



# *An Arena of Wonder*

**- QSP**

**AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO -  
LEADING TO THE FIRST NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

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**For complete article, refer to January/February, March, April, May  
and June 2010 copies of *Amateur Radio* magazine.**

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

**The following Bibliography is published in the interest of helping others wishing to further research aspects of our early history or to further flesh out this article.**

### Comments about sources of information:

Primary sources of information dealing with the early days of wireless activity in this country are relatively scarce, particularly those relating to the commencement of private or amateur radio experimentation.

We are lucky, and lucky is the correct word here, that Dr. Deane Blackman, VK3TX, discovered the minutes of the first experimenter's meetings held in Melbourne during 1911. These were found in a "shack" originally belonging to his uncle, H.H. Blackman, XOE. The fortuitous find is now located in the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra with photocopies held in the WIA Archive, Melbourne.

Another significant work was done some years ago by Marlene Austin VK5QO, who scoured South Australian Division's Minutes and published *The First Sixty Years of the WIA –S.A. Division 1919-1980*. A copy of this is also held in the WIA Archive.

Reports in daily newspapers become the next best reference. Whilst journalists at that time, seldom had a good grasp on the technical aspects of the "new science", they at least reported (rarely journalised as they do today) on what they observed! So in that respect, I believe that early newspapers can be reasonably reliable source of information on our subject – especially if details can be confirmed from another independent observer or newspaper. The risk in all of this is of course is that we merely continue to propagate folk-lore based on what we want to believe!

The establishment of the WIA Archives in Melbourne has given us a "last minute opportunity" to rescue small segments of the jigsaw puzzle and when combining these individual documents, (licences, official notices from the Navy Office or PMG's Department) with newspaper articles and other writer's published works, we are in a position to more accurately arrive at a reasoned conclusion about our early days. But there is still much more work to be done before an accurate account of the history of amateur radio in Australia can be made!

**This list of sources should help others wishing to further research aspects of our early history. Not all of these references are held in the WIA's Archive.**

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**Addendum:** Since this article appeared in *Amateur Radio*, further historical information and recollections have been forwarded to the WIA.

We thank all for their contributions to the Archive. In time, more accurate histories relating to the Institute and amateur radio in Australia will be possible.

VK3RV June 2010