



Volume 34 No. 4

Feb/Mar 2025

S.A. Group Newsletter

Inside Story:

A Job Well Done : Betty Howard and John Crawford on duty at the State Library



**Many thanks to ALL our volunteers who staffed the Exhibition for 176 sessions across the 6½ weeks we were open.
See inside for the full story.....**

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

Web Site: www.hrsasa.asn.au

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Committee for 2024-25

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Committee Member:	Peter Howard	0424 563 732	peter@hrsasa.asn.au
Committee Member:	Tony Bell	8269-4095	antony.k.bell@gmail.com

Co-Opted Additional Members/Responsibilities:

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Planned meetings for the next few months:

Sunday 27 April

1:00pm to 3:30pm

3-D PRINTING AND MODEL MAKING

Ian Smyth and Matthew Smyth will be demonstrating use of 3-D printers to make models and parts useful to radio restoration. Also, they will be demonstrating casting chemicals and epoxy resins to make replacement parts such as knobs, and broken fretwork for radios.

To be held at:

St. Cyprian's Church Hall

70, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, 5007

Wednesday 14 May

12 noon for 12:30 start

MEMBERS LUNCH

Our bi-monthly lunch is open to all members, partners and guests. Were back in the northern suburbs this month, but remember the change of venue we made a while back...

To be held at:

The Hampstead Hotel

143 North East Rd, Collinswood, SA, 5081

Sunday 25 May

1:00pm to 3:30pm

"THE BEGINNING OF THE TELEGRAPH"

May is *History Month* in SA and Tony Bell will be our speaker exploring the beginnings of the Telegraph and its vital importance in the early history of South Australia. He will also have some demonstration equipment on show.

To be held at:

St. Cyprian's Church Hall

70, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, 5007

Sunday 29 June

1:00pm to 3:30pm

"MADE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA"

As we have done in previous years with AWA, Philips, Astor and Hallicrafter's hardware, this year it is a "show and tell" meeting where members can bring and showcase their locally made radios and equipment. There were over 30 different manufacturers of radio equipment in SA during the Golden Years of radio - let's get them all out and celebrate our past manufacturing successes!

To be held at:

St. Cyprian's Church Hall

70, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, 5007

Sunday 27th July

A.G.M. and AUCTION

This is member's opportunity to re-shape the management and direction of the HRSASA with the election of a new Management Committee for 2025-26. Several members of the current committee will not be standing for re-election this year. The AGM will be followed by a traditional Club Auction.

To be held at:

