



**Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter**  
**VIEWS FROM NOBBYS**  
 Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299  
 Website : [www.philas.org.au/newcastle](http://www.philas.org.au/newcastle)  
**FEBRUARY, 2015 : Newsletter No. 172 : EDITOR: Ron Davis**

## WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH  
 MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET , MAYFIELD AND  
 EACH THIRD WEDNESDAY AT 10.00 a.m. AT STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON.

**VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME**

DATES	DETAILS
Thur 12 Feb 2015	Display by John Higgs (Sydney) "GALLIPOLI"
Sun 15 Feb 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 18 Feb 2015	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Howard Bridgman- "ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION".
<i>Thursday 19 Feb 2015</i>	<b>STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</b>
Thurs 12 Mar 2015	Display by Ron Davis "BRIDGES and CASTLES"
Sun 15 Mar 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed 18 Mar 2015	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by John Hill - "1914-2014 100 YEARS of WORLD HISTORY".
Thurs 9 Apr 2015	POPULAR CHOICE - 6 Pages of Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter "X"
Wed 15 Apr 2015	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Anna Hill - "DESIGN ERRORS on STAMPS - POWERPOINT DISPLAY".
Sun 19 April 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thurs 14 May 2015	Display by Greg Laidler "SOUTH AUSTRALIA CENTENARY"
Sun. 17 May 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 May 2015	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Tony Walker- "GERMAN OCCUPATION of GUERNSEY"
<i>Thursday 21 May 2015</i>	<b>STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</b>
Thurs 11 June 2015	Display by ????? "TBA"
Sun. 21 June 2015	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed. 17 June 2015	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by members- "MEMBERS to BRING ALONG 6 PAGES"

### A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT, February 2015

Another new year has come around, and with the holiday season over, it is time to start planning our philatelic projects and displays.

The April Popular Choice competition of Something Philatelic Beginning with "X" (6 pages) would appear to be quite a challenge. With no "X" countries issuing stamps and only a few strange "X" words in the dictionary, it will be interesting to see what is presented. China has a lot of towns and cities beginning with "X". A couple of months left to think up, search for items and prepare an entry.

The listing of the Society's coming events and displays, shows much of interest over the coming months. The popular Stamp Auction night is the week after next (Thursday 19 February ,7.30 pm).

For the Committee, there will be increased planning and work preparing for our NORPEX 2015, National One Frame Exhibition, in late October.

- Ed Burnard, President -

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Age does not diminish the extreme disappointment of having a scoop of ice cream fall from a cone.

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## THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS – February 2015

Dr John Hill RPS,L was honored by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, recently, when Society members with 50 years or more membership, received a special medal and certificate. Quite prestigious as there are only 6 RPS,L members with 50 or more years membership worldwide.

Congratulations are also extended to BERNARD DOHERTY who was recently presented with a Philas Medal of Appreciation for 17 years of dedicated service on the former News South Wales Stamp Council now the Philatelic Development Council [PDC]. Bernard was on hand at the PDC December 2014 meeting to be presented with his medal, as well as enjoy the company of the current members of the PDC.



Members are reminded of two important activities in April-

Firstly there is our **Annual Popular Choice Competition**, this year being "Something Philatelic Starting with the letter X". The rules are six 'A4' size pages one of which is the title page. The winner is judged by popular vote by those present on the meeting night.

Secondly, something to mark in your diary is the **Anzac Centenary National Philatelic Exhibition** to be held at the Johnny Warren Sports Complex, Penshurst, Sydney. Run over 4 days from 16th to the 19th April there are expected to be upwards of 700 frames of competitive exhibits. More information can be found at [www.sydneystampexpo2015.org.au](http://www.sydneystampexpo2015.org.au).

John Moore, Secretary

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## OUR CLUB'S VISIT TO MAITLAND STAMP CLUB - 8th December 2014

We had a particularly good roll-up of displayers to our Annual Visit to Maitland Stamp Club on 8th December 2014. Quite a few of the Maitland members are ALSO members of the N.P.S.

