

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Jolimont and the TV Society

Jolimont, a tiny suburb of Melbourne, is unique in Australia. No more than a quarter mile from the south-east corner of the city, Jolimont comprises a rectangle of dwellings, only 290 by 200 yards overall and criss-crossed by five narrow lanes. Its boundaries are Jolimont Terrace, Jolimont Street, Jolimont Road and, on the north side, Wellington Parade South. One of its lanes is called Jolimont Lane. It is isolated by the huge expanse of Yarra Park on the east and south and by the railway yards on the west. To the north, a broad band of elm and pine trees separates Wellington Parade South from a sunken railway line and from the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens beyond. In other words, it is a small island in a sea of parkland and railway yards.

Its buildings are a motley collection. Many are two-storey dwellings erected in the Queen Victoria era, and near the centre of the block is the site of the original cottage of the first Governor of Victoria - Governor La Trobe - who was Superintendent of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales from 1839 to 1851 and then became Governor (when Victoria was legally separated from NSW in 1851) until he retired in 1854.

In 1951 the wooden cottage was still there, hidden behind the fringe of brick dwellings and hard against the

then active shoe factory of Bedggood. I understand that Bedggood had been permitted to build on the site on condition that they preserved the La Trobe Cottage. Subsequently, in 1963, the cottage was moved to the King's Domain park on the other side of the Yarra River, near the National Herbarium, where it is preserved by the National Trust as a tourist attraction.

Contour maps of the area show that there is a hillock with its crest at about the centre of nearby Clarendon Street, East Melbourne, on the east side of Fitzroy Gardens. The contours of the ground have long been concealed by buildings, but there is a gentle slope southwards down to the Yarra River, now broken by the railway yards - and Jolimont is midway down this slope. The popular story about the origin of its name is that when La Trobe first showed his French-speaking wife the site of their future home she exclaimed "Quel joli mont!" However, I understand the place was named after a wooded hill at Neuchatel in Switzerland, where La Trobe wooed his wife Sophie.

Also hidden within the surrounding dwellings at the western end of Jolimont in 1951 were the laboratories and film production activities of Herschell's Films Pty Ltd - who produced and processed a great deal of newsfilm for cinema.

The Radio Section of the PMG's Department occupied a massive grey two-storey mansion with a tower, at the north-east corner. Associated electronic laboratories were housed in a single storey outhouse and the 240ft steel mast which radiated experimental FM radio transmissions from 1946 to 1961 rose majestically at the rear.

Since 1928 the PMG's Department had owned and operated the higher power radio broadcasting stations in all States, known originally as "A" class stations. The programmes were first provided under contract by the Australian Broadcasting Company, but in 1932 the Australian Broadcasting Commission was formed and took over the programme responsibility while the PMG continued to provide all technical services and installed and operated all technical equipment for both studios and transmitters. This joint venture was formally known as the National Broadcasting Service, but the stations were always known to the public as ABC stations and have always been non-commercial. Close liaison was obviously necessary between the technical and programme organisations to ensure smooth operation of the Service. The lower-power commercial radio broadcasting stations, known originally as "B" class stations, have always been privately owned and operated, but they were placed under the general control of the Australian Broadcasting Control Board when that body was set up in 1949.

In each State Branch of the PMG's Department, the technical staff of the National Broadcasting Service studios and transmitters in that State were provided by the Transmission Section - which also installed any new equipment provided - but the overall planning and design of technical services was the responsibility of the Radio Section in Central Office, including the scheduling and purchase of new equipment.

Horrie Hyett was the Supervising Engineer in charge of the Section. Jim Wilkinson was responsible for the transmitter side of the business, and as Divisional Engineer, Studios, I was given the responsibility of planning and providing any new equipment for recording, monitoring and control operations in studios and outside broadcasts. The ABC head office was in Sydney, and liaison between that and the Radio Section at Jolimont was necessary.