St. Cyprian's Church Hall

70, Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, 5007

Sunday 31st August

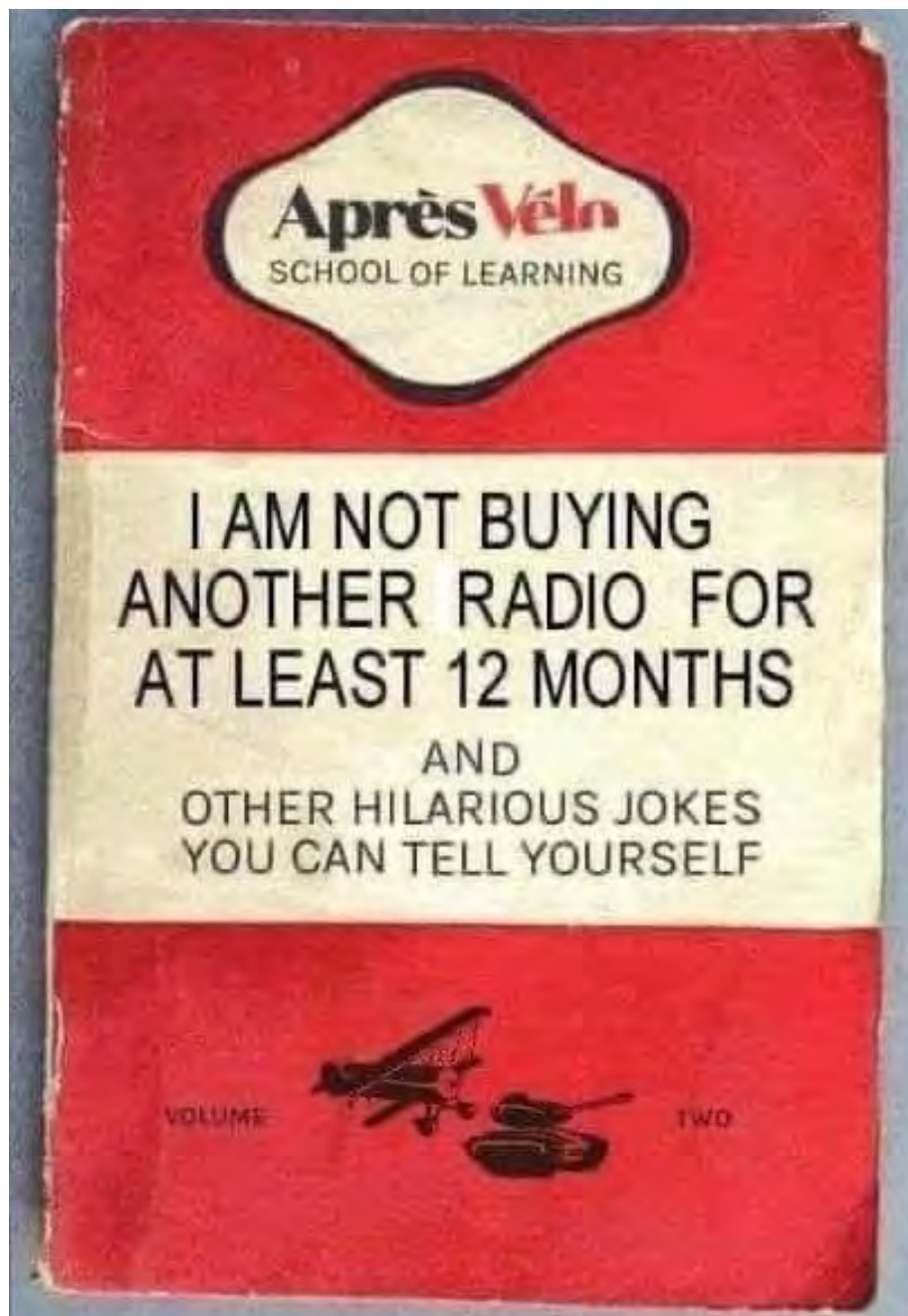
HOME VISIT

We have a venue in mind but are just waiting for final confirmation before publishing the details.

It will be announced as soon as possible.

To be held at:

To be confirmed.



The Top- Seller in this year's "Collector's Book Fair"

***From our President,
Graham Dicker.***

***(Graham's monthly stories from the past, and other
ramblings.)***



Sadly, we must report that there is no President's Column from Graham again in this issue.

As many of you may know, Graham had a very serious motor vehicle accident back in December last year.

We are pleased to report that Graham is slowly and steadily recovering from his injuries and has returned home, and indeed...has even gone back to some work within their family business!

However, it is most unlikely that we will not see him in person again for quite a while. We wish him well and are glad to hear that he is doing much better.

All the best to you Graham!



News from the USA – And its implications for AM Radio in Australia.

A longer article appeared in the New York Times in October 2024 and was sent by a friend (also a valve-radio enthusiast) who lives in New Mexico. It is paraphrased below.....

U.S. Congress is trying to force carmakers to keep AM radio – it should also use this opportunity to correct the mistakes of the past.

- 3 October 2024

In the USA, a lament about the demise of AM radio has been rising in the halls of Congress.

Several automakers, most notably Tesla and Ford, have decided to stop putting AM radios in their electric vehicles. They claim their electric motors interfere with the audio quality of the signal and insist that FM and satellite radio are enough.

Given that people who listen to radio tend to primarily do so while driving, a trend like this could threaten the commercial viability of the over 4,000 AM stations currently broadcasting in the U.S.A.

The radio industry has been fighting back, lobbying for legislation that would force carmakers to install AM radios as a matter of public interest. These efforts led to the ***AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act*** being deliberated in both houses of Congress.

