

# KIDS WILL DESIGN PHONE BOOK COVERS

Over the next seven weeks nearly two million children will be able to take part in Australia's largest ever art competition — the 'Design a phone book cover contest' to be conducted in the 52 areas around Australia where phone books are issued.

Jointly sponsored by Telecom Australia and the Australian Women's Weekly the competition marks the International Year of the Child and is open to children at all primary schools around Australia.

The theme of the children's designs will be "A child's view of our heritage". The children have a wide choice of relating their design to people, events or buildings or anything else that is part of the heritage of the area served by their local 'phone book.

The competition opened on April 21 and will close early in June with the results being announced in September. The winning designs will appear on Australia's 52 'phone books current in 1980 which is the centenary of

Australia's first telephone exchanges and directories (Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane).

Prizes will be awarded in each area to the winning entrant and second and third placegetters. Prizes will also be awarded to the schools producing the best entries. They will be selected volumes of books dealing with Australia's heritage and history.

## SCHOOL PRIZES

**First Prize.** For the entry chosen to go on the cover of a forthcoming phone book in your area, is 2 sets of books. A beautiful 5 volume set titled "Australian Wildlife Heritage", and 3 volumes of "Illustrated History of Australia", both from the Prestige Publishing Division of Paul Hamlyn Pty. Ltd.

**Second Prize.** To the student judged runner-up, a set of 3 books, "The Best of Banjo Paterson", "The World of Henry Lawson", and "Complete Book of Australian Folklore", all from Summit Books.

**Third Prize.** "This is Australia",

## OUR ART CONTEST

Unfortunately, children of Telecom Australia employees are not eligible to enter the phone book cover competition — 50, a poster competition will shortly be announced, strictly for primary school children of our staff. Watch for details and get your artistic thinking caps on, kids, because you are most likely to be asked to design a poster which illustrates a Telecom motto; "Helping you keep in touch."

published by Ure Smith.

**School Prize.** To the school in each area which submits the best group of six entries, a special prize of a set of books, identical to that of the individual first-prize winner, will be awarded.

The International Year of the Child Committee and education authorities are supporting the contest.



# Telecom

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## Constructive vandalism?



Well, well, they said the brick veneer trend was on the march but who would have thought of a brick veneered public phone box? Construction, strictly unofficial, was carried out by Louts and Co on the midnight overtime shift one night last month on a box in Seaford, Vic. The bricks were 'borrowed' from a nearby building site. Unfortunately the architect failed to allow for a door and a customer wanting to make an early phone call had to create his own to gain access. No damage was done to either box or instrument.

Our photo was supplied by Supervising Draftsman Doug Cuzens of No. 4 Drafting Section Vic. who lives nearby.

## CHAIRMAN MEETS JULIE AT SAGEM HANDOVER

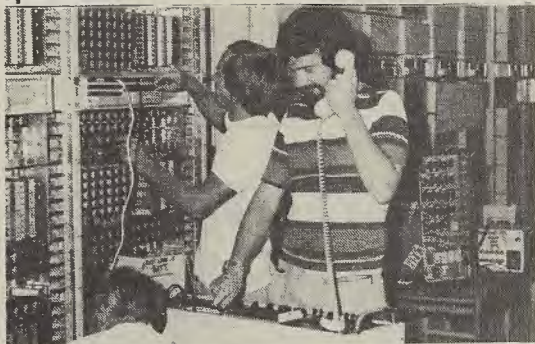


Telecom Chairman Bob Somervaille meets assembly operator Julie McMorine who has speech and hearing disabilities and praises her work to Central Industries Deputy General Manager Mr B.F. Israel (right) on the occasion of the handing over of the first Australian made SAGEM teleprinter recently. Story in page 3.



*"It seemed that Murphy's Law was going to be in vogue ... an already saturated Cairns experiencing the wettest year of this century came in for another torrential downpour causing rivers and creeks to flood ... two of the TO's controlling vital areas of the work lived on the wrong side of these rivers ... but a diligent John stayed the night in town and Harry beat the floodwaters in his four-wheel drive."*

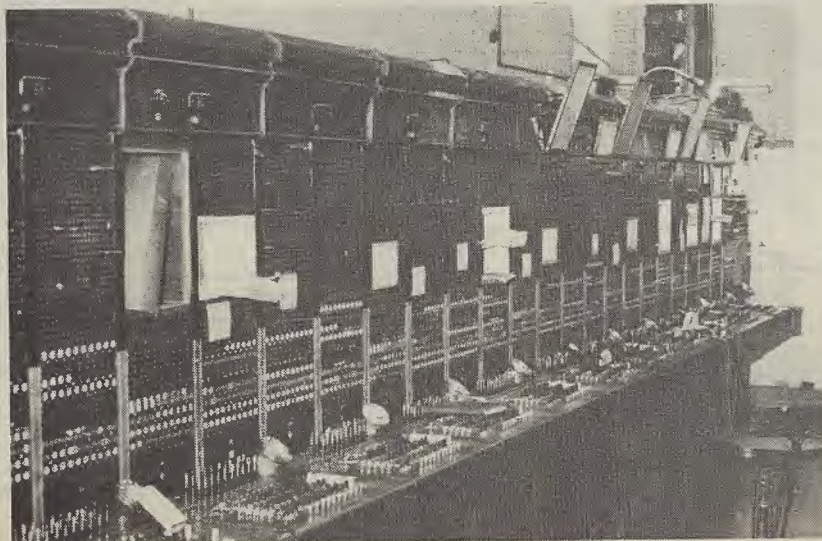
Acting TO1 Brian Martyn, Construction Section, in an informative article on conversion of Cairns Qld step by step exchange to crossbar touches on a problem or two peculiar to a provincial cutover and highlights some of the planning and execution that led to a smooth, efficient operation.



Tech Dave Highman conducts tests into marker equipment while TA Peter Mohr (back to camera) and Acting Tech Klaus Vogel (rear) check relay operation.



TO 2 Brian Flanders checks progress in testing PBX equipment.



The old switchboards at Spence St. Exchange and right, the new Manual Assistance Centre at Shields St. Exchange with happy supervisor Jenny Roberts in background.

# ANATOMY OF A REGIONAL CUTOVER

8 a.m. Sunday, March 11, saw the passing of an era for the Cairns Telephone Network. At this time, subscribers connected to the Spence Street Exchange were switched over to new equipment at the Shields Street Exchange, thus closing down telephone switching equipment which had been in constant use for 47 years.

The 2000 lines of crossbar switching equipment, let into service at that time, absorbed the remaining 960 subscribers connected to the old S x S type exchange, changing their numbers from 4 digits to 6 digits as well as providing additional lines for expansion of the telephone network.

In June last year a new MAC was opened at the Shields Street Exchange replacing the old switchboards at Spence Street. This latest cutover was the final stage of phasing out old equipment at the Spence Street exchange which was, to date, the largest project

undertaken by the newly formed North Queensland Construction Branch and the Cairns team under the control of S.T.O. 2 Gordon Millgate.

Up from Townsville to oversee the cutover were Construction Branch Engineers Peter Kelleher and George Boldeman and P.T.O. Clarrie Bes-sell.

The old S x S equipment had several interesting firsts — it was:

- the first automatic exchange working outside of the Metropolitan area in Queensland,
- the first B.G.E. Exchange, one of only 3 or 4 built in Australia, and
- the oldest working equipment in Queensland at the time of its closure.

An unusual feature of the old exchange was that every subscriber connected to it had their line appearing on the switchboards as well as on the automatic equipment. This was later removed.

The first 3 channel carrier equipment was installed there and Queensland's first inter town dialling network was provided through it



in 1939 by Arch Chay, one of the original installers.

Arch returned to Cairns in the late '40's as O.I.C. of the Cairns exchange and remained in this position until his retirement in 1973. (It was he who provided the historical details for this article.)

The day of cutover got off to a shaky start giving TO2 Brian Flanders, coordinator of the cutover, some anxious early moments. It seemed as though Murphy's Law was going to be in vogue as an already saturated Cairns, experiencing the wettest year this century, came in for a torrential downpour all day Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday morning causing rivers and creeks to flood.







TO 1 John Campling pulse tests the automatic line tester and below the crew who installed Spence St. Exchange way back in 1932 rear Arch Chay, K. McKeering, W. O'Donnel, C. Halliday, C. Wills, C. Ward, A. Clark, N. Thomas, R. A. Hendry, J. Cawley, S. Joiner; front: J. Hickey, T. Goggin, W. Streten, J. Burke, A. Bensley.



As two of the TO1's controlling vital areas of the work live on the "wrong" side of these rivers, it seemed as though their work load would have to be shared by the other TO1's involved, thus necessitating an earlier start.

TO2 Marshall Grey and TO1 Alex Skinner were dragged from their beds by Brian's phone calls but yours truly, smart enough not to have a phone, found Brian banging on the front door.

All rallied to the early calls but thankfully it was not necessary as a diligent John Campling, TO1 in charge of work on the MDF looking after the wellbeing of the subscribers, stayed the night in town and Harry Wetherall, TO1 in charge

of shutting down the old exchange, was able to get through the flood waters in his four wheel drive vehicle.

