



**GCS MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

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World Radio Day



February 13th

Radio remains the most widely consumed medium for over 100 years. This low-cost medium is suited to reaching remote communities and vulnerable people, offering a platform to intervene in the public debate, irrespective of people's educational level. It also plays a crucial role in emergency communication and disaster relief.

The Eiffel Tower wasn't designed as a radio tower, but over the years it became the epicentre of French radio. The first public radio broadcasts were done at the top of the Eiffel Tower by radio scientist Lee de Forest. He took a break from his honeymoon in 1908 and climbed the landmark to broadcast a selection of music to the Parisian suburbs.

As the 1980s rolled around engineers at the NOS, a Dutch broadcasting organization, made a cool discovery. Since video games were stored on audio cassettes, it was possible to transmit data across the radio, record it onto a cassette, and later play it on your computer. This led to radio broadcasts specifically designed to allow people to download free video games for their computer.

During bushfires or other emergencies, radio has been the most reliable and accessible platform with thousands of hours of emergency information broadcasted each year. Over 99.7% of Australians can access radio, connecting the most regional communities to over 50,000 hours of radio broadcasts each week.

The transition from analog to digital broadcasting is well underway. Digital platforms offer higher sound quality, more reliable transmission, and the ability to integrate multimedia elements. Digital broadcasters can offer more stations and niche content, catering to diverse tastes and preferences that traditional analog radio might not have been able to support.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COMMS TECH



Ever wonder what it's like to be a Communications Technician? Our Senior Comms Tech, Sean, might be able to answer some of those questions!

"The best thing about working for GCS is the people. The culture is really good, you're always taken care of. Apart from working as a comms tech, the job has given me experience as an auto-sparky as well as IT skills. You continue to learn with this job. Because of this, I don't have a favourite day. I take pride in all of my work, whether it's running cables or creating systems. Whenever I go back to a site where I've set up a system, it's rewarding to hear that it still works well months or years later. We're the forefront of communication networks, without us, there won't be much mining in the future. Without the systems and services we provide, the mining industry would lose a crucial part of its operations. Mines are already going completely digital, with underground mines becoming Wi-Fi enabled, we're changing the way of mining."

WHAT'S THE BEST PART?

"The most interesting part is the variety. Everyday is completely different. We do a vast variety of work, from setting up 2-way systems and microwave links on mine sites, to supporting events like the KDR. We do a lot more things than just radios."

HOW ABOUT THE WORST?

"The hardest part is understanding the technical aspect of the job, to know the ins and outs of everything we do. You need to dedicate yourself to studying the task to make sure you know what you're doing. It doesn't happen over night. All you can do is give it your all, you'll know you've achieved as much as you can."

ANY ADVICE FOR FUTURE COMMUNICATION TECHS?

"My advice for anyone wanting to be a communications technician is to give it your all. It'll be really up and down, but in the long run, the knowledge and life skills that you'll get out of the job is second to none. The things that you gain are very rewarding compared to other jobs."

Training an apprentice is quite interesting. It's very rewarding when you see an apprentice go through their whole apprenticeship and you get to see the growth from the very start."

