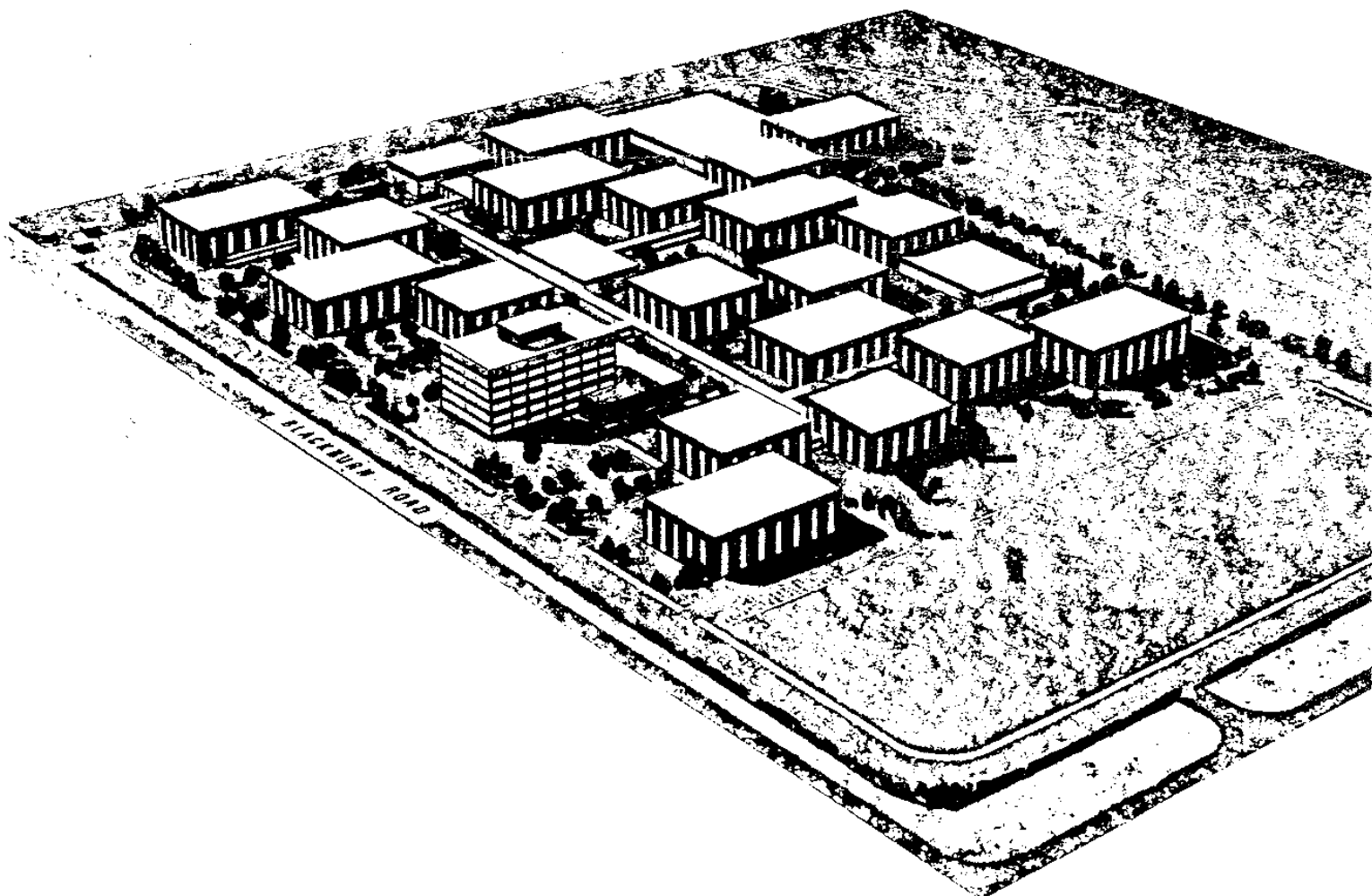


RESEARCH LAB REPORTER



Produced by Telecom Australia Research Laboratories, Melbourne

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
MONASH LABORATORIES

Some said it may not ever happen but it did! At approximately 2.30 pm on Monday 19 June 1978 the Labs were officially opened by the Hon.A.A. Staley, M.P., Minister for Post and Telecommunications before a gathering of 500 guests.