From 7 a.m. onwards the job went according to plan with all staff involved at their locations. Alex Skinner in the ARM trunk exchange and myself in the ARF minor switching centre let into service the routes to the new exchange, and blocked the routes to the old exchange leaving the "final" route in service.

At the old exchange, Harry Wetherall was asking subscribers to finish their calls and to refrain from making more until after 8 a.m.

All subs were very co-operative as they were aware of the change, having been personally informed by Customer Services Manager Lloyd Wooley and his staff.

At 8 a.m., on word from Brian Flanders, the subscribers lines at the old exchange were open circuited by Harry and his crew of T.A.'s Mike Hughes, Peter Mohr, Percy Svensson and Jack Proudfoot, taking only a few minutes.

This was followed by Marshall Grey, at the new exchange, and his crew Dave Highman and Klaus Vogel, plugging in the relay sets to give the subscribers access to the new equipment.

Changed numbers were then connected to interception circuits by

The first Australian made, fully electronic teleprinter, the SAGEM TX-20 was handed over to Mr Staley, Minister for Post and Telecommunications by Mr Neil McLeod, O.B.E., Managing Director of the Spastic Centre and Mr Robert Labarre, President of SAGEM: France, at the Centre industries Factory Complex at Allambie Heights, Sydney in March.

## MINISTER ACCEPTS FIRST AUSTRALIAN MADE SAGEM

Centre Industries are a sub-contractor of SAGEM of France, who won the contract to make our new tele-printers. The contract requires an Australian manufacturing content of approximately 45% to be reached by June, 1980.

SAGEM engineers are assisting Centre Industries to establish a manufacturing and technical support capable of ensuring this contribution.

Mr Staley said: "When the programme is fully implemented and local content increased, Centre Industries will be making all electronic and electrical assemblies, plus most of the mechanical parts.

"Annual order levels will run close to the \$8 million mark, and about one hundred people here at

Centre Industries will be involved in the production work, turning out about 4,000 machines a year.

"It is also envisaged," said Mr Staley, "that when the programme is in full swing in 1982, about one-half of the number of people involved will be employees from the handicapped group."

The first deliveries of the new machine were manufactured and supplied direct from the SAGEM factory in France to the Centre for Telecom acceptance in mid 1978.

Delivery of the machines with the approved Australian content commenced in March, 1979, at the rate of 125 machines per month with a planned

rate increasing to 400 per month by November this year.

Centre Industries was established in 1961 by the Spastic Centre to provide work training and employment for severely handicapped Cerebral Palsied and now employs 720 workers of whom 320 are disabled.

Its major goal is to provide facilities and expertise necessary for the development of the heavily handicapped person so that he or she may gain their personal independence in an acceptable work and social environment.

The successful integration of the handicapped and able bodied employees is unique and sets a worldwide example in rehabilitation.



(l-r) Mr Robert Labarre, President of SAGEM, France, Mr Neil McLeod, O.B.E., Managing Director of Centre Industries, the Hon. A. A. Staley, Minister for Post and Telecommunications and the Hon. Margaret G. Guilfoyle, M.P., Minister for Social Security, inspect the first Australian made, fully electronic teleprinter (SAGEM TX-20) following its hand-over to Mr Staley recently.

myself doing the numbers off the old exchange and Robert Brown and Vic Martin connecting 140 subscribers to a special interception position.

These interception lines kept Supervisor Flora Kelland and her staff extremely busy redirecting subscribers to the new numbers.

The Customer Services team began the job of making calls to all af-

fected subscribers to ensure all was working well and the people understood what had taken place.

After about 3 hours of monitoring traffic and testing that all equipment was functioning properly and no subscribers were having difficulty, Construction section Engineer Peter Kelleher suggested that the crew retire to the refreshments arranged for us by

Gordon Millgate to celebrate the successful cutover.

All went smoothly due to the co-operation of all staff involved, Construction staff, MAC staff and Customer Services section staff.

**Ring off: For Sale, one slightly used BGE telephone exchange, as is, where is. Contact Telecom Australia.**





# Telecom's 'Outstanding contribution' to industrial safety wins award



The National Safety Council of Australia in association with the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society, has presented a series of Awards to encourage the promotion of safety and health in industry by recognising important performances by industrial establishments.

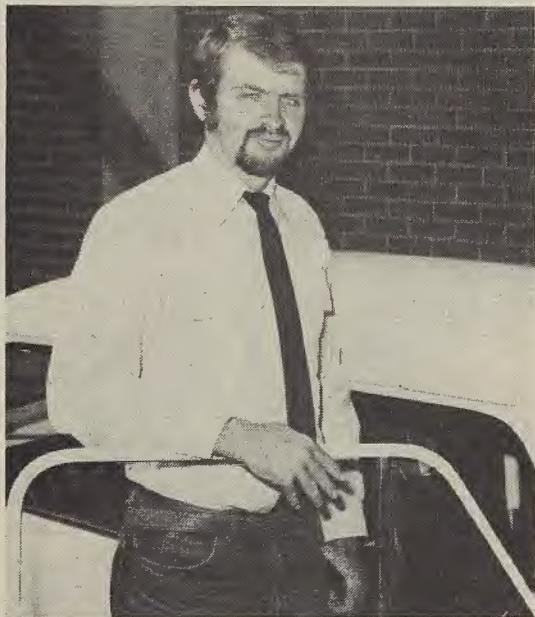
The Hon. Ian Macphree, M.P., Minister of Productivity presented the awards at a function in Melbourne.

Recognising Telecom's outstanding contribution in Industrial Safety, the judge's citation for an award of Merit read:

"Highly commended for excellent staff safety publicity material."

This material is part of an overall programme that aims at direct human benefits that flow from an accident free industry, direct benefits to the community in avoiding accidental loss of resources and indirect benefits to productivity and industrial relations leading to substantial improvements in staff morale and efficiency.

The assistance of the Public Relations Office and the Graphic Arts contributed greatly to Telecom winning this award.



## Quick thinking saves a home

Alertness and quick action by Peter Hunt, Telegram Delivery Assistant, recently averted what could have been a disaster.

While delivering a telegram to a Hobart dwelling, he heard a crackling noise and saw smoke coming from the rear of the house.

As the house was unoccupied at the time, Peter forced entry and extinguished the fire, which was caused by a red-hot drink heater.

Damage was confined to a burnt bench top and some scorching of the ceiling.

Peter's foresight and initiative was commended by a neighbor who witnessed the incident.

## ORIENTATION SEMINAR FOR NEW ENGINEERS

4C:15



A seminar for newly recruited and recently appointed Engineers, Grade 1 was held in Bridgegate House, Sydney from 5-7 March. Forty-six Engineers attended the seminar which was opened by Mr. M. Power, Chief State Engineer. The objectives of the course were to orient the personnel to the organisation and operation of Telecom, make known its technical aspects and allow them to meet senior officers. It was also aimed at increasing their knowledge and awareness of non-technical aspects of Telecom.

Above:- (l-r) Mr W. O'Grady, Executive Officer, Support Services Branch, and Mr M. Power, Chief State Engineer chatting with newly appointed Engineers Ian McAuley, Keith Joyce and Arthur Lee at the seminar.



**A good idea doesn't mind who has it!**

# PR pays off for Perth North

Go-ahead West Australian District Perth North is finding that a simple public relations idea is paying off handsomely in changing public attitudes from annoyance to interested acceptance in street cabling operations.

The idea is to put the residents completely in the picture as to the nature of the work and that Telecom is carrying it out. This is done by the use of explanatory signs and the posting of leaflets in letter-boxes.

Where the concept shows brilliance is in the fact that the local sign provides "a body to kick and a soul to damn" ... in other words it gives the name of the site supervisor, permitting residents with grouches or queries to ask for the



Dear Householder,

We are laying new telephone cable in your street as part of our continuing programme to improve and expand the network in this area.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and give an assurance that verge or footpath restoration will be undertaken as soon as possible.

The new cable will provide you with an opportunity for speedy connection to the many services offered by this Commission. I trust you will find this to your advantage and offer the assistance of our Customer Services group, telephone 325 8366 (free call) to discuss your personal telephone needs.

Yours sincerely,

DISTRICT TELECOM MANAGER  
PERTH - NORTH  
99 Wellington Street  
Perth WA 6000.

Perth North's economical but effective way of making friends and influencing householders ... the letterbox dodger.



The footpath sign not only labels the job but names the man in charge.

man in charge by name.

In the case of the work depicted in the photograph here, site supervisor was given on the signboard as R. Doyle. If Mr Doyle failed to satisfy the inquirer, he or she had the number of the senior lines officer

also provided.

Reaction of the public has been very favorable with comments such as "it's a good thing to keep people informed and I'm in favor of it," to simply "It's a great idea."

Each of Perth North's 25 installation

vehicles carries such a sign which is erected on or near the footpath while the work is in progress. The signs are double sided measuring a metre long by half a metre deep and were manufactured in Telecom's Guildford Workshops.

External Plant Manager Sandy McTaggart who initiated the concept said "It's our idea, but we have no objection to anyone else in Telecom pinching it."

## SA DIRECTORIES CHANGE

Plans to present new format country telephone directories for South Australia and the Northern Territory were outlined at the recent conference of Customer Service Managers at Adelaide.