My office was on the first floor, overlooking Wellington Parade South - a large room which I shared with my two subordinate engineers, Jack Tomlinson and Bob Slutzkin. Jack Tomlinson was one of the many English engineers who had been brought to Australia by the Department in 1949 to make good the post-war shortage of qualified men.

The highlights of my stay in the Radio Section were the emancipation of long playing gramophone records, the

holding of interstate engineering conferences and the Royal Visit of 1954.

Long playing or "microgroove" records had been available for some time. The 12" diameter LP record had very much finer grooves and ran at 33 and a third rpm as compared to its 78rpm predecessor of the same size, so that its playing time was about eight times longer. Their quality of sound reproduction was considerably better, with far less "surface noise", and their use required far less changing of records in a given length of programme.

However, the fine groove of the microgroove disc required a finer pick-up stylus and a much lower pressure, but this increased the liability of the pick-up to jump the groove and "back-track". The LP records were also more susceptible to damage by heat and the effect of dust on their surface. In order to minimise wear on the LP discs and on the stylus tip it was desirable to have a pick-up with a diamond stylus, accurately ground to the required profile. This made the pick-up heads more expensive and emphasised the need for careful handling.

Consequently the handling and playing of LP records had been regarded with a certain amount of trepidation and had been confined in the National Broadcasting Service to technical personnel in special dust-free rooms, as it was feared the discs and the pick-ups would

suffer undue damage in the hands of a non-technical personnel who did not appreciate the problem.

This restriction was irksome to the ABC, who wished to have LP records handled by their announcers, just as 78rpm records had been.

The problem then, in 1952, was to find a type of pick-up, free from back-track problems, sufficiently robust to be handled by non-technical personnel and desirably in the form of an arm with interchangeable heads so that it could be used for both LP and 78rpm recordings. It was necessary also to find a satisfactory type of turntable which would rotate at both 33 and a third and 78rpm as required for the two types of recordings and also at 45rpm to suit a smaller size microgroove type of record released by RCA in America.

It should be appreciated that although LP records had been available for some time in 1952, they were still in the minority and the ABC had vast libraries of 78rpm recordings which were used for the greater part of their recorded programmes.

Tenders were called for the supply of pick-ups and turntables and Frank Brownless, another of the English engineers recruited in 1949, had the job of carrying out tests on the performance of sample equipment in the Radio Section laboratories. These included life-tests in which

a record of the National Anthem was automatically replayed many hundreds of times with periodic examination of stylus wear.

It was also necessary to redesign announcers desks to accommodate the new equipment, and I visited Sydney to discuss designs with the two ABC personnel in their head office who were responsible for liaison with PMG engineers and architects - Stan Darling and his assistant Warwick Mehaffy. They asked for more turntables on announcers desks, to avoid the complication of changing speeds and pick-up heads during programme operations and to avoid delays in changing discs. They also desired some form of disc-spotting equipment for locating the commencement of a desired track on a record. The practice of placing a chalk mark on a 78rpm disc to indicate the desired spot was quite unacceptable with LP discs.

I considered that some of the requirements were getting out of hand, and facetiously suggested a logical development of the extended desk with the announcer chair on rails to facilitate rapid movement from one end of the long desk to the other - an appropriate steed for a "disc jockey".

Reg Boyle, an engineer from the NSW Branch of the Department, was appointed to a new position of Sectional Engineer, Service, in the Radio Section, in charge of two

of the Divisions - the Studios Division and the Broadcasting Stations Operations and Maintenance Division. However in October 1952 Horrie Hyett was sent overseas on departmental business for four months and then spent three months preparing a report on his visit, and during this period Reg Boyle acted as Supervising Engineer and I acted as Sectional Engineer in Reg Boyle's place.

In December 1952, with Reg Boyle's approval, I arranged a week's conference of Divisional Engineers (Broadcasting) from all States, to discuss studio equipment, installation, operation and maintenance. The States were represented by Jack Tuite (NSW), Jack O'Shannassy (Vic), Colin Elworthy (Qld), M.W. Higgins (SA), T.E. Dagnia (WA) and Gus Larsson (Tas), who was the Major in charge of searchlight operations at Darwin when I went there for SLC trials in 1945.

