Welcome back to your February 2026 Newsletter.

John Lane

Welcome back for 2026! I hope you had a great Christmas and New Year, and that you are looking forward to what's ahead for our Association in 2026

The committee has already met to plan our activities for the year. We are focusing on providing opportunities for members to reconnect and socialise with former workmates. These social functions matter because I believe connections at this stage of life are important for our well-being. I was pleased to see so many members turn out for our socials and meetings last year; it makes it worthwhile for the committee and me. This month's newsletter shares details about upcoming social events, including lunches and visits to interesting venues. As the year unfolds, we will provide you with specific details for each event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) ANNOUNCEMENT

Remember that our AGM is on Thursday, 26th February 2026, at the Petersham RSL. Zoom video conferencing will be available for members who cannot attend in person.

The AGM will start at 11:05 am. The February 2025 General Meeting will follow the AGM.

After my opening message, the AGM will cover two agenda items.

- Alan Bassman, our Secretary/Treasurer, will present the financial report for the year ending 31st December 2025. You'll receive the financial statement by email before the meeting.
- All executive and committee positions will be declared vacant. We will elect a returning officer. Then we will hold elections to fill these roles. Nominations close just before the election ballot.

VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE

If you're interested in an executive or committee role, please consider applying. We have several vacancies, and some current members are taking on extra work. Your help is important to keep our Association running smoothly.

I am extending a special invitation to our country members. I would like some of you to serve on the committee. Remoteness from Sydney is not an obstacle. We meet in person once a month, and you can join us via Zoom.

A fantastic opportunity awaits you to get involved, make a difference, and bring fresh ideas. If you want to join the committee, please fill out the nomination form that you will find on the newsletter and submit it to the Secretary/Treasurer. Your participation will be appreciated. We look forward to welcoming new members onto our committee.

BAN OF GAMBLING ADVERTISEMENT

You can read about our current campaign for the covernment to introduce legislation to ban gambling advertisements.

In June 2023, Labor MP Peta Murphy chaired a parliamentary committee that released the report *"You win some, you lose more,"* which had cross-party support.

Despite an earlier commitment, even from the Prime Minister himself, the government has ignored the report's recommendations, likely because powerful gambling lobbyists are working behind the scenes to make its findings and recommendations "go away."

I encourage you to contact your local federal MP and clearly state your concern about the harm gambling advertising is causing in our community. Share your thoughts and reference the evidence and recommendations in the late Peta Murphy report. You can use the article in this month's newsletter as background information to support your case, whether you choose to write to or meet with your MP.

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

Note
The February General Meeting will immediately follow the AGM

Thursday, 26TH February
Starts at 11:05 am

Petersham RSL Club (301 Trafalgar Street, Petersham, an easy 150m walk from Petersham Railway Station

The Meeting will also be held via ZOOM Access details will be emailed to members on Tuesday morning, 24th February 2025

Retired Telecommunications Employees Association

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Welcome back to your February 2026 Newsletter (cont'd).

OBE AWARDS

During the two-month break, I had the privilege of presenting our OBE Award ("Over Bloody Eighty") to two members.

For the first OBE Award, I visited member Cathy Fogarty in the hospital.
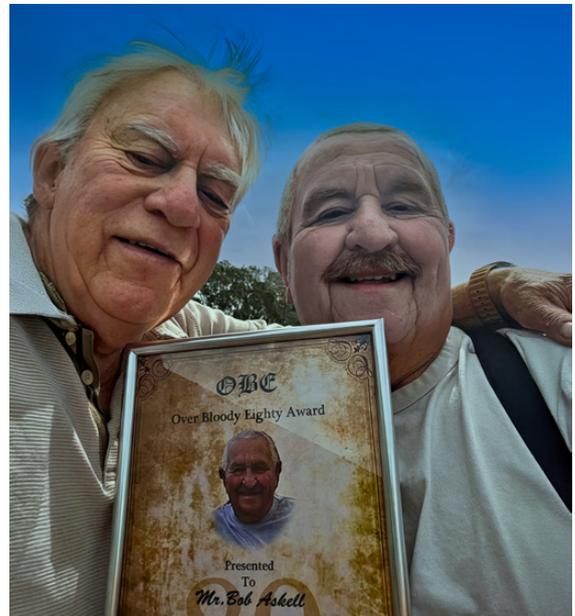
At the time, I was presenting the award to Cathy, she was recovering following surgery. I am pleased to inform members that Cathy continues to recover well. Cathy is a great supporter of our Association, often attending our social functions and a regular on our annual trip away. Congratulations, Cathy, on receiving your OBE and I am certain that all members join me in offering best wishes for you to be fully well soon.