The following are extracts from some of the letters received :

From Mr J.B. Potter, Dean, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Melbourne:

"Just a short note to thank you for your hospitality at the opening of the Research Laboratories last Monday. It was a privilege to be able to represent the University on this occasion particularly in view of the past contacts that I have had with the laboratories. I sincerely hope that the further development of the new site carries on so that the labs are once again in the one place which I am sure would strengthen their operation."

From Professor B.O. West, Department of Chemistry,
representing the Vice Chancellor, Monash University:

"I enjoyed my brief visit through the laboratory complex in the morning and must apologize for having to leave at the conclusion of the official ceremony.

"I trust that there may be opportunities for collaborative work at all levels between the university and the laboratories in future years.

"May I wish you and your colleagues all success in future activities."

From Professor, G.M. Badger, Chairman, Australian Science
and Technology Council:

"I do want to thank you very much for inviting me to the opening of the Telecom Research Laboratories. I was pleased to have this opportunity to view the laboratories, if only briefly, and I hope that I will be able to pay another visit before long."

From Mr R.W. Turnbull (Retired) ex First Assistant
Director General, Planning and Research:

"I should like to send my hearty congratulations to you and to all who assisted in the opening of the new Research Laboratories on Monday, 19th June. It was a tremendous success.

"The buildings, facilities and grounds and the displays - all were most impressive. The standard is one of which everyone can be proud and gives a fine appreciation of the total project when it is completed in the future. It is very pleasing indeed, that the staff will now have such attractive surroundings.

"For me, the occasion also provided a happy reunion with many good friends and former colleagues throughout an afternoon that was all too short.

"I am sure the new Laboratories will increase public awareness of the value of research in telecommunications and that the people who are more closely associated with your activities will clearly recognise the significance of the new national centre just created.

"May I wish you and your colleagues continuing progress in your endeavours to advance the interests of the Commission and the community.

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ASSIGNMENT OVERSEAS

ERIC CRAIG, ADVANCED TECHNIQUES, has just returned from Japan where he spent about five weeks. He attended the Plenary Assembly of the C.C.I.R. and the meeting of Interim Working Party IWP4/1.

The Working Party used this meeting to identify technical means for the regulation of the use of geostationary satellite orbit as an input to the Special Preparatory Meeting (SPM) of CCIR which is to be held later this year. This subject is an important part of the work under Topic C of the SPM for which the Commission agreed to make Eric available as international co-ordinator.

After these meetings, Eric took the opportunity to visit the Japanese Space Agency (NASDA).

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JIM VIZARD, SWITCHING AND SIGNALLING, departed mid-June for Switzerland, Finland, Norway and the United Kingdom. In Geneva he will attend the meeting of Working Party XI/2 which is concerned with common channel signalling for integrated digital networks. From there its off to Helsinki to attend the third "Software Engineering for Telecommunications Systems" conference and to make a number of investigatory visits related to his work as Section Head, Network Studies.

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EYESIGHT IS PRECIOUS

" At a recent safety conference, an eye specialist described a hazard that could affect each of us and our families. That hazard is the catalyst or hardener added to fibreglass resin before the resin is applied. The eye specialist stated that a drop of this catalyst in the eye will progressively destroy the tissue of the eye and result in blindness.

This will occur even though an attempt is made to wash the catalyst from the eye. Furthermore, once the chemical has started to destroy the eye, there is no known way of stopping the destruction or repairing the damage.

The specific toxic agent involved is methyl-ethyl-ketone peroxide (MEKP). In laboratory tests, MEKP in solutions of varying concentrations was found to cause eye problems ranging from 'irritation' to 'severe damage'. The maximum concentration producing no appreciable irritation was a solution containing only 0.6% MEKP. Material published on the subject indicates that washing an affected eye within four seconds after contamination prevented injuries in all cases, but no known chemical neutralizer has been discovered. Suggested precautions for catalyst users are eye-protective spectacles and the immediate availability of a source of bland fluid such as water for thorough washing of ocular tissues.