The Conference was held in the Jolimont offices, and Jack Tomlinson (who was acting in my appointed position of Division Engineer, Studios), also took part. Reg Boyle opened the conference, saying its basic purpose was to achieve a greater degree of standardization in studio equipment and methods and especially to ensure uniformity in negotiations between the ABC and the Department. He left me to chair the conference. The second day of the conference was opened by Ralph Page, Acting Engineer-in-

Chief, when three ABC representatives attended to discuss microgroove replay problems.

In the Commonwealth Gazette of July 1952 a position of Engineer (Television) in the ABCB was advertised as vacant. This was the first television engineering position created in the Commonwealth Public Service, and I lodged a formal application for it on 6th August. The salary range was only slightly above that of Divisional Engineer in the Department, with a maximum only 60 pounds per annum more than I was already receiving, but I felt this was an opportunity to place a foot on the first rung of the television ladder and to do the work that I had set my heart on for many years past.

My application was successful and my appointment to this position was Gazetted on October 16th. Some formal appeals were lodged against my appointment but I withstood these and my appointment was confirmed on the 30th December and Gazetted on January 15th, 1953.

However, Reg Boyle told me the Department would not release me to the ABCB before Horrie returned, because of the inconvenience which would be caused to the organisation by a further change in personnel - but when Horrie returned after writing his report, Reg went on leave and I continued to act as Sectional Engineer until he returned on May 13th, when I resumed work as Divisional Engineer.

On 16th January 1953 the Government decided to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the various aspects of the use of television and particularly the question of the number of stations, the localities, conditions and proper programmes. It decided also to introduce legislation to permit the licencing of commercial TV stations as well as National TV operation.

The third attempt to introduce television in Australia had begun!

The resounding success of commercial television in the USA - a television broadcasting licence had been called a "licence to print money" - and the potential competition from television news services, had created great interest among Australian newspaper proprietors. The prospect of commercial television licences in Australia became headline news, and the measures being taken by the Government received close attention from the press.

On February 11th, 1953, the six members of the Royal Commission on Television were appointed -

Professor G.W. Paton (Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University) as chairman
Mr R.G. Osborne (Chairman of the ABCB)
Mr C.B. Bednall (Managing Editor of the Courier Mail, Brisbane)
The Hon. R.C. Wilson (MLC, NSW and member of NSW Graziers Association Council)
Mr N.S. Young (Public Accountant, Adelaide)
Mrs Maude Foxton (State President of the Country Women's Association, WA)

The Commission had its headquarters in the Commonwealth Offices, Treasury Gardens, and began its inquiries in February. Evidence was supplied to it by officers of the ABCB, and Jack Donovan was made available to assist the Commission.

A bill to provide for a dual national and commercial TV system in Australia was introduced in the House of Representatives in Canberra on 18th February. The bill provided for the Minister "to direct a specially authorised authority OR the Australian Broadcasting Commission to provide the national television programmes". In other words, the Government had not then made up its mind regarding the organisation which would be responsible for operating a National Television Service. The bill made provision for the granting of commercial TV licences on the recommendation of the ABCB.

The Labor Party, then in Opposition, attempted to have consideration of this bill postponed until the report of the Royal Commission had been received. This move was defeated and the bill was passed on March 20th, becoming The Television Act, 1953.

At the end of March the Deputy Director-General informed me that the Department would be requesting the ABCB for approval to retain me in the Department for a further period, and that I would be employed by the Department on television work. This sounded promising.

Having been re-elected for a second term as General President of the POA at the end of 1951, I had to chair my second interstate conference of delegates from the State branches in April 1953. I retired from the position of General President at the end of the year and Len McLeod, Commonwealth Analyst in the Department of Trade and Customs, was elected in my place. I continued as a member of the Executive Council.