The second OBE I presented to Bob Askwell, a member and good mate, with whom, apart from our RTEA activities, I have visited small amd out of the way towns in NSW. Congradulations Bob.

Well, that is all from me for now. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our socials and monthly meeting in the coming year.

You will find a list with dates for all our social functions for the coming year, and please try to make it to our AGM. Apart from the meeting, it is a good occasion to reacquaint after the long Christmas and New Year break.

Attention Class of 1958 Technician in Trainees

Urgent RSVP for a Reunion at Port Macquarie

Enjoy a great day together before it is too late in the River Room or Bistro at the Westport Club

MARCH 27

RSVP NOW!

RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

LUNCH AT THE BUNDEENA COMMUNITY & SERVICES CLUB
THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2026

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL BUNDEENA LUNCH AT THE BUNDEENA COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CLUB. FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING BOTH FAMILIAR AND NEW MEMBER FACES. A GREAT START TO OUR SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2026!

OUR DAY STARTS WITH A SCENIC FERRY RIDE FROM CRONULLA TO BUNDEENA, FOLLOWED BY A RELAXING STROLL ALONG THE BUNDEENA ART TRAIL. WE THEN GATHER FOR A DELICIOUS, AFFORDABLE LUNCH AT THE BUNDEENA COMMUNITY & SOCIAL CLUB, WHERE GOOD COMPANY AND A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AWAIT.

A CRONULLA-BOUND TRAIN DEPARTS FROM CENTRAL AT 10.19 AM FROM THE EASTERN SUBURBS & ILLAWARRA LINE - PLATFORM 25. THE SAME TRAIN DEPARTS SYDENHAM AT 10.26 AM, WOLLI CREEK AT 10:29 AM, HURSTVILLE AT 10.40 AM AND SUTHERLAND AT 10.53 AM. THE TRAIN ARRIVES AT CRONULLA AT 11.08 AM.

THERE IS AMPLE TIME TO WALK FROM CRONULLA STATION TO THE FERRY WHARF IN GUNNAMATTA BAY. THE BUNDEENA FERRY LEAVES AT 11.30 AM. THE FERRY DEPARTS FROM CRONULLA ON THE HALF HOUR THROUGHOUT THE DAY. THE RETURN FROM BUNDEENA IS ON THE HOUR STARTING FROM 1.30 PM.

Technician in Training Class of 1957

2026 Reunion

WEDNESDAY
11TH MARCH 2026

**Revesby Workers Club
28 Bent Street, Revesby**

The Revesby Workers Club is located just across the road from Revesby Railway Station. You will see the club on your left as you travel towards Campbelltown on the East Hills Line.

Our reunion will commence at 11am although many may decide to arrive earlier. The club opens at 10am. All 1957ers _and Technicians in Training from other years_ together with their wives, partners or girl friends are welcome to attend. For further information and to register your interest please e-mail Bob Speer at speer.r.65@gmail.com or sms to 0408 863 900.

The Reunion format will be different this year as we are no longer supported by the Club. We will gather in the Coffee Shop "Cafe 240" on arrival, then move to the "Firestone Kitchen and Bar" for Lunch from about 12.00 pm

Our Campaign to Ban Gambling Advertisement

John Lane

Many *Retired Telecommunications Employees Association* members may not know that we are actively campaigning for the federal government to legislate a ban on gambling advertising in Australia. Our last newsletter was in November 2025, before the holiday break, so we want to ensure everyone understands our campaign.

At our November 2025 General Meeting, members passed a resolution calling for a total ban on all gambling advertising in Australia and, further, for the *Retired Telecommunications Employees Association* to make our view known to Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Our main goal is for Parliament to implement all 31 of the Committee's recommendations especially restrictions on gambling advertising to protect Australians from harm.

You might expect banning gambling advertising to be straightforward. In June 2023, Labor MP Peta Murphy had chaired a parliamentary committee that released the report *"You win some, you lose more,"* which received cross-party support.

Peta Murphy's inquiry found that gambling advertising is actively grooming children and young people to gamble. Despite 31 unanimous recommendations from a cross-party committee, including a ban on gambling advertising,

The Labor Party leaders in Canberra have refused to act, offering no real explanation as to why. Time and again, we witness a government initiative promised to voters during election time only to be later abandoned just when the government had the power to deliver real change.

We are a small organisation with limited funds, we realise we are up against powerful lobbyists. Many Labor Party representatives appear more responsive to industry bodies, like *Responsible Wagering Australia* and major betting companies, than to their constituents.

Bet365, a British company, is well-connected in Australia through *Responsible Wagering Australia,* which has had former politicians as its CEOs: Labor senator Stephen Conroy, later succeeded by former Liberal chief of staff Kai Cantwell.

