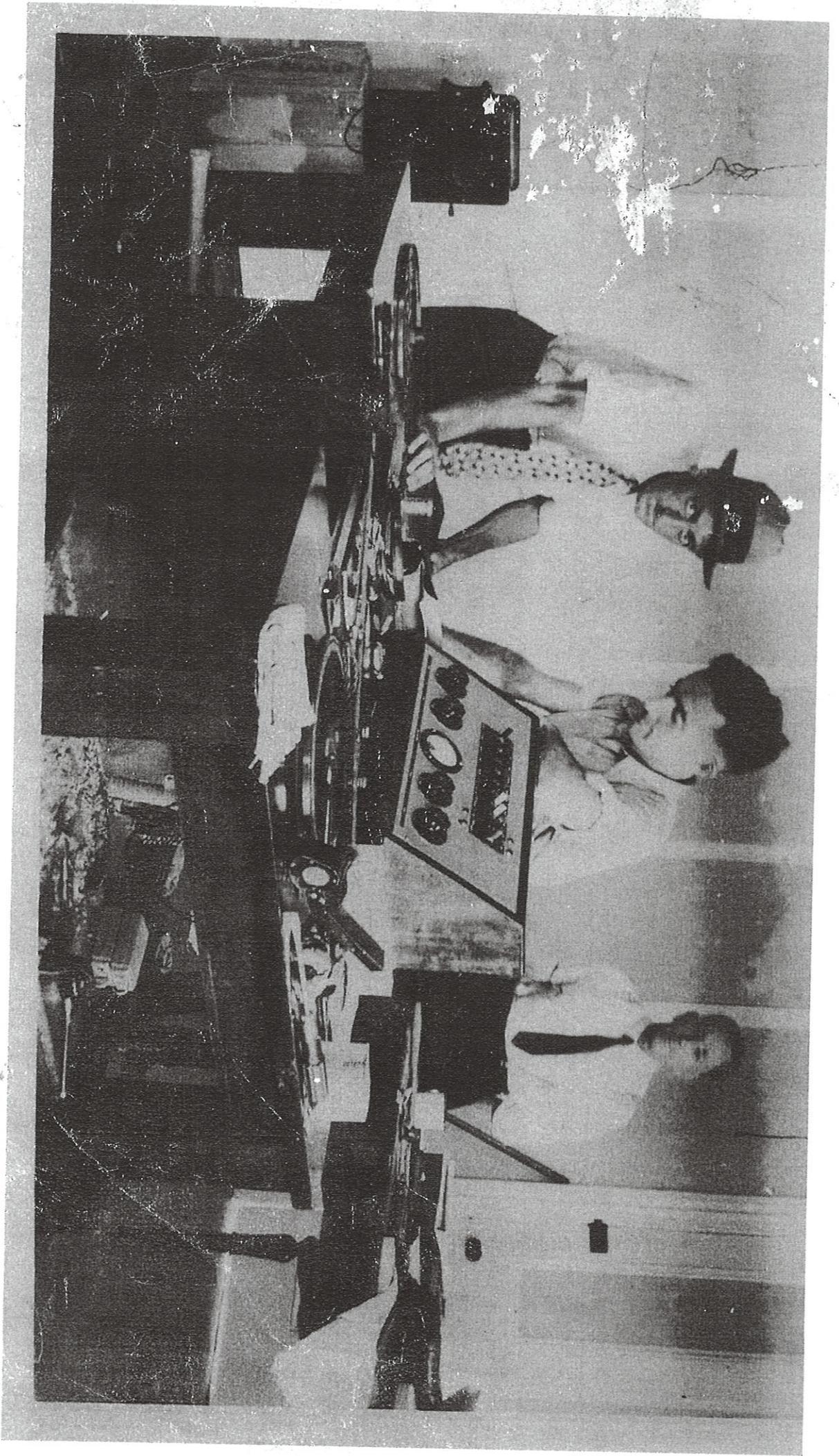


RESET



Historical collection shows just how times change

Phones are fashionable. From the realms of interior decoration they have leapt into focus, smaller and sexier, to become the ultimate personal accessory. LISSA MITCHELL looks at the history of the telephone and finds some surprising facts — and artifacts.