When I resumed my Divisional Engineer, Studios, job in May I considered that the Commonwealth Public Service should not be unprepared for the establishment of a National Television Service when Cabinet eventually decided to proceed. I felt that, although the date of such establishment was still indeterminate, the volume of preparation was so great that the commencement of the bulk of this work was already long overdue. There was much that could be done which would be of value, regardless of the ultimate form of the National Television Service and the ultimate allocation of responsibility.

I therefore prepared "A suggested plan for co-ordinated preparations within the Commonwealth Public Service", on 2nd July 1953. This plan envisaged the formation of a nucleus of operating personnel by the PMG, the ABC and the ABCB in conjunction - the only bodies in the Commonwealth Service with a potential involvement in television operations - the acquisition of a limited

amount of studio equipment, such as a single camera chain and associated facilities, and the introduction of training courses with this equipment. The plan proposed that the trained personnel of such a nucleus should be handed over to whatever authority was eventually given the responsibility of operating a National Television Service. A nucleus of initially thirteen was suggested, with provision to increase this to 25 with some increase in equipment to form an effective training unit at a later stage.

This proposal produced no visible reaction.

During August and September I was directed to attend a series of seven discussion sessions, entitled "Supervisor Development Programme - Human Relations". These were held at 4pm on Mondays in the Central Office Theatrette in Treasury Gardens. A small group of other departmental officers, unknown to me, attended and the discussions at different sessions were led by four other people, also unknown to me. I was given no reason for my inclusion in these discussions and as far as I can recall I was the only engineer in the group. I assumed the sessions were intended to prepare selected personnel for possible future positions of increased responsibility, and I thought that my position as General President of the Professional Officers Association, may have been a reason for my inclusion.

In August, Mr Engeman (then acting temporarily as Engineer-in-Chief) informed me that the Public Service Board had approved the temporary establishment of a position of Sectional Engineer, Television, which the Department wished me to fill. In December, Horrie Hyett informed me that negotiations were proceeding between the Department and the ABCB to set up a joint team to work on television, and that I would probably be required to work as Sectional Engineer, Television, in the Department. This would have meant a higher classification than my appointed position in the ABCB. I would have been happy to work in either job.

However, in the meantime I had become heavily involved in radio preparations for the Royal Visit and the equipment required for it. This pushed future television work into the background.

King George VI, who had been suffering ill health, died on February 6th 1952 - when his daughter and heir to the throne, Princess Elizabeth, was in Kenya on a tour which was to have included Australia and New Zealand. Princess Elizabeth returned home immediately, but arrangements were made for her to visit Australia shortly after her coronation of June 2nd, 1953. The BBC monochrome television coverage of the coronation involved five mobile control rooms and 21 Image Orthicon cameras, of which five were located in Westminster Abbey itself. The five mobile control rooms fed their picture signals

to a London central control room in Broadcasting House via a total of 29 miles of telephone cable, appropriately equalized for the three Mc/s vision signals. From there the programme was distributed to Alexandra Palace, to the existing transmitters at Sutton Coldfield, Holme Moss, Kirk O'Shotts and Wenvoe and also to three temporary low power transmitters. The broadcast was relayed by chains of microwave links to Paris, Breda in Holland and Wuppertal in West Germany. Special standards converters converted the 405 line BBC signal to the 819 line French standard and the new 625 line standard in Holland and West Germany.

This was a stupendous undertaking for television in 1953. It gave an enormous boost to the sale of TV receivers in Britain, and its success gave impetus to the drive for the introduction of commercial television there.

The new Queen, Elizabeth II, was due to visit Australia with her consort Prince Phillip from February 3rd to April 1st, 1954 - the first visit to Australia by a reigning British Monarch.

I organised an interstate conference of Divisional Engineers (Broadcasting) in December 1953 to plan the very considerable operations involved in meeting the associated demands for radio broadcasts.