Senator David Pocock, in an article in "The Saturday" on the 30th August 2025, wrote:

More than 1500 people currently hold orange-sponsored passes that grant them 24/7 access to all areas in Parliament House … We don't know who they are, nor which parliamentarian gave them their access … Meanwhile, community groups and members of the public are forced to wait weeks or months for meetings.

The lobbying sector are big spenders, with analysis from the Centre for Public Integrity showing that peak bodies and other lobbyists have contributed about $43.5 million in real terms to the major parties since 1998/99. It is hard to imagine that this is for any purpose other than access and influence out of reach of the average Australian.

Senator David Pocock, in the same article, on the subject of gambling advertising:

Is it any wonder that more than two years after a landmark review into the harms of online gambling led by the late Labor MP Peta Murphy – a review that produced 31 recommendations and enjoyed multipartisan support – the government still hasn't responded? The government may be banning children from social media, but it's doing nothing to protect them from the harms of ubiquitous gambling advertising.

Campaign to Ban Gambling Advertisement (Cont'd)

The Senator is attempting to reform the current weak legislation on lobbyists, but is meeting strong opposition from the major parties.

The above quotes from the Senator tell us what we are up against

OUR CORRESPONDENCE IS IGNORED.

Since last November, the Association has written to the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Greens.

The Prime Minister's office did not reply directly to us, instead referred our correspondence to Anika Wells, *Minister for Communications and Sport,* who forwarded it to the *Acting Director for Broadcasting and Gambling Policy.* The Acting Director did not mention Peta Murphy's report; instead, she referred to minor, unrelated government initiatives on gambling.

We also emailed 95 Labor members in the House of Representatives. Initially encouraged to see that 45 members had opened the email within minutes of being sent, I realised these early, simultaneous opens had likely been driven by automated email-opening software, suggesting that most Labour members did not bother to read our email.

Media reports suggest the federal government is unlikely to adopt the findings of the *Peta Murphy Inquiry.* **A disappointing development if the reports are correct. The Prime Minister assured at Peta Murphy's funeral that her legacy on gambling reform would be honoured.**

Despite these discouraging developments, unrest in Labor's parliamentary ranks over the issue offers some hope for reform. Our campaign's main goal is to urge Labor members to speak up and push for the recommended changes to gambling advertisement laws. The *Retired Telecommunications Employees Association* wants advertising reform, not a ban on gambling itself, in line with the parliamentary report's recommendations to make gambling less pervasive and safer.

WHY AN ADVERTISEMENT BAN MATTERS

A ban on advertising has become essential, now that there is online gambling, people can use their smartphones, computers and other internet devices to gamble readily. As well as traditional forms of gambling, online gambling has created new forms of gambling, like casino games, e-sports and popular sports that we view on television.

Gambling Research Australia found that *the number of people gambling online has more than doubled over the past eight years, with 18% of Australian adults now gambling online each year, nearly one-third of all gamblers. Online gambling is particularly popular among young men aged between 20 and 29 years old.*

Gambling websites and apps can track everything players do, including how often they gamble, how much they spend, and their gambling patterns. They use this information to effectively market gambling, sending personalised advertisements and promotional offers and offering bonus incentives.

A PRECEDENT FOR AN ADVERTISEMENT BAN

In our correspondence and emails, we have reminded parliamentary representatives that we have been here before, with a ban on cigarette advertisements in the 1980s, and later, under the Gillard Labor government, plain cigarette packaging was made compulsory, reducing the appeal of a dangerous product, particularly to young people. A ban on gambling advertising follows the same principle: constant exposure normalises addictive behaviour.