One disastrous experience was described. While fibreglassing a chair at home, a victim had both eyes contaminated by MEKP. Though he made an effort to wash his eyes out, several minutes apparently elapsed before he found water. The sight of one eye was lost immediately, the other was lost gradually over a period of about eight years. Its deterioration was described as resembling that resulting from mustard gas burns during World War I.

This fibreglass resin danger was previously unknown to those attending the conference, though many had used fibreglass resin at work or at home. The hazard may be unknown to readers also - and to wives and children who may use a similar kind of resin and catalyst when working with fibreglass or hardeners used in liquid casting plastic.

So before using any of these catalysts, check their chemical composition and take appropriate precautions. The cost of a pair of safety goggles is a very small price to pay for the protection of eyesight."

- With acknowledgement to American Airlines and also JIM LUCAS who supplied the information from No. 101/1978 issue of Department of Transport - Australia "Aviation Safety Digest.

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GRAPEVINE GOSSIP

It seems that there is always someone on the go. LORRAINE SIDDLES, Metallurgy, and her husband Brian got away from the Melbourne weather for a while by spending some time at their favourite spot in sunny Queensland.

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FIONA HAMILTON, Electro-Chemistry, is reliving many pleasant times whilst she sorts through her slides after three enjoyable months of travelling around the United Kingdom and Europe.

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TED SCATES, Admin. Services, left early in June, taking his wife Pauline to visit relatives in the United Kingdom plus a brief Scandanavian visit before returning home early August.

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Also JACK SMITH, Metallurgy, left the other day for a six weeks visit to the U.K.

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WAYNE DOUGLAS, Registry, treated us to a display of terpsichorean ability recently when the Information Section put on a lunch time display with video tapes supplied by Wayne. Also noticed on the tapes that BRIAN EVA, Physical Sciences, can acquit himself most admirably on the dance floor.

Incidently Wayne is representing Victoria in the Old Time and Modern Ballroom section of the South Pacific Championships to be held at the Melbourne Town Hall during August 19-20.

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One wonders about the capabilities of some of our staff - particularly in the category of motor driving. Perhaps they have not been accustomed to driving daily to work and the strain is proving too much.

JIM REID, Admin. Services, ran out of sufficient bitumen recently when confronted by an on-coming motorist who was in the third lane of a two lane highway - result - one Monaro required \$800 of overcoat. Still mobile, but without headlights, Jim was able to commute the few minutes twist home and Monash during daylight hours whilst awaiting the panel beater's pleasure. So TERRY BROWN, S&LE, made the most of his limited opportunity and managed to reverse into the Reid Monaro in the parking area at Monash.

I'm told also that MICHELLE LAMBERT, Switching and Signalling, had a confrontation at the intersection of Winterton Road and the Highway and PAT REDMOND, Admin. Services, whilst stationary, became the filling for a sandwich to the tune of \$1100.

Also LYN DONOVAN, Admin. Services, was struck by a stationary vehicle!!

FRANK SHIELDS our chief painter had his Renault written off in Flinders Street but stepped out unharmed.

Now be warned! DIANNE LLOYD, Procurement Group, has managed to obtain a licence at only her second attempt and may soon decide to drive to work.

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ERNIE GEORGE (Switching and Signalling, CS) reckons that playing squash with PHIL JONES (Switching and Signalling, CS) is both a health and a traffic hazard. The other week he stepped into a backhand on the court and collected several stitches for his pains. More recently, whilst on his way to the courts he collected another car and a big repair bill. Take up chess Ernie, it only taxes the brain, not the body and the pocket.

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What with wine and cheese tastings, barbecues, restauranteering and even, so help us, a goulash luncheon, anyone attending all the mid-day social events of the Clayton staff over recent months would be declared a disaster area by Weight Watchers. However, the civilisation of the staff there is not yet complete; shop talk still predominates at these gatherings.

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The other evening PETER TYERS (Advanced Techniques, CN), whilst in a departmental vehicle, was involved in what looked like a small bingle with another car at the Clayton Laboratories entrance. Next morning he sent DAVID EAGLES to a panel beater's to get a quote for repairing the dints incurred. On the way there the front wheel fell off. The repair bill, according to which quote is accepted, will be between \$1200 and \$1700.

Which goes to prove a couple of things, namely that in cars as in life many things are not what they seem on the surface, and that car repairers need not live by bread alone when they can get gravy like that.

