

The History of the WIA Journal

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(PART ONE)

MOST WIA MEMBERS would know that *Amateur Radio* magazine was first published in 1933, but how many know that this year, 1991, is actually the 72nd anniversary of the Official Journal of the Wireless Institute of Australia? Yes, our official publication has been around a long time. It has undergone several name changes and had some ups and downs in that long period, whilst all the time attempting to chronicle the rapid development of our hobby. This article traces the background behind the various publications that preceded *Amateur Radio* magazine as our official publication; with a little WIA history thrown in.

The Early Years

Wireless experimenters were active in Australia from the late 1890s, but because they were few and far between, they tended to work in isolation or in very small groups. Even at the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, there were only about 400 licensed experimenters (plus 200 illegal operators) throughout Australia, and it appears that no-one considered it practical to publish a newsletter for the benefit of these wireless experimenters.

The war caused a significant change in wireless technology and created a large number of interested ex-service personnel who had served in the Signals musterings. They saw a need to band together and to have a means of communicating through the written word.

On 7 January 1919, the Wireless Institute of NSW met for the first time since World War I. Mr Malcolm Perry, who had been the secretary since 1911, convened the meeting in the classrooms of the Marconi School of Wireless and read the minutes of the previous meeting which had been held on 7 August 1914, just before the outbreak of war. Mr Ernest Fisk ZEF, the managing director of AWA, chaired the meeting and spoke of the dramatic advances in wireless techniques during the war, the part that experimenters could play in expanding knowledge of wireless and the difficulty they now faced to retrieve their confiscated equipment and pre-war licences. Fisk proposed "the amalgamation of every amateur wireless institute in the Commonwealth, to form one united and powerful body to demand from the authorities every consideration to which the importance of their work entitles them." What significant words these are. A committee was established to attempt to get the wireless equipment back, and copies of Fisk's speech were sent to wireless groups in all other states. At the first post-war general meeting of the Wireless Institute of NSW on 14 March, Fisk was elected President of the Wireless Institute of NSW.

AWA had its own publishing company, the Wireless Press, which printed a monthly magazine called *Sea, Land and Air*. It was first published on 15 March 1918 and was one of the earliest Australian publications devoted to wireless. It presented news of wireless developments in Australia and overseas, with a bias towards Marconi and AWE products. One of the early editors was S Tatham 2ST. Given the dominant influence of Fisk and AWA, it is not surprising therefore that in March 1919 *Sea, Land and Air* became the "Official Journal of the Wireless Institute of NSW" and printed news of WI of NSW meetings.

The first post-war meeting of amateurs in Queensland was on 19 March 1919. Following the lead set by NSW, they formed the Queensland Wireless Institute, affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia. Some time later in 1919 they adopted *Sea, Land and Air* as their magazine, too.

Fisk and Perry travelled to Melbourne and read extracts from the resolutions of the initial NSW meeting to a gathering from there on 1 April 1919, at which time a committee was elected to form the Wireless Institute of Victoria. They adopted the constitution and rules of the WI of NSW and, naturally, *Sea, Land and Air* became the official journal of the Victorian Wireless Institute from the issue of June 1919.

On 11 September 1919 the first general meeting of the Wireless Institute of South Australia was held and, like Victoria, it adopted the rules of the WI of NSW, including *Sea, Land and Air* magazine as its journal.

Sea, Land and Air spread its influence further by becoming the official organ of the Wireless Institute of New Zealand with the December 1919 issue. The NZ Society held its first general meeting on

28 October 1919. On 3 November 1919, a meeting chaired by Professor Ross at the Perth University noted that "the club" had been inactive since 1916, but now the Wireless Institute of NSW proposed an affiliation. There had been a pre-war Radio Club of Perth, based at the university, to which Professor Ross was referring. The meeting adopted the name The Wireless Institute of Australia, WA Section. (However, a council meeting of the WI of NSW on 23 January 1920 decided that the name should be "Division", not "Section" and urged the other states to adopt the change. That meant they were each to become the Wireless Institute of Australia (state) Division).