We realise that we are up against powerful lobbyists for the gambling industry. Vested interests seemed to have cowed the Prime Minister into dishonouring Peta Murphy's legacy. Vested interests originate from rich foreign-owned sports betting companies. Despite this, we will continue our campaign with determination, urging members and others to join us in calling for meaningful reform.
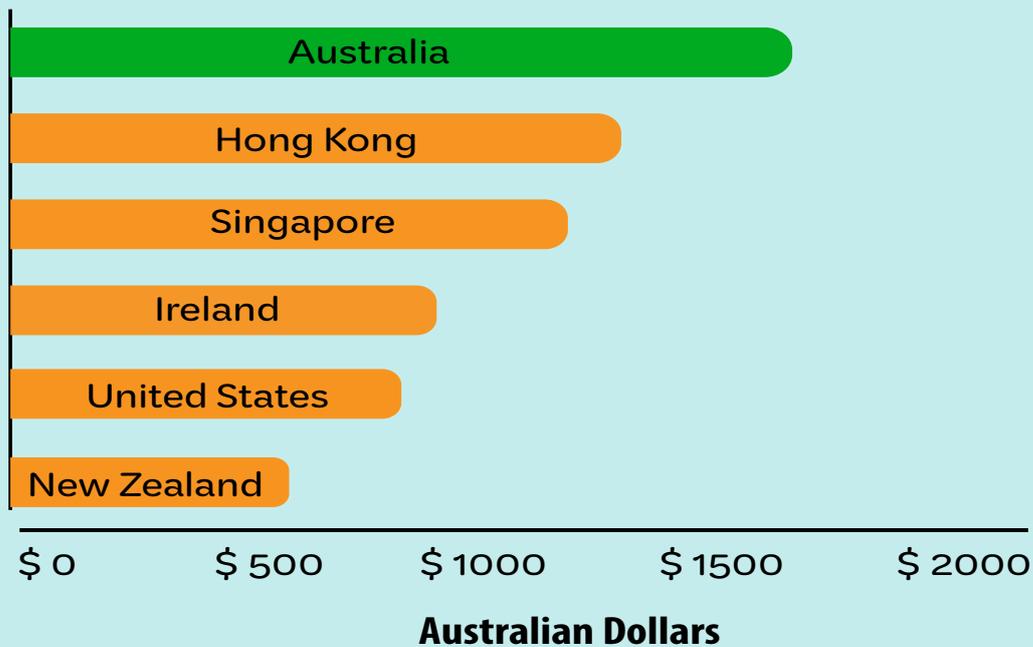
Campaign to Ban Gambling Advertisement (Cont'd)

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that the recommendations for safer gambling are enacted, protecting current and future generations. We look forward to achieving real and lasting change within the solidarity of the Trade Union movement and the broader community.

With this article, I have included graph showing that Australia by far has the highest per-capita gambling losses in the world.

Comparison of Leading Nations for International Gambling losses (per Capita)

Country	Losses
Australia	~$1600
Hong Kong	~$1200
Singapore	~$1000
Ireland	~$800
United States	~$750
New Zealand	~$450

Australian Dollars

Vale Edward (Ted) Alan Moore

Edward (Ted) Alan Moore passed away peacefully at the aged care complex Bluehaven Bonaira in Kiama on New Year's Eve, 31st December, 2025, aged 102. His wife, Joan, died two years earlier in 2023. A private service was held by the family on 12th January, 2026, with live streaming for family living in Queensland and Ted's many friends.

Joan and Ted had three children: Jenny, Marilyn and Ted Jnr. 7 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Graduating from Fort Street Boys High School, Ted signed on as a Technician-In-Training in 1940 in Sydney. He went on to work for the PMG and then Telecom for 43 years, retiring in 1983.

Completing his training in 1945, he was appointed to the Wagga Wagga telephone exchange and then, as a Senior Technician, was appointed to Albury. It was while he was at Wagga that he met telephonist Joan West; they married in 1947 and took up residence in Albury in 1948. In a similar way to doctors and nurses, in those days it was a technician's fate that in all probability he would marry a telephonist, and in Ted's case, it was a great result, they were happily married for 77 years.

In 1948, Ted was next appointed OIC of Coonabarabran Exchange. It was here that their three children were born. In 1953, the family were off to Taree, on the Mid North Coast of NSW, where Ted was appointed Supervising Technician in charge.
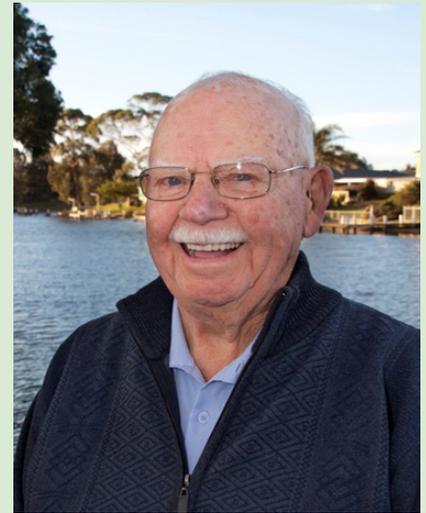
In 1959, Ted was promoted to OIC Kempsey Telephone Exchange and in 1967, Ted's final promotion was as Principal Technical Officer in charge of the Wollongong Technician's District.

In 1981, the Moores built a holiday home in Sussex Inlet, about 120 km south of their Wollongong home, and in 1983, when Ted retired from the workforce, it became their permanent home. As they did in the many other towns they made home, they quickly engaged with the local community. Here they joined the local Bowling Club, the Probus Club, the Sailfish Club and Ted joined the Shoalhaven PC Users Group.