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Someone said the other day that TED KEALY, Advanced Techniques, should have a good singing voice. Apparently he was sighted recently wearing his kilt and it was noticed he had legs like a canary.

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Some people knock off work to carry bricks! For instance KATHY and RAY BOAST, Physical Sciences, who spent a week's recreation leave painting their house and PETER GWYNN, who displays outstanding energy by travelling back and forth to Warragul, each weekend, clearing the paddocks of his country estate.

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Congratulations to DENNIS GELLERT, Laboratory Instrumentation, on winning the R.G. Holloway Prize for the "Equal First Place for the Second Stage of the Instrument Making Course" at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Dennis received his award at the Annual Prize Night at RMIT on 26/4/78.

Also we offer congratulations to IAN Meggs, attached to Computer Applications and Techniques, who was one of six nominees for the F.I. McCarter Award of Merit donated by the Victorian Branch of the Telecommunication Technical Officers Association. This Award is presented to the graduate Telecommunications Trainee who completed his curricular year in 1977 with the best yearly results and field reports over the whole training course, together with potential for advancement.

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COMING OF AGE

Squeals of delight were heard from Rm. 118 Building M2, on the morning of 30 June when LORETTA WHELAN, Admin. Services, was presented with a very lovely silver bracelet from all her friends in the Labs. to celebrate her 21st anniversary. A party for about 100 guests was held that evening and they were permitted to enter the premises only after Loretta had inspected and approved their respective gifts.

Among those from the Labs. were PAT REDMOND, LYN and BRIAN DONOVAN, WAYNE DOUGLAS, BRIAN HALPIN and GAVIN WALSH, who danced into the early hours of the morning.

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WELCOME TO :

PETER MIKELAITIS, Engineer Class 1 - Customer Apparatus
 MARIA FAUVEL, CA1 - Library
 PAT GEANEY, Asst. Gr. 1 - Block A
 JOHN SIDBOTTOM, Manager, Administration
 RHONDA ZELLEY, CA1 - Advanced Techniques
 LYNETTE WHITWORTH, CA2 - Library
 JON BILLINGTON, Engineer Class 1 - Radio Systems
 DAVID HARSANT, Engineer Class 1 - Devices and Techniques
 JAN FREETH, CA2 - Library
 MERV WILLIAMSON, CA6 - Registry
 KHOA HO-LE, Engineer Class 1 - Project Engineering
 PAULA LEHRMAYER, Typist - Admin.

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FAREWELL

The recreation room on the first floor, building M2 was anything but passive during the afternoon of Friday 30 June when people overflowed into the passage to hear Col Chippindall deliver a farewell speech to Peter Slade.

Peter had always maintained that he was not cut out to be a clerk and so he decided to make the break and join a friend in the operation of a private business specialising in cane furniture.

Peter left us with our best wishes in his new venture and a particularly nice looking leather jacket from Fletcher Jones.

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ENGAGEMENTS

Information - JILL READ to BRIAN COE

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MARRIAGES

Physical Sciences - LISA STEPHEN to RICHARD POWELL

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Reliability Studies

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CONNIE VAN VUGHT to JAMES DAVY

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BIRTHS

Admin. Services

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To Teri and Russell Grattidge
a son, Timothy Russell.

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Customer Apparatus

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To Lois and David Blackwell
a son Benjamin, Brother for
Matthew.

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Advanced Techniques

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To Colleen and William Lyons
a daughter, Michelle.PROMOTIONS

Congratualtions to the following whose promotions have been confirmed
since the last issue of the Lab. Reporter.

John Freeman

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STO 2 Time & Frequency

Graeme Newman

-

STO 1 Satellites

David Jewell

-

TO 1 Computer Applications
& Techniques.FOR SALE

Volkswagen, Superbug, 1974 Model 1600L Radial Tyres, Radio and Heater,
Orange - black interior, 62000 km, Excellent Condition - \$3,000

Contact: Bob Steventon 5416 504 (M2)

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Nylon Tent, 2 - man

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\$20

Contact: Ray Bohan 5416 547 (M1)

8.

FOR SALE

Honda CB175 - 1972 model, 7000 miles complete with panier bags and crash bar.

\$350 ONO

Contact: Ann Godlieb 5416 509