Rosemary Clencie with some of the examples of early telephones.

Matching telephones with your walls is no longer enough. In the car and in the street they are making a statement as something like a high tech equivalent of the handbag.

But there was a time when telephones were somewhat less than "hot". In fact, in the early 1900s, their place in the social scale was almost on a par with toilet rolls now.

Although, for convenience sake, phones were normally located on the hall table, Edwardian sensitivities were so revolted at having to look at such naked technology that a thriving craft developed making "Dolly Varden" covers for them.

Few of these covers survive, but in a Collingwood warehouse a "Dolly Varden" phone cover, along with around 10,000 other items of telephone memorabilia, has been catalogued as part of a national Telecom historical collection being set up in Melbourne.

David Henry, Telecom's National Manager, Historical Services, said similar collections from WA and NSW are being brought to Melbourne for re-financing and cataloguing, which he hopes will be complete by the middle of next year.

"Over the years we have collected far more historical material in each state than we really need, much of it repetitions," he said.

"Establishing a national collection will allow us to keep only the best examples of each item and ensure that they are catalogued and stored properly.

"Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland have well established state collections and we are negotiating with their state museums to take them over. The retired Telecom employees who have worked so hard on these collections should be able to continue to care for them as Museum volunteers," Mr Henry said.

"Telecom does not receive taxpayers' money, so the Telecom Historical Col-

lection is being preserved as both a corporate investment and an investment in Australia's heritage."

Rosemary Clencie, Telecom's only trained Museum Cataloguer, will be responsible for establishing the new national collection in Melbourne before a permanent museum home is found for it.

Rosemary joined Telecom in 1985 after cataloguing at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Foundation, the Children's Literature Museum, Heidelberg Historical Society, Como House and the Performing Arts Museum.

Since then, she has almost completed photographing and describing in detail Telecom's entire Victorian collection, which ranged from a jar of pickled white ants, taken from a telegraph pole, to antique exchange equipment.

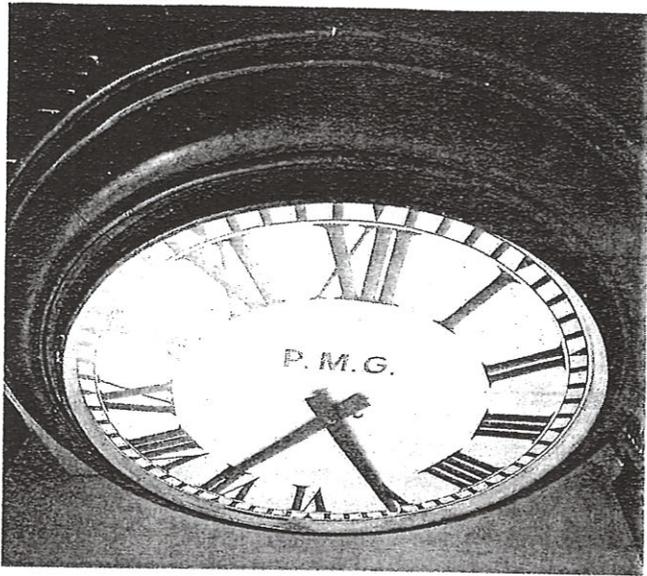
Even though the collection is not yet open to the public, Rosemary is kept

busy with dozens of enquiries from local societies, the Historic Telephone Society, museums, theatre and film producers.