There were very strict directives issued regarding the use of microphones. Two always, and only two, were to be provided and they were to be as inconspicuous as possible. A special mounting had been designed for the twin microphones. The number of venues from which broadcasts had to be made was so great - and the time interval between broadcasts in many cases so small - that most State Transmission Sections did not have a sufficient quantity of microphone stands, OB control units, splitting amplifiers, radio link systems and public address equipment to cover their requirements. Arrangements had to be made for equipment to be leap-frogged from State to State ahead of the Royal movements. The ABC and Commercial Stations combined their resources to provide a joint coverage at the 60 odd cities and towns visited.

One factor that particularly affected the work of my division was a requirement for about 27 portable audio tape recorders. A very detailed specification for these had been prepared. In addition to a tight requirement for frequency response, signal-to-noise ratio, distortion, and wow and flutter, the equipment had to be easily carried by one man - capable of being rack-mounted when required - and had to employ 7" reels of 0.25" wide magnetic tape operating at 7.5" per second with provision for rapid start, stop and rewind. Tenders were invited by Schedule but no recorder currently in production was found to meet the required specification. Byer

Industries Ltd, of 8 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne - who had previously supplied satisfactory audio equipment to the Department - submitted a tender at an acceptable price for a recorder which they said was already under development and which could be produced in the required numbers to the specification by the date required, which was in December 1953. Byer was given the contract on condition that a prototype be submitted in advance for approval.

I spent many hours in discussion with Max Byer, both at Jolimont and his Dorcas Street factory. He was a very clever and resourceful engineer, but meeting our specification gave him many headaches and he encountered many unforeseen problems. I remember one very mysterious fault in his prototype. After running for a while, the tape would gradually slow down and stop. If the start button was pressed after a minute or two, it would start again quite readily. The explanation lay in a brake shoe, lined with a strip of neoprene which had a small clearance around the associated brake drum. When the neoprene was being cemented to the brake shoe, a small bubble of air had evidently been imprisoned. On releasing the brake to start the machine, this bubble of air began to expand and lift part of the neoprene lining in the form of a blister - until this fouled the brake drum and stopped the machine. Operation of the stop button allowed the brake shoe to close on the drum and flatten the blister, so that when the start button was

pressed again it lifted clear and allowed the machine to start. The fouling process then slowly came into operation again.

This fault gave Max many hours of worry before he found the cause. Byer eventually produced his recorders to meet all specifications. He was late with his deliveries and his development costs proved to be far higher than he had estimated, so that he lost money on the contract and almost went bankrupt as well as being very nearly reduced to a nervous wreck. However the recorder, known as the Byer 77, was adopted by radio stations throughout Australia and was a resounding success - a tribute to the ability and dogged persistence of Max Byer. It was still in production and highly regarded when television began in 1956. Eventually its manufacture was taken over by the Rola Corporation in Richmond.

The Royal Visit itself gave us many exciting moments. The Melbourne Cricket Ground is located in Yarra Park quite close to the south east corner of Jolimont, and this was the venue for several events during the visit, including a mass demonstration by school children. I remember practically the whole of the Radio Section staff rushing down Jolimont Terrace to that corner, to catch a glimpse of the Queen as she drove past to the MCG entrance in her open car. She was very young

and very lovely and in those days the ties between Australia and the Mother land were very strong.

The weeks of the Royal Visit at the beginning of 1954 were very hectic. In addition to the radio coverage by ABC and commercial stations, AWA (who had imported a Marconi television camera chain and a microwave relay link equipment) carried out demonstration television coverage of several events, on "closed circuit". They transmitted pictures of the landing of the Queen - from the Royal Yacht at Farm Cove in Sydney - to the spastic centre at Mosman on February 3rd, pictures of the Royal Ball at Sydney Town Hall on February 5th to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. On February 15th the opening of the Commonwealth Parliament by the Queen in Canberra was transmitted to the Canberra Community Hospital and on March 9th and 10th pictures of the Queen at Parliament House Brisbane were transmitted to the Greenslopes Military Hospital.