In 2018, Ted and Joan moved into the retirement living and aged care complex Bluehaven Bonaira in Kiama. It was here they lived for the rest of their lives.

*One of the songs played during the show of Ted's life in pictures was Glen Campbell's Wichita Lineman ("**I am a lineman for the county**"), probably the most appropriate song for a telecommunications technician's send-off. But Ted was more than a technician.*

Managing a large multi-function technician's district with about 40 staff is no easy task but Ted Moore was good at it. He had the personality and people skills to manage the disparate workforce, many of whom, who were not on the premises much of the time. Ted Moore was a good bloke and a good boss.

Chris. Cartledge

Wollongong
21 Jan 2016

Robert Alan (Sep) Gill

The RTEA is sad to report the passing of Robert Alan (Sep) Gill to Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members. Sep was born on 28th September 1941 and spent his entire life in Wauchope, passing away on 25th January at home.

A funeral service was held for Seo at the Uniting Church, Hastings Street, Wauchope, on Tuesday, the 3rd February 2026, commencing at 11 am.

Sep began his career as a Technician in Training in 1958. He subsequently worked primarily in the multi-function district of Wauchope, with short periods on relief in the Kempsey Engineering Division and the Kempsey District Telecommunications Branch. Sep retired from Telstra in 1998 after taking redundancy.

Sep married June Miners in 1964, and they had two children, Michael and Christene. He reluctantly moved to Port Macquarie, as over the years, the ravages of time took hold.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association extends heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Robert Alan Gill during this difficult time.

The Association would like to acknowledge and thank Bob Speer and Shaun Higgins for informing us of Sep's passing.

Vale John Markey

Brian Kirkby has asked us to inform members of the passing of one of his former workmates, John Markey, whom a few Retired Telecommunications Employees Association members may have known. John passed away, just a week short of his 90th birthday, on the 25th January 2026.

John joined the PMG on the 14th January 1952. He was posted to Newcastle in 1956, where he completed his training. He joined the Metropolitan internal plant drafting section at the GPO in 1957.

He rose to the heady heights of Supervising Draftsman at Tamworth, from where he retired.
He was well known in the pug dog breeding community and enjoyed a beer or two, over which he became friends with Brian.

The Retired Telecommunications Employees Association joins with Brian in extending heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of John Markey.

RTEA.NET AU

Telephone Exchanges through Time

Paul Rewhorn

In this and the following issue of the newsletter, tells the remarkable story of Australia's telephone network - from its nineteenth-century beginnings to the networks of the late twentieth century. The first part starts with the origins and early growth of telephony that set the foundation for today's communications.

While the article will focus mainly on changes to the telephone exchanges, this is only one part of our communications history. Change also came with improvements in transmission, radio, and subscriber equipment. After billions of dollars in investment to introduce technology advancement, our communication network is almost unrecognisable from what we had just 20 to 30 years ago.

Today, our telephone network is a computer-controlled system combining digital switching, high-capacity transmission, and intelligent signalling. Our voice calls are converted to digital data and carried across fibre-optic cables. Software-controlled exchanges, not mechanical switches, now route calls.

You may have noticed earlier that I changed the wording from telephone to communications network because it was once about mainly voice calls; our communications now more than voice, it caters for text messaging, video calls, online business transactions like banking and purchase payment, streaming, and remote work. Smartphones have become our personal communication hub, giving us constant access to information, services, and social connections in ways inconceivable to earlier network designers and users.

ORIGIN OF TELEPHONY

While nothing like the pace of change we experience today, the 19th century was a period of significant transformation. Despite being young colonies that most had recently emerged from being a collection of convict settlements, Australian colonies soon industrialised, like Britain and the USA. There was rapid growth in mining, manufacturing, and transport infrastructure. From the earliest days, the populations of Australian colonies soon realised the advantages that faster communications would bring to their economies.

Located on a vast continent, the colonies needed a more reliable, communication means than mere correspondence could provide.

Fortunately, for Australia, along came opportunity with the invention of electrical communications. As mentioned in previous articles, the electric telegraph came in the 1850s. Telegraph lines sprang up across the continent, and in just a few years, Australia had telegraph links between the colonies' capital cities and the rest of the world. While the telegraph was much faster than the mail, it did not come any where near what today we refer to as real-time communication. Messages had to be brief, and a two-way communication took time to transact and you needed an intermediary, a Morse code operator.

A second form of electrical communication advancement came in 1876, with Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone, the start of voice communication. Just three years after Alexander Graham Bell's invention, Australia's first telephone service began when the Robson Bros linked their two business offices located in Melbourne and South Melbourne.