Therefore, by the end of 1919, *Sea, Land and Air* covered amateur events in all mainland states and New Zealand and had become the "Official Journal of the Wireless Institute of Australia" and this was proudly noted on its editorial page. In the following years the magazine presented news and technical articles of interest to amateurs and served as a focal point for amateur contact.

Sea, Land and Air ceased by that name after the March 1923 issue, but a new magazine, *Radio in Australia and New Zealand*, took its place. *Radio in Australia and New Zealand* continued as the official journal till October 1923 but then parted company with the WIA. The Magazine prospered for a number of years and was usually referred to as simply *Radio*. It did feature amateur news, but no longer had "official" status.

In the September 1923 issue of *Australasian Electrical Times* it was reported that "The Victorian Division of the WIA has decided to publish a quarterly report of proceedings." However, this did not eventuate and, instead, a deal was made with Magazines Ltd, a subsidiary of The Standard Publishing Co, to produce a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of Australian experimenters. This was *The Radio Experimenter*, costing 1/3d for about 32 pages and first published in December 1923. It was sub-titled the Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia, but it appears to have been premature in claiming that title for reasons set out below. The magazine's editor was Howard Kingsley Love 3UM, who was the president of the Victorian divi-

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sion at the time, whilst Ross A Hull 3JU, a councillor of the Victorian Division, was the technical editor.

In May 1924, Victoria hosted the first Australian Wireless Convention at the Melbourne Town Hall. The delegates, representing the WIA in all states, initially voted for *Radio Experimenter* to be temporarily (sic) declared the official organ of the Wireless Institute, leaving the decision open for alteration at a later date. It appears then that any previous claim to official status by the magazine was presumptuous. It was pointed out at the convention that state divisions should not be forced to accept this magazine as it might not be able to cover matters as fully as local bulletins, so the motion was altered to provide that *Radio Experimenter* would be the official organ of the Federal Council of the Institute.

In June 1924, the name of the magazine was changed to *The Radio Experimenter and Broadcaster* and from then on it incorporated details and photos of wireless retailers and their showrooms. Coverage of WIA events was patchy, probably reflecting the difficulty in obtaining regular contributions. In July '24, the magazine was taken over by the publishers, The Standard Publishing Co; a new editor was appointed and it ceased to be the WIA journal. The magazine then changed its sub-title to "The Oldest Established and Leading Wireless Publication in Victoria". It continued under this title till June 1925.

Following the break with that publication, the WIA Victorian Division decided to produce a new journal and so, in August 1924, the magazine *Experimental Radio Broadcast News* appeared carrying the sub-title: "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia". It sold for 1/- and contained 50 pages of amateur and listeners news and technical wireless articles. The editor was again H K Love, still president of the WIA Victorian Division, with Ross Hull as the Assistant Editor. It was published by Wireless Publishers of Australia, at the same address as the WIA Victorian Division. Wireless Publishers was a private company controlled by 37 shareholders, mostly committee members of the Victorian WIA, which also held shares in trust.

Obviously someone pointed out that the magazine was still not entitled to claim to represent the WIA as a whole, because the second issue of the magazine was sub-titled "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute (Federal Convention) of Australia (Victorian Division)". That must have seemed a mouthful, because the phrasing was tidied up from issue No 9 with a new sub-title of: "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia

(Federal Convention Victorian Division)". The January '25 editorial page revealed that Love had become the managing director, whilst Hull was now the managing editor, with a Miss DM Mycroft as the secretary. The March '25 issue featured a new cover design and the name became simply *Radio Broadcast*, "Australia's foremost radio journal".

Later, from the August '25 issue, the editorial page added "with which is incorporated the *Radio Experimenter and Broadcaster*", the magazine that was detailed in previous paragraphs.

