



Volume 31 No. 3  
December 2021  
S.A. Group  
Newsletter

**A piece of historical, Australian military history.....**

**What is it? .....and where was it used?**



**Inside: Find out a little more about this radio/transceiver unit and its origins. It was restored by one of our HRSAsA country members.**

## 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)

Wednesday 12 January 2022 - 12noon (for 12:30pm start)

**Members Luncheon** - The Reephram Hotel, (Corner of Churchill Road and Regency Road, Prospect)

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

**Regular Auction** - Further details to follow

Sunday 27 February 2022 - 1:00pm to 3:30pm

#### **Fault Finding Workshop**

A couple of our experienced members will share their tricks and skills in finding and fixing faults in radio chassis and/or amplifiers - St. Cyprian Church Hall - 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA, 5006

Wednesday 9 March 2022

12noon (for 12:30pm start)

**Members Luncheon** - The Earl of Leicester Hotel, 85 Leicester Street, Parkside, SA, 5063

Sunday 27 March 2022

1:00pm to 3:30pm

#### **Sale Day**

A Fixed-Price Sale Day (not an auction) for members to sell items of high quality - St. Cyprian 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. 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.

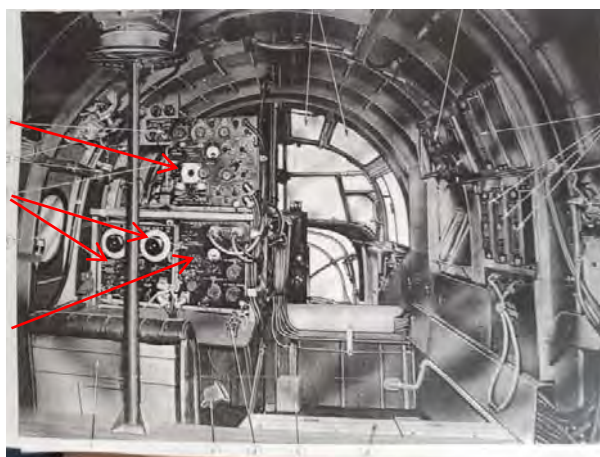
## Front Cover

The featured radio is in three parts: an AT5 transmitter combined with an AR8 receiver, plus an Antenna tuning unit. This threesome came from Australian “Beaufort IV” aircraft, number A9-77, designed in the UK, but built under license in Australia during WWII. This aircraft served from 1942 to 1944 with No. 1, 5, 6 Operational Training Units, and was disposed of in 1948. This radio is in full working order and was restored by our HRSASA member, Phil Flaherty at Goolwa. You can read a little more about Phil and his collection later in this newsletter.



Above: The actual Beaufort aircraft A9-77 in formation during a training flight.

AT5 – Transmitter unit  
AR8 - MF/HF Tuning unit  
Aerial coupling unit



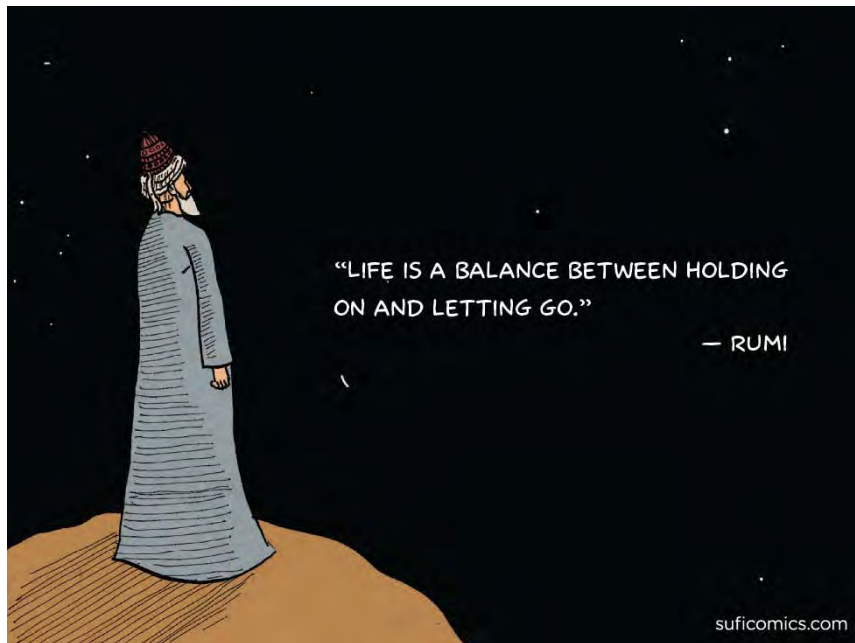
Above: The interior layout of the Radio Operator's station inside the Beaufort IV cockpit, showing location of the three modules.