Newcastle Members attending were:

Don Catterall	NPS Scavenger Hunt entry	Roger Eggleton	Victorian Railways Parcel Stamps
Tony Walker	His father's Jamaica Album	Bernard Doherty	Christmas Cards from World Postal Administrations
Kevin Simkus	Nil	Don Rutherford	KGVI stamps and covers
Jim MacDougall	Newfoundland	John Lavender	NSW Post Office postmarks & RO Picture Post Cards
Gladys Tyack	Antelopes	Bob Glendenning	Australian pre-decimal multiples used
Norm Tyack	Under and Over the Sea	Mark Saxby	South Australian Departmental Overprints
George Kuszelyk	Polish Exile Stamps	David Carratt	Lisa Carratt's Disney Stamps

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## THE STORY OF RICE by Peter Cheah

Rice is the staple food of Asia. For the West, the staple is mainly wheat. These two grain foods are the mainstay of humanity. Rice has fed more people over a longer period of time than any other staple crop in human history. Nearly half of the current world's population relies on rice consumption for its existence.

Rice was first domesticated in the Yangtze Valley of China some 8000 to 9000 years ago. Its cultivation then spread to India's Ganges region some 4000 years later and after that, it moved westwards, then into Greece and the Mediterranean generally. From there it spread to other countries in Europe where it could be grown and also into Africa. Rice is now grown in 112 countries. However, some 95% of it is grown and consumed in the greater Asian region. Hence, the preponderance of Asian "rice" post cards.

There are only a few basic rice types - white, brown, black, wild, long grain and short grain. Within these basic types, there are a total of some 40,000 varieties and each growing country, including Australia, has its own varieties.

In many of the rice growing countries of Asia, the preparation of land or padi field for the planting season is carried out by water buffalo pulling a plough through the field. In countries that are more advanced, specialized small 3 or 4 wheeled tractor-like vehicles are used. The most important requirement for growing rice is an ample water supply for the padi field and multi-layered terraced fields. The monsoon rains of Asia provide this water on a seasonal basis. In many countries, two crops of rice can be grown annually. It is also common to see different types of fish and crustaceans in rice ponds. This is a cheap source of protein for the families of rice growers.

At the end of the rice growing season, rice stalks are cut and harvested mainly by hand. Threshing then takes place and rice grains from the stalks are left to dry before being packed for transport and distribution. Large lorry loads and huge barge loads of bags of rice are not an uncommon sight in Asia.

A very famous set of rice terraces is inscribed on the World Heritage List. These are known as the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and were first developed some 2000 years ago.

The most popular way rice is consumed in Asia is the daily bowl of plain boiled rice. To take away its blandness, it is accompanied by other types of prepared foods, depending on the wealth of the household. Rice noodles, rice porridge (con-gee), paella and alcoholic products such as sake (Japanese rice wine) are some of the better known derivations of grain rice.

Postcards of the rice industry in Australia are hard to find, if they exist. Stamps do exist.

\*\* Gerbils can smell adrenaline, and are installed in airport security areas to detect terrorists.

\*\* Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been. *Mark Twain*

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## THE 2014 SCAVENGER HUNT, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014

We hadn't even got through the Club's front door before the word was out – "You should see one of the Scavenger Hunt entries – 32 pages!!" "32 pages? That's not possible!" It was indeed possible – there it was on the table !!

The compiler of the Scavenger Hunt, Don Catterall, had given us two lists of items to look for, the first one being Australian Decimal stamps, the second being Worldwide items. These lists were printed on Page 6 of the August '14 Newsletter, to give members sufficient time to compile an entry. And time was needed ! "A jackhammer" on an Australian stamp?? Don eventually conceded that a "rock drill" may be a more appropriate description of what he had in mind (from Snowy Mountains stamp issues).

There were 5 participants, with 4 entries in each section.

KEVIN SIMKUS had decided to attempt the Whole World section only, and received one of the 21 votes available.

DON RUTHERFORD, similarly, had only participated in the Australian Decimal issues, and obtained two votes.

DON CATTERALL – well, HE knew what and where they all were, and although he topped the vote for the Australian Section with 9 votes, he received 4 votes for his Overseas entry.

RON DAVIS received 2 and 3 votes respectively for the Australian and Overseas sections.

ROGER EGGLETON caused lots of discussion with his HUGE Australian Decimals entry. BUT, on reading the write-up, it all became clearer. He did, however, "scoop the pool" with 62% of votes for the World Wide section – 13 votes, and 7 for the Australian section.

Then followed a PHILATELIC TRIVIA Quiz. There were 12 two-part questions on Australian stamps, with part of the text on the stamps obliterated. Members wrote their answers against the questions on the answer sheet provided.

