

Report on July Meeting

Mr Geoff Gordon, a Telstra employee of 31 years, volunteered his services to speak on the history of telecommunications from 1854 to 1993

He was prepared to depart from his starting point by reminding us of various styles of communications in the bygone days such as “drums”, “smoke signals” and “message sticks”. He claimed that the year 1747, when current was passed along electric wires, was the beginning of coaxial cables.

It was communication by overhead wire that was allied with much of Australia's development. Overland communication was not long in following the exploits of our early explorers. telegraph wires, Morse code and a network of stations were soon part of the Australian scene. It was in 1862 that the telegraph came from Campbelltown to Wollongong (to the site of our Museum) and that from Wollongong it was extended to Kiama.

The development of overseas communication was another landmark. Mr Gordon told us that when Alexander Graham Bell invented the “telephone” it was voices, not Morse code that was carried over the communication network.

The rest, of course, is well known and the communication network is available for the range of communication media commonplace in the world today.

Thank you Mr Gordon.

Peter Daly