA Museum, 31-33 Broughton Avenue, Kurralta Park
Sunday 30 th May	1300 Home Visit to that of member Mr Peter Howard.
Sunday 27 th June	1300 Technical Film Day at St. Cyprian's Church hall.
Sunday 25 th July	1300 AGM and Auction at St. Cyprian's Church hall.

Component Corner

Many new members are probably wondering where to obtain components and valves. The following is a list in order of preference;

HRSA-SA Group Shop (See the Directory above). We are working towards a publishable catalogue,

AZTRONICS, 170 Sturt Street, Adelaide. Houses the HRSA-SA Group valve bank and modern components,

HRSA Melbourne (see *Radio Waves*) Houses the HRSA valve bank and odd passive components and kits.

AZTRONICS, 470a Main North Road, Blair Athol for modern components.

WES Components, Sydney. The catalogue is viewable on-line and orders through the Shop Keeper or Secretary, as the SA Group has an account.

Retiree's Luncheons

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work for the day on the second Wednesday of the odd month. An excellent attendance of 14 at the January meeting is a good indicator of the popularity of the Reepham. However, it is time for a southern hotel in March. A vote between the Maid of Auckland and Earl of Leicester indicated the Earl to be most favoured. The Earl is at 85 Leicester Street, Parkside. Meeting

time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are:

Wednesday 19th March 2021 at the Ear of Leicester

Wednesday 12th May 2021 at the Reepham

Wednesday 14th July 2021 at the Reepham

Committee Meetings

The tentative dates for 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 dates are 18th March 20th May and 22nd July.

Front Cover

By 1944, the European theatre of World War II had the allies well equipped to make the largest maritime landing in history and after succeeding, setting out to fight their way to Berlin. The British had built up large stocks of equipment, relieving the demand on manufacturers. With this good news, the British Government was keen to disseminate it amongst its people. Since no domestic broadcast receivers had been manufactured since early in the War and servicemen were virtually impossible to find, there were many households without a working radio. A decision was taken to build a common economy design domestic radio. Murphy Radio produced the original design and 43 other manufacturers produced substantially identical receivers. Manufacturers names were not put on the radios, but a code letter only known to retail shops and manufacturers. This was to prevent people rushing for well-known manufacturers and shying away from the less known. The code letter allowed spare parts for a particular manufacturer's version to be ordered. Some 175,000 sets were sold at a price of £12-3-4 (a good week's wage at that time). A 1950 *Wireless World* advertisement shows a disposal price of £3-19-6.

Technically the set is a quite conventional 4 valve design of frequency converter, IF amplifier, audio power amplifier and rectifier. A permanent magnet speaker and transformer were used. The only uncommon features were the use of a selenium rectifier for the detector and the dial was marked in metres. **Ed.** P.S. even if the editor has a particular radio, I will tend to use a web photograph, which is of a better quality. Ed.

Editorial

It is good news that we are able to return to St. Cyprian's Church hall. It is disappointing to hear that some members have been complaining about meetings being held at the National Military Vehicle Museum. Although the Group has its own COVID-19 plan, the Group must comply with the landlord's requirements when hiring a hall, which, for St. Cyprians Church hall, meant washing all surfaces, including the kitchen and toilets 3 times before and after a meeting. Because of the layout of the Museum and usage profile, COVID-19 requirements are very much more flexible than other venues. John, our treasurer did not expect that the St. Cyprian Church would relax the stringent cleaning requirements any time soon. Consequently, the committee started looking for other halls. Initial investigations indicated that there is a great demand for halls, particularly on Sunday afternoons. Fortunately, the Church Elders relaxed their requirements and John has been able to negotiate acceptable requirements with them. Putting it simply, **until recent relaxations, it has been a matter of having meetings at the Museum or not having meetings at all.** Venue changes have been made for forthcoming meetings, however in the wake of November's Parafield Gardens and recent Melbourne outbreaks, anything can happen with short notice.

For afternoon tea, everything will be supplied — disposable cups, pre-packaged biscuits and the like. An important point is that no-one is to bring any food or beverages to share. The COVID-19 plan under which we currently operate does not permit share food and drink brought from home by individuals.

The SA Group has had a number of transcription and serial discs donated. Also, a quantity of *Marconi School of Wireless* lecture notes: these are important to the history of radio and were donated on the condition that we do not sell them. This also raises the question, Victor started an assets list for the Group, and it requires further work. Since the committee has a heavy workload, perhaps we have a volunteer that would like to grapple with an assets list!