The whole idea of lobbying for the continuation of AM radio as being “in the public interest” is of course resonant for us here in Australia as well. Whenever and wherever possible, organisations such as the HRSA should work with like-minded organisations to remind government about the important role that AM radio continues to play in natural disasters such as bushfires and floods that are becoming more numerous and more severe due to climate change.

ITEMS For SALE, and/or HELP STILL WANTED BY FELLOW MEMBERS:

1. **WANTED TO BUY:** (Submitted by Ashley Packer)

I am on the lookout to buy a valve tester

Hopefully there may be someone in the club who has one they wish to move to a good home

Contact: Ashley Packer - HRSA member #2237 – Phone: 0419 751 351

2. **WANTED TO BUY:** (Submitted by Phil Flaherty.)

I am doing up a Mark 32 Type Japanese transmitter and chasing some missing parts. The radio came from Adelaide and at some stage was modified. I am chasing the 200mA antenna; RF ammeter; the 2 Variometers/ Variocouplers, and the 2 variable capacitors. The variometer No.8 is connected to a 900pf variable capacitor and the No. 17 variometer, and the other capacitor are separate.



ALSO WANTED TO BUY: (by Phil.)

The plugin band coil for a WW2 Japanese Model 94 ground to air Mark2 (type 2) receiver. [Picture, right]

The receiver already has a no.4 band coil plug in, 820 to 1500Kcs

Contact: Phil Flaherty - Email: pflaherty3@bigpond.com – Phone: 0411 707 176



3. **WANTED TO SELL:** (Submitted by Craig Jackson)

Craig says: "The time has come to say goodbye to all the bits & pieces."

The whole lot, [Picture, left] includes jars and boxes of components, capacitors, resistors, pots, coils etc/ including shelving is up for sale at best offer.

Contact: Craig Jackson - Phone: 8536 4531 or Email at:

jacko@aussiebroadband.com.au

4. **WANTED TO SELL:** (Submitted by Warren Lane.)

Downsizing sale of radio, audio and general electronics. Included are quality 1920s radios, valve test equipment, etc. plus many component bins, valves, semiconductors of all types, data and textbooks. Too many items to auction so come and take a look. Here is a broad sample:

- 10.5" reels of tape plus many stereo pre-recorded tapes (7" reels)
- 10-Watt triode mono amplifier
- Thousands of quality components, old projects, etc.



Above: Freed Eisemann 5-valve battery radio with Amplion horn, Philips B-battery eliminator and dual 6-Volt SLA A-battery. *Make an offer*



Above: Pilot Super-wasp battery short-wave receiver with plug-in coils and documentation. *Make an offer*



Above: Philips model 2510 table-top radio (1930) with classic Philips Sevenette speaker. *Make an offer*

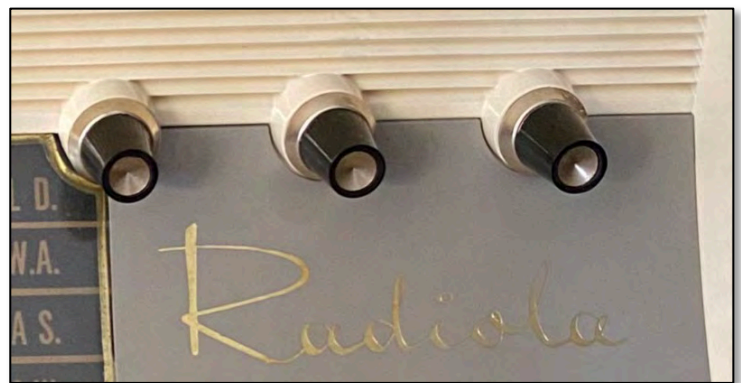
Many next to nothing prices as well. Save them from becoming landfill. Tell me what you're looking for or make a time to come and take a look.

Contact: Warren Lane – Phone: 0400 272 556 or email: warren.lane@internode.on.net

5. **WANTED:** - (Submitted by George Kis)

A set of 3 knobs for an AWA B-15 Mantle Radio (pictured) - If you only have 1 or two, please contact George anyway as he might get the three that he needs from several members.

