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**S.A. Group**  
**Newsletter**



**Our Retiring President, Christopher Ratcliff cuts the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cake at the 2021-22 Annual General Meeting.**

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

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

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### Planned Forthcoming Meetings (all are tentative due to Covid-19)

Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	1300 - Three members will showcase different restoration challenges. One on restoring tape recorders; one on incorporating DAB+ digital radio, and one on dealing with interference.
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	1300 - Possible practical workshop on wooden cabinet restoration.
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	1200 - Combined 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Christmas Luncheon.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	1300 - Auction.

### 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. Will source components for members. Great supporters of the HRSASA.

**HRSA Melbourne** (see *Radio Waves*) Houses the HRSA valve bank and odd passive components and kits, plus resource books written especially for members.

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

## Members Bi-Monthly Luncheons (formerly called “Retirees Luncheon”)

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work for the day on the second Wednesday of the odd month. Excellent attendances of 16 (or more) at recent lunches is a good indicator of the popularity of this event. The next luncheon will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November at the Reepham Hotel, 273 Churchill Road, Prospect, SA, 5082. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 start. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at the Reepham

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at the Earl of Leicester (Parkside)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Reepham

## Front Cover

Our AGM and Auction for 2021 was finally held on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> August at St. Cyprian’s Church Hall where we elected a new Committee for 2021-22. There were a few changes with Graham Dicker taking over the role of President from Christopher Ratcliff after his 3 years of service. We would like to thank Christopher for his enthusiasm, commitment to improving the Association and for his input into designing the programme of events we have held.



Left: The Committee decided that sharing a cake might be an appropriate way we could celebrate together!

Covid-friendly serving was maintained and the 40 or so members present demolished the cake in no time at all!

Our Christmas Lunch, to be held on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at the Maid of Auckland Hotel, will also be used as a day to celebrate the 30 years of shared history we have enjoyed together.

Right: The Auction was a big one – Eight tables of goodies went under the hammer in just under 2.5 hours which is a record for our Association!

Well done to Warren Lane, our regular Auctioneer.



## Editorial

It has been a pity that COVID-19 played havoc with our programme of planned events this year. The AGM and Auction were delayed from July to August, and the meeting at Warren Lane's Home had to be cancelled at the last minute when the number of people who could assemble in a private home was lowered from 50 to 20. We were not able to relocate that meeting to the Hall at such short notice but have postponed it until the New Year. The *Bakelite repairs* meeting and the *Book Sale* meeting both have been postponed until next year as well. If you can, please look at the homepage of our website at [www.hrsasa.asn.au](http://www.hrsasa.asn.au) for the latest details/changes to the Programme of Events. -Ed.

### President's "Banter"!

*From our new President, Graham Dicker.*



I have often pondered the thought that our personal interests in electronics, and more specifically vintage electronics, has over the years been common ground for discussions with others that we would casually meet anywhere that sold electronics. Everyone I have ever known will offer up advice or some little gem of information freely to help others. My memories from the 60's are as a schoolkid on Saturday mornings hopping on my bike at 6am and catching up with one Mitch Hamilton on the way down to the Port, to be at Robbie's at Long Street, Queenstown before he opened the doors at 9am, just so I could have a look at the latest treasures added to the front window that week. Usually, we would start at the northern end and progress to the front gates.

On most occasions older enthusiasts from the DSTO or Woomera rocket range, would intercept Mitch and myself to talk about amateur radio, or to explain what that new gizmo in the window was, and how they used to work on it before Robbie acquired it. Things like a coil encased in araldite with two terminals and a couple of hangers coming out of opposite ends turned out to be still on the classified list, but Robbie had 20 of them. The head of the PMG training school in the day Mr. Hughes knew the answer and swore me to secrecy, (I think the statute of limitations has now passed), it turns out the device was a vintage telephone bug used by Government agencies, you hook the coil over a phone line with the hangers and the terminals went to a set of headphones or a tape recorder.

