

LISTS RADIO SPECIALISTS
155 ENMORE ROAD



This photograph shows Mr Harry Valentine in front of the shop he owned with his sister, Mrs Ethel List in the 1930s. Ethel had been widowed in 1914 after only two years of marriage. Her first child, aged 2, died eight months after her husband's death. A second daughter was born after his death. What an overwhelming train of events for her and you wonder how she coped with it all.

Harry served for almost five years in World War 1 and returned to Australia in poor health. In fact, his niece often told the story that when he first visited her mother, his sister, she didn't recognize him. He still looks very thin in this photo but it was taken at the end of the Great Depression of 1929-1938.

Mr Valentine is standing alongside the very latest in radio consoles. The card in the shop's entrance describes it as having:-

World Reception
5 Valve Radio
For One Week Only
£11.19.6

I recognize the printing as Harry Valentine's (my father).

And we are told that 'List's terms are the easiest.'

The shop-front is full of interest with its array of radios. A poster in the window announces that Jack Wood has won the Goulburn to Sydney cycle race on 17th September 1938 on a Malvern Star. At this time cycle racing was very popular. The right window displays female marble figures, presumably to decorate 'your stylish new radio'. The shop gave 'Expert Repair Service' and could be rung on L.1340.

A paragraph in the Trade Gossip page of the Radio Retailer of Australia dated 29th October 1937, reads:

'Not so bad as a first effort' says Mr Harry Valentine, at List Music Radio, Newtown, who are Radioplayer retailers. He became the proud father of twin daughters the other day, and both, with their mother, are doing very well, thank you.'

The shop is now a Pizza Restaurant.

Wendy Valentine
12th May 2011