An OUTSTANDING victory – JOHN HILL got a score of 35 points out of 36 (!!), while GREG LAIDLER and ROGER EGGLETON had a dead heat for 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a score of 29½ points. And then there were the others ....

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**\*\* A STAMP WHICH CAUSED A WAR :** A Paraguayan stamp printed in 1932 helped to start a war. The stamp showed a map in which the Chaco territory between Bolivia and Paraguay, claimed by both sides, was labelled Chaco Paraguayo. In addition the stamp bore the provocative legend "*Ha sido, es, y sera*" (Has been, is, and will be). On June 15, 1932, Bolivian troops attacked Paraguay. The war dragged on until June 12, 1935, by which time 100,000 men had died. In the end, the two countries signed a peace treaty in 1938 under which Paraguay gained 90 per cent of the disputed territory.

**AUSTRALIA'S FIRST MINIATURE SHEET** was the block of four blue 3d. Kookaburras, on 29 October 1928. The design was the modified 6d. engraved kookaburra which had been issued in 1913. Produced for the International Philatelic Exhibition in Melbourne (29 Oct-1st Nov 1928), it was issued as a 3d. stamp and printed in blue to meet U.P.U. requirements. It was only 5 years after the World's first ...!

### THE FIRST MINIATURE SHEET

The first true miniature sheet is generally considered to have been issued by the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg on 3 January 1923

A special printing of the 10fr definitive, in green instead of black, was produced as a single stamp in sheets varying in size from 78mm x 59mm to 79mm x 61mm.

The miniature sheets were sold as a souvenir of the birth of Princess Elizabeth. The definitive stamp was not issued in normal sheet format until the following March and, then in a different colour and perforation





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## POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF EASTERN GERMANY – 1945-1991

Display by JOHN MOORE, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014

With the 1945 surrender of the German forces following WWII, Germany was divided amongst the four victorious powers - France, United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union. Borders were redrawn with Germany losing all of its provinces west of the Oder River to Poland and the Soviet Union.

Initially it was planned that the remaining part of Germany was to be jointly administered by the 4 conquering powers, however due to the East being at that time being more socialist inclined, no doubt driven by Soviet ideology led to the Socialist Unity Party gaining power in the East during 1946. This led to the declaration of the German Democratic Republic on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1948.

The way of life in East Germany was strictly controlled with any signs of dissent being brutally suppressed by the authorities led by the Army, the Peoples Police, Stasi as well as assistance from the Soviets. During 1953 a workers uprising was brutally put down with many - possibly thousands - killed.

Further discontent with the way of life in the East led to the border being sealed between the East and West and the construction of the Berlin Wall.