Of course, point-to-point telephone communication was not the ultimate application for the telephone. People want to have a telephone that would allow them to call numerous other telephone users, there had to be an interconnection point, hence the need for a telephone exchange. By 1887, all colonial capitals had manual telephone exchanges.

Melbourne Central Exchange (circa 1886)

Telephone Exchanges through Time (Cont'd)

FEDERATION

Federation is the best place to start to explain the development of the telephone echanges. Following federation, the new Commonwealth Government assumed control of postal, telegraph, and telephone services from the former colonies that the growth of the telephone network of exchanges started to gather pace.

The advent of Federal governance across a vast continent necessitated improved coordination between States, Cities and government departments. Telegraphy and telephony were becoming essential tools for a federal administration in need of a reliable communications infrastructure.

At the time of federation, Australia had about 33,000 phone services and 70,000 kilometres of telegraph lines. About 80% of phone subscribers lived in capital cities, the majority of whom resided in Sydney and Melbourne. Business, government, and essential services were the main categories of users.

Sydney, for example, had about 3700 subscribers at its Central Exchange, located in the GPO, and 23 branch exchanges had the remaining connections. Outside of the capital cities, telephone services in rural areas were patchy; if there were 15 or more applications in a rural district, the Post Office might provide a phone service. Often, it was left to farmers and other locals to install and maintain their telephone lines.

The early telephone exchanges were manual; most used the magneto system. A system required users to turn a hand crank to generate an electrical signal, alerting the operator that a caller wanted to connect to another telephone subscriber.

It would take less than a decade for the manually operated telephone exchange to start to prove inadequate. The larger manual exchanges required a subscriber's line to appear on multiple switchboard positions. This was less of a problem with smaller exchanges, but you needed more buildings and junction lines. Irrespective, manual telephone exchanges were labour-intensive; even a local call could require multiple operators to establish a local connection, monitor and finally disconnect the call The manual equipment itself was subject to excessive wear and tear, wanting regular maintenance.
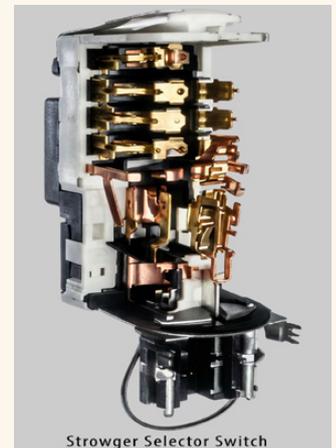
A constant challenge throughout the history of the telephone exchange network was the need to expand th network to keep pace with demand. Network expansion of a telephone network involved far more than adding new exchanges or switchboards; it was a complex design task. It needed planning, investment, and, more importantly, the right solution; otherwise, mistakes could later along prove costly and disruptive.

THE STROWGER SWITCH

Fortunately, a solution had emerged in the United States - the Strowger Automatic system. The Australian Post Office trialled the Strowger Automatic system at Geelong in 1912. The trial was successful, and the post office made the decision to install Strowger automatic exchanges in its multi-exchange networks in the States' capital cities.

The Strowger switch was a mechanical device that used electromagnets to control switches, advancing the connection mechanism in response to the caller's dialled number. It would move vertically to the position corresponding to the number dialled, then rotate its contacts horizontally to search for the first available connection to the next switch selection stage. All Strowger purchases came from a US company, AEC Chicago, and later from British manufacturers.

After the decision to install Strowger, there were no further manual exchange installations in capital cities after 1914.   The change addressed the high costs of running manual exchange networks and likely prevented the telephone network system from collapse or at the very least stagnaton. It was a bold move for a new nation, since only the smaller companies in the USA used Strowger equipment, and only in their small sized exchanges

Strowger Selector Switch

Telephone Exchanges through Time (Cont'd)

