



## Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299  
Website : [www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au](http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au)

**MAY, 2016 : Newsletter No. 177 : EDITOR: Ron Davis**

### WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY of EACH MONTH  
MAYFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, cnr, PACIFIC HWY & 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
Thurs 12 May 2016	Display by Gordon Gibbons "CHILE"
Sun. 15 May 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed. 18 May 2016	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Greg Laidler – "Australia 1936 Tasmania Cable Stamp".
<i>Thursday 19 May 2016</i>	<i><b>AUCTION NIGHT</b> Viewing from 7.00pm, Auction starts 8.00pm. (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</i>
Thurs 9 June 2016	Display by Roger Eggleton "BRITISH PARCEL POST LABELLING - PART 1"
Wed. 15 June 2016	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Roger Eggleton – "BRITISH PARCEL POST LABELLING - PART 2"
Sun. 19 June 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thurs. 14 July 2016	Display by Keith Laverick "GB MACHINS"
Sun. 17 July 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 July 2016	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Russell Goddard – "POT POURRI"
<i>Thursday 21 July 2016</i>	<i><b>SWAP and SALE</b> From from 6.30pm, (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</i>
Thurs 11 Aug 2016	Annual General Meeting and Awards Night
Wed. 17 Aug 2016	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Tony Walker – "NORTH BORNEO PART 2"
Sun. 21 Aug 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Thurs 8 Sept 2016	TBA
Sun. 18 Sept 2016	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at <b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , 11 a.m
Wed. 21 Sept 2016	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Bruce Chadderton "A TASTE of KOREA"

### **A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT, May 2016**

Greetings everyone. Just a short piece this time. The cooler nights are upon us and this is a good time to be putting our displays and exhibits together. There are a few people preparing for exhibitions later this year and I wish you well with your endeavours. However, it does not have to be a for an exhibition. Just a few pages on your favourite stamp or subject will do the trick. Our recent night of displays with the letter "Y" provided some wonderful examples of creativity and ingenuity. Congratulations to those who displayed that night, and indeed those who exhibited at Canberra earlier this year. The time and effort was well rewarded. Also thanks to those who made the journey to Canberra to offer support. It was a multi frame exhibition and there was something for all tastes. There was a mind boggling array of dealers at Canberra including the ones that made the effort to come to our exhibition last year. The ball is now rolling for our own exhibition in 2018, and we will need to get our thinking caps on with respect to how we can entice more dealers than the two brave souls who made the effort last year. From what I could see, the dealers were attracting plenty of customers. Food for thought. I must now apologise for what will be my absence in May and August. The call of Africa and back to sea respectively are the culprits I'm afraid. My thanks also in advance for those who will sit in the chair in lieu. Best wishes to you all.

- Tony Walker, President -

\*\*\* Life is like an icecream. Just when you think you've got it licked, it drips all over you

**THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, MAY 2016**

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to our following members, who exhibited in the recent Canberra Stamp Show in April -

- R. Eggleton - British Parcel Post Labelling 1883-1970, 89 Gold, Special Prize and Felicitations ( ! )
- Kim Dwyer - The Earth's Treasures, 75 Vermeil
- Kevin Dwyer - The Story of Aubrey Gotley, 72 Large Silver
- Scott - Airletters to Aerogrammes, 71 Large Silver
- J. Moore - Coconut - The Palm of Life, 66 Silver

Just a reminder that I am in the process of putting together the 2016-17 syllabus and seek from your displays or suggestions for displays for our Night Time meetings. Please let me know as soon as possible, either in person or by email to [moore.john@optusnet.com.au](mailto:moore.john@optusnet.com.au).

- John Moore, Secretary -

**AUCTION REPORT, 24th MARCH 2016**

This night saw the first auction at our new venue, the Mayfield Senior Citizens Club, and what a great show it was. Despite being the evening before Good Friday and with quite a number of regulars absent we still had a big turn out with over 50 in attendance. It was pleasing to see several new faces and hopefully we will see them again in the future. 37 took bidding cards and most were successful in winning some of the 341 lots laid out by our 20 vendors.

With 153 lots sold, that made 45% of those submitted selling, and as per usual that's a really satisfactory result. Total sales for the night were \$1,809, a surprisingly high tally and due of course to a large number of high value sales.

Highest price for the night of \$75 was paid for a large box containing several albums with various topics from the late Bob Smith collection. A really Great buy !