The Committee has also asked me to publish an extract from the Group Rules. The extract is as follows;

“6. AUCTION

- a. Auctions may be held from time to time to;
 - i. assist Members in disposing of unwanted items,
 - ii dispose of deceased estates on behalf of the trustees, or
 - iii dispose of items donated to the Group for preservation and fund raising.
- b. The Group will normally charge 10% of the proceeds as a commission. Donations increasing the commission to greater than the 10% will be gratefully accepted. All proceeds of items donated to the Group shall go to the Group funds.
- c. Only bids from Members of the Group or bonafide interstate H.R.S.A. members will normally be accepted. Viewing of current H.R.S.A. membership cards may be required if there is doubt of a bidder’s membership.
- d. Notwithstanding the conditions of Para 6.c, those Members at an auction may agree to a non-Member bidding for an article, particularly if the non-Member is undertaking tasks for the betterment of the Group.
- e. In the spirit of the Society and Group of being an organisation for hobbyists and bonafide collectors and **not** for traders, Members are expected **not** to bid for items for the express purpose of trading, re-sale or profit.
- f. Notwithstanding Para 6.e, it is recognised that unwanted items may be a part of a larger lot, a better replacement item has superseded the unwanted item or a change in direction of collecting means that items bought at auction are to be sold. It would normally be expected that these items would be resold through a Group auction.”

With the return to St. Cyprian’s Church hall and an influx of new members, parking will be very tight in the Church car park. Consequently, unless you have a quantity of equipment to drop off for the auction or are disabled, it is suggested that you park in the Council car park across the road in Dunn Street. Dunn Street is one-way from Melbourne Street to the carpark and two-way between the car park and Mackinnon Parade.
Ed.

President’s Report

Greetings & felicitations everyone. We are now back in our hall, at North Adelaide. Our next meeting is the auction, to be at the hall. We had no choice but to use the Military Museum. Covid-19 meant the hall had to be cleaned both before & after use. This cost the club could not afford.

On our sale day we took \$240. At this point in time, I will remind you, of our group rules of our society, concerning our auctions, a copy of which may be found in the Editorial. Members are Expected NOT to bid

for items for the express purpose of trading, re-sale or profit. Superseded the unwanted item or a change in direction of collecting means that items bought at auction are to be sold. It would normally be expected that these items would be resold through a Group auction.

Christopher Ratcliff (President)

Substitute Battery for the HMV “Sprite” Model Radios

Introduction:

I have an HMV Sprite Mark II transistor radio that was given to me by my Grandparents (on my Dad’s side of the family) in the early 1970’s. I had used it a lot over that decade. The radio uses an Eveready type 2510 battery, that is, a battery having two internal 7.5 volt sections wired in series to provide a total of 15 volts for the radio. It has a 4-pin plug/socket arrangement for connection. However, production of this battery ceased about 1980 so that was the last time I was able to buy a new battery for it! Since then, I have had to run it using an external 12-volt battery using light hook-up wires and Alligator clips, but I always felt that this arrangement was not good enough!



Over the years, I have been thinking about how I could design an internal substitute battery arrangement to replace the need for having an external battery, and the unavailable Eveready 2510 but had done nothing about it until recently.

I have just come up with a battery pack that works and fits in the available space taken up by the original battery. My thinking was to find a couple of “off the shelf” battery holders that could be modified to provide enough power and fit into the available space.

Tests were done to find out how much current the set draws when driven into distortion. It was about 50 to 60mA at full volume. I felt that the standard AA Alkaline cells should be able to handle that with no problem.



Method:

I used two 9v AA Battery Holders (Jaycar Cat. No. PH9206) wired in series with 2 cell positions of one battery holder bypassed with a short length of wire for the modification from (potentially) 18 volts to 15V with no problems. All joints were then sealed with heat-shrink tubing.

Steps have been taken to prevent any more 1.5v AA cells being placed in the un-used positions. The battery holders were then glued together I checked to see that this new unit would fit into the space available.

In my case, I still had the original battery connector block and plug, so the free Red and Black leads from the new battery pack were soldered to the existing socket in the correct polarity.

If you do not have the original connector block any more, just solder the free Red wire to the Speaker +ve terminal, and the free Black wire to the Power switch on the volume pot.