These demonstrations received very little publicity in other States of the Commonwealth.

Melbourne was beginning to prepare for the 1956 Olympic Games, for which the MCG was to be the main stadium. One day in the autumn of 1954 I looked out of my office window and saw a runner pounding down the side of Wellington Parade South with a flaming torch upheld in his right hand. "Ah," I thought, "The Games are getting

closer!" But he was a Council employee, running from pile to pile of swept-up autumn leaves - to ignite them and send the curls of grey smoke up through the branches of the leafless elms.

When the Royal Visit concluded at the end of March, Horrie Hyett informed me that I should take up duty in my position in the ABCB and that Vern (V.F.) Kenna, a PMG engineer from Brisbane, would be coming to Melbourne to act as Sectional Engineer, Television, early in May. He also said that my release to the ABCB would not be practicable until Doug (D.A.) Brooke (then on loan to the Research Laboratories) was available to take up duty as Divisional Engineer, Studios, in the position I was still occupying. This was a shock. The news was completely at variance with what I had been given to expect by the acting Engineer-in-Chief in the previous August and by Horrie himself in December.

It seemed that my preoccupation with the Royal Visit arrangements had put me out of the running for television work in the Department. Vern Kenna I knew well, and respected - having known him during my early years at the Research Labs, before he moved to Brisbane. But Vern lacked television experience.

Doug Brooke had been appointed (on paper) to the Divisional Engineer, Studios, job when it became vacant as a result of my appointment (on paper) to the ABCB job.

But the delay in my release to the ABCB was unreasonable. Jack Tomlinson was quite capable of acting in my place at Jolimont. He had done so for several months in 1952/53. I made enquiries and learned that the work being done by Doug Brooke at Research might last until 1955.

I had had enough of this indecision. I was sick of being used as a pawn in the game of chess that the powers that be seemed to be playing. Sixty five weeks after my confirmation in the ABCB job I was no nearer working on TV!! I wanted to be where the real action was.

So on April 21st I wrote a comprehensive memorandum to the Engineer-in-Chief (through the Supervising Engineer, Radio) requesting my release to the ABCB without further delay. There was no reply. I wrote another memorandum on May 12th, and as no action had been taken by May 24th I wrote a further memorandum requesting that the matter be referred to the Director General for his determination under Regulation 33. This last memorandum was returned to me by Horrie Hyett on the following day - with the suggestion that I withdraw it if my release was arranged forthwith.

This was the third time I had found it necessary to invoke the relevant Regulations of the Public Service Act to protect my interests in the Department - and the second time that senior officers concerned had asked me

to withdraw my written submissions in return for remedial action after a protracted delay.

Arrangements were made for Doug Brooke to take up duty as Divisional Engineer, Studios, on June 2nd, and for me to hand over to him. I was advised by minute from the acting Engineer-in-Chief on May 31st that I would cease duty with the Department on June 4th and take up duty with the ABCB on June 7th. My struggle was ended. At last I had a television job!

There was a certain sadness about leaving the PMG's Department after more than 24 years of service. It had given me a wonderful training in engineering work and excellent experience in planning, design, drafting, staff control, collaboration and liaison work - with a fair share of trial and error and lessons learnt from success and failure. I had made many friends, some of whom I would retain contact with as an engineer in the ABCB. I had no regrets about leaving the Radio Section. My experience there had been useful, but Horrie and I did not get on well together. There was always an atmosphere of armed neutrality between us. Maybe he resented my earlier criticism of the technical report on television tenders for Schedule C.6423.

Of 18 years in Central Office, over 11 years had been spent in positions to which I was not officially appointed. Doubtless the powers that be had good reasons

for this, but it had given me a feeling of insecurity with regard to my future.