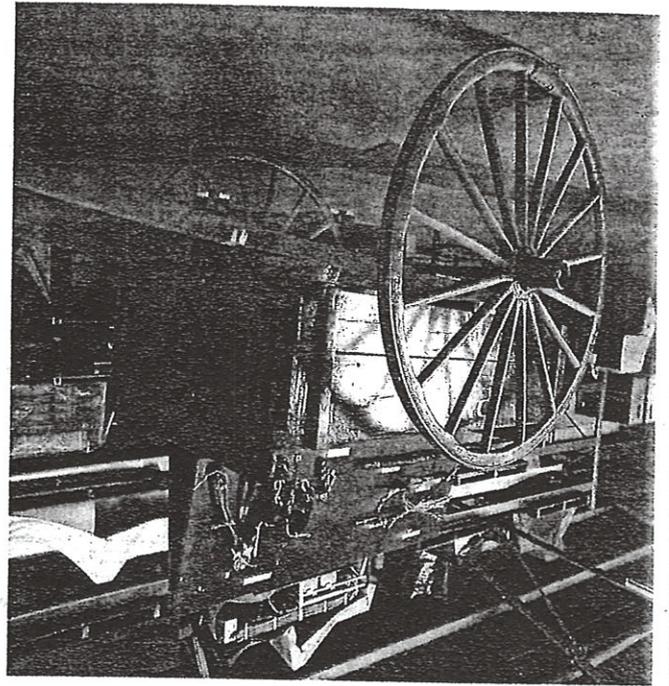
She said Telecom lends so many items to theatre, film and television productions that replicas have been made of the popular "Candlestick" phones, for example, to save wear and tear on the originals.

"The ABC regularly borrows from us and we recently supplied the "Spotswood" production with some antique office furniture, old phones and an unusual half-length phone box," Rosemary said.

"Our selection of old red phone boxes is regularly in demand for ads."

