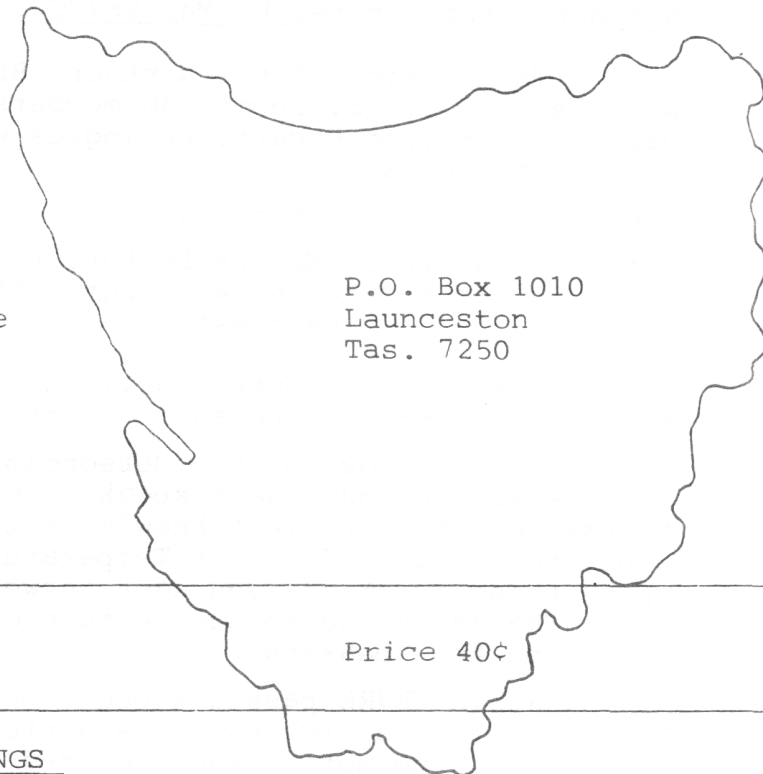


Bulletin issued by the Northern
Branches of the Wireless Institute
of Australia, Tasmanian Division

May 1977
Vol.7 No.1

P.O. Box 1010
Launceston
Tas. 7250



Registered at GPO Hobart
for transmission by post
as a periodical. Category B.

Price 40¢

MEETINGS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| May 10th | North West Branch, Lakins Hall, Ulverstone. 8 p.m. |
| May 13th | Northern Branch, Northern Motors Lecture Room
Cnr, York and Wellington St. 8 p.m. |

A.O.C.P. CLASSES

Kings Meadows High School, Block B, room 35

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 9th | Semi-conductors. |
| May 16th | Class cancelled due to Brian being in King Island |
| May 24th | This is a Tuesday night as rooms are not available |
| June 13th | Receiving systems. (on Monday.) |

Y.R.C.S. CLASSES

YRCS classes are held every Tuesday (during school terms)
from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. at
Kings Meadows High School, Block B, room 33.

CONTESTS

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| May 15th | World Tele-comm. Phone |
| May 21/22 | YL Int'l SSBers, Inc. QSO party |
| May 22nd | World Tele-comm. CW |
| May 20th | Deadline for the June issue of QRM |

Northern Branch notes by Mac VK7CCC.

The meeting of the Northern Branch was held on the 15th of April at the S.E.S. rooms, 30 members were present, plus a visitor Harvey VK7HK from Hobart. Apologies were received from VK7s ZGG, LZ, TB, NR and ZBY.

Please note next meeting place,

13th	Northern Motors Lecture room	13th
May	Cnr York and Wellington St.	May
1977	Launceston	1977

Subject; Pollution control devices on Nissan vehicles, this should prove to be an interesting lecture.

Mr Bill Love of the Meteorological branch of the Bureau of Science will be our guest speaker in June. His objective will be to pass along sufficient knowledge to enable YOU to use weather maps etc. used to forecast Temperature Inversions. Start boning up on those questions you want answered and then be ready for the DX ! Thanks is due to our lecture officer Wally VK7ZWX for arranging the speakers.

Robin VK7RH passed along a membership application for Mark Nightingale, included was a brief rundown on Mark and his activities, the motion was seconded by Malcolm VK7ZMM. Welcome to the fold Mark.

Other matters discussed included, lease for club rooms, QRM and QSL managers. John VK7JV was voted yet again to QRM Editor, congratulations John, Col VK7LZ is still our QSL Manager congratulations to you too Col.