Manager Directories (Mr F. T. Haarsma) said one of the more important facets of computerisation was that in future no manuscript would be held in a District Office or anywhere else. Listings would be held on computer file.

Lists would be updated from time to time and passed to the computing contractor who is paid for amendments made to listings.

Telecom would pay 50c for each line inserted, 38c for each line taken out and

40c for alterations. A single line listing was the most common but there were many that went over into two lines.

Mr Haarsma stressed that officers concerned with directory entries must ensure that lists were accurate. Directories Section was checking every order from District Offices.

At present the contract allowed for the listings file to be updated once a month and addenda of amended entries was

produced monthly. Moves were being made to get a weekly updating. A reprint of the file was provided each quarter.

Mr Haarsma said the Districts would have three search points in future instead of seven. He would send staff to offices to assist in training local staff. Visits would be made to offices at least once a year to assist staff.

Referring to publicising district office locations in directories, Mr Haarsma said Headquarters laid down what would be on the covers of directories. Changes were proposed for the back cover and it was contemplated that the map showing the area covered by the directory would remain, but on a smaller scale.



# Versatile Media Man Heads SA PR Operation



The Public Relations unit in South Australia which is also responsible for the Northern Territory has a staff of seven, including Public Relations Manager, Brian Taylor, who is directly responsible to the State Manager.

As Manager, Brian maintains a close liaison with the South Australian media, the business community, and various groups within Telecom. From time to time he is involved with the planning and organising of various functions for the State Manager, and is a member of the State Advisory Board.

He is also responsible for the production, within the Public Relations area, of film and video tapes as required and three have been produced in the last two months.

Senior journalist Jack Healy is the Media Officer. He is directly associated with all media activities within Telecom, including the drafting and release of press statements. Part of

his duties is to develop contacts within the media, particularly with radio and television.

We have just appointed John Inge Public Relations Officer, formerly a graphic designer with the Drafting Section. John is entrusted with the day to day operating of the unit and is also responsible for display projects and the production of the Information Bulletin.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Tony Thomas, the unit's Historical Officer is also involved with the organising of historical type displays and is a member of the Telecom Museum Committee. Occasionally he is required to be guest speaker for various groups.

Projectionist Algirdas Skeirys is responsible for our library of 16mm in-

NO 2 IN  
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PUBLIC RELATIONS  
ORGANISATION

formation films. The films are shown at schools, and various functions such as when DTMs are giving talks, etc.

Recently many of our films have been transferred to video tape and made available to schools to view on cassette. This hopefully will release Algirdas to become involved in the production of various video tape training and information tapes this year.

Clerk Gretchen Olsen doubles as receptionist.

A new appointment is clerical assistant Mary Ann Sharpe, replacing Judy Lewis who has achieved promotion and now holds another position with Telecom.

SA & NT PR Manager Brian Taylor who has a background of 28 years in the media, ten years in newspapers and nearly eighteen years in television news and public affairs programmes. He has worked on assignments throughout Africa, India, Malaysia, and through most of the countries of South East Asia. He spent nearly two years covering the war in South Vietnam for Independent Television News London and three years as the producer of News and Public Affairs for Rupert Murdoch's Channel Nine in South Australia. Brian was more than eight years as producer and executive producer of the ABC's This Day Tonight Programme in Adelaide, Tasmania, and Sydney. He has a wife, Jenny, and two teenage sons, Michael and Stephen. His keen outdoors family is particularly involved with the sailing of yachts.

## And in Tasmania . . .

Telecom Australia's public relations in the compact island State of Tasmania are handled by a compact and efficient unit headed by Public Relations Officer Stephen Delaney.

Steve and his staff of three — Assistant Public Relations Officer Frances Lockett, Historian Alan Tulip and Projectionist Michael Shegog — come immediately under control of State Manager Steve Colquhoun and carry out on a smaller scale most of the duties mentioned in the SA PR article on this page.

A particular effort has been made in co-operation with police to combat public phone vandalism at grass roots through an educational programme in schools using literature, posters and visits.

Steve Delaney believes that this work is beginning to pay off not so much as yet in a decrease in vandalism as in a public awareness of the benefits of immediate reporting of acts of vandalism or of vandalised equipment.

Steve Delaney, 26, joined in 1971 as a clerk in

Finance and Accounts Branch. He became Assistant PR Officer in 1975 and was promoted PRO in January 1978.

Steve, married with a 3 months old baby daughter is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Reserve, a keen golfer (handicap 28), bike rider and swimmer.



STEVE DELANEY

## WESTRALIAN SERVICE AWARDS



TEN former WA regional Telecom workers received recognition for their services when they were presented with commemorative plaques for more than 25 years' service. The men have retired since 1975 and their total working years exceeded 300. Telecom's district manager Ernie Littlely said that 2760 of the long-service plaques were presented over two days throughout Australia by the commission.

The 10 who received awards are Bill Chapman (26 years), Merv Hatch (37), Charlie Halkyard (30), Bill Jeffery (29), Terry Linton (27), Frank Matison (42), Peter Nahuys (27), Bard Powley (29), Len Read (29) and Doug Tink (30).

Sen. Engineer Bunbury HQ area Mr Ken Moore, who presented the awards, said that they were the first of their kind and he was pleased that the men had received recognition for their services.

Although, as Mr Littlely pointed out, the awards are not the "traditional gold watches", they will be cherished. The plaques are encased in a special plastic and stand on a polished wooden base.

The men were involved in jobs ranging from line supervisors in the engineering division to managers in the communications department.

Nine of the 10 who received awards. Back row: Bill Chapman, Merv Hatch, Bill Jeffery, Terry Linton, Charlie Halkyard. Front row: Frank Matison, Len Read, Peter Nahuys and Bard Powley. The tenth recipient Doug Tink, was absent. Photo courtesy South Western Times.



# FEMMES TO THE FORE IN TASSIE



Fiona Evershed, who has the distinction of being Telecom's first female engineer in Tasmania. Fiona studied at the Hobart Matriculation College and gained her engineering degree at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education.

Sporting interests include bicycle riding and skiing. Fiona is also a versatile theatrical, being part of a backstage crew and singing on stage. She is presently employed in Planning and Programming.



This is Frances Lockett, the new Assistant Public Relations Officer in Tasmania. Previous positions she has held within Telecom have been as Library Officer and Examinations Officer. Frances is currently studying towards an Arts Degree at the University of Tasmania, majoring in English and Psychology. Her interest in music occupies most of her spare time. She is a pianist for a showband. She is an ardent dog-lover, especially of the Old English Sheepdog variety. (TAS PR Organisation, see P.6).

# PNG visitors discuss mutual interests



A delegation of PNG Administration and Telecommunications executives recently visited Telecom Australia Headquarters, Melbourne where matters of mutual interest were discussed. In our picture (from left) Messrs. W. Aria, Assistant Secretary Administration PNG, D. Macgowan, First Assistant Secretary Finance and Administration PNG, W. Peckover, First Assistant Secretary Telecom PNG, I. Edoni, Secretary, Department of Public Utilities, Port Moresby PNG, W. J. B. Pollock, Chief General Manager, Telecom Australia, I. E. Bulte, Supervising Engineer, Customer Networks and Equipment Service, Telecom Australia.

Telecom is concerned at the breaking of trunk lines or subscribers' wires by vehicles carrying loads in excess of the legal heights, in country areas throughout Australia.

Towns and small communities have been isolated, placing them at risk in a time of emergency.

Roma (Qld.) District Telecom Manager, Mr Bryce Plummer had recently conferred with police, who had agreed to clamp down on vehicles not observing the height regulations.

## ISOLATED

Mr Plummer said that recently a vehicle with a high load caused a serious telephone interruption when it broke the Roma-Injune trunk line.

The town of Injune and the Orallo and Eumamurrin communities were isolated. This type of disruption

# Illegal load heights cause phone chaos

occurred about once a week in the Roma district, Mr Plummer added.

"It also occurs at places as wide apart as Arcadia Valley, Adavale, Eromanga, Aramac and Jericho", he said.

Mr Plummer said harvesters and oil rigs entering properties also caused damage to overhead wires.

But the main problem was from trucks that were loaded in excess of the legal

height. As most of the breaks occurred at night, it often was difficult to make repairs until the next morning.

Mr Plummer said the wires on Telecom open wire (aerial) routes were strung to a minimum height of 4.8 metres (16 feet) over the crown of roadways.

The maximum legal load height for vehicles was 4.3 metres (14 feet) or an omnibus 4.4 metres (14 feet 6 inches).

# TELECOM BEATS BIGGEST



The Commonwealth Banking Corporation and Telecom Australia compete each year in Adelaide for a golf trophy known as the Commonwealth Trading Bank Salver. Last year, for the first time in three years of competition, the bank was successful. This year the tables were turned. At a recent meeting at the Royal Adelaide Golf Club, Telecom won a combined teams four-ball better-ball stableford event by 230 points to 226. Here is the victorious Telecom team: Denzil Guscott, Keith McLeod, Max Coulson, Jim Pulford (partly obscured), Dennis Whitford, Jack Novak, Ron Keane, Allan Schultz, Ted Cooper and Ray Prior.