Contact: George Kis - Ph: 0437 265 076 or email at: ks_grg@yahoo.com.au



6. **WANTED TO SELL:** (Submitted by Greg Lamey)

1. Impedance Bridge by Transmission Products Ltd.
(restored by Andy Gluis) in a polished wooden cabinet - **\$70**
2. Wayne Kerr Universal Bridge (ex Codan), appears to be working - **\$70**
3. Muirhead Universal Bridge (restored by Graeme Cohen) in polished wooden cabinet - **\$70**

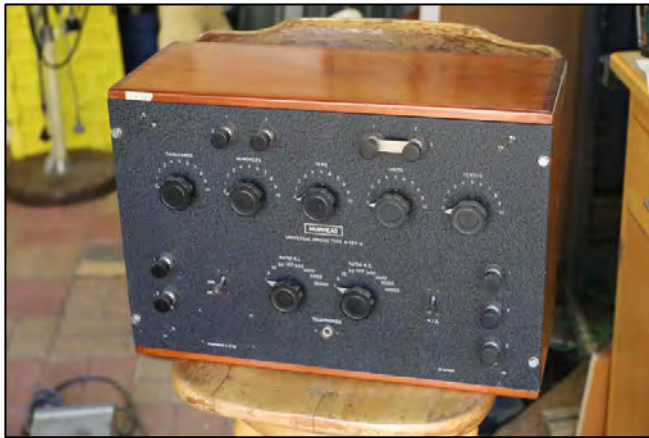
(Photos of the above 3 items on the next page)

Contact: Greg Lamey Email: gnjlamey@gmail.com - Phone: 0455 349 304 – Pickup from Cudlee Creek



Above: Closeup of badging on Transmission Products Bridge

Above: Impedance Bridge by Transmission Products Ltd. -
\$70



Above: Muirhead Universal Bridge in polished wooden case.



Above: Polished wooden case for Muirhead Bridge.



Above: Wayne Kerr Universal Bridge.

7. **WANTED TO BUY - Magazines** (any condition is OK): Submitted by Peter Field:

Does anyone have any of these that they'd like to sell – or give to a good home?

RADIO & HOBBIES/ ELECTRONICS AUSTRALIA	ELECTRONICS TODAY (INTERNATIONAL)
1940 Apr, Dec	1979 Apr, May
1945 Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec	1980 Jul
1947 Jan, Feb, Mar, Jun, Jul, Sep	
1948 Jan, Feb	
1972 Jul, Nov, Dec	
1973 Jan, Mar, May	
1974 Jan, Mar, May	
1975 Apr	
1976 Jul, Sep, Nov	
1980 Dec	
1981 Apr, May	
1982 May	

Also from Peter Field: “Can you remember who bought the other Hi Viz jackets at the recent HRSASA auction? I didn't realize at the time, but they are different sizes, and maybe a swap with one of the other buyers might suit both parties (I've got the Large and Extra-Large sizes – anyone want to swap?).

Contact: Peter Field, Phone: 8362 5161 after 2pm.

8. **WANTED TO BUY:** Valve Tester (Submitted by Ashley Packer)

I am on the lookout to buy a valve tester in working condition. Hopefully there may be someone in the club who has one they wish to move to a good home

Contact: Ashley Packer - HRSASA member #2237 - Phone: 0419 751 351



Component Corner

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

HRSASA-SA Group Shop: We now have a new arrangement for our store. Please contact our Liaison Officer, Alan Taylor on 0417-859-074 to enquire, or place an order. Alan's email address is: shop@hrsasa.asn.au

AZTRONICS, 170 Sturt Street, Adelaide. Houses the HRSASA-SA Group valve bank and modern components. They will source components for members. Great supporters of the HRSASA.

HRSASA Melbourne (see *Radio Waves*) Houses the Victorian HRSASA 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 can be placed through the Shop Keeper/Secretary, as the SA Group has an account, through which we get “trade discount”. Go to: <https://www.wes.com.au> to see all their products.