6 x AA by 3 side by side battery older Cat. No. PH9206

When this is done, install 10 AA cells in the holders and CHECK POLARITY BEFORE POWERING UP, and fix any problems first, otherwise you will have more work on your hands!

On Review:

When I had finished, I found that a bit of mucking about could have been saved! I could have used one Jaycar Cat No. PH9206 9-volt holder and one Jaycar Cat No. PH9200 6-volt holder to do this job instead. It makes things easier, and makes more sense, and leaves a little more space. I found the rear-cover fits on the radio with no fouling. I do hope that this article is helpful to any readers who wish to duplicate this battery substitution project.



Darryl Sampson. (VK5JDS)

For your listening pleasure... Some slices of Audio History available for free!

For your listening pleasure... Some slices of Audio History available for free! Recently, we were contacted by Mr Trevor Wilkey a former employee of ABC Adelaide, NWS9, ADS7, TCN9 Sydney and the S.A. Film Corp, and currently a volunteer for SA Jazz Archive. He is currently involved with cleaning up old recordings of all types except wire and optical. Trevor has a large collection of "transcription programs which he has cleaned up and has made available for free as MP3 files (in the first instance) to members of the HRSA-SA. Higher grade un-compressed copies can be obtained separately.

In the collection available on a memory stick are:

- "Under the Stars" with Vic Braham from 5DN recorded on 14 Sept 1952 (Full program)
- 32 individual tracks recorded by the ABC at the "Wonderland Ballroom" on Unley Road featuring the Wonderland Ballroom Orchestra – great variety of live dance music.
- 14 Macquarie Network Promos – (1 to 5 mins each) – such as The Jack Davey Show, the Persil Hour, Bob Dyer's "Pick-A-Box" and the Ford Show etc.3
- 24 randomly selected full episodes of programs such as "Caltex Theatre", General Motors Hour, the Dulux Show with Jack Davey (Ep202 Pt2 FINAL)
- From the "Regent Theatre" in Adelaide, with Knight Barnett at the mighty Wurlitzer Organ – Recorded by ABC Radio 5CL, circa 1950 (Full program)

If any member would like a free copy, (just supply your own memory stick) please contact;

Ian Smyth (Secretary)

Photo Gallery



Left: Our President and Secretary at the business end of the January meeting. The theme of the day is in the bowl on the desk.



Right: Peter Howard with an unusual shaped Reinartz chromed radio.



Left: The crowd at the National Military Vehicle Museum for the January meeting.



Above: Phil Flaherty discussing his World War II BC-348 aircraft receiver.



Below: Christopher and Ian discussing the *Playmaster* tuner which does not correspond to the original Radio, T.V. and Hobbies article.

Right: Graham Dicker discussing the results after spending some 1,100 hours on his restored Ampex ½ inch tape ATCR800 recorder which is seen on the screen.





Above: Your committee at work in January 2021.

FEBRUARY 9, 1971

By Education Writer
MAXWELL WHITING

If a big jetliner crashed into houses near Adelaide Airport at 2.30 p.m. tomorrow, the chances are that King's College boys in an old bus would be there within 30 minutes.

And they could play a key part in assessing, recommending and coordinating the emergency measures needed immediately to protect the community and minimise disruption to public services.

King's College has had a civil defence unit for about two years, but yesterday it became SA's first with its own mobile headquarters.

The unit has brought an old

THE WAY WE WERE

What was making news in *The Advertiser* 50 years ago this week.
Compiled by Andrew O'Grady

passenger bus and converted it to an operations room-signals centre.

The unit is run by senior boys directed by Mr. G. F. Paltridge, an SA Civil Defence Organisation unit controller who is a senior biology master at the school.

It is equipped and trained to take a leading part in a major civil emergency in Adelaide's metropolitan area at a moment's notice - day or night.

With its communications facilities it could even contact other

countries in an international emergency. The unit's work is voluntary and unpaid, and much of the cost of establishing it has been borne by unit members.

It has been financially supported by "The Advertiser," and this year has about 90 members.

Operating telephones in the new civil defence vehicle at King's College yesterday are David Hubbard, 16, of Rosslyn Park (left), and Miles Essery, 16, of Kensington Park.



Above left: "Who is the 'pretty' boy at the rear?" and from the Secretary "he needs to do something about that 'college cut' hairdo". An interesting article, acknowledging *The Advertiser* of Monday 8th of February 2021.

Left: The large gathering attending the retirees' luncheon at the Reepham Hotel in January.