Bill VK7AK invites you to think about the following motions he intends to raise at the next meeting.

- 1) That Executive minutes be kept and ratified at the following Branch meeting.
- 2) That a publishing committee of three (3) be formed for the production of QRM and that the Editor be one of this number.
- 3) That the business of general Branch meetings not exceed beyond 9.15 p.m.

Reg VK7KK tells us that the Jaycees are considering a careers night around May/August provided support is forthcoming. If you have any ideas, suggestions please contact him.

thats all for now 73 Mac VK7CC

NORTH WEST BRANCH

The North Western Branch wish to advise members that, at the next meeting of the Branch at Lakins Hall Ulverstone, on May 10th, there will be an auction of worthwhile Radio and TV parts. Also there will be a lecture by an officer of the Rural Fires Board.

This should be a good meeting

73 Jim Davis VK7NOW (Activities Officer)

Notes from the North West Branch by Wayne Gibson.

As most members appear to have realised the March meeting was the N.W. Branch's Annual General Meeting during which the election of office bearers for 1977-78 occurred.

The new office bearers are;

Brian Lord	VK7ZBL	President
Max Ives	VK7MX	Vice President
Kirby	VK7ZKC	Secretary
Max Ives	VK7MX	Treasurer
Terry Tongs	VK7TT	Broadcast Coordinator
Jim Davis	VK7NOW	Activities Coordinator
Graham Rand	VK7ZAQ	Y.R.C.S. Coordinator
Harold Hancock	VK7MZ	QSL Officer
Beacon & repeater Committee;		
VK7AX , VK7ZAQ, VK7ZIE, VK7ZAO, VK7ZAT, W.S.Gibson		

The position of Equipment Store Officer has been deleted. Adrian indicated that the effort required to maintain the store far out weighed its usefulness to members.

W.I.C.E.N. Coordinator, on the suggestion of Bob Simpson VK7ZJS, was reduced to a sleeper. It appears no one wants to know about WICEN until it pulls them out of a pickle.

It is pleasing to note the number of new names in the above list, but disappointing to report that most were elected unopposed.

Port Sorell Field Day, was held on 27th February. Once again good weather and a fair turn out of members, XYL's, YL's and harmonics produced a successful field day.

The annual (win it any way) "Cricket Match" was played and won by the Northern Branch. A new Trophy constructed by Graham was presented to the Northern Branch. Thanks from all members to Graham for his towering effort to produce this relevant Trophy.

It would seem that the Port Sorell foxes are a very old and cunning lot, one was located hiding among the hounds, several hunters received a severe licking. But not to be caught the fox laid a false trail out onto the river mud flats and went to ground. A well concealed den in the opposite direction was revealed to the frustrated hounds by Graham. The necessity of a field strength meter for fox hunting was clearly demonstrated. One party of hounds combed the scrub around the fox for over half an hour without results.

Seen/Heard. No doubt before long some unusual signals will be heard from one Ulverstone QTH, if the discussions and glorified typewriter hard ware noted are any indication. How do you spell "see que" Tony ?

Letter to the Editor QRM

Now that the tumult and shouting has died away from the Annual Divisional Dinner, may I use some of your valuable space to ask a few searching questions. From sundry enquiries I understand that attendance left a lot to be desired. Has anybody tried to find out WHY ?

To start the ball rolling I will state why I haven't attended one for several years, even in our own town. I regard the Annual Dinner as a yearly opportunity to get together, have a feed (unimportant) and to talk and listen and exchange experiences, discuss radio etc. To select a venue for the purpose and then drown out all hope of conversation with 50 to 100 Watts of so-called music, or jungle drums as I call it, the whole exercise is a farce.

Why is it regarded so necessary to accompany a dinner with this racket ? I have heard more than one complaint. Across the table conversation is impossible, even to the next door neighbour is a trial so I ask again WHY ? Are we animals that have to be herded into a corner by convention ? It is high time that members spoke their mind and adopted sane ideas, acceptable by the majority. I have many times suggested a quiet dinner but have been outvoted by many who do not attend anyway, so I protect my hearing and stay away. In our hobby we hear plenty of loudspeaker noise and most of it is preferable to so called modern music, but at least we can turn it down.

I have spoken. How about you ?