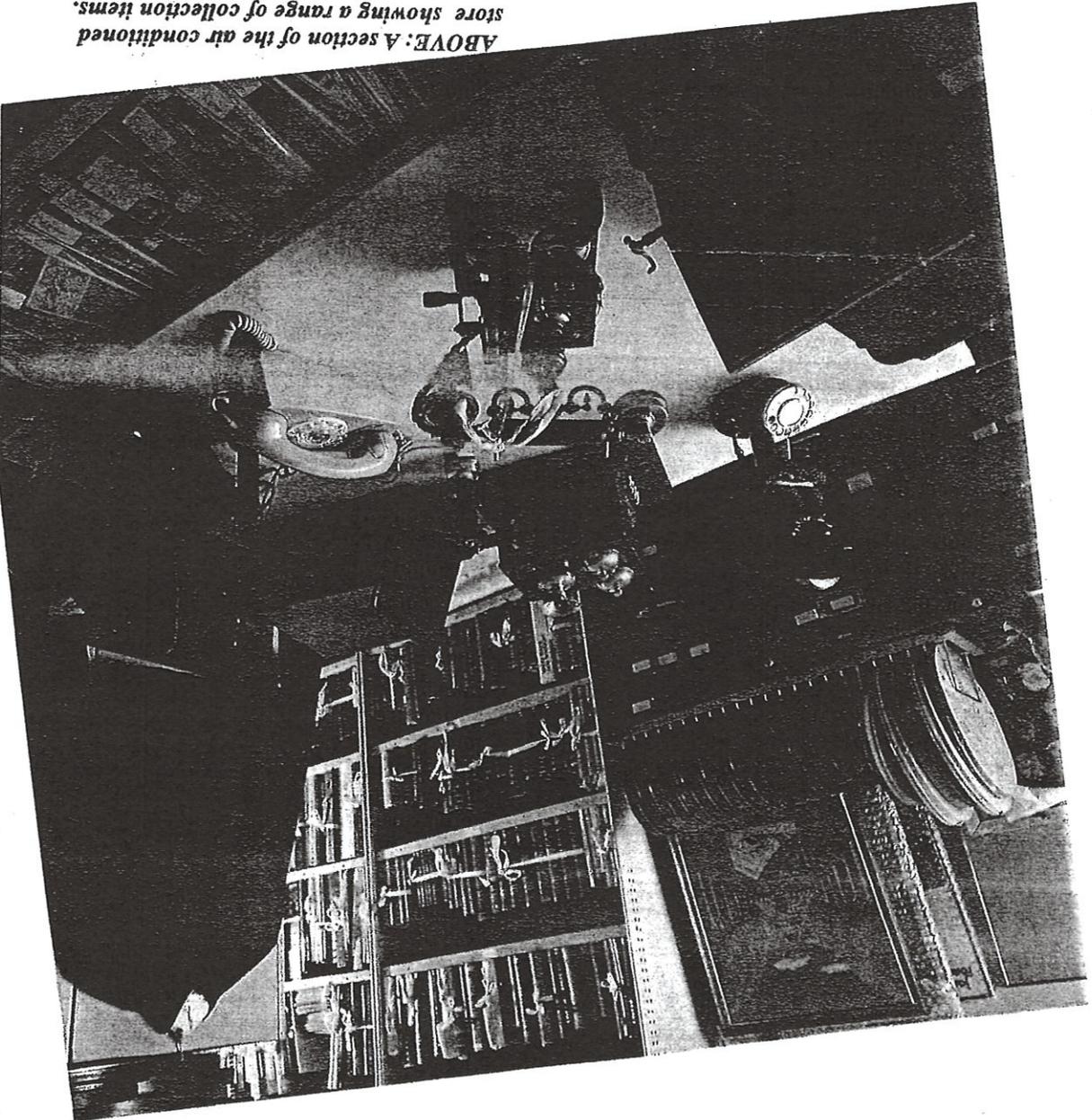


BELOW: The magnificent cedar clock from the former C.T.O.

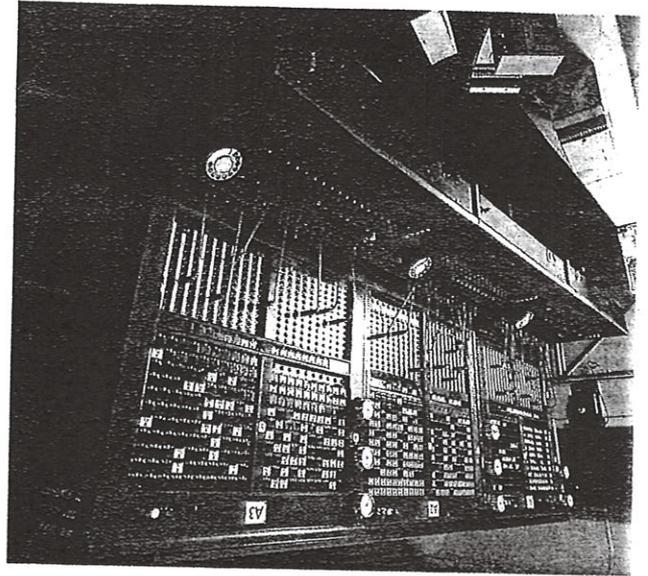


LEFT: A linesman's cart recently acquired from Australia Post.

ABOVE: A section of the air conditioned store showing a range of collection items.



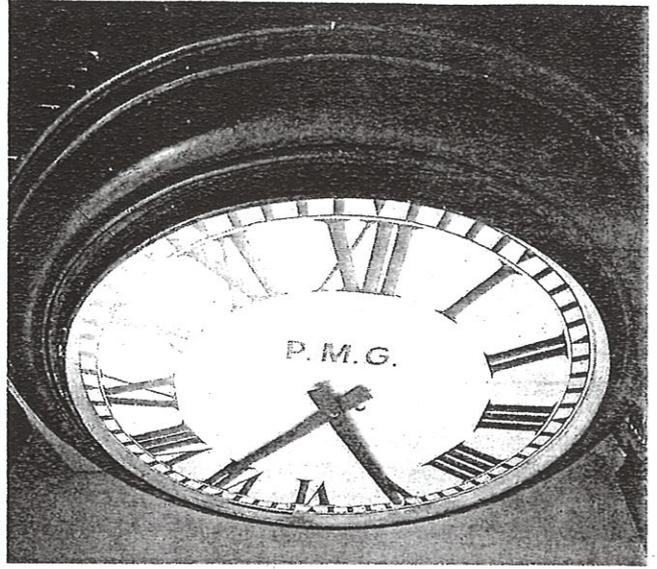
"One of the items is a H phone from I of these left Another featu cal collection replica costum Along with ol forms, there is nie Little tro parts and a va ions from the designs taken tographs. Phones of cou of the collecti Telecom stan Rosemary h phones by D ing a spikey-l bower-hatted Her cupboard recently return the Museum ("Toys are ve looking at soc "Telecommu advancing so come out cur equivalents w cal artefacts t the phone's p "Already, in have seen an from somethi something to