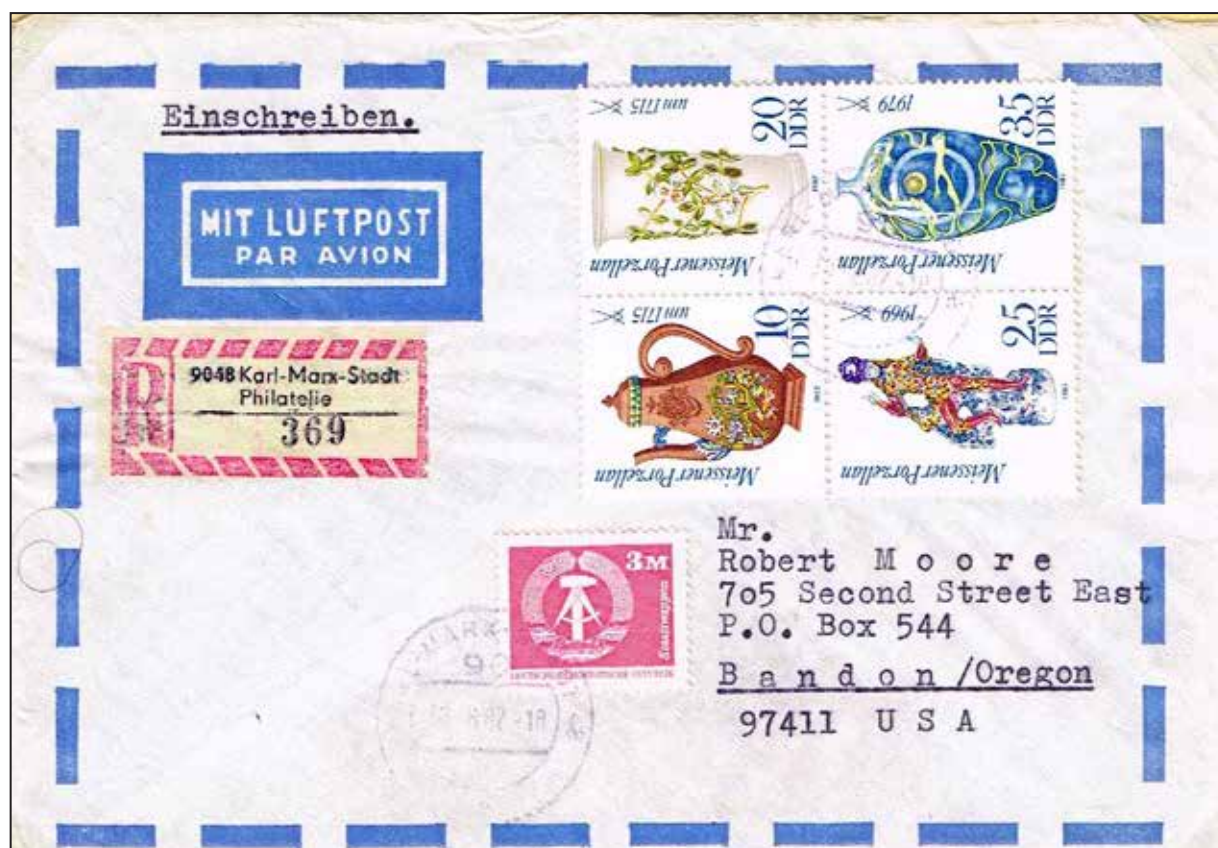
During 1972 there was some 'normalisation' of relations between the two Germanys. East Germany joined the United Nations 1973. Little seemed to change politically for East Germany until August 1989 when Hungary and Czechoslovakia opened their borders to the west thus allowing large numbers of East Germans to flee westwards.

A month after a rather subdued celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of East Germany, the people breached the Berlin Wall resulting in the unification of Germany on 3 October 1991.

Administratively, East Germany was made up of 8 districts of which 6 issued stamps until joint issues for use in the Soviet, British and American Zones were issued 1946. The Soviets introduced currency reforms in May 1948 with previous issued stamps being overprinted for the Soviet Zone. Later stamps were issued inscribed Duetsche Post- showing various socialist personalities from the East.

The first issues inscribed German Democratic Republic was issued on 2 March 1950. This was later abbreviated to DDR during 1961. With the lead up to the 1991 unification, the West German Mark was introduced into East Germany 1 July 1990, with stamp issues once again being inscribed Duetsche Post. From 1 October 1991 all stamps issued were for the unified Germany.

Most East German stamps were used for political/propaganda purposes as much as their intended usage for postage.



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# GREAT PHILATELIC EXPOSITIONS AND EXPOS

- the display by PAUL STORM (Sydney), Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015

The evening's display, featuring "Exhibitions", was presented by Paul Storm who commenced with a talk on the history of this fascinating subject. Paul, for many years, has been the Secretary of and a prime person in the Cinderellas Stamp Club of Australasia, several members of which collect ephemera related to exhibitions (including our own late John Fordham).

He covered the development and worldwide spread of this phenomenon which started with the British Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1851 and which was mainly organised by Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert. He talked about many of the more famous events, the incredible buildings built to house them and even had the members present at one stage singing "Meet Me in St. Louis".

It should be noted that TWO Important structures related to Stamp Expositions that have survived to this day are the "Melbourne Exhibition Building" and France's "Eiffel Tower"!

He spoke about the items of memorabilia that he had laid out on display, including medals, fine prints, booklets, posters, a perfume bottle and many other rare pieces. Finally he introduced us to the wonderful collection of Postcards, Cinderellas and Postage stamps which we then had the opportunity to inspect and admire.

We were all captivated by the sheer beauty of those latter items which were all in pristine condition and a tribute both to their creators and to Paul's collecting sense and purpose. He was thanked for giving us such a truly interesting talk and for the marvellous material which together made the night a most memorable one.