The Second Federal Convention of the WIA was held in Perth during August 1925, and B Jermyn Masters 3LM, representing Victoria, moved that *Radio Broadcast* become the official organ of the WIA. The controlling company offered to sell 4000 shares to the divisions so that they could share in the profits of the journal and to sell the magazine to members at 3/6 per year, post free. The Convention accepted the proposal (although there is no confirmation that any divisions took up shares) and the magazine, from the October issue, could now fairly claim to be the "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia". The editorial offices moved to Sydney to reflect the fact that the newly elected and first-ever Federal Council of the WIA was resident in NSW and the magazine was also printed in Sydney, although strangely it was now published on the seventh of the month, instead of the first. Ross Hull, in Melbourne, remained as the managing editor until he relinquished that position when he moved to Sydney around October '25.

Jermyn Masters in Melbourne then became editor and secretary and, with the February '26 issue, printing reverted to Melbourne. However, there appeared to be a problem as the magazine slowly went downhill. The cartridge paper cover was changed to a cheaper grade and the number of pages dropped to 34.

The magazine struggled on for another year, but the last issue in this format was Vol 3 No 5 of January 1927. An eight-page weekly pamphlet of the same name, costing 1d, but totally unconnected with the WIA and containing commercial radio programs, was issued as a new series with Vol 1 No 1 of 3 June 1927, but it lasted only four weeks.

The Turbulent Years

It is apparent that the WIA publishing effort faded out in early 1927 and individual states printed their own newsletters in the period from mid-1927 to 1929. It was during this period that dissatisfaction with the WIA led to the formation of the Amateur Radio Transmitters League

and publication of local magazines called *CQ* in NSW and *QTC* in Queensland. The journal of the WIA NSW Division during this period of unrest was *Radio Journal of Australia* from November '27 to March '28. These three publications are detailed below. A further publication was the *WIA Bulletin* from Western Australia, which ran from around 1929 through to 1932, but I have not been able to trace its history.

Disenchantment with the WIA organisation in Queensland led a group of active transmitters to meet in April 1927 to form the Queensland Radio Transmitters League. The secretary was Major Leo Feenaghty 4LJ, who became editor of the group's newsletter, *QTC*. The first issue of *QTC* was July 1927 and it was issued monthly to the QRTL members. It was hand-typed by Leo and roneoed, stapled and distributed by a small band of volunteers each month. The cost of the newsletter was paid from members' subscriptions.

Radio Transmitters Leagues were promoted in the other states and, in August 1928, they amalgamated to create the Australian Radio Transmitters League (or ARTL) with headquarters in Queensland. *QTC* became the official journal for the ARTL. This ARTL was a strong group of transmitters, but the WIA was still dominant in some states and the radio authorities were reluctant to deal with more than one body representing amateurs. It made sense to reunite all amateurs under terms satisfactory to the interests of each, and discussions between the ARTL and WIA state divisions led to some degree of re-unification. For example, the Queensland Division of the ARTL was recognised as the local WIA Division, and so *QTC* was able to proclaim itself as the "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia (Queensland Division)" from the issue of May '29.

After much negotiation, the ARTL and WIA buried the hatchet and by July '29 the ARTL had merged with the WIA. Whilst I have not found evidence of official approval, the issue of *QTC* for July 1929 states that it is the "official organ of The Wireless Institute of Australia".

At the September '29 Federal Convention (No 6) of the revitalised WIA, held in Brisbane, it was suggested that *CQ* (the NSWRTL journal) should become the official organ of the WIA, with Leo Feenaghty being offered the job of editor. For reasons detailed below this did not come about and *QTC* continued as the official organ of the WIA.

(To be continued...)

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From the issue of December 1930, *QTC* was sub-titled "The Proceedings of the Wireless Institute of Australia", a move to upgrade it into the realm of professional bodies such as the English and US Institution of Radio Engineers, which both published "proceedings". *QTC* continued till November 1931, when Leo closed it down, following the decision of the Eighth Federal Convention to make another magazine the official WIA publication, a matter that is discussed later. *QTC* was resurrected some time later as the newsletter of the WIA, Queensland Division and continues to this day.

