

THE PETER HEWESTON COMPUTING COLLECTION



INTRODUCTION

I joined the CSIRO Division of Land Research in 1969 as a CSIRONET user, operating a teletype connected by a wire strung across Black Mountain to the CDC 3600 – one of the earliest remote computer users! My job involved programming in Fortran, and shuffling environmental data stored on punched cards and paper tape.

I subsequently went on to join CSIRONET during the heady days of the CDC 3600 and 7600, working under Terry Holden. Terry worked on CSIRAC in his younger days – it's a story worth hearing some time – and I feel in some ways I have a direct link back to CSIRAC, although I've never actually seen it. I do however have a couple of CSIRAC paper tapes in my collection.

In 1987 I started my own company, developing PC-based software for the management of water resources and environmental data. The Hydstra software is used by over 100 agencies worldwide to this day.

My collection encompasses calculating and computing artefacts from the earliest days of mechanical calculating through the era of PC's and on to smart phones and tablets. I will specifically highlight a few items relating to the CSIRONET era.

An important component of the collection is a significant archive of scanned documents from the CSIRONET days, including technical notes, manuals and newsletters. Many of the documents are from Terry Holden's personal archive, which was passed to me by his wife Patti after Terry's death. This material can be freely browsed and downloaded from Dropbox at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zzt6779kxtzke4q/CSIRONET%20Documents.zip?dl=0>
Be warned – there is 4.6GB of data in some 240 files. Each .pdf file has a parallel .txt file with a similar name, which facilitates simple text searching.

You are invited to view the collection after lunch along Kingston Foreshore, at Unit 305, The Prince, 2 Kerridge St, Kingston. It is a short stroll across the pedestrian bridge from the restaurant row along the Foreshore. See below for access details.

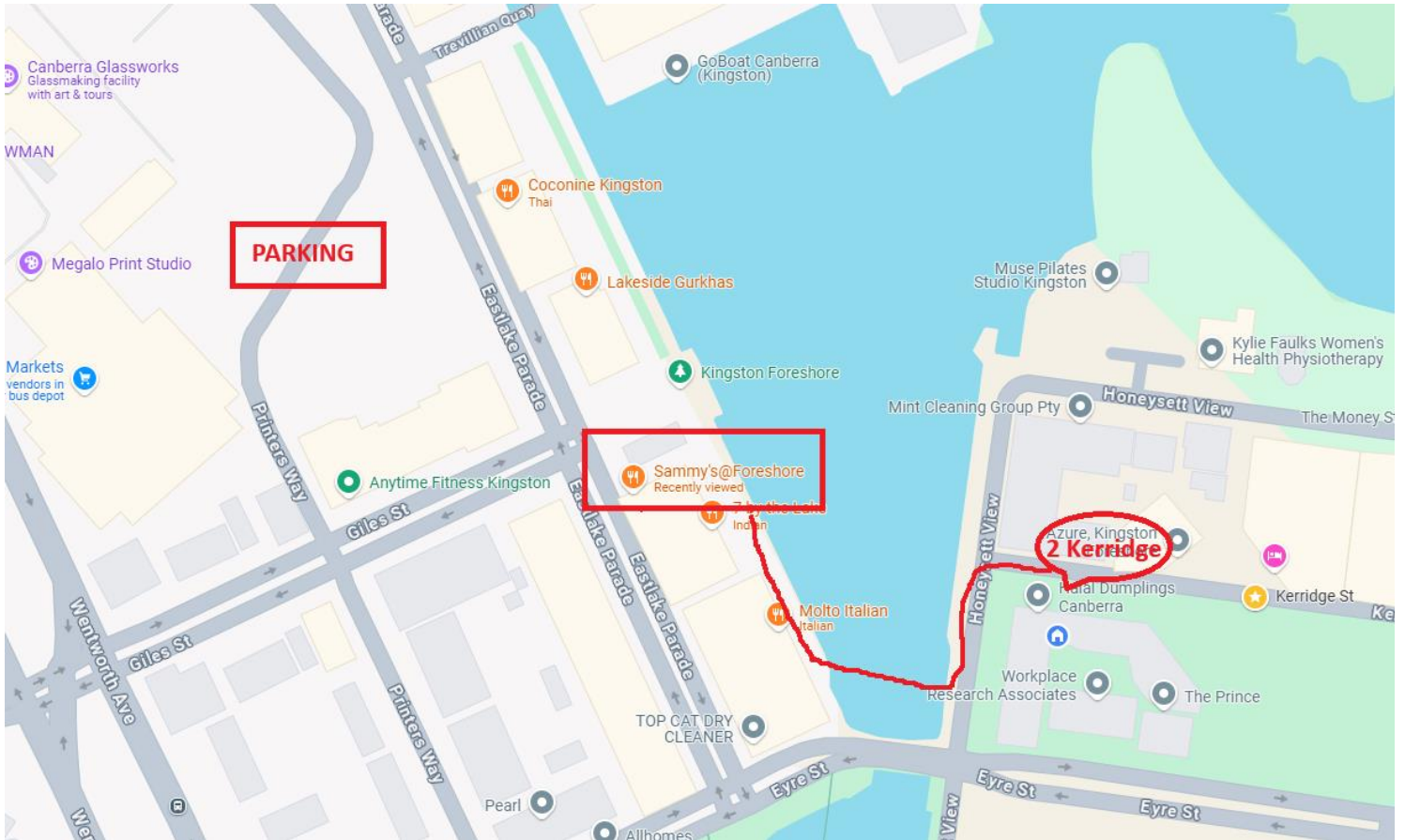
THE COLLECTION

The collection represents a lifetime of collecting artifacts relating to the history of calculating and computing. Items in the collection include:

Abacuses
Slide Rules
Calendars
Comptometers
Adding Machines
Early Office Equipment
Enigma Fragments (yes, The WW2 Enigma)
CSIRAC Data and Program Tapes
Paper Tape and Punch Cards
Core Memory
Microfiche
Electronic Calculators
Removeable Storage
Modems
Vintage Software
Hard Drives
Magnetic Tapes
Luggable PCs and Laptops
Data Loggers
Apple Products
Cameras
Manuals



305/2 KERRIDGE ST KINGSTON



Parking is available off Eastlake Parade. It is a short walk from there down to the Foreshore and along to Sammy's Restaurant. After lunch it's another short walk from Sammy's, across the pedestrian bridge and back to 2 Kerridge St.

There is a keypad at the entrance to The Prince on Kerridge St nearest to the Boat Harbour. Dial 305 and we will buzz open the door, and the lift will be unlocked to select floor 3. Turn left out of the lift on floor 3 and go round the corner to Unit 305.

Call me on 0408 817 259 if you're lost!

Offers and contributions to the collection will be gratefully considered, though space is tight. Please contact me at peter.heweston@gmail.com