Next at \$60 came a stockbook containing page after page of Australian Kangaroos.

This was followed by a similar stockbook chock full of Australian KGV heads which sold for \$46 and then yet another stockbook of Australian material went for \$42.

A huge bag containing many many bags of all sorts of stamps fetched an amazing \$42 as did a Japanese accumulation, whilst another box of assorted albums went for \$40, all these latter courtesy of the Bob Smith estate. An album of Australian States stamps fetched a good price as did an album of British Commonwealth, and then two albums of South American Issues also sold well, all these up in the \$30's.

Last of the higher sellers were, a Binder of used Hagner Sheets, and a lovely Mint 6d Brown Kookaburra which sold for \$34 and \$32 respectively. To round off the better items, another dozen or more lots sold in the \$20's. Popular again were bags of Australian used on paper, which as usual sold competitively.

There were indeed a lot of happy customers on this night !

Thanks to all involved for making it such a successful night.

Our next Auction will be on the 19th of May and in July our Swap and Sale Night will be on. Hope to see you there.

**Don Catterall, Auction Convenor, Phone 4943 5639.**

\*\*\* Mobile phones can be a blessing or a curse, depending on who, or where, you are. They've been blamed for all sorts of things ; the demise of government ministers - even royalty - and now the latest, your car! The word is that mobile or cellular phones (along with general radio transmissions from transmitters and power lines) play havoc with the electronically controlled engine-management systems and gear-boxes, stopping your car dead or sending it into a tizz. Radio signals around the Black Mountain Telecom/Telstra Tower in Canberra A.C.T. are so intense that cars have had to be towed from the vicinity before their hapless owners have been able to restart them. There have been other reports of electronically-assisted brakes on trailers and caravans being applied, and vehicles suddenly changing gear when the car phone rings....

- The Bulletin / Signs of the Times 3/96 -

\*\*\* "Oral hygiene can be a matter of life or death for elderly people" says Asahi Evening News.

Japanese scientists concluded that "elderly people can reduce the risk of pneumonia simply by brushing their teeth." In a study of 46 elderly people, one group of 21 had their teeth brushed thoroughly by nurses daily after lunch. They were also given dental hygiene checkups two or three times each week. After three months, it was found that the 21 had suffered ten fewer days of fever than the 25 who did not follow the routine. Better health was attributed to the absence of oral bacteria. A previous study concluded that "saliva or food particles accidentally inhaled into the lungs often cause pneumonia," said the newspaper.

- "Awake!", 22/2/96 -

## AUSTRALIA 1989 SPORT DEFINITIVE SERIES – STAMPS AND USAGE

- Display by JOHN MOORE, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016



Changes in postage rates by Australia Post affected the four issue dates of this definitive Sports series. And the fact that the stamps were in use for several years meant that there were quite a number of printings, denoted by koalas and kangaroos in the selvedge of the stamp sheets. One kangaroo is used for every fifth printing.

The first issue was on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1989, when the 1c Bowls, 2c Bowling, 3c Football, 39c Fishing, 55c Kite flying, 70c Cricket, and \$1.10 Golf stamps were issued, together with a \$3.90 stamp booklet (10 stamps). The stamps were to emphasise the recreational aspects of sport.

Following an increase in the general postage rate from 39 cents to 41 cents, a definitive 41c Cycling stamp was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1989, together with a \$4.10 booklet of 10. Also included was an experimental issue of 41c self-adhesive stamps issued in boxes of 100 in strip format with a scalloped edge to imitate perforations.

Series II definitives were issued on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1990, to “fill in” the series. Issued were 5c Kayaking/Canoeing, 10c Sailboarding, 20c Tennis, 65c Rockclimbing and \$1 Fun Run, continuing the concept of recreational aspects of sport.

Then on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1990, following another basic postage rate change, a 43c Skateboarding stamp was issued, together with a 43c self-adhesive issue, and a \$1.20 Hang Gliding stamp. As with the 41c self-adhesive stamps, the 43c was issued in boxes of boxes of 100 in strip format with scalloped edges to imitate

perforations. They were also available in boxes of 200 stamps.

John’s display showed each of the various denominations with increasing numbers of koalas and/or kangaroos indicating new printings. The \$1 stamp shown here was of the seventh re-printing.

A very competent display indeed !