We now have to backtrack a little to October 1927 when, following problems within the WIA in NSW, amateur radio operators took the lead set by Queensland and formed the New South Wales Radio Transmitters League. The NSWRTL published its own monthly magazine, called *CQ*, from December 1927. It was free to members and edited by J M Bristow 2ZX. The secretary was J Young 2FY, and publicity officer was Don Knock 2NO. Don was also involved in a number of other early wireless publications. *CQ* started with 12 pages containing technical and gossip items and grew to 16 pages. It was small, about 20cm x 13.5cm, and professionally printed with a two-colour cover. The magazine was subsidised by Philips Lamps (A'sia) Ltd, and each issue included information on Philips products.

By August '28 *CQ* was sub-titled "The Official Journal of the Australian Radio Transmitters League", because of support from the other states. But, also in August, the Australian Radio Transmitters League was officially formed with Queensland as its headquarters, so, instead the Queensland magazine *QTC* became the official journal.

When the ARTL and the WIA eventually negotiated a merger, the NSWRTL was recognised as the WIA NSW Division, so the September '29 issue of *CQ* was able to proclaim that it was now "A Magazine issued by the NSW Division of the Wireless Institute of Australia".

Reverting to the Sixth Federal Convention of the WIA in Brisbane during September 1929, NSW proposed that *CQ* be adopted as the official organ for the WIA and Philips agreed to publish the magazine for a period of at least 12 months and would issue up to 15000 free copies of *CQ* each month to all Institute members and nominees. The Institute was to provide a capable editor and all subject matter, but Philips wanted to publish at least one article in each issue describing Philips products.

At this presentation a "donation" worth at least 500 pounds per annum, the offer was accepted. Mr Leo Feenaghty, who was the editor of *QTC*, agreed to relinquish publication. It was proposed that the official magazine be renamed *QTC* and that Leo should continue as editor of the magazine, with Phil Renshaw 2DE, the Secretary of the WIA NSW Division, as the assistant editor.

Philips was opposed to changing the name, and discussions with the WIA Federal Executive in Melbourne broke down, causing Philips to retract its offer completely and withdraw funding from *CQ*. Without financial support *CQ* could not continue, and ceased in early 1930, after three years of publication.

The paragraph heading describes these as turbulent years, and now we come to yet another publication which had some claim to official WIA status.

G A Taylor, who was a leader in early wireless organisations, was the editor of the *Radio Journal of Australia*, a short-lived weekly magazine which commenced in late November 1927. It had the imposing sub-title of "Official Journal of the Association for Developing Wireless in Australia, Wireless Institute of Australia NSW Division, Listeners' League (NSW) and Others". With the loss of *Radio Broadcast* as the official WIA magazine, the WIA NSW Division had appointed the *Radio Journal* as its official journal in early November '27, prior to the first issue.

As mentioned, Taylor was very active in wireless matters and was the president of the Association for Developing Wireless in Australia. This organisation was a lobby group to promote commercial

wireless for listeners and to give support to manufacturers, and the journal was the magazine of the association. It contained weekly radio programs and news from listeners and amateur clubs, as well as news of the WIA NSW Division. The secretary was Norman B Rydge of later publishing fame.

The magazine's first issue was in November 1927 and it ceased publication a few months later with the March 1928 issue. By that time the WIA in NSW was virtually defunct anyway.

The next magazine to feature in WIA history was *The Radio Review of Australia*, published by Oswald F Mingay. Mingay was an early amateur (callsign 2XX) and one of the pioneers in radio development in Australia through to WWII. Depending on one's outlook he was a benefactor to the amateur movement or an opportunist who sold out the WIA!

This particular magazine was his first of many ventures in publishing, and had "the aim of presenting a record of radio engineering in Australia". The first issue was in April 1931, with 50 small pages for 1/- and was published by Mingay on behalf of Australian Radio Publications in Sydney. At the time Mingay was secretary of the NSW WIA and, whilst supporting the WIA, the magazine was privately owned by Mingay.