- Don Catterall -



**INCREDIBLE SHRINKING COUNTRY** - Two disastrous wars and one near-war have cost Bolivia more than half the territory to which it laid claim when it became independent in 1825. In the 1879-83 War of the Pacific, Chile annexed Bolivia's Pacific seacoast, along with the port of Antofagasta and the mineral-rich Atacama Desert. In 1903, when war with neighbouring Brazil was narrowly avoided, Bolivia was forced to cede the rubber-producing Acre territory to Brazil. Finally, after the 1932-35 Chaco War with Paraguay, Bolivia lost three-quarters of the southern Chaco region which it claimed. It also abandoned hope of an outlet of its own to the Atlantic along the Paraguay river, at a point where the river is navigable for large vessels. Despite having no coastline, Bolivia still has a navy of some 4000 men. They are confined, however, to the calm waters of Lake Titicaca high in the Andes and to rivers on the fringes of the Amazon basin.



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## THE VOTE OF THANKS — One Person's Thoughts

- Roger Eggleton -

No doubt you are familiar with the advice to public speakers: "Say what you are going to say; say it; and say what you have said". In other words, begin your presentation with a brief overview, proceed to deliver on the content you have just outlined, and finally summarize the main points you have made.

Why have the introductory and concluding phases? To communicate more effectively. They have sound justifications in how we learn and how we remember. The initial brief overview provides the listener with a framework in which to understand the content which you are about to present in detail. The final summary of your main points helps the listener mentally organize the information you've given, and greatly improves retention of that information.

Now I invite you to shift viewpoint, and think of yourself as an audience member at a Society philatelic display. The principles just discussed also apply in this case. The **presenter** first gives an oral introduction to the philatelic display. The best use of this introduction is to tell the audience what the display is going to be about, and how it is organized. This is followed by the display itself, the "main event". As a viewer, your enjoyment of the display can be significantly enhanced by seeing how component parts and significant items fit into the framework described in the presenter's introduction.

What happens at the end of the display? The presenter is not normally asked to provide an oral summary, though such a summary would help provide an overview and framework for remembering the main points, and enhance retention. What actually happens next is that **an audience member** is called on to move a vote of thanks. For brevity, let's call that person the **thanker**. Since this is the moment when a summary will best serve to complete the presentation, the **thanker** ideally begins with such a summary.

Traditionally this summary was always the main part of the vote of thanks, though lately it has often been minimized or even omitted. This may well be because we have dropped our standards and expectations of the role played by the **thanker**. To do the summary well, the **thanker** needs to put in some serious advance preparation — reading relevant source material, thinking about the subject area of the forthcoming display, and perhaps communicating with the presenter ahead of the display date. In other words, among those present at the display, the **thanker** should strive to be second only to the **presenter** in understanding of the subject area of the display.

Armed with this preparation, the **thanker** notes important elements during the display, and may actively ask the presenter questions about particular items shown. When it comes to the vote of thanks, the **thanker** ideally presents an interpretative summary of the display for the benefit of the audience, with appropriate reference to important elements of the display.

For the benefit of the speaker, the **thanker** then moves to the shorter second part of the vote of thanks, expressing the audience's appreciation of the presenter's accumulated knowledge of the subject, the considerable time and effort spent in acquiring and organizing the material displayed, and the willingness to share its enjoyment with the audience. The rest of the audience then has the opportunity to endorse this with hearty applause.

— R.B.E., October 2014.

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**\*\* SICILY – THE FACE OF FORTUNE** : The vanity of a king helped to make his stamps a favourite target of collectors. Ferdinand II (1810-59), the ruler of Sicily, was so vain that when postal officials suggested SICILY should issue its own postage stamps he agreed only on condition that his portrait was never to be disfigured by a franking mark. Anyone who disobeyed, he decreed, would be guilty of treason. To placate the king - nicknamed King Bomba after he ordered an artillery bombardment of rebellious subjects in Palermo and Messina in the late 1840s - fearful officials designed a special franking mark that fitted as a frame around his head.

Today, the franked stamps can be worth several hundred pounds apiece, partly because of their curiosity value, but mainly because of their rarity. Largely as a result of delays caused by the king himself, the new stamps were not issued until January 1, 1859 - and their issue was halted less than five months later, on Ferdinand's death.



**\*\* ANONYMOUS FAME** : The world's first adhesive prepaid stamps were introduced in Britain on May 6, 1840. Only two denominations were issued: the penny black and the two-penny blue. Since they were not intended for overseas use, neither stamp carried the name of their country of issue on them - and that tradition remains to this day !!