Sydney started its automatic exchange conversion in 1914. At that time, the city had 28 exchanges, of which half the subscribers' lines were connected to just seven of the exchanges. By the end of 1915, eleven automatic exchange conversions had been completed.
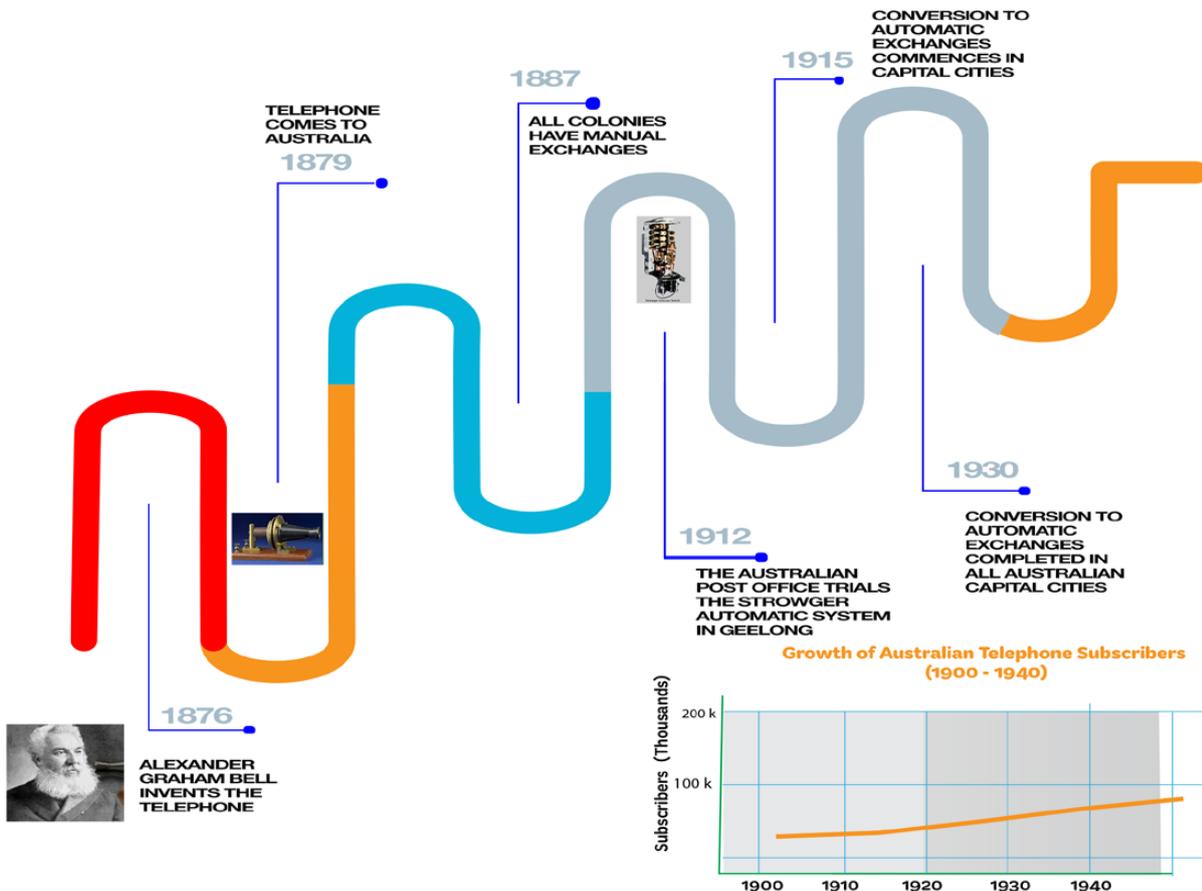
Plans were in place to convert the remainder, but the First World War prevented funding. In 1913, a switching and numbering plan was in place that had ten main exchanges using a five-digit number scheme. By 1920, the network had settled into a Strowger-based structure which stayed in place until 1938, albeit there was the gradual introduction of a six-digit number scheme.

Conversion to automatic exchanges came to other capital cities by 1930.

The maintenance and installation of the automatic telephone exchanges were carried out by staff, known at the time as telephone mechanics. Early automatic telephone exchanges had no electronic circuitry. Since the first vacuum tube, or valve, was only invented in 1904,

This where we leave the story for now. In the next issue, about our telephone exchange history will explain the post second world war changes . A time when the Australian Post Office got serious about investing to modernise the telephone network. The introduction of Crossbar, a totally new switch replacing the Step-By-Step; a technology that had been the backbone of the automatic telephone exchange for over fifty years.

AUSTRALIAN TELEPHONE NETWORK TIMELINE TO 1930

CONVERSION TO AUTOMATIC EXCHANGES COMMENCES IN CAPITAL CITIES

1887

ALL COLONIES HAVE MANUAL EXCHANGES

TELEPHONE COMES TO AUSTRALIA

1879

1915

1930

CONVERSION TO AUTOMATIC EXCHANGES COMPLETED IN ALL AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL CITIES

1912

THE AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE TRIALS THE STROWGER AUTOMATIC SYSTEM IN GEELONG

1876

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL INVENTS THE TELEPHONE

Growth of Australian Telephone Subscribers (1900 - 1940)

Subscribers (Thousands)

200 k

100 k

1900   1910   1920   1930   1940

Social Functions in 2026

MARCH 19 THUR

Lunch at the Bundeena

We start the year with our third visit to Bundeena, for lunch at the Bundeena Community & Social Club.

The day starts with a train journey to Cronulla, then a tranquil ferry trip across the water to Bundeena, where our day begins.