Two Outstanding Items.....(From the Club Auction on 6th. April



First: Someone purchased one of two “used” Scharnberg Strauss Model 41 brown bakelite radios from the Club Table. One had its front badge intact. The other model 41 was missing its badge and on the day, Ian Smyth told the successful bidder that he had a couple of spare badges and would donate one to the new owner. Could that person please contact Ian on 0488 488 776 or by email at: ian.smyth@me.com and he will arrange to get it to you.

Second: Another successful bidder purchased a “used” **Early Reinartz Home-Brew Tuner** chassis but left it behind in the hall. Could the new owner please phone Alan Taylor on 0417 859 074, or email him at: alantaylor47@bigpond.com and arrange to collect it as soon as possible?



SKIPPY THE BUSH KANGAROO – Looking for his home?



Tony Bell is looking to return this DVD to its rightful owner. It was loaned to us by a member for the recent display at the State Library, but it was not used.

This is a photo of the front cover of the DVD – Is it yours??
Did you loan it to Tony?? If so, could you please contact him ASAP?

Also – Tony has a loose box of pre-recorded cassette tapes of old radio programmes and music that were loaned for the exhibition. If one or more of these are yours, please contact Tony to arrange their return.

Contact: Tony Bell's home on (08)8269 4095 or by email at: antony.k.bell@gmail.com

Who developed the World's first commercial transistor radio (that had a tuned RF input stage?)

Was it in Australia, New Zealand, or elsewhere?

During the recent Exhibition at the State Library there were some interesting conversations between our members on duty and members of the public, sparked by the posters on display and the artifacts on show. *The above debate was had by Peter Field, Norm Scott and Ian Smyth.....*

It has long been held that the first Australian-made transistor radio was the AWA model 897P which was released in November 1957. But was it the first in the world?

In N.Z. The “Pacemaker Transistor 8” was manufactured for H. W. Clarke Ltd. by Collier & Beale Ltd. also in 1957. It's part of their “Pacemaker Transportable” series. They were marketed as “world-leading” in that it had a (possibly the very first ever) transistorised RF stage.

PACEMAKER . . . TOPS IN SALES FOR PORTABLES . . .



*the only
transistorised
set with an
R.F. STAGE*

now the new TRANS-PORTABLE

Already the top seller in the portable market with the Pacemaker Leader, Pacemaker bring you the transistorised portable designed to set sales records in the transistor era—the Pacemaker TRANS-portable! The latest addition to the Pacemaker range, the TRANS-portable is an all-purpose cordless, valveless transistorised receiver that'll out-perform far larger conventional valve-type sets, give amazing reception anywhere at all, in the home, in the car, outdoors. It's completely revolutionary! The TRANS-portable will run for 800 hours on a 7/9 battery—that's about a 1d. a day using it for 40 hours weekly. It's robust, service-free—a set that'll take rough handling without harm—and it's lovely to look at, too! Contemporary cabinet in genuine mahogany or honey oak with sparkling gold trim. It can be sold as a car radio—as a portable—as a lounge radio. Here is the set your customers will clamour for—setting the pace in sales for the transistor era!

PACEMAKER
because of the quality behind the dial

© 1957
Manufactured for the distributors, H. W. Clarke (N.Z.) Ltd., by Collier & Beale Ltd.



IN THE CAR
AND IN
THE HOME



**PACEMAKER
LEADER**
Tops in sales for
conventional portables
with a sales
record of 15,000—
and still leading!

Above: From the Sept 1957 issue of NZ “Radio and Electronics” magazine. However, while advertised in September, was it actually available in stores?

Right: NZ has an equivalent to our “Trove” website called “Papers Past”. Peter found some other adverts. They may have had two transistor radios before us, with the second being the “Venturer” (although the October 1957 advertisements cautiously say “available soon.”)