Max VK7MX

Northern Branch Officers elected for the year 1977-78 are;

President	Ed Hewens	VK7HE
Vice President	Brian Yeoman	VK7ZBY
Vice President	Robin Harwood	VK7RH
Secretary	John McCulloch	VK7CCC
Treasurer	Peter Dowde	VK7PD
Equipment Store Officer	Mike Wilson	VK7ZWW
Editor	John van Staveren	VK7JV
Lecture Officer	Wally Morphett	VK7ZWX
QSL Manager	Col Wright	VK7LZ
Auditor	Bruce Proverbs	
Refreshments Officers	Malcolm Weldon	VK7ZMM
	David Chadderton	
WICEN Co-ordinator ...	Ed Hewens	VK7HE

Two new offices thought necessary for the Branch are,

Education Co-ordinator	Brian Yeoman
Publicity Officers	John Doolan
	David Chadderton

DX notes by Col VK7LZ.

March and April have been months of surprises and contrasts, during the 2nd half of March 28MHz sometimes had more signals on it than any other band, although most were JA's there were also a few other goodies to be found; on the 10th of April JA, W, UAØ, VE, XE, KC6SK and 9M6MU were all worked by local VK7's. This and the news from Zurich advising rising sun spot numbers must bring a feeling of optimism to DX hunters.

On 7, 14 and 21 MHz fairly good DX can be worked at times and DXpeditions seem to be on the increase, at present we have ZL3OG/C on Chatham Island on 14 MHz SSB and VK9ZM is very active from Willis Island. The Cocos Island TI9 DXpedition ended up a flop, from on the air reports only one operator ended up going, he could not speak English and the whole operation was a one day affair.

KAI1OW operated from Iwo Jima from the 2nd April and VK7HL has heard reports from W land that a move has been made to have it re-classified into new country status again.

CEØAE Easter Island often appears in the Pacific DX net and also operates on 7MHz CW around 0630Z. Other interesting DXpedition type call signs heard recently are;

AX4AAU/ Lord Howe Island
DK6XR/ OHØ
VK4FJ/ Lord Howe Island
4Z4TT/ VR1

JW2CF on Svalbard is still coming through on 14MHz SSB and was heard on the 14th April at 1200Z, sigs were 5/7.

Africa has not been much in the news, VK7CH heard FR7ZL/T on CW, 14.020MHz but missed out due to QRN which world wide is giving trouble on 14MHz these days. 5U7AG came up on the Pacific DX net on the 15th April but was only 5/2 both here and in VK3, bad mannered breakers were again a problem. FR7NF was worked here on 14MHz CW on the 1st April and gave his QTH as St.Denis, Reunion Island however Reunion call signs have in the past had either A or Z as their first letter in the call so he must go into the doubtful category.

A plea from our QSL manager VK7CH, send as many cards as you can to him for countries such as JA, W etc, the larger number of cards cuts down operating costs and allows the bureau to show a profit, just another way to cut inflation, for other comments on this subject and its causes and cures reference can be made to statements etc. by such authorities as Messrs Fraser, Hawke and Whitlam.

Saturday 16th April, 4 hours of listening produced the following on 14 MHz SSB, 9J2GJ 5/5, ZE6JS 5/6, ZE2JK 3/3, ZS4PB 5/6, ZS4MG 4/5, ZS1OU 5/5, ZS1CTF 4/5, VR3AK 5/8, ZL3DG/C 5/7, VR4DH 5/5, ZS6IW 5/6, 7X4MD 5/9, TI2JV 5/8, GW4NZ 5/8, Ve's, W's and other Europeans. The Africans were short path.

VHF notes by Joe VK7JG.

With little activity there is not much to write about. My last 6m sporadic E contact was with Phil VK2ZZY on 18-2-'77 the opening lasted about 10 minutes. We had a good inversion to Gipsland on 21-2-'77, Mike VK3ZQV was worked on both 6 and 2m. Last night (24-4-'77) the VK2WI beacon was S3 for some time but no stations were heard.

Don't forget the mid-winter openings as they can provide some good DX contacts.

I have nothing to report on the bottom end of 2 metres as I have not been active.

Once again don't forget that AO6 and AO7 are still operating and provide VHF contacts everyday. One new station of interest is KC4AAA at an American base at the South Pole, there are several operators using the call sign and have been worked several times by Col VK7LZ and Peter VK7PF. Other stations worked via the satellites in two evenings included ZL1TAX, VK6HK, VK4ZAQ, VK2ZQN and VK8ZJW who was heard but not worked.