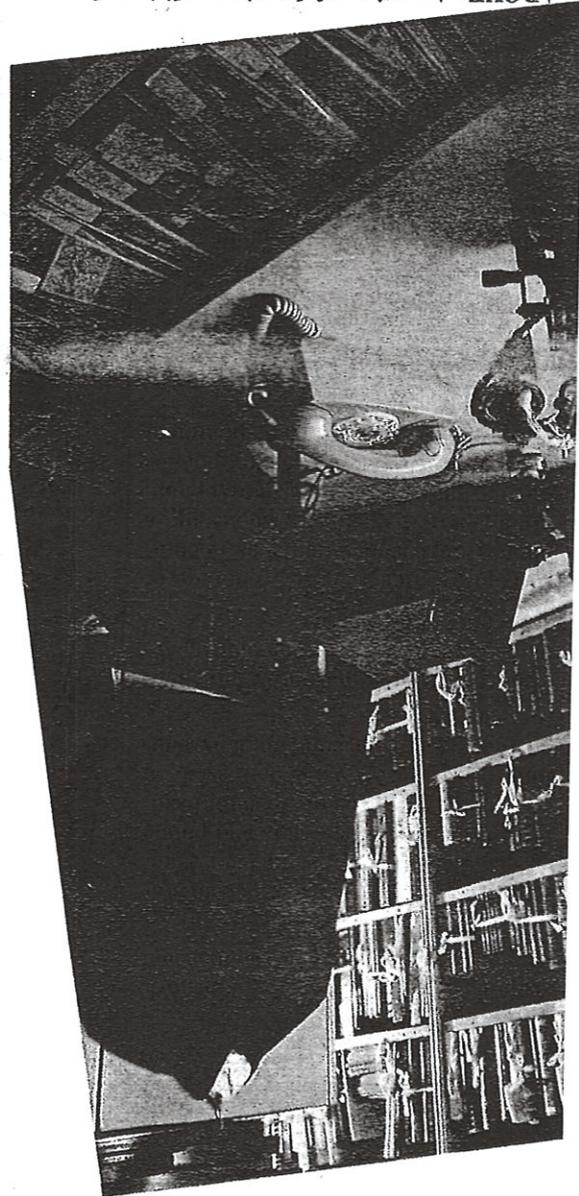
ABOVE: David Woodland's novelty ceramic telephones on the clock from the former Chief Telegraphist's Office. **RIGHT:** Rosemary in the section of the store where the large items are kept. **BELOW:** The switchboard inside the emergency exchange caravan.



d most valuable come wall tele- are only five lia." telecom's histori- ge of antique and and Telecom uni- it made by Jean- ears and phone f Operator Fash- 1900s, based on temporary pho- e up a large part ot all of them are e. ral "character" odlands, includ- ink phone and a nesque version. ll of toy phones an exhibition at ia. tant clues when ry," she said. s technology is hat in decades to es and their toy- teresting histori- k volumes about ur society. a century, we phones change hidden away, to ed in the street."



ABOVE: A section of the air conditioned store showing a range of collection items. **LEFT:** A linesman's cart recently acquired from Australia Post.



"One of the oldest and most valuable items is a Hunningstone wall telephone from 1890. There are only five of these left in Australia."

Another feature of Telecom's historical collection is its range of antique and replica costumes.

Along with old P.M.G and Telecom uniforms, there is an outfit made by Jean-Little from plastic ears and phone parts and a wardrobe of Operator Fashion from the early 1900s, based on designs taken from contemporary photographs.

Phones of course, make up a large part of the collection, but not all of them are Telecom standard issue.