Visual Display Units (VDU's) which visualise information are featuring in ever increasing numbers in all phases of Australian commerce and industry, not least in the business of Telecom Australia. Fears that they may cause radiation harmful to health are completely groundless as is indicated in this article issued by the Australian Radiation Laboratory of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Radiation — the transmission of energy through space is present in our environment in many forms: X-rays, light, heat and microwave radiation are a few examples. Ionising radiation, of which X-rays are an example, arises from many sources both natural and man-made.

Radiation from natural causes is termed background radiation and enters our environment as cosmic radiation from outer space or from naturally occurring radioactive materials. The amount of background ionising radiation to which we are subjected is quite variable and depends on many local factors.

## COSMIC RADIATION

Cosmic radiation is dependent on altitude as the radiation is modified as it penetrates through the atmosphere, and on latitude because of the effects of the earth's magnetic field.

Naturally occurring radioactivity varies with the local geology, the nature of the homes we live in, our diet and many other factors.

Even our own bodies provide part of the background through the presence within them of natural radioactive atoms.

All in all background radiation is always present and part of the normal human environment. Although variable, a typical figure for this background is of the order of 100 milliroentgen (mR) per year.

## MAN-MADE RADIATION

Man-made radiation on the other hand is the additional radiation to which we are exposed arising from modern technological developments. Examples of man-made radiation sources include the use of radium needles for cancer therapy, X-ray machines used for

diagnosis, applications of artificial radioactive nuclei in nuclear medicine and enhanced exposure to cosmic radiation through high altitude commercial air transport.

Excessive doses of radiation can cause effects on man which are classified as either somatic or genetic. A typical somatic effect is the reddening of the skin following heavy exposure to diagnostic or therapeutic X-rays, and would normally fade as the tissue is repaired.

Somatic effects show up during the exposed individual's lifetime and are frequently reversible.

## GENETIC EFFECTS

Genetic effects on the other hand do not show up during an individual's lifetime, but may appear in subsequent generations as genetic changes.

In Australia the limits for exposure of the public to ionising radiation are set by the National Health and Medical Research Council, and agree closely with international recommendations.

## VIDEO DISPLAY UNITS

From time to time technical devices are developed which have the potential to emit ionising radiation although they are designed for quite different purposes. Recently there has been some conjecture over the possible emission of harmful radiation from Video Display Units (VDU) which are coming into wide use in commercial and technical fields.

A VDU is used to display information from a computer system. It is essentially an electric typewriter with a keyboard which displays its output on a TV

screen. There are no devices within the typewriter section of the unit which are capable of emitting radiation and any potential for such radiation lies within the picture tube itself.

The television picture tube produces its image with a sharply focussed electron beam which is directed onto a glass front face covered with a fluorescent material which emits visible light when it is bombarded by electrons.

However, the process of slowing down the electrons causes them to

emit X-rays as well — this is exactly the process which is used in diagnostic X-ray machines.

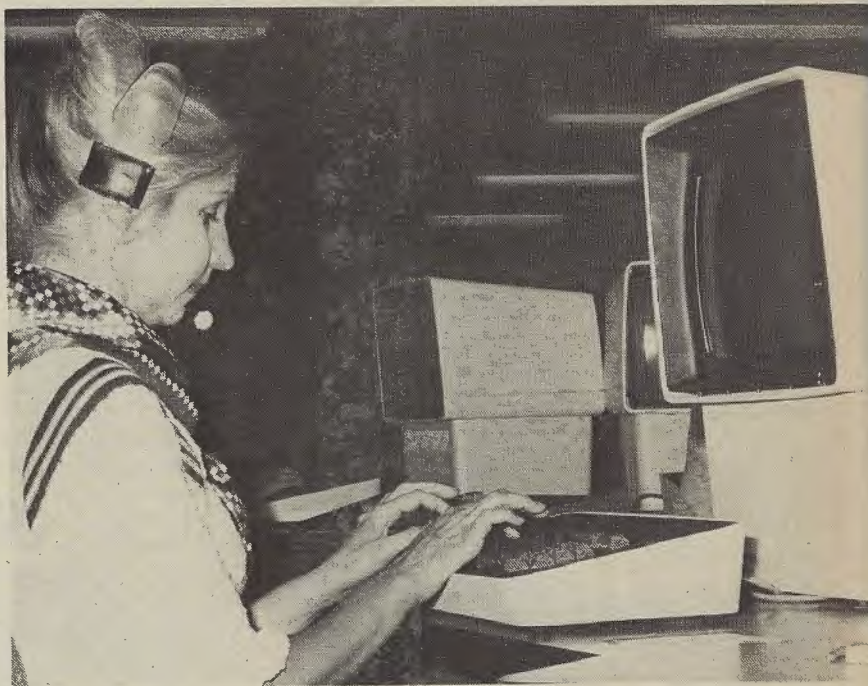
Fortunately, the energy to which the electrons are accelerated is relatively low for VDU's, typically between 7 and 16 kilovolts.

The X radiation emitted by electrons in the energy range is not very

penetrating and is absorbed completely in the thick glass face plate of the picture tube.

Manufacturers of TV tubes take this into account in their design of course, and the thickness of glass is always more than adequate for this purpose.

The National Health and Medical Research Council and the Stan-



A new use in Telecom Australia for VDU's is seen in this photo which shows Telephonist Therese Harvey operating a DAS/C (Directory Assistance Service/Computer), an electronic system to improve the directory assistance service, currently on a six months trial in Sydney.

(See Telecom No. 39, March 1979).

A condition of the trial was that the staff selected to use the new visual display screens were to be examined by an ophthalmologist prior to the commencement of the trial and again after six months. Other safety and health aspects will be

monitored continuously by Telecom.

A consultative group comprising a Telecom Manager, three supervisors and eight telephonists discussed such matters as table design, where the terminals would be positioned, etc. prior to the introduction of the trial. A second group



dards Association of Australia recommend that exposure rates to ionising radiation produced by equipment shall not exceed 0.5mR per hour averaged over an area of 10 cm<sup>2</sup> at a distance of 5 cm from any point on the external surface under all operating conditions.

## CLOSE WATCH

The Australian Radiation Laboratory of the Commonwealth Department of Health has a responsibility to maintain a close watch over potential radiation hazards arising from technical and consumer

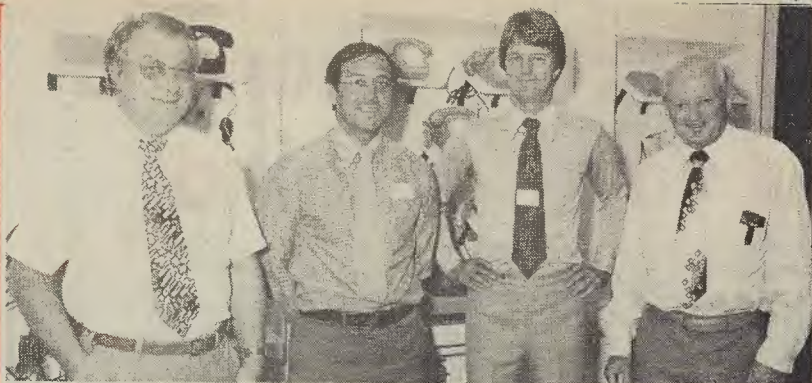
products and to evaluate any possible public health risk arising from them.

Recently the Australian Radiation Laboratory, together with some State Departments of Health have surveyed over fifty different types of VDU on the Australian market and evaluated them against the above requirement.

No single case has yet been encountered of a VDU which produced detectable amounts of X radiation even though the lower limit of detection was as low as 0.01 to 0.05mR per hour.

In the light of these results and indeed for the reasons discussed above, it is clear that the Video Display Unit does not constitute a public radiation health hazard.

# VDU SCREENS



## Capital results from Canberra initiatives

Telecom's Canberra District Operations have been well in the public eye recently with some significant results. An estimated 150,000 people attended the three day Canberra National Show in February in which the Telecom display was awarded third prize in the "Statutory Bodies" Division.

This is the third consecutive year that Telecom has provided a display for the Canberra Show but the first time it has scored an award.

### SMALL AWARD

That the display was highly successful was confirmed by Sir Bruce Small from the Gold Coast, Queensland, when he presented the award winning sash to Mr Bill Godfrey who represented all Telecom Staff.

Another event in the Canberra District was the opening of a Telecom Business Office at Belconnen. It was Canberra's third Telecom Business Office.

Pictured at this event were: Des Kiley (Customer Services Manager), Senator John Knight (Liberal Senator for Canberra), Bill Cowper (Manager — T.B.O. Belconnen) and John Davies (D.T.M. Canberra).

## STUDIED INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS



Two week long 'live-in' training courses entitled "Industrial Relations in Telecom Australia" have been recently conducted by the Industrial Relations Department at Headquarters for staff from all over. The courses dealt with a varied range of topics, for example, management/staff relationships, arbitration matters and technological change. The courses are geared for 24 persons from Headquarters and State Administrations, and they were conducted by the HQ Industrial Relations Department. It is expected that two courses will be conducted each year.