Before lunch, you can wander through the charming village streets, take the Bundeena Art Trail, or soak in the beachfront views.

For all the details, check out this issue of the newsletter. Don't miss—our first social function of 2026. Join us for lunch and connections with old and new friends.

APRIL 16 THUR

Tour of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM)

In April, we visit the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM) - the music school of the University of Sydney. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious music schools in Australia, founded in 1915 by Belgian conductor and violinist Henri Verbrugghen.

After our visit, we will have lunch at the Sydney City RSL. More details will be in our March 2026 newsletter.

MAY 21 THUR

Autumn Leaves Lunch at the Springwood Sports Club

With cooler weather on the way, it's a great time to come together for our traditional Autumn Leaves Lunch. We invite you to join us at the Springwood Sports Club for good food and friendly conversation with other members.

This lunch is a great chance for members from the Blue Mountains and western Sydney to meet up without a long trip. If you are coming from Sydney, it's easy to get to Springwood Station by taking a fast inter-urban train from Central or any stop along the way.

The Springwood Sports Club is only a ten-minute walk from the railway station.stroll from the Springwood Station.

JUNE 18 THUR

Tour of the University of Sydney Brain and Mind Centre

We are organising a tour of the University of Sydney Brain and Mind Centre (BMC), a premier research and treatment facility in Camperdown, NSW. The Brain and Mind Centre is a global leader in research and treatment. In particular, they focus on conditions that affect child development, youth mental health and brain ageing.

We have had representatives from the Sydney Brain and Mind Centre address our general meeting, where they primarily spoke about work on aging. Members found their talk informative. The aim of this visit is to learn more about the work. More details will be in the newsletter closer to ou visit.

JULY 17 THUR

Lunch at the Manly Club

The Manly Club is a relatively recent find for our Association. We found the Club an exceptional find - a short walk from the ferry terminal with a nearby gallery, which you can visit before lunch. The food and service were first-class. You can start the day with a ferry trip to Manly using your seniors' Opal Card..

AUGUST 20 THUR

Lunch at the Sydney Rowers Club

We are staying close to the water and taking advantage of Sydney's public water transport. August is the month for our much-anticipated early spring luncheon at the Sydney Rowers Club, which is always a favourite and draws an enthusiastic group of members.

Located in Abbotsford, the club is just a Rivercat ferry ride away from Circular Quay, with service running every 20 minutes. Once there, you will enjoy appetising dishes - especially the seafood - while you enjoy the waterfront views from the club's dining area.

Social Functions in 2026

SEPTEMBER 16 WED

Sydney Tramway Museum

In September, we are visiting the Sydney Tramway Museum, Australia's oldest and largest tramway museum, located opposite Loftus Railway Station.

The museum features a wide collection of local and international trams and operates 4 kilometres of track. It promises to be a memorable event.

OCTOBER 11-18 SUN

Gillgandra and beyond

Before you say Gillgandra, Whats out there!

Remember that President Lane is busy working on an itinerary and he seldom disappoints. You will be surprised at the sightseeing opportunities in the region.

Coming issues of the newsletter will reveal details- stay tuned.

NOVEMBER 19 THUR

Christmas Lunch

We are wrapping our 2026 social calendar in style with a festive Christmas Lunch at the Petersham RSL Club! Gather with fellow members for a delightful multi-course meal filled with holiday cheer and great company. To add a little extra sparkle, we will have exciting lucky door prizes up for grabs. Let us celebrate the Christmas season together!

RETIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Secretary Teasurer
46 Lyle Street,
Girraween NSW 2145

Committee/Executive Nomination Form 2026

NOTE TO CANDIDATES AND NOMINATORS – GENERAL INFORMATION

The Candidate and both Nominators must be members of the Association.

The Candidate must be nominated by two (2) members.

This is an election for all positions on the Management Committee.

A separate nomination form is required for candidates applying for multiple positions.

This completed form must be lodged with the nominated Returning Officer by 11:05AM on 26/02/2026

Nominators (Please Use Block Letters)

We, the undersigned members of the RTEA hereby nominate:

(Full Name of Candidate in Block Letters)

_____

For the office of (Circle one only): President, Vice President (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, Committee member

Full Name (Nominator)	Signature	Daytime Contact Number

Candidates Consent to Nomination

I, (Print your name as you wish it to appear on a ballot paper)

_____, Being a member of the RTEA, declare that I am eligible in accordance with the Association's Constitution to nominate for the position shown above. I am aware of the statutory responsibilities of a Director and do hereby consent to the nomination.

Signature _____   Date: _____

Residential Address: _____

Daytime Contact No: _____

Email address: _____

Office Use Only:

Received By – Name: _____ Signature _____ Date: _____