It listed as part of its contents "Proceedings of the Wireless Institute of Australia". Perhaps someone objected to the scope of that claim to represent the WIA Australia wide, because the July '31 issue only asserted to present the "Proceedings of the WIA (NSW Division)". The magazine contained highly technical detail of commercial wireless equipment and installations, very similar to the format of the later proceedings of the IRE. With the October '31 issue the name was changed to *Television and Radio Review* and the price reduced to 9d, although the number of pages dropped to 34, with eight pages devoted to the amateurs.

At the Eighth Federal Convention of the WIA, held in Sydney during October 1931, it was finally agreed that this magazine, *Television and Radio Review*,

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would be the official organ of the Wireless Institute throughout Australia.

Remember that in the period from July 1927 to June 1929, the typed and roneoed 12-page leaflet *QTC* had been the Queensland amateur journal and then from July 1929 it became the Official Organ of the WIA. The Eighth Federal Convention considered that the appearance and scope of the Institute's journal should be improved and Mingay offered to include *QTC* as a supplement in his magazine and to change the name to *Television and Radio Review* and *QTC*, with the hope that Leo Feenaghty would continue to edit the *QTC* portion. Feenaghty declined and suggested that from December 1931 *QTC* would cease and all subscriptions would be transferred to the *Television and Radio Review*. Whilst not wishing to work for another editor, Feenaghty did in fact contribute an article to this new WIA magazine.

Television and Radio Review of Australia (note another name change) of December '31 now proclaimed that it was the "Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia", with Mingay as managing editor and R Chilton VK2RC as his assistant editor. Each issue contained about one page of WIA news from the other states.

Two worrying events for amateur transmitters occurred around this time. Firstly it was ruled that the Electrical Contractors and Electricians Licensing Act, 1924-28, prohibited anyone working on electrical apparatus unless they had a licence. To obtain a licence one had to have served an apprenticeship and be currently working in an approved firm in the electrical industry. This meant that radio traders, technicians and servicemen who were self-taught and/or worked for non-approved firms could not install wireless sets etc, and amateur experimenters were to be prevented from modifying or working on their own apparatus. Secondly, the committee of the WIA NSW Division started moves to make the WIA a professionals-only organisation. An editorial in the January '32 issue of the WIA magazine sums up the tone of the WIA committee:

"At the moment, the majority of the members throughout Australia are experimenters and amateur transmitters. In fact, the latter are possibly the greater in number... it may be claimed that they indulge generally in transmitting activities and do very little in scientific development of the art or carry out organised work in accordance with the conditions of their licence... Therefore, why should the Institute be in the main a transmitters' body instead of an Institute including all those men profession-

ally and otherwise interested in the technical progress of wireless."

The crunch for amateurs came in February 1932 when the WIA NSW Division was officially renamed the Institute of Radio Engineers and, despite being in the majority, the amateur transmitters of NSW were disenfranchised, their assets taken away and they were offered only a meeting place for "listening to interesting lectures". There were the words of Mr E T Fisk, elected first president of the Institute of Radio Engineers for 1932:

"The leaders of the Wireless Institute were interested in the encouraging of a consideration of the wider scope of wireless activities. As a result, the IRE absorbed the Wireless Institute in New South Wales and the first meeting of the combined council was held on 4 May 1932, when it was decided to finalise the transfers of all the applicant members of the Wireless Institute... In order to provide a meeting place and to encourage the attendance of people who were not essentially technical trained engineers, but still interested in the technical application of wireless, the council decided to form the Radio Society of Australia, and this will be developed to a greater extent in the early future."

Wow! Little wonder that all those non-professionals who enjoyed amateur radio as a hobby felt they had been sold down the river and treated in a condescending manner. It must be said that a vote of NSW members had been taken in February '32 which was 79 to six in favour of the council recommendations, but subsequent events showed that the amateurs had been apathetic, didn't bother to vote and hadn't understood the implications of the vote anyway. The other states had been expected to part of the change but decided not to participate. (That was probably very wise!)