## Editorial

The SA Group Committee would like to wish all members and families a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We have developed a programme of “draft” events for 2022, but we will of course, be guided by government health regulations regarding meeting together. Meetings may need to be changed or postponed at short notice. 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, given these uncertain times.

At this time of year, it's good to take stock and reflect on the year past and where we want to go. What will be my priorities in 2022? What do I want to achieve? Here's a thought from Rumi (1207 – 1273)



-Ed.

## President's "Banter"!

*From our President, Graham Dicker.*



The HRSA has an interesting group of members not only from different backgrounds, but from engineers to hobbyists, those who are quite normal, to those like me who are a bit eccentric and borderline OCD. The common thread here is that we all like to stop landfill, either by fixing something broken, inventing and building a new gizmo or fully restoring a bit of the past to live another day. The concept of a few auctions per year to move a lot of my odds and sods into someone else's garage to make room for someone else's junk is not lost on me, maybe we should just roster a rotation of sheds.

As promised in last month's banter I thought I would share with you a Herbert Robinson AKA Robbie story, and I encourage all of you to share some of yours as well. This story I only found out about a few years back. A good mentor and friend of mine now for more than 50 years was one Peter Read. Peter, like Robbie, used to visit the Pennington and other auctions on a weekly basis and often divvy up the spoils. Unknown to me Peter was from the bush and had come down to Adelaide just to visit Robbie on a Saturday morning, usually armed with a fresh pail of

milk from the nearby farms. Peter would knock on the garage roller door next to the front gates about 8am and Robbie would let him in past the VW panel van and flat-bed trailer (that's another story), to sit have breakfast and a cup of tea together before starting the day. At some stage Warren, Perce and John would turn up and join the discussion and a cuppa before opening the doors. After the morning cuppa Robbie would show Peter the latest acquisitions and goodies of interest and of course, these would be purloined before the rest of us! These bits and bobs would form Peter's trinkets to flog off to others in the following weeks. The moral of the story is that it pays to be a tea-totaller!

*Graham Dicker*

## **The Centenary of Broadcasting in South Australia.**

In last month's Newsletter it was announced that will be setting-up a sub-committee to coordinate preparations for this event coming up in 2024/5. Tony Bell has volunteered to undertake the role to lead this group. We are now calling for volunteers from the membership to join Tony in these tasks.

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.

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.**

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**"My smart phone communicates with my smart watch and smart TV. I think they're calling me 'stupid' behind my back."**

## Christmas Lunch and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 37 of us gathered at the *Maid of Auckland* Hotel in Edwardstown to celebrate these two special events! The food was great; the environment was festive, and the conversations were flowing. We were entertained with a background slideshow of photos featuring members, old and new, and shots of auctions, meetings, and home visits over the years. Below are a few photos taken on the day.







### 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 right now and help a fellow member. It changes frequently. *Why not make use of this resource yourself?*



**Beaufort IV in flight**

### **Feature: The Military Radio Collection of Phil Flaherty (Member: 2718 from Goolwa, SA)**

Phil Flaherty is a very lucky man! Since he and his wife left Adelaide and moved to their 26 acre farm adjacent to the airport at Goolwa, he's been able to leave behind his years of working for Telstra and determine his own future. On the farm, he's built an enviable radio workshop and two-way radio transmission shed, plus separate workshops for his car restoration projects. Phil's wife has a passion for horses, and they've created an excellent riding centre on the farm as well.

Phil says his dad was probably responsible for his love of valve technology and military radio. Along his workbench in the radio-room is a series of transmitters and receivers, all of which are from RAAF or USAF aircraft. Each restored radio has a photo above it features the aircraft from which it was retrieved.



**Phil at the controls of a BC348 receiver (made by Stromberg Carlson.) The transmitter is a ART13 (made by Collins) usually used in B17s, and the USAF “Liberator” and the larger “Flying Fortress”.**



**The USAF “Liberator from which the BC348 and ART 13 were recovered**

We are planning a visit to Phil’s farm and radio-shed at Goolwa during the first half of 2022. We hope to make a full day of it visiting the Goolwa markets in the morning, having a BBQ lunch at the farm, then a tour of the radio room and all its facilities.

#### **NOTICE TO MEMBERS: COVID-19 POLICY**

Following discussions with the HRSAs Groups in other States/Territories, the SA Committee has decided to implement a policy of requiring all members to show proof of double vaccination against Covid-19 upon entry to all HRSASA events in 2022. If you have an official exemption certificate, please bring that as an alternative. Most meetings will be held at the St. Cyprian’s Church Hall while it is difficult to have meetings in other, or shared locations.

Please bring a hard copy of your vaccination certificate, or the electronic copy on the **Medicare** app or the **mySA Gov** app (the one that you use to check in to shops etc.) Alternatively, bring your official exemption certificate with you for checking.