Ultimate Conquers Space!
with
the New
VENTURER
Transistor 7
Portable

**Space Saving!
Weight Saving!**

**WHATEVER YOUR CHOICE IN RADIO
YOU CANNOT BUY BETTER THAN Ultimate**

CHOOSE QUANTITY - ASK THE MAN WHO KNOWS RADIO - YOUR NEAREST ULTIMATE-ECICO DEALER:

ULTIMATE-ECICO

Page 11 Advertisements Column 1

Press, Volume XCVI, Issue 28408, 15 October 1957, Page 11

Below: An excerpt from the NZVRS Newsletter (date unknown)

The First NZ designed Transistor Radio – The Pacemaker Trans-portable 8 by Peter McQuarrie

The Pacemaker Trans-Portable Transistor 8, made in Wellington by Collier & Beale and released in September 1957, has been claimed to be the first New Zealand designed and built transistor radio. It has also been credited as the World's first commercial transistor radio to have a tuned RF input stage. Lets take a closer look at these claims.

In referring to a list of early N.Z. made transistor receivers compiled by Arthur Williams (NZVRS member) it appears that PYE had released a model (PZ123) a few months earlier. But this set was of British design and so not wholly a N.Z. product. However, it has also been suggested that the Transportable too is not a completely N.Z. creation and that it is in fact a copy of the Sony TR-72, first made in Japan in 1955.

Bingo! Perhaps it was the Japanese after all..... That last paragraph above suggests that there might be other twists to this debate. If any readers have other insights, ideas, or other sources to add to this discussion, please let us know.

Ian Smyth, Peter Field and Norm Scott.

Quick "Power" Quiz.

(Or a refresher for you experts!)

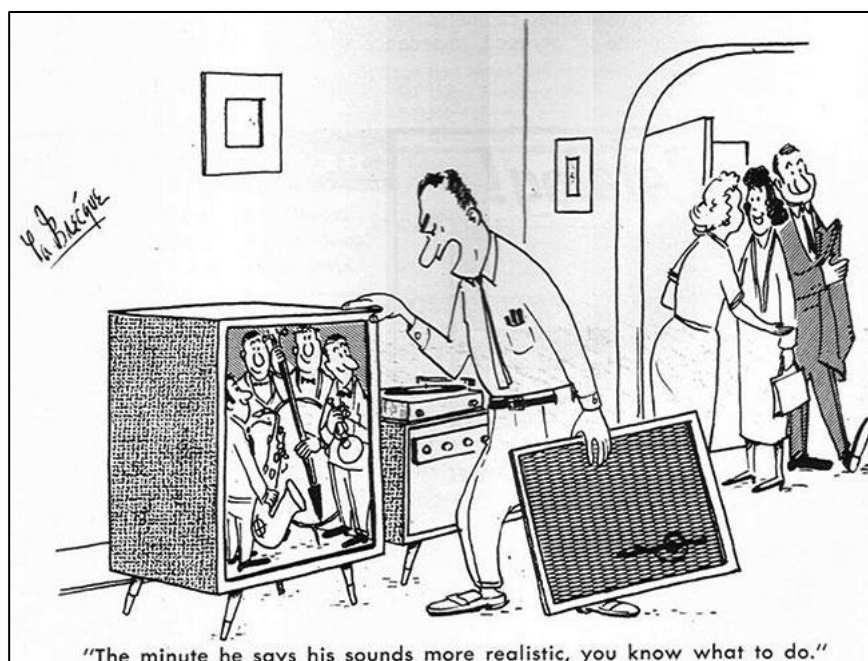
Q1. What are the 6 primary methods of producing electricity?

- A. ?
- B. ?
- C. ?
- D. ?
- E. ?
- F. ?

Q2. What are the common practical uses for each of the above methods?

- A. ?
- B. ?
- C. ?
- D. ?
- E. ?
- F. ?

(For the answers, turn to page 15.)



FRONT COVER STORY:



The Centenary of Broadcasting in South Australia Exhibition at the State Library of South Australia was an outstanding success for the HRSASA from both a public engagement perspective and for the critical acclaim it received. We had approximately 200 to 250 visitors per day across the 44 days in we were open, which averages out to have been about 9,900 in total!