73 till next month Joe

DX notes cont. from Page 5QSL information

AX4AAU via VK4UA	CEØAE via WA3HUP
DK6XR/OHØ via DK6XR	FO8DP, Box 2441 Papeete
JW9WT via LA5NM	KAlIWO via W7BUN
VKØKH via VK5WV	ZF1MA via VE3BWY
ZP5PX Box 512 Asuncion Paraguay.	
ZL3OG/C C/o Radio Station, Chatham Islands.	
4Z4TT/VR1 P.O. Box 22572 Tel Aviv Israel.	
9M6MU Box 210, Keningau, Sabah, Malaysia.	

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subs to the Northern Branches are now due, if you are going to attend the next meeting you can pay the Treasurer there. Northern Branch members who are not going to the meeting please send your \$2.50 to P.O. Box 1010 Launceston with your name, call and address.

The Education Co-ordinator, Brian VK7ZBY is wondering if there is sufficient interest in Novice License Classes to run over a period of 3 months. If you or someone you know are interested contact Brian Phone 918218.

FOR SALEFOR SALEFOR SALE

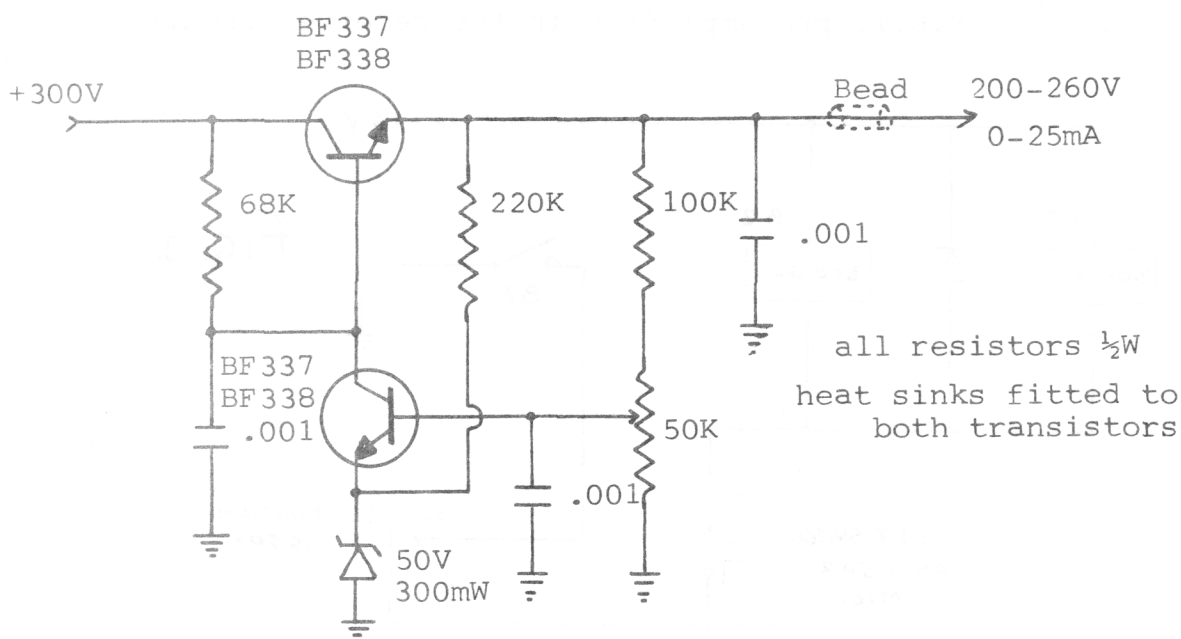
Pye base station converted to 6 metres 52.525 also 6 metre converter. contact Ed VK7HE 43 Faulkner Rd. Phone 391863

Regulated screen supply. by Peter Dowde VK7PD

An R.F. power tetrode employed as a linear amplifier normally requires a well regulated screen supply. If a suitable power transformer is available which delivers just the right voltage, this may be good enough. As such is usually not the case for the home constructor, other measures have to be adopted.

Among the many alternatives, one obvious answer is to start off with a higher than desired voltage dropped through a resistor and shunt regulated with V.R. tubes. I use the plural as more than one is often required to realise the required voltage.

This method has been well proven since quite early days of radio but is not always convenient and allows no easy means of voltage adjustment.



The circuit shown above takes advantage of high voltage transistors which are cheap and easily available now. It was built specifically for a QQE06/40 linear amplifier and affords the luxury of variable output and provides good current regulation over the range specified. If better regulation over a wider range is required the regulator transistor could be made a Darlington pair. The 68K resistor could then be increased in value without ill effect. A 7 lug tag strip was used for the assembly.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

Eico 723, three band (80, 40, 20) transceiver modified as per A.R. in very good condition and going order \$130

Several old power supplies, radios etc. take away FREE

Mike Wilson VK7ZWW, 11 George Town Rd.