Those who attended the first course are in the photograph above: Front Row: J. Herden, F. Angove, M. Paterson, L. Wilson, D. Moran, B. O'Sullivan (General Manager Industrial Relations, Headquarters), F. Jones (Manager Pay & Conditions, Industrial Relations Headquarters), D. Mossie, R. Otte. Middle Row: G. Rothville (Course Manager), S. McClimont, E. Rohde, A. Collier, R. Baker, A. Glass, R. Riseley, M. Sparkman, P. Carroll, R. Baillie (Director of Studies). Back Row: I. Wallace, B. Cook, B. Baxter, J. McCrossan, L. Parnham, N. Cobby, P. Meggs.

Those who attended the second course are in the photograph below: Back Row: C. Herring, B. Dobson, Rev. A. Jones, A. Schultz, A. Hayes, D. Lamb, S. O'Keefe, G. Anderson, R. Baillie (Director of Studies). Middle Row: Ed. Dickinson (Course Manager), R. Poynter, K. Melville, C. Ford, G. Parsonage, M. Pickering, I. Lane, D. Lowther, M. Coe. Front Row: K. Pearce, A. Daley, S. Cassidy, N. Wolstencroft, A. Mee (A/g General Manager Industrial Relations Headquarters), P. Concannon, M. Bowes, J. Loftus.



which includes representatives of the telephonists working on the new VDU's will consult on evaluation of the trial.

Further consultations are planned between Telecom Australia and the ATPOA after the trial has been in operation for three months, and before any wider application of the trial system.



# Telecom shone at solar seminar

Telecom took a prominent part in a Solar Energy Seminar and Exhibition put on by the Victorian (Government) Solar Energy Research Committee at Melbourne University last February.

There were about 40 displays, mainly from commercial organisations with some interest in the development of solar energy.

Telecom's display put on by the HQ Information and Publicity Office in conjunction with the Buildings Branch Power Section was a unique draw-card in the foreground of the outdoor Exhibition.

It comprised a working model portable solar power unit identical to those being installed on the new Alice Springs/Tennant Creek microwave trunk

system route.

Associated with it was a marquee which gave a picture and words run-down on Telecom's employment of solar power to provide telecommunications services in wide-ranging isolated areas of Australia and in the Torres Strait Islands.

Notable among these were the "world firsts" of their kind, the islands trunk system to come into operation in August this year, and the automatic telephone service for farmers at Glen Valley, well above the snow-line in Victoria's mountain country.

Apart from "talking telephones" giving a brief story of Telecom and its solar energy applications a special VHF radio phone service similar to those used on outback stations enabled visitors to make courtesy phone calls into the Melbourne network on solar power — a popular gesture.

Interest in the Telecom display which was open to the public, including school groups was extremely high and estimates of numbers to visit us was about 15,000 over the four days.

Eminent solar energy experts from Australia and overseas presented papers at the three-day seminar and among these was one from two HQ Power Engineers, Arnold Holderness and Michael Mack, who presented it.



## Appreciation for manager's driver

It was a special occasion for Telecom Transport Driver, Harry Keig, when he retired in Sydney recently after seventeen years service. Up to that time, Harry had been personal driver to the NSW State Manager, Mr W.T. Schmidt, and before that, personal driver to three former Directors, Posts and Telegraphs, NSW, Mr E.F. Lane (also formerly Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs), Mr R.T. O'Donnell and Mr F.L.C. Taylor, General Manager, Engineering. At a small function Mr Schmidt presented a Certificate of Merit, signed by all four, which read — "We, the undersigned, wish to record our deep appreciation for the safe and considerate manner in which Harry Keig has driven us for thousands of miles over the length and breadth of NSW." To close the function, Mr Schmidt escorted Harry down to the ground floor of Telecom House where the State Manager's car was waiting to drive Harry home.

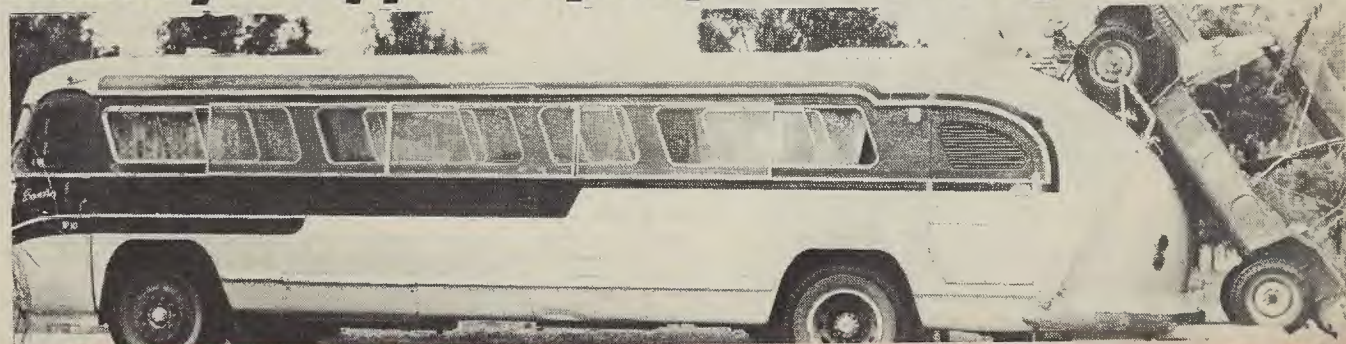
Telecom Australia has let contracts totalling \$13.89M for the supply of telephone directory paper. This represents a purchase of 27,000

tonnes of paper which will be used to print Australia's 54 telephone directories during the period 1.7.1979 to 30.6.1980.



At the Solar Energy Seminar from left Victorian Premier Mr Hamer, Mr R. Morse (chairman, Victorian Solar Energy Research Committee), Telecom Australia Power engineer Arnold Holderness and Doug Bergman, Manager Design Standards Group, Buildings Branch.

## Holidays clipper style (with moke) for DTM



John Pethybridge, District Telecom Manager, Shepparton, Vic, has converted this old Ansett Clipper bus to a home on wheels with just about every 'mod con' found in the home.

The front three quarters consists of a

travelling and relaxation area, double bedroom, kitchen, lounge and toilet. At the rear, the old luggage compartment has been ripped out and replaced with three bunks for the children. Carpeted throughout, the bus even has pot

plants to help give a homely atmosphere.

John and his family did all the work — even the electrical system which runs off the batteries or can be hooked up to a power source.

Riding 'piggy back' on the bus is John's alternative form of

transport, used when they arrive at their destination — a mini moke.

It is secured by ramps and brackets and a winch make life easier, when loading. There is even provision on the roof to lash two canoes.

The old bus used to do the Ayers Rock run and John believes it has done well over a million miles.

Already John and his family have been to Brisbane, Cairns and Orbest.

PHOTO COURTESY API



# 492 STAFF ATTEND DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

In March 1978 a high vehicle accident rate had convinced Footscray District Telecom Manager Ken Smith that some action was necessary to halt a situation which was affecting individual drivers, their families and Telecom's performance.

The action chosen was to have District staff who drive a vehicle as part of their normal duties attend a course in defensive driving.

Telecom's Automotive Plant Section was sympathetic to the proposal, but due to previous commitments and the size of the group, 492 drivers requiring training, was unable to conduct the course.

The Road Safety and Traffic Authority ROSTA who conduct suitable defensive driving seminars was unable to accommodate this large group but agreed to allow selected Telecom Staff to attend sessions.

After attending a ROSTA training course, Lines Officer Mr Kevin Delbridge was chosen to arrange and present suitable seminars for Footscray District Staff.

The object of the seminars is to:

\* Create an awareness of the need to drive defensively.

\* Highlight various situations which require defensive driving techniques.

\* View and discuss films on defensive driving and on first aid at the scene of an accident.

## CROSS SECTION

By design, personnel attending each session are drawn from a cross-section of work areas rather than having a group made up solely of linemen, technicians, clerical staff etc.

Each session runs for between three to four hours and is always opened by a functional manager. Normal practice is for that officer to give a short address on safety generally, the District's safety perfor-

mance and safety targets.

The venue of the course is a theatre at North Melbourne Telephone Installation Centre.

Group discussion at a session is assisted by using models illustrating road intersections complete with various road signs. Miniature motor vehicles are used to simulate traffic situations.

Specific matters covered are:

\* Stopping distances of vehicles

\* Safe travelling distances between vehicles

\* Overtaking

\* Intersections — controlled and uncontrolled

\* Reversing accidents

## Fibre Ceremony

A Trans-Atlantic ceremony was recently held to mark the inauguration of the first Canadian field test of optical-fibre links to home telephone subscribers.

The trial involved 35 customers in Toronto's

\* The alcohol scene — loss of licence etc.

\* Maintenance of vehicles

Instructor Kevin Delbridge is an enthusiast and reactions from Footscray District driving staff have been favorable. The first course commenced in July 1978 and the complete programme concluded last month.

While it is too early to gauge the full effect of the seminars, figures to the end of December 1978 were encouraging. The number of vehicle accidents has been reduced and in the accidents still occurring drivers yet to attend a seminar were mainly involved.

Yorkville area and the U.K. participated in the proceedings when two-way colour television signals were exchanged with Canada over the Post Office Confravision network.

Included in the circuit was an optical-fibre link between Gresham Street and Euston Tower in London which was installed two years ago.

The London system consists of optical-fibre terminal equipment designed and supplied by Plessey of the U.K. utilising standard Plessey LEDs and transmit devices working at 900nm with PIN diodes used in the receiver.