The number and quality of comments voluntarily written in the “Visitor’s Book” we had by the door are a written testimony to the enjoyment of all our visitors – except about two! One person complained (each time during his 3 to 4 visits) that we paid no tribute to all the horse-racing commentators, like the ABC’s Alf Gard..... The only other negative comment in the book was “It’s boring.... I’m 11”

It is hoped that over the next few months, all the comments in the visitor’s book will be typed up into one document and placed on our website for everyone to access. Also, over the next few weeks, a full “Virtual Tour” of the exhibition featuring all the items on display including the visual posters will be available on our website so that country, interstate and overseas members can take a look at what we achieved.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members (plus relatives) who volunteered their time over the 44 days to staff the 176 sessions. We could not have done it without you all. Our cover photo shows John Crawford on duty with Betty Howard (wife of Peter Howard, who also volunteered) enjoying a chat between visitors!

It was interesting to spend extended time with other HRSASA members while we were working these shifts and finding out a bit more about them and sharing knowledge and insights – hence our story about “who was first” when it came to the earliest transistor radios. There has also been interesting information about the provenance of several items we had on display. For example, there appears to be a DIRECT connection between the 5CL “Eagle” radio and the Philips 2510 (with Sevenette speaker) on the 1920’s table – and the Philips Radiogram (with built-in reel-to-reel tape recorder) in the 1960’s section. All 3 of these items have a connection to the owners/directors of AMSCOL icecream – More on this unfolding mystery of past ownership in our next newsletter.

John Crawford also made some interesting connections with visitors during the exhibition. He met with the (now elderly) children of the family who used to live in his house at Church Street in Walkerville!

One Tuesday afternoon while on duty, John Crawford met a lady who is writing a novel. She said she wished to learn about radio developments in the immediate years after WW1. The previous Friday John had met the grandson of Charles Maclurcan. John said he would ask some friends who have radio amateur licenses, who may know more. Since then, he has done some research and found that Charles was instrumental in starting the WIA. His receipt of the first transmitting license seems to have been in the early 1920s. Her interest was how the enthusiasts worked when telephony was in its infancy, not morse code, and 1917. This is an interesting, unfolding story that we will continue in the next edition of this newsletter.

These examples show how diversity and historical interest, plus personal connection through being involved in both radio and our exhibition, have enhanced the whole experience.

Photo Gallery: Sunday 6th April (delayed from Sunday 30th March. – Our regular **Club Auction** at St. Cyprian’s Church Hall – Here is a selection of some of the lots that were for sale.



Above: Chris Vigar’s table of excellent quality items.



Above: Chris Vigar’s TRAEGAR transistor was passed in.



Above: “Accustical” branded amplifier



Above: An ASTOR Solid State bedside radio



Above: Warren Lane’s “Atwater Kent Model 49”



Above: Chris Vigar’s UHF “HALLICRAFTERS Communications Receiver” was also passed in.



Above: A popular DICK SMITH Audio Generator



Above: An older FERRIS push-button car radio



Above: Chris Vigar's Military Transciever



Above: Taylor Model 44 Transistor Tester

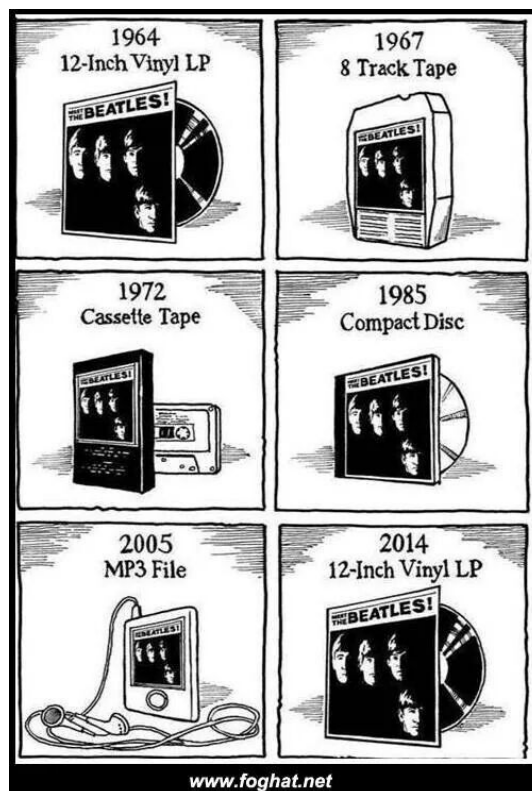


Above: "Realistic" brand bedside radio



Above: TELEFUNKEN "Gavotte" push-button German radio, sold by Warren Lane.

