

1991 **2021**



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S.A. Group
Newsletter

What's so special about this Eddystone receiver??



Inside: Find out a little more about this radio. It's the favourite piece belonging to our longest serving member....but who is that?

Historical Radio Society of Australia Inc. – S.A. Group

Web Site: www.hrsasa.asn.au

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Planned Meetings (all are tentative due to Covid-19)

Sunday 27 February 2022 - 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Fault Finding Workshop

Three experienced members will share their tricks and skills in finding and fixing faults in radio chassis and/or amplifiers. Bring along your current project, radio, amplifier, or piece of equipment and get expert help. Please ring, SMS or Email the Secretary (Ian Smyth) to book a place at one of the tables. 20 places are available. Observers are also welcome to attend. - *St. Cyprian Church Hall - 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA, 5006*

Wednesday 9 March 2022

12noon (for 12:30pm start)

Members Luncheon - *The Earl of Leicester Hotel, 85 Leicester Street, Parkside, SA, 5063*

Sunday 27 March 2022

1:00pm to 3:30pm

Sale Day

A Fixed-Price Sale Day (not an auction) for members to sell items of high quality. Members wishing to sell items are asked to book a table through the Secretary (Ian Smyth) as soon as possible.

- *St. Cyprian Church Hall - 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA, 5006*

Sunday 24 April 2022 (NOTE: This is Sunday of Anzac Day long-weekend, so it may have to be changed.)

12noon to 3:30pm

BBQ Lunch and Home Visit

We will be visiting Phil Flaherty's "radio shack" adjacent to Goolwa Airport. Phil has a fabulous collection of military radios, receivers, and transceivers, plus an amazing workshop. Visit the Goolwa markets in the morning and/or arrive at noon to enjoy a BBQ lunch. Further details to follow.

Sunday 29 May 2022

1:00pm to 3:30pm

Book and Magazine Sale Day

This is the first of possibly two Book Sale Days. This one will be in person, the other will possibly be an online sale. Great collections including some rare books from several deceased estates of members.

- *St. Cyprian Church Hall - 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, SA, 5006*

Component Corner

Many new members are probably wondering where to obtain components and valves. The following is a list in order of preference;

HRSA-SA Group Shop (See the Directory above). We are working towards a publishable catalogue.

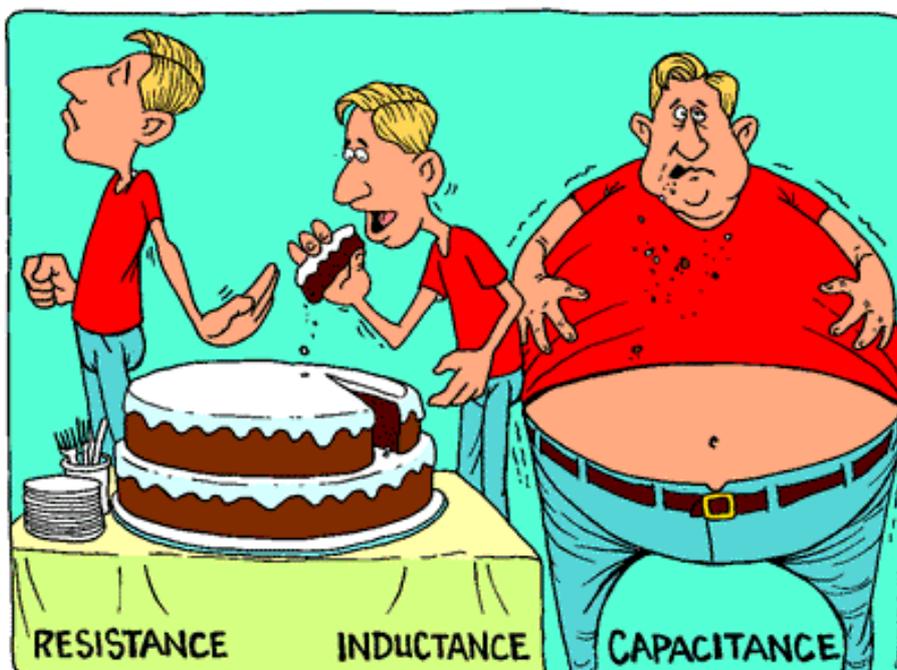
AZTRONICS, 170 Sturt Street, Adelaide. Houses the HRSA-SA Group valve bank and modern components. Will source components for members. Great supporters of the HRSASA.

HRSA Melbourne (see *Radio Waves*) Houses the HRSA valve bank and odd passive components and kits, plus resource books written especially for members.

WES Components, Sydney. The catalogue is viewable on-line and orders through the Shop Keeper or Secretary, as the SA Group has an account.

Front Cover

The featured radio is an immaculate **EDDYSTONE EB36** Receiver from the late 1950's. This was the first transistorised Eddystone model on the market and was developed primarily for use by International Press Agencies and Government Diplomatic Services. You can find out a bit more about its owner and his collection later in this newsletter.



The laws of electrodynamics explained!