At a short farewell ceremony at Jolimont on Friday June 4th, 1954, Horrie Hyett presented me with a fountain pen. As I was about to cut the painter, he probably thought the pen was mightier than the sword!

The Royal Commission on Television presented their Report to the Governor General on May 5th, 1954, but it was not considered by Cabinet until the following September.

At Jolimont we had frequent visits from representatives of radio equipment manufacturers. One was Mr Les (C.L.) Faudell, of Pye Electronic Pty Ltd, who came to Australia in 1951 with 30 years of experience in experimental and production television engineering with EMI and Pye. He had been associated with the first BBC equipment and had worked as a consultant in Canada. He hoped to promote Pye television interests in Australia. When I returned from my 1951 overseas trip I joined the Television Society in London, and Les was also a member. He discussed with me the possibility of forming a Television Society in Australia, with the object of stimulating public interest in television and bringing together people potentially involved in the future medium.

We discussed the idea with others and arranged a "Convenors Meeting" in the library of Kelvin Hall, Collins Place, Melbourne on Thursday June 3rd, 1954 - the day before I left the Radio Section.

Twenty eight people attended this meeting. Les Faudell took the chair. The meeting agreed that a Society should be formed with the objects of study and discussion of all aspects of television, and that it should serve the interests of both programme production and technical personnel - promoting cooperation and understanding between such categories in relation to future television services.

A steering committee of eight was appointed to recommend aims and objectives and to draft a constitution. The steering committee had a wide representation and comprised.

C.L. Faudell, Pye Electronic Pty Ltd	} Equipment manufacturers
A.H. Garraway, Radio Corporation P/L	
H.W. Hyett, PMG's Department	
J.H.T. Fisher, ABCB	
E.M. Hooper, Radio 3DB Chief Engineer	
N. Spencer, Radio 3DB Programme Service	
P. Britnell, Haigh-Muir Pty Ltd, Film Producers	
F.A. Kempson, Radio School, Melbourne Technical College	

Max Hooper and I drafted a constitution, which was discussed and adopted with some modifications at a meeting of 24 people on July 8th, 1954. A declaration covering the formation of the Society was signed by all those present and a council of management was elected -

President: C.L. Faudell Councillors: P. Britnell
 Vice-President: F.A. Kempson E.M. Hooper
 Secretary: J.H.T. Fisher H.W. Hyett
 Treasurer: R.R. Jury N. Spencer

It was agreed to hold monthly meetings and an interim subscription of 10/- was paid by all present. A list of 43 foundation members was tabled at the first ordinary meeting in August, at which an address was given by Professor G.S. Browne of Melbourne University, entitled - "Television - Friend or Foe?"

The name of the Society was registered as "Television Society of Australia", and committees were appointed to draft By-laws and prepare a programme of meetings. The Society was formally incorporated in Victoria under the Companies Act, 1938, as a company limited by guarantee, in 1956.

It is interesting to note that of the 43 foundation members, half were destined to become actively involved in the establishment and operation of Australian television services. In addition to the Council of Management, those included -

D. McDonald	} ABCB	L. Mauger	} Radio 3AW
A.J. McKenzie	}	N. Serpell	}
V.F. Kenna	}	E.L. Lloyd	}
A.J. Seyler	} PMG	A.E. Spargo	} Radio 3DB
C.R. Wilhelm	} Dept	R.S. Clarkson	}
J.D. Campbell	}	I.G. McInnes	} Radio Corp-
R.J. Biddle Melb. Tech Coll.	}	A.H. Garraway	} ation Ltd.

The meetings in 1954 were all held in Kelvin Hall, with lectures given by Les Faudell, C.O. Stanley (member of the TV Advisory Council of Great Britain and Chairman

of Pye Ltd, England) who was visiting Australia on business, and myself.

In 1955 the venue was changed to the theatrette of the Radio School, Melbourne Technical College, which provided more accommodation and excellent facilities for slide and film projection.

The Television Society of Australia was well and truly established, and was to exercise a significant influence on the future development of Australian television.