**\*\* AN EMPRESS'S CURRENCY** : The autocratic head of Maria Theresa, empress of the Austrian empire from 1740 to 1780, still appears on the Austrian 1 thaler coin - a silver coin no longer used in Austria. During Maria Theresa's reign, the coin became so respected in countries bordering the Red Sea that traders would often accept no other coins. After the empress died, the coin continued to be minted in several European countries and it is still used in parts of the Middle East. Such coins are all dated 1780 whichever year they were minted. In 1993 each coin was worth from \$4 to \$10, slightly more today.



**THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,**  
 at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East,  
 at 10 a.m. on the **THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).**



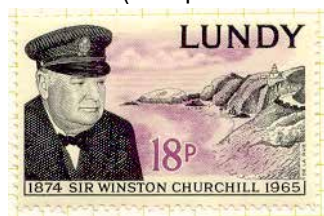
**EVEN MORE HARDLY-EVER-HEARD-OF COUNTRIES**

- display by **RON DAVIS**, Wed. 19 November 2014

After you've been collecting odd and unusual countries for some 60 years, you would think that there would not be any "new" ones left. But Ron managed to find three "new" hardly-ever-heard-of countries which he hadn't seen before.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1915, Germany issued a set of 5 stamps with a huge overprint for its Occupation of Poland in WWI. Then there were the 21 stamps issued by the Polish Government in exile in Great Britain, 1939 to 1945, when Poland itself didn't exist. They were valid only for posting from the Polish Embassy in London and from Polish ships (because of UPU regulations). One wonders how much this would involve, but no doubt the mail would have lots of political value. Similarly the stamps issued for the Council of Europe – only valid for mail posted within the COUNCIL OF EUROPE building, and then only to addresses in Switzerland.

Most of Ron's stamps in this display were issued by tiny Governments for short periods of time, or from countries with little mail used by the few people who could read and write. KIONGA, for instance, only ever issued 4 stamp values, the 1/2c. being the scarcest. Formerly part of German East Africa, it is now part of Mozambique. Countries which had only recently come into existence, such as Uzbekistan, were in the display, too. The "Hardly-Ever-Heard-Of Countries" included La Aguera (Western Sahara, now part of Mauritania), Tadžikistan, Bhutan, Buriatia, San Marino, Andorra, Galapagos Islands, Kiautschou, Annam and Tonkin, Guanacaste, Robinson Crusoe Island (Chile), and some unusual postal stationery from Nossi Bé (now part of Malagasie).



"Well, there certainly were countries I've seen today that I haven't heard of before !!" Don Catterall remarked at the end of the meeting.



**POLAND – THE EXILE GOVERNMENT, 1939-1945**

- the display by **GEORGE KUSZELYK**, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015

George Kuszelyk began our 2015 Daytime Program with his display, **POLAND - EXILE GOVERNMENT 1939-1945** - part of his extensive collection of Poland. Collectors who expected the display to consist only of the 21 stamps issued by the Polish Government in Exile were in for a surprise - the display covered a much broader area than this.

George began by speaking about the history of Poland from the time before the German invasion of September 1939. What was remarkable was the extent to which the Polish government moved its troops to other countries, firstly to France then to Britain as the country fell to Nazi domination. Poland even had troops based in Palestine. The separate large Polish units were one reason why an extensive communication network was set up.

The Polish Government in Exile was based in London and surprisingly was not disbanded until 1990, when its insignia of office were handed over to the democratically elected government in Poland. The extent of the philatelic material produced by the Poles and their supporters in WWII was greater than any other Government in Exile from an occupied country.

The stamps, of which many collectors are aware, were of course issued in Britain, but because of UPU regulations they were valid for posting only from the Polish Embassy and from Polish ships. We saw a range of interesting related material including mail sent to safe addresses in Portugal to escape German



... censorship, a range of numerous postal seals, even specially designed aerogram forms and of course postal history material sent to Polish servicemen in various bases in Britain. Members seeing the display were impressed with the depth and extent of research shown by the exhibitor who has been collecting and researching this material for over thirty years. Anna Hill provided a special Polish touch by supplying black current and red current jam sandwiches for morning tea. The collection demonstrated the Poles' admirable quality of resisting oppression. Visitors to the Polish House in Broadmeadow would be aware that in large letters there is a Polish slogan which in translation reads, Poland will never perish. Those who created the philatelic material from the Second World War seen in George Kuszelyk's display would have fully shared this sentiment

- John Hill -

- Just grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked, the good fortune to remember the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.





### NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY 2014 CHRISTMAS PARTY.

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December, a lovely night was had by all out at President ED BURNARD's place. Our hosts did a magnificent job in arranging plenty of food, drink and a comfortable set up for the 22 folk in attendance. DON RUTHERFORD ran the Barbeque, and the sausages and onions never tasted so good.

After the eats, members presented items of interest - with DON CATTERALL compering this segment in the absence of Ron Davis who was sadly laid low with a bad back.

DON CATTERALL showed War Savings Memorabilia from WW2 whilst MARGARET showed her WW2 Ration Coupons, Red Cross stickers and an Airgraph sent to her family.

BERNIE DOHERTY showed us philatelic medals he had won, as well as his NPS Life Member's badge.

TONY WALKER showed his sextant, which has now been retired, whilst WENDY had an early camera, both of which had been made in East Germany (relevant to the 11<sup>th</sup> December display).

GREG LAIDLER showed Napoleonic toy soldiers which he had painted in full livery.

VAL RUTHERFORD showed examples of her sculpture work. We certainly have some hidden talent in our group. Talking of which - HOWARD BRIDGMAN of the University Choir then delighted us with a superb vocal rendition of "O Holy Night".

JOHN HILL showed us a postcard from Burnie Folk Museum which was related to his work associations down there as a young man.

ANNA HILL then told us of how her father, a tobacco farmer in Zimbabwe, had attended a market in Salisbury at which a photograph taken became the subject of a stamp issue. Remarkably Anna's dad appeared on the stamp which was shown to the gathering.



HAROLD FRANKS showed several Australia Post International Stamps with significant colour variations.

JIM MACDOUGALL then told us of a Centenarian relative back in Canada and showed us a cookbook which she had published in 1903.

DAVID ROBERTS showed us his Military Service Medals from his 2 tours of Afghanistan.

ROGER EGGLETON showed a Galilean Thermometer which he was giving to a young relative as a present, ever the educator.

ED BURNARD showed a recent New Zealand stamp issue featuring an endangered bird species.

There was certainly plenty to interest everyone, and we can reflect on what a diverse group we are but with one common binding interest - our Stamp Collecting.

Our Sincere Thanks go to ED AND SHIRLEY. What a fine Night!

- Don Catterall -

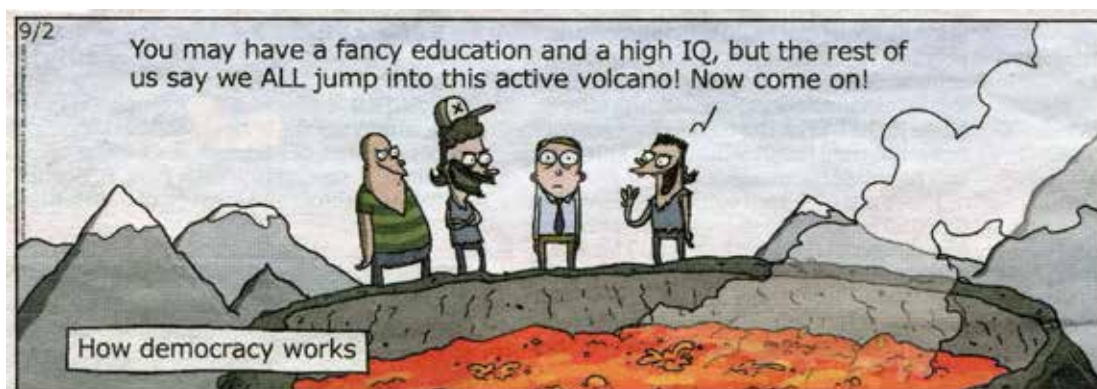
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- These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the "hereafter" ... I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm "here after".
- Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

\*\* A male Rhinoceros Beetle can lift 850 times its own weight.

\*\* Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Mount Everest, was a professional beekeeper. When filling in forms, he always gave his occupation as "Apiarist".

\*\* The Malay word for water is "air".



**Today's fact**

The banana plant isn't a tree, it's a herb, and the bananas are its berries.