In Memorium

Our much beloved member

John Dudley Cox

Passed away peacefully on Monday 7th February 2022 – Aged 88 years.

John was the devoted and much loved husband of Elizabeth for 52 years.

Elizabeth and John were the first and currently, the only Life Members of the HRS-SA Group.



John and Elizabeth Cox were two of the mainstays of our group, attending every meeting that they could, right up until the declaration of the COVID-19 Pandemic in February 2020.

John was member number 1348, having joined the group in 1998 and hardly missed a meeting until the pandemic. They served the Association through service as providers of tea, coffee and treats at every meeting and always greeted us with a smile and often, a joke! They never sought reimbursement, nor any sort of payment for their service. It was their unique contribution to the ongoing success of the HRSASA.

Unfortunately, John was diagnosed with cancer just after we saw him last and Elizabeth will be lost without him. She too has not been enjoying the best of health over past 2 years in isolation.

We will miss them greatly

Rest in Peace

Vale John Cox

A personal tribute from Peter Hartung

It was with great sadness that we learned that our dear friend and first LIFE MEMBER of the HRSASA, Mr. John Cox passed away on Monday 7th February 2022. He leaves behind his dearly beloved wife Elizabeth.

I had become good friends with John and Elizabeth after John no longer had a license to drive and sold his car. I would pick them up and take them, and the many shopping bags of cups, coffee, and milk to the monthly HRSASA meetings. It was an eagerly anticipated highlight for them both. Elizabeth would love to chat with her customers as she filled their cups, and the table was always set out nicely with all manner of cakes and other goodies ready for feeding time. John loved to mingle and ask advice when needed for his latest restoration project. He liked nothing more (except for cricket and football) than to spend the odd couple of hours tinkering in his neatly laid out workshop. He was an expert at replacing capacitors, making missing

brackets, and restringing dial pulleys. One of his favourite radios was the Philips MT4 which he had worked on during his time at Philips, around 1962. At the time he had managed to construct one for home from parts donated to him by his employer. The MT4 was a small battery powered mantel radio which delivered impressive performance from only three transistors! Lots of finished radios adorned their living room. He was very proud of his achievements - and rightfully so as he had a very high standard of workmanship. John loved giving his restored radios as gifts to friends and people who were good to him and Elizabeth.

It was a great surprise for John and Elizabeth to attend the 2019 AGM and receive the highest award ever given in HRSA history - '**Life Membership of the HRSA**', for their outstanding service, dedication, and leadership to the club in SA since it was founded.

I had been in contact with John over the past two years, the last time being just before Christmas when he told me of his bone cancer. He sounded pretty good at the time but was obviously shaken with the diagnosis. He was taken from this world quite quickly, and I did not speak to him again. We hope that he didn't suffer too much. It was quite unfortunate that since the beginning of the Covid campaign Elizabeth and John had locked themselves in their cosy unit and were petrified to venture out, except for the odd Doctor's visit. Luckily, they had a very good friend who brought them their meals every day and looked after their every need. During this time John had told me of Elizabeth's deteriorating condition with Dementia, and it is a great credit to him that he cared for her and loved her till his end. They were both totally and absolutely devoted to each other. We wish all the best for Elizabeth as words cannot sufficiently convey our most loved sentiments.

To have and to hold, for better, for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until parted by death. This is how they were blessed.



Above: A couple of John's favourite Philips radios that were proudly on display in their Unit.



President's "Banter"!

From our President, Graham Dicker.



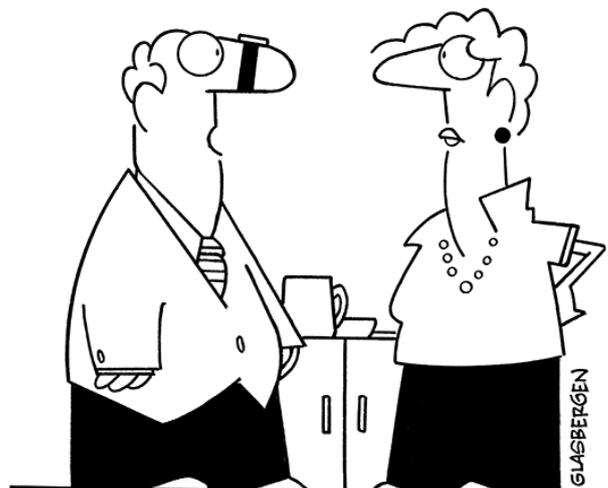
As promised, this is my last story of **"Robbie and the Moonshine still"**.

At one auction at Pennington, Robbie bid on and won a pallet of scrap copper from the weekly auction. At the time, its origin was somewhat unknown as goodies from both the DSTO and Woomera often ended up at these auctions. Amongst the scrap was a complete copper still, cap tubing condenser and a thing called a thump keg. To this day it's not sure if it was an import from the USA for the local Americans to make moonshine, or the DSTO to make rocket fuel! (*I suspect the outcome would be very little difference !!!!!*) Anyway, Robbie set the still up on display in a window of the shop, I know because I actually saw it in person. The story goes that later that week Robbie was visited by a Sergeant from the Port Adelaide Police Station, who demanded of Robbie that the still was illegal and had to be seized. Robbie was having none of this and reminded the Sgt, that the price was 100 quid, and if he wanted the scrap copper he had to be paid as he had purchased it quite legally. The copper (sorry the Sergeant) went away and about a week later turned up this time with a couple of CIB representatives who again tried to leverage the still from Rob, but again, having no luck without parting with 100 quid!!! At this stage there was a little frustration building up on both sides - and the police went away empty handed.