- R.D.-

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## For all those collectors of BEES on stamps :

**H**ONEYBEES (*Apis mellifera*) construct their honeycombs with wax secreted from glands found on the underside of their abdomen. The honeycomb is regarded as an engineering marvel. Why?

For centuries, mathematicians suspected that partitions in the shape of hexagons were better than equilateral triangles or squares—or any other shape—for maximizing space with the least amount of building material. But they could not fully explain why. In 1999, Professor Thomas C. Hales provided mathematical proof for the advantage of what he termed “honeycomb conjecture.” He demonstrated that regular hexagons are the best way to divide a space into equal parts with minimal structural support.

By using hexagonal cells, bees can make the best use of all the space available to them, produce a light but sturdy honeycomb with a minimum amount of wax, and store the maximum amount of honey in a given space. Not surprisingly, the honeycomb has been described as “an architectural masterpiece.”

Today, scientists mimic the bees’ honeycomb to create structures that are both resilient and space efficient. Aircraft engineers, for example, use panels patterned after the honeycomb to build planes that are stronger and lighter and thus use less fuel.



\*\*\* A chip of silicon 6mm square has the capacity of the original 1949 electron-valve-operated ENIAC computer, which occupied a city block

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**FROM CAPETOWN THROUGH KATANGA, THE COMOROS AND CONGO TO KHARTOUM** - Display by RON DAVIS, Thurs. 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016

“Why didn’t you just call the display EAST AFRICA?” asked one of the members at the meeting night. “Well, there are too many East African countries to fit into 70 pages,” was Ron Davis’s reply. “As it is, I’m showing 54 countries!”



Ron’s display did, in fact, run up the east coast of Africa, and included quite a few forgotten and hardly-ever-heard-of little countries and larger places which issued stamps under previous names, such as German East Africa, Katanga, Zaïre and Nyasaland.

The earliest issue was probably the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE one penny of 1853, and the display covered most decades up to the 1980’s. One hundred years.



VENDA is one of the “home-lands” located in the South African Republic.

SOUTH KASAI was one of the lesser-known countries - part of the province of Kasai in the former Republic of Zaïre (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), and centred on the town of Bakwanga, it declared its independence in 1960, but returned to the control of the central government in 1962. Stamps were released during the independence period. Similarly, KATANGA was a province of the former Zaïre which tried to break away in 1960, but after a period of civil war and United Nations intervention was returned to Zaïre in 1963.



The FEDERATED REPUBLIC OF THE COMORES is a group of islands in the Mozambique Channel, north-west of Madagascar. They were French from 1841, a French colony from 1908 to 1950, gained autonomy in 1946, and became an Independent Republic in 1975. Early stamps were issued for the islands of Mohéli, Mayotte, the Sultanate of Anjouan, and Grand Comore.



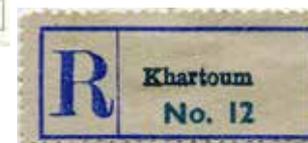
INHAMBANE is a town and district in the southern part of the People’s Republic of Mozambique. A Portuguese colonial unit, it issued stamps from 1895 to the end of World War I. JUBALAND is a district in East Africa ceded to Italy by Britain in 1925. It had been part of KENYA, but is now in the Somali Democratic Republic.



For a 10-year period between 1967 and 1977, what had previously been the FRENCH SOMALI COAST was the FRENCH TERRITORY OF THE AFARS AND ISSAS. It became the INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI in June 1977. The seaport of Djibouti is the terminus of a railway linking the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa with the sea.



And KHARTOUM is the capital and largest city in SUDAN, currently involved in conflict following the recent break-away of Southern Sudan.



\*\*\* People who tell you never to let little things bother you, have never tried sleeping in a room with a mosquito

**APRIL COMPETITION – SOMETHING PHILATELIC STARTING WITH THE LETTER “Y”**- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

There were 12 entries in this Popular Choice Competition – there could have been more – Russell Goddard had several possible entries. It goes to show what imagination some of us have !