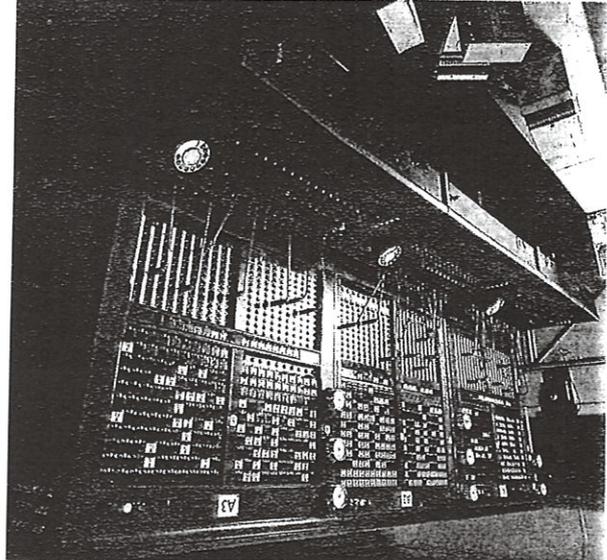
Rosemary has several "character" phones by David Woodlands, including a spiky-haired punk phone and a bowler-hatted, Chaplinesque version. Her cupboards are full of toy phones. Recently returned from an exhibition at the Museum of Victoria.

"Toys are very important clues when looking at social history," she said.

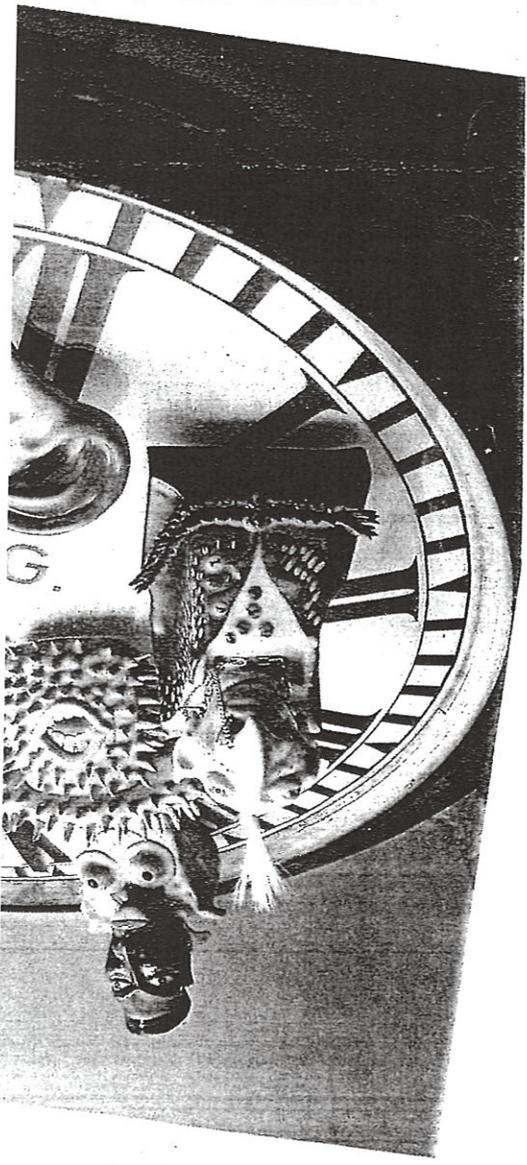
"Telecommunications technology is advancing so rapidly that in decades to come our current phones and their toy equivalents will be interesting historical artefacts that speak volumes about the phone's place in our society.

"Already, in less than a century, we have seen attitudes to phones change from something to be hidden away, to something to be flaunted in the street."