A few weeks passed and the CIB gentlemen turned up yet again on Rob's front doorstep, this time with a seizure warrant to take the still. Again, Rob still telling them where's my 100 quid??? The police then removed the still and provided Rob with a receipt. Rob immediately marched down to the old Port Adelaide Police Station and gave the Desk Sergeant on duty a good "going over" and demanding his 100 quid for the still, to no avail! Rob then took the matter up with his local politician who promised to follow it up and get back to Rob over the matter, Rob insisting all the time he needed to be paid his 100 quid!! After weekly visits for nearly 3 months, and Rob persisting to know where his 100 quid was, the local politician found 100 quid (probably out of his own pocket or a travel allowance) and gave it to Robbie. The moral of the story - when you think you are in the right, never give up, persistence pays. (100 quid !!!!!)

- Graham Dicker

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**"When you spend \$800 for a smart watch,
you don't want to hide it under your sleeve!"**

Member Feature

Recently, Our Editor was wondering who was the longest serving member of the HRSA in South Australia? Is this person a regular member? Is he/she well known to everyone? Is this person a city or country member?

Norman Lee (VK5GI) - HRSASA Member number 121

Norm Lee has the lowest membership number. He was one of the first members who joined in 1984. (Joe Orlando is next with Membership number 150.)



You may not remember Norm Lee because he spent many years away from SA and returned a few years ago to work at Flinders University, before retiring to Willunga, then McLaren Vale. Norm re-joined the HRSASA in 2021 and assumed his old membership number from the 1980's!!

Norm was born in England in the mid-1940's and grew up in Liverpool (and still has a bit of a "Scouse" accent!) Growing up in England during the closing years of WWII and the 1950's, he fondly remembers the role that radio played in the lives of young people. He was an avid listener to the BBC "Goon Show" and like millions of others, was intrigued at the way radio, comedy and technology intertwined, pushing the imagination of both the listener and the radio technicians who produced it. Post-war radio developed millions of people's world view and opened possibilities unknown to previous generations. Norman was fascinated listening to new stations like **Radio Luxembourg** and the music they played, as well as experimenting with small radios and developing his lifelong hobby in repair/restoration with radio.

Norman left school and began training as a "Medical Technician" at Royal Liverpool Infirmary where he began his training in electronics. In the evenings he worked part-time as a "Bouncer" at the famous Cavern Club in Liverpool where 300+ teenagers would dance away in what was essentially a converted sewer, to new bands like *The Beatles* and *Gerry & The Pacemakers*.

With his family, he emigrated to Australia as a "Ten-pound Pom" in 1966 settling first in Perth before moving to Canada for 3 or 4 years, but the cold and snow in Alberta saw him return to Adelaide where he took a job as a *Cardio-Pulmonary Medical Technician* at the Adelaide Children's Hospital and continued his studies at the University of Adelaide.

Over the years he progressed through the ranks (of both work and fatherhood) and continued his hobby, gaining his Ham radio license in 1972. In those early days he had a Canadian built radio, then progressed to a Kenwood R20 (10 watts), then a Kenwood 520 and added to it a **Heathkit** linear amplifier (2KW) which he'd obtained from radio station 5RM in the Riverland!



Norm's Eddystone 730 Mark 6



Norm's Eddystone 740

Norman became less and less hands-on with radio at work as he moved into Hospital administration. He gained a Masters' Degree as *Assistant Registrar* at the Children's Hospital, then to his final position as Registrar at Flinders Medical Centre, from where he finally retired to his property at Willunga. Since moving to McLaren Vale after his wife passed away, he has re-kindled his interest and skills in radio. He is online 2 or 3 nights a week talking to other Hams around the world and has no plans to slow down any further! He says that it's the challenges of very low power transmission/receiver rigs that still fascinate and motivate him! – Welcome back to the HRSASA Norman!



Norm's HEATHKIT HW8 Receiver



Norm's very rare EDDYSTONE Morse Tapping Key



Set of coils for one of the other radios



Some of Norm's other radios: EDDYSTONE EC10, an EDDYSTONE 870 receiver and another HW8 plus a HALLICRAFTERS 538

Wanted to Buy, Sell or Exchange

Are you looking for a hard-to-get part? A strange knob, or a replacement coil? Have an item that you'd like to sell? Why not place a free, classified advertisement on our website? Go to the TRADING POST page of our website at: <https://hrsasa.asn.au/page-16/> and have a look at what's on offer right now and help a fellow member. It changes frequently. *Why not make use of this resource yourself?*