The displayers and their displays were:

- CAROL DAVIS – *Yemen*. Carol concentrated on Yemen stamps depicting Fish from the Red Sea, Arabian Horses in Yemen, and the Queen of Sheba’s visit to King Solomon (Sheba is in north-west Yemen).
- RUSSELL GODDARD – *Yellow – a Significant but Elusive Stamp Colour*. Amongst groups of yellow stamps, Russell had the 1905-2005 Pacific Explorer World Stamp Expo 2005 and the 60c Orchid stamps.
- TONY WALKER – *The Yellow Fleet 1967-1975*. The “fleet” was 14 ships trapped in the Suez Canal during the Arab-Israeli War, and Tony had scarce postmarkers and covers from some of the ships.
- RUSSELL GODDARD – *Years of the Zodiac*. The various Years of the Chinese Zodiac showed the Year of the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Horse, and Monkey.
- RON DAVIS – *Yemen shows World Art*. The Royalists in Yemen, independent of the Government, showed various well-known Arabian, Chinese, British, American and European paintings.
- ROGER EGGLETON – *Y on cancels and on British marginal markings*. Roger had a postmark from York W.A., a barred Y, and items where Y is a Control Letter.
- MARK SAXBY – *Y private perfins*. Australian commercial perfin patterns all perforated with the letter Y. He also had YRC11 (Young Husband, Rowe and Company – 1906-1909), YCPL1 (1897-1901), Y7, YR1, etc. There are 147 different Y’s in the reference book.
- JOHN LAVENDER – *NSW numeral postmarks of towns beginning with the letter Y* – Yetman, Yarra, Yalpunga, Yerong Creek, Yanko (later Yanco), Yalgogrin North.

Equal third, judged by popular vote, were :

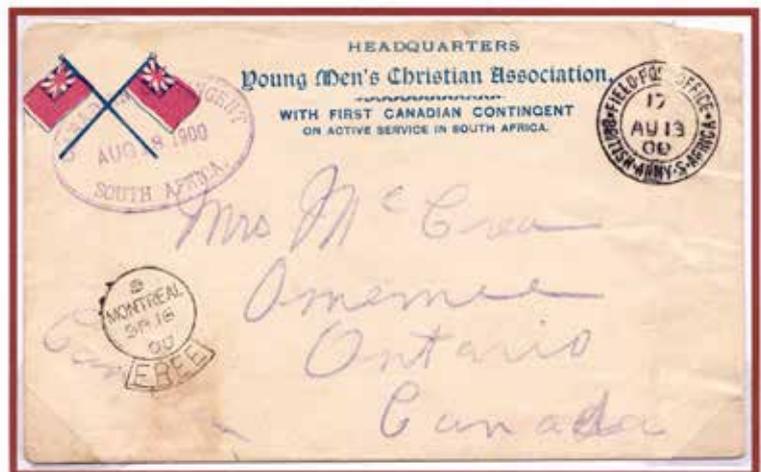
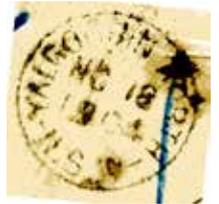
- DON CATTERALL – *Yacht on early German colonial issues*. The Royal German Yacht was shown on Caroline Islands, New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Mariana Islands.
- DON RUTHERFORD – *A Yellow metal, Gold*. Don is “interested in gold”. He showed various stamps showing the yellow metal, the Gold Rush era in Bathurst (Ophir), Sovereign Hill at Ballarat, Kalgoorlie W.A., and Echunga S.A.

Voted into SECOND PLACE was :

- HOWARD BRIDGMAN – *Yellow colour*. The sun is yellow, hence yellow sunsets, reflections, yellow sunlight in the atmosphere, scattered light, prisms, rainbows, and solar energy sources.

And voted as the BEST display of the night :

- JOHN PUGSLEY – *YMCA at the Boer War*. John displayed numerous scarce and rare covers (one of only three known, shown here) issued by the YMCA and used by the soldiers in the Boer War 1899-1901.



A Rowe Type 'F' YMCA cover, with use only known in August 1900, posted at 'DCFP 17 on AU 13 00'. This was located near Johannesburg at this time. Sent by J.M.McCrea of First Contingent 'D' Company to Canada.

Rowe (page 78) reports only one example of this Type 'F' has been recorded – same date/cancellation as above. Frank (page 54) shows a second example but with 'DCFP 6 on AU 2 00'. This cover only the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Type 'F' known to exist.

A 'Canadian Contingent' oval Type 2 cachet (Rowe, pages 61 to 64) dated 'AUG 18 1900' has been struck by the Canadian Postal Corps at Capetown prior to transport to Canada.

\*\* People are still willing to do an honest day's work. The trouble is, they want a week's pay for it.



# South Kasai

In AFRICA, after Congo became an independent State in 1960, the rebel province of South Kasai was a leopard that tried to change its spots. But not for long ...