The cable was supplied by BICC and by arrangement with the Post Office a cable 700 metres long was laid in December 1975 between Wood Street Exchange and a building in Gresham Street. A second cable 1k. long was added in July 1976.

Four joints are present including one in a footpath box near the Bank of England.



Front row from left: K. Delbridge, G. Rahnas, D. O'Neill, C. Bugeja, A. Davis, B. Gleeson. Back: D. Shaw, I. Stansfield, B. Stephenson, S. Hodgetts, G. Harvey, M. Wilson, B. Hallinan, W. Newhouse.

## AIR SEARCH FINDS LINEY

Telecom "borrowed" a helicopter under charter to the State Government when a lineman was reported missing in an isolated area of Cape York Peninsula recently.

Lineman Brian Leisfield, who is stationed at Moreton, between Coen and the tip of Cape York Peninsula, was missing for about 24 hours.

He had travelled 50 km south of Moreton to repair a fault. When he failed to return, and had made no contact by 11 a.m. the next morning, an alert was sent to the DFM Cairns, Ray Batchelor.

## NOT SIGHTED

Bush Pilots Airways Ltd. were asked to keep a watch on their regular flight through the area. When they could not sight the missing man, the helicopter, which was operating at Thursday Island, was brought into the search.

The helicopter landed at Moreton to take on lineman Henry Wilson and a search was made along the trunk route.

Brian Leisfield was located in a creek bed where his truck had stuck. He had stayed with the vehicle.

The helicopter landed and the vehicle was eased from the creek bed for the return trip to Moreton.

Ray Batchelor said searches were organised immediately. It was reported that a lineman had failed to make a scheduled call.

"Too many things can go wrong in that country — a broken leg, snake bite — for us to take any risks", he said.



Front: B. Leech, B. Holmes, E. Clarke, A. Lambert, A. Davis, H. Grant, G. McAllister. Back: R. Burden, R. Grillo, L. Joyner, A. Polley, S. Blaszczyk, P. Beech, C. Ellerton, I. Urch, R. Zerbst.



# THIS WAS HAL'S LIFE AND THEY CAME FROM NEAR AND FAR

February 14, 1979, was a particularly memorable day for Harold George Shaw, O.B.E. who retired as State Manager of Telecom in Western Australia.

Harold Shaw has been described by those who worked with him and under him as a "people person" ... he cared about the people around him.

The feeling for "The Boss" was such that his staff decided that Harold was going to retire with a BANG and not slip quietly from the chair.

It was decided to hold the traditional Heads-of-Branches farewell dinner but if Co-ordinator Peter Farr had his way, it was going to be other than traditional.

Peter's suggestion was a "This Is Your Life" presentation and he called on Media Liaison Officer, Ian Teasdale. Ian, former Channel 7 Perth television compere, had researched and hosted a number of such presentations.

The "chief collaborator" in the conspiracy to trace Harold Shaw's 60 years was none other than his wife Peg.

The end result was a 45 minute presentation that left Harold almost unable to speak. One of his sons, Philip, travelled from Sydney to surprise his father; a friend of the family came all the way from the United States at her own expense; childhood, student, army and teaching-day friends either came personally or sent taped messages and photographs for the presentation.

Then there were many of his close friends from Telecom, including amongst special guests Managing Director, Jack Curtis, who flew from Melbourne for this



Harold and Peg Shaw with the silver tray and the gold-plated touchphone presented at the retirement function by Chief Engineer Allan Petterson. The phone was manufactured by Perth workshops. Managing Director Jack Curtis handed over Harold's Telecom Service Award.

and other functions marking Harold Shaw's retirement.

At 7.30 on Saturday February 10, after all the Heads-of Branches had taken their seats and the "special guests" had been secreted in the bridal changeroom of the Tawarri Lodge at Dalkeith, an amazed Harold was ushered in. Here are some snippets from the "This is your Life" presentation.

Mr Jika Travers, present headmaster of Sydney Church of England Grammar School, Shore — Harold Shaw's old school:

"Against Scots in term one 1936, the demon bowler H.G. Shaw bundled Scots out for 49 in the first innings with Shaw five for 10 and in the second innings Scots were out for 124 with Shaw five for 14. This puts all the modern fast bowlers to shame.

## COMPERE IAN TEASDALE:

At the end of 1947 you left Knox Grammar and returned to Sydney Church of England Grammar School as Senior Modern Languages Master. Your contemporaries described you as "an extremely able teacher. A perfectionist". Your wife described you as a "work-a-holic".

It was in 1954 that you first became involved with what is today Telecom. You joined the Postmaster-General's Department as an inspector of Postal Legislation and Research. At that time much of the Department's overseas correspondence was done in French and that was your speciality.

You were one of the first non-engineering graduates to join the PMG. In something of a meteoric rise within the PMG you rose to the position of Superintendent of Postal Planning in 1955 and then in 1956 to Assistant Director of Posts and Telegraphs in New South Wales.

## CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER NSW CEC WAY:

"Harold I can recall, in terms of his family situation, was approached by one of his sons who sort of said, look this milkman is going on holidays and I would like to do the milk run Dad. "I am going to do it, I'll get a dollar or two pocket money, but I really want to help the milkman." Dad said "oh yes, that's interesting." He said, "oh by the way Dad, you'll have to drive the van because I haven't got my licence as you know." So Dad, the Assistant Director NSW, used to get up every morning and drive the milk van while junior delivered the milk.

## WA STATE MANAGER ABC GRAHAM CHISHOLM:

We had one little personal deal over a lady who was a compulsive telephone caller. While Telecom regarded this as great business, she was plaguing one of our announcers, and she rang up a hundred, two hundred times a day. Harold went to see the lady's husband and said, "I think your wife needs some help." "What else can I do for her, I have just bought her a washing machine," the husband replied.



This large gaily painted polystyrene caricature of a tiger 3½ metres tall was used to support a Wallfone/STD Discount Dialling promotion held at the Arndale Shopping Centre, Adelaide.

Because of its attraction the Arndale management requested the loan of the "Tiger" for use in association with a mini-circus staged at the Centre early in January. Telecom was happy to oblige!

The sign around the tiger's neck advised people to keep in touch "Tiger Style" by using STD at discount rates applicable after 9 p.m. The large Touchphone shown in the picture forms part of the exhibit and was used in a previous promotion.

The photograph shows a typical reaction of children and adults alike when they discover the huge Telecom Tiger prowling the shopping centres of South Australia. This young lady, her face a mixture of curiosity and wonderment, had a surprise meeting with the Telecom Tiger.

The tame Telecom Tiger is available from Graphic Design Section, Engineering Department, Adelaide, on (08) 225 6127 for promotional purposes.



# VAN SAFETY NET WINS TOP AWARD FOR TELECOM TECH.

A safety restraining net for luggage compartments of station wagons or panel vans has won first prize in the Productivity Improvement Awards 1978 for STO Jim Gundry of Vic. Country Installation West Construction Branch.

The net which can be installed in about 30 minutes is now being progressively fitted to Telecom vehicles, and State instrumentalities such as State Rivers and Country Fire Authority have adopted the safety device.

Jim Gundry who won the award — organised by the Productivity Promotions Council of Australia and sponsored by the National Council of Australia, from more than 60 other entries and 20 finalists, said:

"My safety harness is designed to stop equipment moving around or sliding forward in a collision or during a journey.

"It prevents damage to goods while they are being transported."

The restraint is in the form of an adjustable net constructed of seat belt webbing and can be easily installed in all makes of panel vans and station wagons.

"I got the idea about 12 months ago after a driver

suffered back injuries when some heavy test equipment moved forward during a collision," said Jim.

"After a prototype version of rope webbing was tried I progressed to an adjustable seat belt safety net."

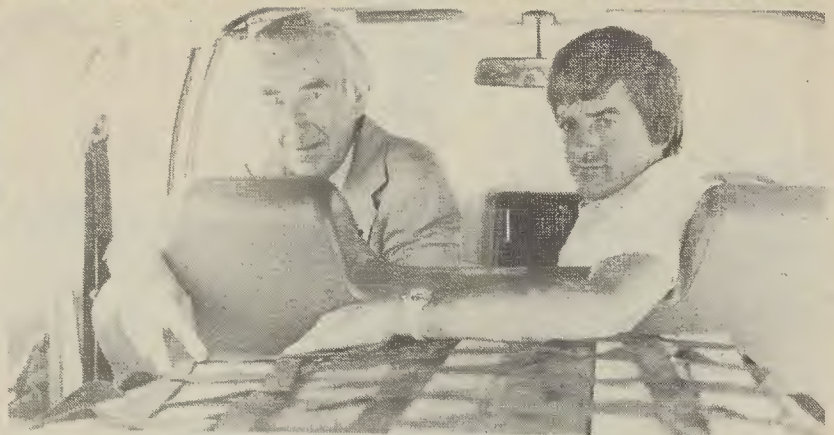
Jim applied for, and was granted permission from Telecom Auto Plant to install the restraint in a Telecom station wagon on a trial basis.

Bill Worley, Chief Accident Prevention Officer for Telecom-Victoria, immediately saw its advantages.