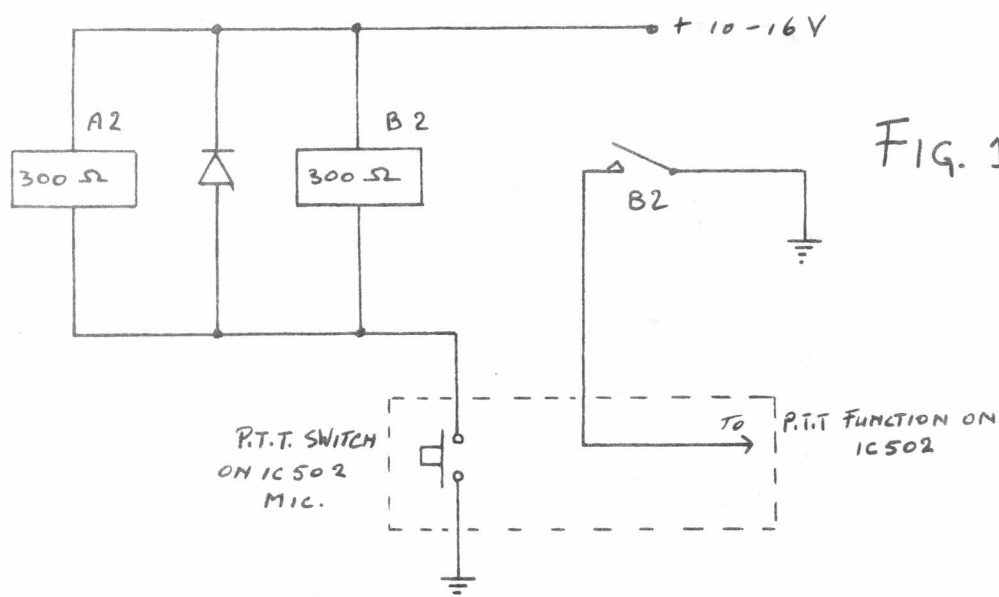
Relay Switching for Linear Amplifiers, by Peter VK7PD

When connecting a high power final to a transceiver it is normally desirable to provide R/T switching of same in tandem with that of the TRX i.e. the microphone P.T.T. contacts.

Where the TRX employs solid state switching, this may not be so straightforward, especially where the final uses relay switching as is common in valve amplifiers.

It is undesirable to feed the relay supply down the P.T.T. circuit of the transceiver and if this is simply blocked by a diode in series with the TRX P.T.T. lead, the voltage drop across same upsets the operation of the TRX.

One way around this is to employ a detector amplifier which responds to carrier leakage from the TX. However this practise (apart from anything else) seems a bit risky when one is using a F.E.T. pre-amplifier in the receive circuit.