As this was our first Auction for a long time, there were plenty of items put up for sale. Sadly, some of them were passed in having not reached their reserve price. These may still be available by negotiating with the seller.



What goes around.... Comes around.....

Answers to the Quick “Power” Quiz: (*Questions were on Page 6*)

Q1. What are the 6 primary methods of producing electricity?

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| A. | MAGNETISM | A conductor moving through a magnetic field. |
| B. | HEAT | Heating the junction of two dissimilar metals |
| C. | LIGHT | Light absorbed by a Photo Voltaic Cell |
| D. | PRESSURE | Compressing or decompressing crystals |
| E. | CHEMICAL | Chemical reaction in a voltaic cell (battery) |
| F. | FRICTION | Rubbing two materials together |

Q2. What are the common practical uses for each of the above methods?

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| MAGNETISM | Fundamental to power generation, transformers and deploying relays. |
| HEAT | Thermocouples for temperature measurement, flame-fail detection. |
| LIGHT | Power generation, battery charging (solar arrays) |
| PRESSURE | Spark generator, force measurement (Piezoelectric flame ignition) |
| CHEMICAL | Re-chargeable batteries |
| FRICTION | Van de Graf Generator |

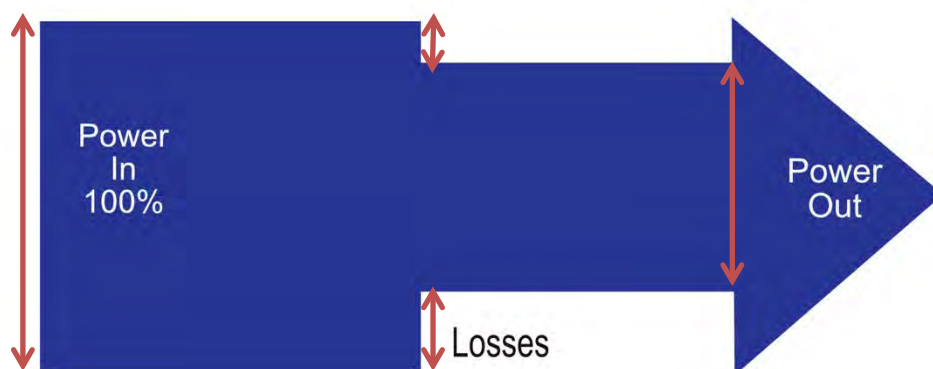
How did you go on those two questions?

Here’s a universal *Principle of Conservation of Energy* to think about.....

“Energy is neither created nor destroyed” (the principle of conservation of energy)

... So the relationship between INPUT and OUTPUT is:

$$\text{POWER IN} = \text{POWER OUT} + \text{LOSSES}$$



HRSA-SA Group - Amateur Radio Call-Back Network



In 2020, when our HRSA-SA Group was unable to hold meetings due to Covid-19, a small group of licensed radio amateurs decided to hold a local call-back net.

The first broadcast was on the 26th of April 2020. Although the ban on meetings was soon lifted, the broadcasts have continued and as we approach the completion of our fourth year, we are still going strong.

While the aim is primarily for HRSA members, non-members are also welcome, the more the merrier. The group has a small band of listeners who either do not have the required licence or do not have transmitting facilities. Topics generally centre around historic radio, or activities coming at HRSA events, plus a range of widely varying content, can be heard.

For those licenced amateurs and those that would like to listen to the broadcast and have the correct facilities the details are:

Wednesday Nights (each week) – Starting at 2000 hrs.

On VK5RAD repeater (Crafers) on 147.0 MHz. (Note: We will remain with the Crafers repeater until the Houghton repeater is fully upgraded and operational.)

There are generally two full rounds and a quick “wrap-up” round.

New participants are most welcome.

So why not tune in and listen, or join in the conversation?

For further information, contact Tony Bell at home on (08) 8269 4095