My point is that here was a very knowledgeable engineer that took the time out to help and encourage a 15-year-old into the wonderful world of electronics, knowing the value of passing down his knowledge to another generation. If the HRSA is to survive another 10-20 years or so, we can all be ambassadors for the hobby, even today I frequently end up in discussions with others every time I go into an electronics store. These subjects being anywhere from things like thermionic to Arduino's.

In the next editions of the newsletter I will explain how to beat the cue at Robbie's, and the story of the Moonshine still !!!!

- *Graham Dicker*

## The Centenary of Broadcasting in South Australia.

At our AGM in August, it was decided that we should set up a sub-committee to coordinate preparations for this event. Tony Bell has volunteered to undertake this role. From time to time he may call on others to join this group as the date draws near. ***Tony has tentatively selected 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1925 as the official start of broadcasting in South Australia as this was the date that 5CL received its transmitting licence.*** He has been exploring possibilities with the State Library of South Australia about a display for the centenary. The duration of the display is still undecided, but Tony expects the dates to be from the first half of January 2025 until 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. (This coincides with 5DN received its full licence on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1925.)

Tony envisages one major display being a “Time-Line” or “pathway” of 100 classic domestic radios (hopefully one from each year of the centenary.) Viewers will see the progression of design; technology; materials; fashion and function. He has started a ‘register’ of radios that may be available to complete this idea. All members may be asked soon to provide a list of radios that you would be prepared to lend for the display.

Other possible display features being considered are:

- Radio Station 5CK producer’s console from 1931.
- A relatively modern decommissioned transmitter.
- Typical radio repair bench of the 1930s.
- Radio shop counter of the 1930s.
- Montage of photographs showing the various transmitter sites and antenna arrays, particularly those in the central business district and charts.
- Posters and diagrams showing the change in broadcasting over the century.

All members are encouraged to speak with Tony about how this event might be celebrated. Volunteers for his sub-committee would also be welcomed.

Tony is seeking availability of old tools and a soldering iron (as used in a 1930s radio repair shop) for the Centenary of Broadcasting display. He has a good selection of wooden handled screw drivers and nut drivers, but is seeking old pliers, side cutters and adjustable spanners of the period. He would expect a pair of sliding joint pliers to be typical. Please contact Tony if you are willing to loan us any of these items.

**-Ed.**



**“If I turn my subwoofer way up during the financial report, I can create a booming economy!”**

## Wanted to Buy, Sell or Exchange

Are you looking for a hard-to-get part? A strange knob, or a replacement coil? Have an item that you’d like to sell? Why not place a free, classified advertisement on our website? Go to the TRADING POST page of our website at: <https://hrsasa.asn.au/page-16/> and have a look at what’s on offer now and help a fellow member. Why not make use of this resource yourself?

## Reminder – Meetings at the Hall

Our Treasurer, John Crawford would like to conclude this Newsletter by mentioning the cash box at the Hall door. In this past year only once did it manage to exceed our \$50 rent. With a suggested donation at the meeting of \$2.00 each as a voluntary contribution, and one easily overlooked, we only average \$35 (on one occasion receiving less than \$20), He would like to remind members that the cost of the hall is not insignificant, especially so when with Covid constraints we cannot bring any food ourselves nor do we have John and Elizabeth Cox so generously able help with afternoon tea. The Covid compliant afternoon tea is covered by the club.

## From the Past

A classic piece of design from the “Re-Nu Radio Company” – Located in Richmond, Victoria in the 1930’s

We manufacture and supply the World's Best Wireless Sets of any description, or any parts for Cash or Terms. Advice Free.

**RE-NU RADIO COMPANY**

(Estab. 1932). Agents Required - - - 75 Other Lines. Phone: J 4797.  
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Eliminates faulty reception, outside unsightly poles, noisy wires from rain, fog, lightning danger. Creates better tone, perfect local, overseas reception, etc.

No bigger than a match box. Fits behind all wireless sets. Simply connect to aerial and earth wires.

Price 15/6.



## Photo Gallery



Above: The Retirees Luncheon group at the September lunch at the Earl of Leicester Hotel, Parkside