"Both my wagons now have this safety feature installed," he said.

"I believe it's another important step towards safety in the motor industry."

Very little modification is required to the bodywork inside and the net will accommodate either a full load or just a few goods.



Jim Gundry (right) demonstrates his safety harness with a van load of goods for Victoria's Chief Accident Prevention Officer Bill Worley.

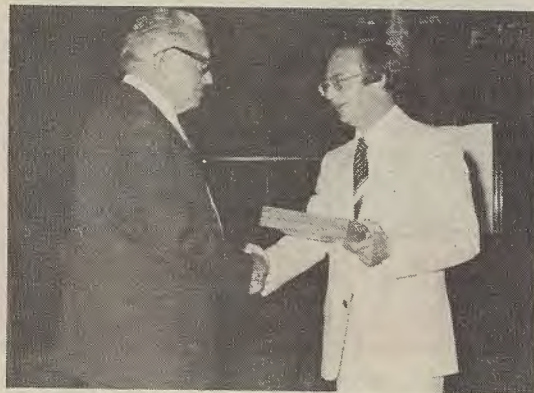
## Ops. man's hoo-ray

Almost two hundred friends and colleagues farewelled Ray Baldock at a gathering in Adelaide on the eve of his retirement. After nearly forty-two years as an engineer with APO and Telecom, where as Chief Manager he was involved in the establishment of his Department, Ray has retired for health reasons.

Speaking in appreciation of Ray's efforts were SA State Manager of Telecom Murray Coleman, Chief State Engineer Jack Truss, and State President of the Professional Officers' Association Jim Frost, who mentioned that Ray had been State President of the POA and a Central Councillor. As recognition for his work within the Association, he had been made a life member some years ago.

Eugene McCann, who was master of ceremonies, succeeds Ray as Chief Manager, Operations.

At an earlier function, Deputy Chief General Manager Jim Smith, presented a plaque to Ray. Our picture shows Ray Baldock (left) receiving the presentation from Jim Smith.



## 400 firms vied in courtesy comp.

More than 400 firms in the Bundaberg and Childers (Queensland) districts recently entered a telephone courtesy competition.

Telecom, Rotary and 4 BU Bundaberg conducted the competition for the Golden Courtesy Telephone award.

Bundaberg DTM (Noel Ryan) said the competition was promoted to encourage politeness and efficiency in the use of the telephone. A total of 419 firms entered the competition.

During its course, lectures on telephone procedure were attended by representatives of many of the firms.

Telecom organised a display of every type of telephone instrument, including intercom units, switchboards and telex machines.



NOEL RYAN

More than 200 Rotarians took part in the project which created considerable community interest.

The winners received a golden touchstone and a framed certificate.

Gin Gin Boutique won the simple service section, David Jones Finance Company the manual switchboard section and the Bundaberg branch of the Commonwealth Bank the large firm section.

## Gordon's gone to golf



A function was held at North Melbourne Exchange recently to bid farewell to Gordon Curran past principal technical officer, Footscray Operations Internal Plant and previously Senior Technical Officer Grade 3 in charge of North Melbourne Exchange.

The 150 guests and workmates were welcomed by Lionel Decker, present STO 3 at North Melbourne Exchange, and Ken Smith Footscray District Telecom Manager, who reviewed Gordon's history which dates back to 1935. He commenced as a Telegraph Messenger and after transferring as a junior mechanic in 1936, progressed to Principal Technical Officer in charge of Internal Plant Operations.

Among guests were some of Gordon's past Senior Officers and Engineers who paid tribute to his technical ability and dedication to his job. Ken Smith presented Gordon with a set of golf clubs, and Lionel Decker warned him that old golfers never die, they simply lose their drive. Gordon is pictured (centre) with Footscray DTM Ken Smith (l) and STO Lionel Decker (Nth. Melb. Exchange).



# DIAL-A-RAFT RINGS UP A SECOND



Adelaide Building Branch's 'bits-n-pieces' raft filled minor placings in events at the Rotary 'Rota Raft' contest at West Lakes last month. Rules stipulated that rafts had to be constructed from materials not specifically made for sailing craft.

The Telecom 'Dial-A-Raft' had polystyrene pontoons and the deck was made from sections of old partitions covered with 'tread-air' underfelt. The mast was a piece of partition frame held in place by a Coke can. The sail doubles as a beach tent for the rest of the year.

With its 'eight-manpower onboard motor' the raft came in second in the industrial section and equal third in the open event. There were 26 entries.

Boat builders were Buildings Officers Roger Turner and Gary Baker, helped by Graeme Foweraker, Graham Franklin, Paula Furlani.

Pictured here: Getting their sea legs. Left to right: Lyn Stephen (paddle in water), Dave Westley, Murray Bampton, Keith Hargraves, Ron Searle, Garry Baker, Roger Turner.

Some very interesting and successful experiments were made with this instrument (the telephone) between Torquay and The Penguin on Saturday night.

The atmosphere was suitable being clear and frosty, and by courtesy of Miss Liddle, the operator at the Forth telegraph office, several friends were invited to witness the effect. The following is a brief summary of proceedings in that office.

As soon as duties of the day were terminated, the lady operators at Torquay, Forth, Leven and Penguin were at their posts and, having shut off the telegraph instruments and attached the telephone strings to the wire, they held themselves in readiness for telephone action.

The distance between the two extremes is some 22 miles and the Forth station is about seven miles from Torquay and 15 from The Penguin.

## CONFUSION

Miss Liddle then called to the other stations. "Are you quite ready?" Miss Cocker (Torquay) replied, "Good evening, I am quite ready." Just at this time there was a little confusion caused by several ladies speaking together, but the confusion of tongues soon subsided, and conversations were carried on with surprising clearness, every question and reply being distinctly heard.

Miss Liddle asked Miss Raymond

A little research carried out in connection with the signing up recently of the 25,000th subscriber on the North-West Coast of Tassie has uncovered this literary gem from the Devon Herald of July 17, 1878:

## FUN WITH A NEW FANGLED PHONE (1878 STYLE)

(Penguin) to sing. "Yes", was the reply. "Tired" was then sung by Miss Raymond.

The voice sounded small, but as clear and distinct as if in the room. Miss Raymond said, "Shall I try the piano?" Miss Liddle replied, "Yes, do" "What shall I play?" "Anything you like." After a pause Miss Liddle called, "Go on" Miss Liddle at once replied, "I am fixing the telephone at the piano"

Conversation was later carried on with the Torquay office. A well known gentleman essayed to sing but broke down, and the laughter which followed in the room was distinctly heard.

The first Burnie Exchange was opened on May 28, 1903 and there were 44 subscribers when it was first listed in the Tasmanian Telephone Directory in June 1908.

The original magneto exchange did its job well and was not replaced by a common battery exchange till July 1, 1950.

The switchover to the new exchange was reported in "The Advocate" on July 3, 1950. "The new common battery exchange replaces the magneto system which has been in operation for nearly 50 years. It will cater initially

for 1000 subscribers but is capable of development to twice that capacity ... The old equipment was limited to 800 lines ..."

By 1942 there were more than 500 subscribers connected to the Burnie exchange and by 1965, 2400.

The year 1965 also saw the introduction of automatic facilities.

An 800-line extension was completed on June 23, 1967, and S.T.D. facilities were provided on December 2 of the same year.

The number of lines was increased to 4000 in December, 1970.

A major advance came on November 1 last year when International Subscriber Dialling was introduced.

In the 004 district today the commission owns buildings and sites with a book value of almost \$17 million.

In addition it rents, leases or shares accommodation in several buildings.

Two major projects recent-

ly completed are the \$700,000 telephone engineering centre at Burnie and the \$213,000 Wynyard telephone exchange.

Telecom employs 307 people at Burnie including a lines staff of 138, a technical staff of 81, and exchange staff of 40 and a customer service and administration staff of 48.

There are 120 Telecom vehicles in use in the 004 district.

PHOTO  
AND  
DETAILS  
COURTESY  
BURNIE  
ADVOCATE



Russell (left) and Vicki McCoy, of East Devonport, Tas. became the 25,000th subscribers in the 004 telephone district when Telecom serviceman Rex Marshall (right) installed their wallfone. Since the district was established in 1954, the number of subscribers has grown from 7000 to 25,000.



# TELECOM YACHTSMEN IN SESQUI — CENTENARY RACE

Three of the more adventurous members of Telecom's work force must be Richard Herring, Col Reardon and Wilf Whyte of Perth who are sailing their 35 foot yacht Way '79 from Plymouth, England to Perth, Australia.

Richard is a line supervisor North West OPO, Col is Admin. Officer, North West Engineers and Wilf STO, Country Exchange Installations.

They have entered in the Parmelia Yacht Race, one of the feature events of 1979 which is seeing Western Australians celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of their State.

Dozens of yachts, modern-day clippers and sailing ships from around the world are taking part in the race which has been described as the most exciting international sailing event since the days of the famous clippers.

Construction of the yacht began three years ago. Similarly designed yachts have crossed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It has a 10 ft. beam and a 5 ft. draft

and is an all-steel construction. It will probably be one of the smallest in the race.

The launching was performed by Peg Shaw virtually on the eve of her husband Harold's retirement as State Manager of Telecom in W.A.