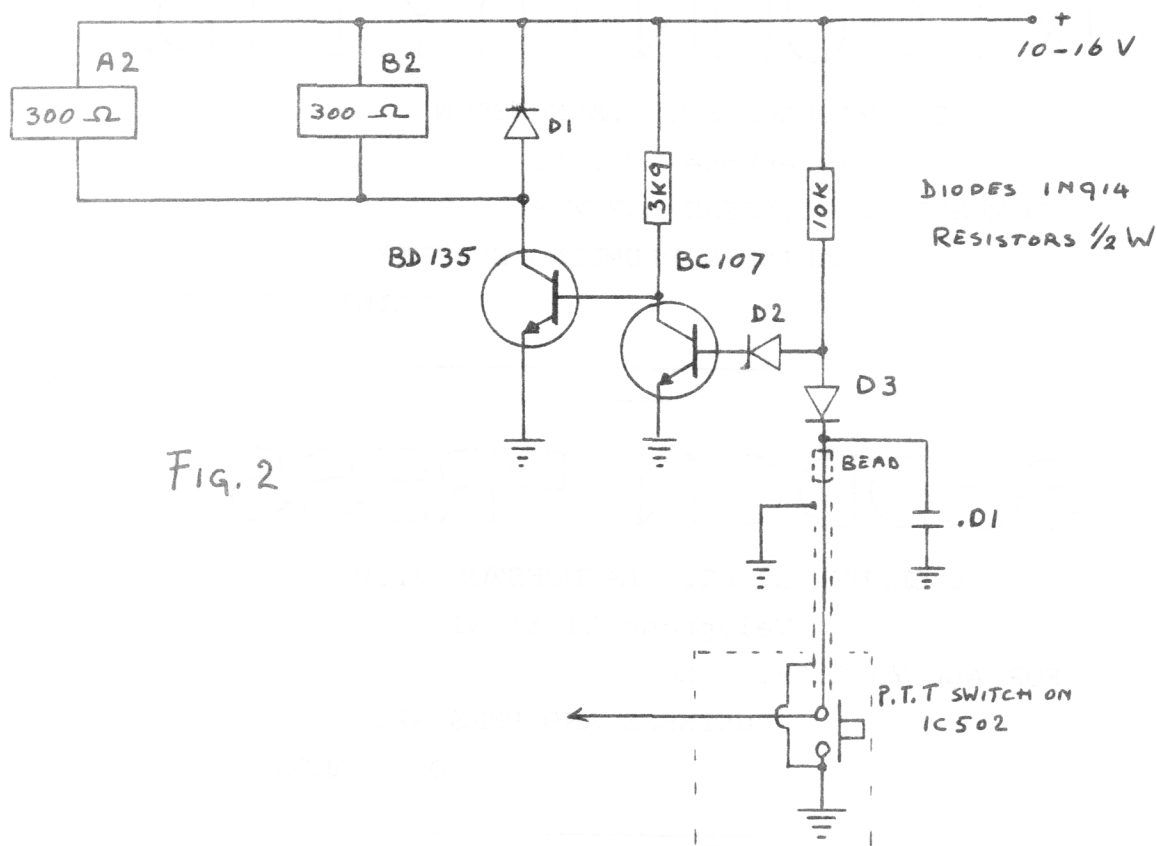


One alternative is shown in Fig.1. The P.T.T. lead to the microphone has to be broken so the P.T.T. switch now operates relays A and B (2 relays are normally desirable in the interest of input and output isolation). A spare contact on relay B completes a circuit for the TRX R/T function.

Although this works well, it assumes that a spare relay contact is available. However it will not operate from the CW/Tune switch on the TRX so special arrangements would be necessary for sending CW through the power amplifier.

Another alternative shown in FIG.2 (on the next page) overcomes these disadvantages. It does not require breaking the P.T.T. line.

As the TRX P.T.T. line stands at about 9V on receive this puts a reverse bias on D3 thus ensuring this external circuit has no effect on the TRX operation.



The bypass C, ferite bead and shielded wire are recommended in the interest of R.F. suppression. The relays (which could be connected in series if convenient) will operate when either P.T.T. is pressed or when the SSB/CW switch is thrown to the CW position.

Components are cheap and available from the Northern Branch equipment store. The circuit was assembled on a 7 lug tagstrip.

HINTS AND KINKS, by Ed VK7HE

Black oxidized finish for iron; Instrument parts, screws, and other items of iron and steel can be coloured evenly by black oxidizing. To make the solution for this purpose dissolve copper nitrate 1oz., in water 4oz.. First clean the work and heat it with a blow torch or over a gas burner to a low heat and immediately dip it into the solution. A green oxidized coating of copper will form on the surface. To turn this black hold the work over the burner and carefully heat it until the desired depth of shade has produced.

Aluminium ???; When you wish to determine if a piece of metal is actually aluminium or another type of metal with a similar appearance, try this easy test. First make a 40% solution of household lye in water, being sure to use a glass container. Then file or cut a few chips from the stock in question and drop them into the solution. If the chips produce a vigorous reaction and disappear in a few seconds the metal is aluminium. use caution when using this solution and disposing of it.

J & T GUNN PTY. LTD.

50 BRISBANE ST. LAUNCESTON

Telephone 222 51

DOMESTIC & BUILDERS HARDWARE

MARINE & PLUMBING SUPPLIES

PAINT & TOOLS

SEDDON PRESS

35a GRANVILLE ST. LAUNCESTON 7250

Telephone 31 61 91

FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING

BUSINESS AND PERSONAL

QSL CARDS

NORWINDS

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

SPECIALISING IN MOTOR REWINDING AND ASSOCIATED WORK

27 SUNCREST PLACE, RAVENSWOOD

TELEPHONE 391515

Athol Lawes Electrics

135 HOBART ROAD, KINGS MEADOWS, PHONE 444710

FOR ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES, SPECIALISTS IN,

HI-FI SOUND SYSTEMS

CAR RADIO AND STEREO

SEE US FOR A BETTER DEAL, WE SERVICE ALL WE SELL.