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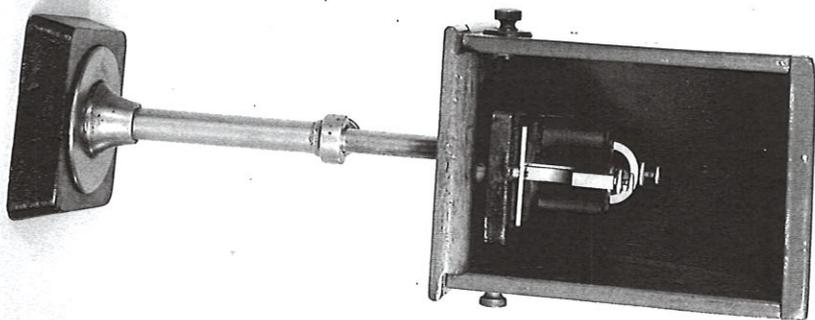
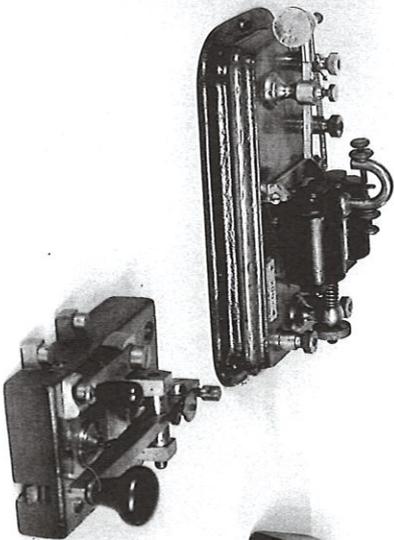
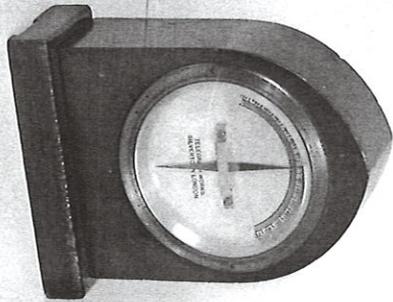
ABOVE: David Woodland's novel ceramic telephones on the clock face of the former Chief Telegraphist's Office. **RIGHT:** Rosemary in the section of store where the large items are kept. **BELOW:** The switchboard inside emergency exchange caravan.





Line Training
School
2nd Groch
Ston Hill 1709
2nd Row 1st right

AS 4



From Adelaide

Motor Unislector & Display Mount
15GHz Ericsson 120chan Digital Launch Unit Car
TME Pulse Echo Tester

Microwav Dish

Pluto Exchange Test Set

Sierra UHF Power Meter

UHF 10Watt Dummy Load

~~R~~ VSWR Meter - Open Wire HF - RPRFWII

RFS UHF Resonance Freq Meter Handbooks only

Various 78 RPM records (local)

Printer Motor Check 2H EET 7A/1

Marconi V7M Model TF 1100

JWA Volt Ohmst.

Tandberg Tape Recorder

Ferris/Bosch HF Field Strength Meter (W2)

Marconi 2GHz Power Meter 4R1202

Philips CRO CM5650

AVO Electronic Test Meter

Western Electric IR Tube Tester (Carrier)
Cable Transition Boxes (2 off Diff. Types)

(Abeledo - Cont)

- Motorola Test Set (Portable -
- FME - 3Ch Carrier System (2 Terminals)
- 5TC 74103 Amplifier Defector (Carrier)
- Electronic Design Standard Local Motor (DABM)
- The Slems Oscillator & Carrier Unit (in Case)
- 48/24V Regulator Unit (2 off)
- Western Electric 1000phm Ring generator
- Eversheds Vignoles Chart Recorder - Dual Chan
- Tellurimeter Portable to 191000 Master
- Marconi Signal Generator - TP867A
- TE1 Carrier Rec Amps - 4 off } ?
- u 32kc + Osc Unit }
- PYEPWRT VHF Subs Terminal (2 off)
- Bass Replace Monitor Speaker
- Advance VHF Signal Generator
- Post Post Banners (2 off)
- w heat Stone Bricks
- Main head Variable Inductance
- RWD Test Motor 5M630968
- Optical Fibre Welding Kit (No microscope)

Inf II

Videotape

- Phone " AMT AMT (12)
- Subd. " AMT II (8)
- Teleprinter
- Morse (1)