Peg Shaw, champagne in hand, prepares to launch Way '79 below.



## Reeks of antiquity

WA Public Relations Manager Tom Alford's lost pipe was returned recently through Central Registry with this inscription: "This evil smelling equipment was recently found on Commission premises. It was taken to be an early form of smoke signalling device used before Morse. Acquisition by Telecom Museum recommended."

# Fly fisherman jousts with trout

The thrill and excitement of catching barramundi is what started Max Ellis on sport fishing about four years ago. Max, (below), a senior

painter with Telecom at Kidman Park Workshops, South Australia was on a temporary stay at Darwin at the time.

On his return to

Adelaide, he was keen to continue his new found sporting interest so he joined the South Australian Fly Fishing Association (SAFFA).

He now enjoys the excitement of catching trout. "They are a magnificent sporting fish especially when taken with a fly on light tackle," he said.

Fly fishing is an ancient form of fishing — it is thought the Greeks practised the art before the birth of Christ. It requires a rod (approx 9 feet) with a slow action, a line and, of course, a fly. Flies are made from a variety of natural and synthetic

materials to look like insects and Max spends many hours tying and making his own.

He casts the fly into the river or stream and this is where the skill is required. "To cast the minute fly, the line itself has to have sufficient weight to carry the fly over varying distances," Max said.

The current record is 227 feet which was achieved on dry land and didn't encounter the real life situations of blackberry bushes and other river-bank growth.

"You have to work at making the artificial insect look alive and if you

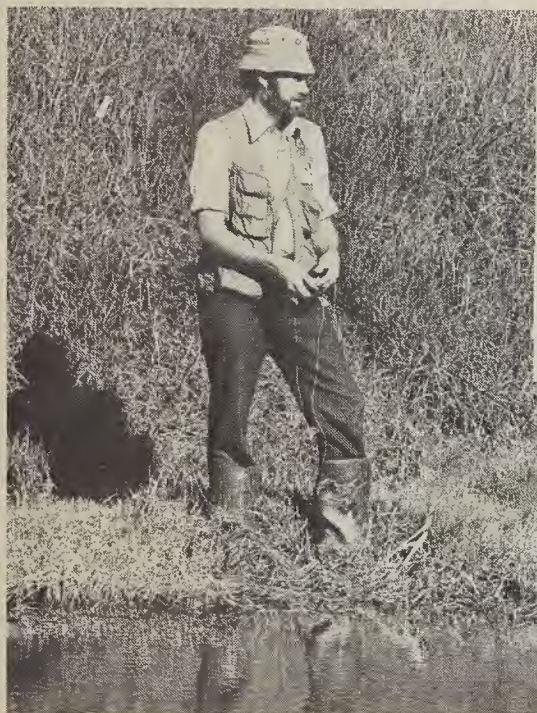
do you can be in for some action," says Max who adds that the largest trout taken on a fly in South Australia weighed 7lb 2½oz and was caught in July last year.

South Australia has no natural breeding of trout so SAFFA obtain trout eggs from interstate and breed them in carefully maintained tanks at their hatchery.

After three months, the fry have grown to approximately 35mm in length, and then they are released into suitable streams and dams all over the State where they have a life span of between five and seven years.

This year marks the centenary of the first stocking of trout in South Australian waters.

Max is a Council member of SAFFA and would be pleased to hear from any person interested in fly fishing — he can be contacted on 08 356 4111.







# The first big trial is MONEY

So you're thinking of having a stab at the Repco Reliability Trial which starts in Melbourne on Sunday August 5 and finishes back there 14 days later after a

punishing 18,000 km over some of the worst roads and no roads in outback Australia.

Good on you, Mate ... best of flamin' luck ... you could

## Cogan's Track



Recently retired Telecom lineman, E. A. (Ted) Cogan has been honored by the Woodend Fire Brigade after 48½ years of service, 32 of them as secretary.

The E. A. Cogan Fire track was officially opened by the Woodend Shire President during the Hume Highway Fire Brigades Association demonstration, recently.

Opening the track, the President, Cr Steel said: "The naming of the track after Ted Cogan is a memorial to a tremendous amount of work that he does for the Woodend Brigade and for the Fire Brigade movement generally.

"On behalf of all ratepayers, I would like to congratulate and express our appreciation to him," he said.

In reply, Ted said that it was a day that he had dreamed of since he first joined the Fire Brigade in 1930.

"Now the Brigade members have somewhere to train properly and a place to put on demonstrations," he said.

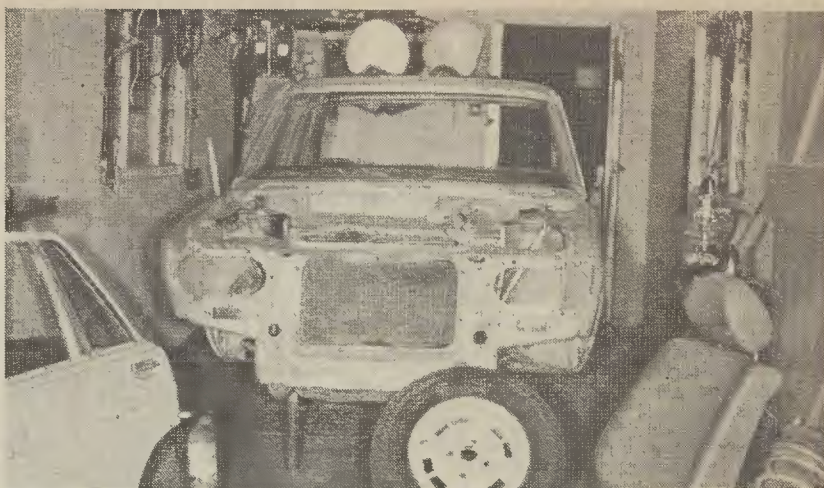
Ted recently retired after 30 years service as a lineman and API member.

He has been a committee member of the Woodend sub-branch since its inception and has always been actively involved in the numerous functions held by the sub-branch.

Ted has had previous recognition of service.

He is the holder of the Gold Star Award which was presented to him by the brigade several years ago, the Certificate of Merit from the Royal Humane Society for the part he played in a rescue in 1969, and the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Above: Woodend Fire Brigade Captain Laurie Thomason, Shire President, Cr. H. Steel, and Ted Cogan. API pic.



Top left: Telecom draftsman Richard Reid (right) and his driver David Sheridan. Above: their Datsun in a strip act.

take out the Big One, the Outright worth 13 grand (plus trophy) with half an ounce of luck. Mean to say, you've got a good old bomb there, you've dabbled in a rally or two, you reckon you know your way around Australia and you've got a big serve of enthusiasm.

All good stuff, but is it enough? I mean what about money ... you'll need money, great lol-lupin' lumps of lolly. Reckon you'd do well to have a yarn with a Telecom draftsman bloke by the name of Richard Reid who's starting in the Repco as a co-driver ... a man who's gone pretty deep into the finance involved in participation.

### IN THE RED

Right off, Richard says that you could snare the \$13,000 outright prize and still be in the red for that much or more. (It's that red figure that sorts out the real triallers — drivers and crews who love the sport and are prepared to pay dearly for participation in it.)

This is how it is according to Richard Reid;

- There's a \$700 entry fee, \$200 of which goes to pay a compulsory accident insurance premium.

- There's \$7000 at least to be spent on car re-build and preparation.

- At least another \$1000 for tyres.

- At least \$1000 for petrol and

- More money for special equipment, such as maps (28 are needed), compass, special odometer, map reading lights, two-way radio, special lay back seats etc. etc. etc. not to mention daily living expenses.

It's little wonder that Richard and his driver former Telecom draftsman David Sheridan are hopeful of some sponsorship to help offset this heavy outlay.

David and Richard are now jointly preparing their car, a 1970 model Datsun 1600 — a process which will require the vehicle to be taken down to its uttermost bits and carefully and lovingly rebuilt.

### PEPPIER

The original motor will be replaced with a peppier 200B motor, a Skyline 5-speed gearbox and differential fitted, all body panels strengthened, frame stiffened up, roll cage, crash bars, compulsory laminated windscreen installed.

Special attention must be paid to suspension if it is to have any hope against 18,000 kilometres of merciless bashing and David and Richard will replace the entire front suspension with specially strong components and

competition suspension struts.

Considerable time and effort must be spent too in getting physically fit as the trial will be a gruelling test of stamina for men as well as machines. For instance there are only five rest breaks in the 14 day trial

which from Melbourne goes to Mt Gambier, Renmark, Adelaide, Broken Hill, Birdsville, Marree, Rawlinna, Southern Cross, Perth, Meekatharra, Wittenoom, Port Hedland, Kununurra, Darwin, Katherine, Burketown, Mt Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane, Goondiwindi, Tamworth, Sydney, Canberra, Cooma, Bairnsdale and back to Melbourne.

### DRY 800 km.

The longest trial leg without availability of petrol is 800 km so David and Richard will need the 135 litre fuel tank they are fitting plus additional supplies carried in the car. It is compulsory to carry survival rations for three days and an approved first aid kit.

Richard and David have competed in various State title events, their successes being mainly in club rallies of about 400 kilometres. The Repco Reliability will be their first venture (and adventure) in a long distance, international event.