The aggrieved amateurs who were no longer accepted to the "professional" IRE, following its absorption of the WIA, quickly formed the Association of Radio Amateurs (NSW), which established close links with the surviving WIA Divisions in other states and eventually, in 1937, it was able to retrieve the registered name of WIA, NSW Division. Further information of these events from a different viewpoint is presented in *Amateur Radio* January '85, pp 6-9. F Goyen VK2UX became the first president of the ARA, in 1932, with Ray Carter VK2HC and C Bins VK2BJ as vice-presidents. Incidentally, the prohibition of amateur construction did not eventuate despite heavy lobbying by commercial and professional vested interests.

Relations between the WIA in other

states and Mingay were distinctly cool (to put it mildly) and there was a problem with his continued publication of the official organ of the WIA. That was neatly solved by Mingay ceasing publication of *Television and Radio Review* with the January '32 issue, Vol 1 No 9. It had been the official WIA journal for only two issues!

In February '32 an announcement appeared in the magazine *Radio Monthly* as follows:

"As from this month (February), *Radio Monthly* will become the official organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

"The previous official organ, *Television and Radio Review*, is ceasing publication forthwith and very satisfactory arrangements were made with *Radio Monthly* to carry on on the same basis as *T & R Review*.
"Television information will also be published in *Radio Monthly*.
"Subscribers to *T & R Review* will receive their regular monthly copy of *Radio Monthly*.
(Signed) O F Mingay
Managing Editor
Television & Radio Review 9/2/32

And what must Leo Feenaghty have thought of all this? After nurturing *QTC* for four years, graciously giving it up for the good of the amateur fraternity, then seeing the whole lot sink within three months!

In January '33, Mingay started a new magazine called (would you believe) *The Radio Review of Australia*, the contents and style of which set the pattern for the later Proceedings of the IRE. Mingay went on to publish a number of other wireless and electrical related journals.

Radio Monthly, the magazine that had suddenly become the WIA official journal, began in Sydney in December 1931, with A W Watt 2WW (of *Wireless Weekly* fame) as its managing editor, and Don Knock as the technical editor. At a price of 1/-, it comprised 68 pages of technical articles for domestic wireless builders and amateur builders, and included columns for the Association of Radio Amateurs of NSW and the WIA. It was a substantial production with glossy paper, of about A4 page size.

It was initially published by Federal Publications, Sydney, which later changed its name to *Federal Journals*. The magazine was the typical mixture of technical articles for builders and listeners, with amateur columns provided by various correspondents.

As outlined above, from February 1932 *Radio Monthly* became the official organ of the Wireless Institute of Australia, following the demise of *Television and Radio Review*. In mid-1932, Don Knock resigned as Technical Editor to join a rival magazine, *Australian Radio News* and Mr A Alexander, a professional radio engineer, became the Technical Editor in September 1932. (to be continued)

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The History of the WIA Journal Part 3

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(continued from March issue)

RADIO MONTHLY SEEMS to have run from that trouble less glossy paper as into that time less less paper was substituted. The November '32 issue did not appear and instead Vol 1 No 12 combined the November and December issues and signalled a new cover design, new owners, new amateur correspondents and a reduction to 56 pages. The new publisher was Briton Publications who continued to December '33 when *Amateur Radio* and *Broadcast Monthly* became the publisher, and it included more amateur information, but it lasted only until May 1934. The WIA had been unreliable in providing news for the magazine and eventually ceased to be associated with it from around July 1933.

Although it was not associated with the WIA, there is an interesting sidelight concerning the magazine *Australian Radio News*. This magazine of around 50 pages and costing 2d was published every Friday by *The Bulletin* newspaper, in Sydney. The first issue was in May 1932. It was common for magazines of the era to be the official organ of various groups and *Australian Radio News* was the journal of The Australian Radio Artists Association, The Australian Flying Corps Association and the Zero Beat Radio Club.

The main content of the magazine was radio programs for the week and news of broadcast personalities. Don Knock VK2NO, who had recently left *Radio Monthly*, became the technical editor and conducted technical and gossip columns for amateurs.

At this point it is opportune to remind you that in February 1932 the WIA NSW Division ceased to exist, having been renamed the Institute of Radio Engineers. This did not please those who were hobbyist amateurs, who promptly formed the Association of Radio Amateurs (NSW) and news of their activities was included in the journal *Radio Monthly*. In late May '33, Don Knock, who also happened to be the Vice-President of the ARA, proposed to the committee of the ARA (NSW) that his magazine, *Australian Radio News*, should become the official organ of the ARA and would provide two pages per week free for amateur news, with a guaranteed circulation of 20,000. The publishers demanded an immediate acceptance from the ARA, but instead

the committee meeting to rebuff Knock and, at the next meeting of the ARA, a motion was passed to the effect that the constitution of the ARA be altered to ensure that any official journal be selected by a 2/3 majority of all members by ballot. At the same meeting Don Knock (the vice-president) and R H W Power (the secretary) resigned from the ARA!

The *Australian Radio News* ceased publication with the 15 June 1934 issue and was thereafter incorporated in *The Bulletin*.

Stability at Last

After the partnership with *Radio Monthly* ceased, a small band of Victorian amateurs decided to continue a WIA publication and, so, in October 1933 the first copy of *Amateur Radio* was released, at a price of 6d and comprising 20 small pages of news items from the Victorian Division and its affiliated clubs, plus one technical article. The front cover proclaimed that it was "published in the interests of amateur radio by the Wireless Institute of Australia (Vic Div) official organ of the Royal Australian Air Force Wireless Reserve". The second issue contained news from the other states and with a spirit of co-operation not seen before, *Amateur Radio* (or AR) was on its way to becoming the strong amateur radio magazine it is today.

During WWII the financial and manpower resources of the WIA (Vic) were sadly depleted and so *Amateur Radio* was produced as a typed and duplicated newsletter of 10-16 pages. The February 1941 issue was missed, but then the wartime version was issued from March '41 right through to September '45. The October 1945 issue reverted to a commercial printed magazine format. See *Amateur Radio* for October 1958 for more details of the history of AR.

There are many tales of political manoeuvring, ego trips, vested interests and even some skulduggery in the history of the WIA publications prior to our current magazine, but we now have in *Amateur Radio* a magazine that compares very favourably with any other like publication and has the support and stability to go on for the next 70 years.

I have carefully checked the facts for this article, but if anyone can add further information please let me know so that

we can maintain an accurate record of our history. Write to Colin Mackinnon VK2DYM, 52 Mills Rd, Glenhaven, 2156.

Date	Event
1/8/1914	Last pre-WWI meeting of Wireless Institute of NSW
7/1/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Institute of NSW
14/3/1919	First post-war general meeting of Wireless Institute of NSW
19/3/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Institute of Queensland
1/4/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Institute of Victoria
11/9/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Institute of South Australia
28/10/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Society of New Zealand
3/11/1919	First post-war meeting of Wireless Institute of Western Australia
December 1919	<i>Sea, Land and Air</i> becomes official journal of WIA. Later changes name to <i>Radio in Australia and New Zealand</i> .
October 1923	<i>Radio in Australia and New Zealand</i> no longer the WIA journal.
December 1923	<i>Radio Experimenter</i> becomes the unofficial journal of WIA. Later changes name to <i>Radio Broadcast</i> .
July 1924	<i>Radio Experimenter and Broadcaster</i> no longer the (unofficial) WIA journal.
August 1924	<i>Experimental Radio Broadcast News</i> the journal of the WIA Federal Convention, Victorian Division. Later changes name to <i>Radio Broadcast</i> .
August 1925	<i>Radio Broadcast</i> becomes official journal of WIA.
December 1931	First issue of <i>TV and Radio Review</i> as official WIA journal.
February 1932	WIA NSW converted into the Institute of Radio Engineers.
February 1932	TV and <i>Radio Review</i> no longer the WIA journal.
February 1932	<i>Radio Monthly</i> becomes the WIA journal.
July 1933	<i>Radio Monthly</i> no longer the WIA journal.
October 1933	First issue of <i>Amateur Radio</i> .

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