When the Belgian Congo achieved Independence as the Republic of Congo in 1960, it was far from being a clean break, as two regions seceded from the new country.

One was KATANGA (October 1960), which remained a breakaway state for three years. The other was neighbouring SOUTH KASAI, a much smaller entity.



Before being colonised by the Belgians, South Kasai belonged to the Luba Empire. The imperial family survived, and during the independence struggle it re-emerged as a potent force. In June 1960, Luba leader Albert Kalonji declared the AUTONOMOUS STATE OF SOUTH KASAI and became its first (and only) president.

Although the official line was that South Kasai was not seeking full-blown independence, but rather a federally governed Congo, it soon revived the imperial state of old : Albert's father was proclaimed King in 1961, immediately handing down his title to his son as Albert I Kalonji.

1961 was also the year in which South Kasai entered the stamp catalogues, with several issues. The status of these is disputed, with some catalogues listing more than others, but all were authorised by the autonomous government.

Initially, a selection of Belgian Congo stamps were overprinted "Etat Autonome du Sud-Kasai", in some cases with a leopard's head from the country's coat of arms. Printed in Belgium, these were never officially distributed in South Kasai, but some were privately brought into the country, and it is possible to find them on cover. A plethora of varieties may be found, most notably the alternative spellings of "Kasai " and "Kasai ".

A first definitive issue followed in June 1961, a set of five ranging in value from 1f to 10f printed. They shared a single design illustrating a leopard's head in a V shape (a motif from the national flag), each value with a different background colour. This set was widely available in the country, and saw genuine commercial use, so it is detailed in most catalogues.

A second definitive set was issued in September 1961, with a design featuring a portrait of the King in various colours. Sheet stamps were printed in four values ranging from 6f 50c to 20f, while a miniature sheet had an imperforate 50f stamp in a larger format. Definitives can be found with surcharges in aid of orphans or the fight against malaria, but these are generally considered to be bogus.

After a coup d'état toppled King Kalonji and sent him into exile in October 1962, South Kasai was reintegrated into Congo. A subsequent restructuring saw it merged into the larger province of Eastern Kasai in the hope of breaking any lingering secessionist sentiment.

■ Stamp Magazine, March 2016

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## The Irish Post Office (An Post) comes to its Senses!

On 10 September 2015 An Post (the Irish Post Office) issued five stamps, each featuring one of the traditionally recognised human senses, namely taste, touch, sight, hearing and smell.

The innovative, perhaps better described "gimmicky", stamps have bold images that are both striking and original.

They were printed by lithography by Cartor Security Printing featuring enhanced production techniques for each sense.



The 70c stamp, recognising Taste, has strawberry flavoured gum applied to the back of the stamp. The €1.05 stamp, recognising Touch, has been printed with thermochromic ink so that when the hand illustration is touched, it changes colour. The €1.25 stamp, recognising Sight, is printed on transparent paper, which you can see through when you pick it up. The €1.70 stamp, which recognises Hearing, is thermographed so that when the stamp is rubbed it creates a sound. The €2.80 stamp, recognising Smell, has a mint fragrance added to the surface of the stamp. The stamps are printed on Tullis Russell 110 gsm PVA gummed paper, except the €1.25 stamp recognising Sight, which is printed on translucent self-adhesive paper 207 gsm paper.

Definitely gimmicky but, at least, original!!

The Armidale Circle Bulletin, March 2016

## **THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,**

**at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton,**

**at 10 a.m. on the THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).**

### **THE LATTER PERIOD OF WORLD WAR 2 — Bruce Chatterton (Bathurst), Wednesday 17 February 2016**



This display covered an amazing range of WW2 events. A large part was devoted to Marjan Rowinski, a Polish serviceman who fought in the short-lived defence of Poland, and in May 1940 became a P.O.W. He wrote many letters to his wife Bolesia and son, and survived the war.



Theresienstadt parcel stamp

The Allied Military Government's occupation of the Free Territory of Trieste and of Venezia Giulia, the German P.O.W. camp of

Theresienstadt (1943), the Capitulation of Italy and the rise of the Repubblica Sociale Italiana (Sept. 1943), the Republic of China issues warning about the dangers of air raids (August 1945), and Korea issues for Victory over Japan (September 1945) were features of Bruce's display.

### **MAPS ON STAMPS – display by DIANA BRIDGMAN, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Maps on stamps **AND** on miniature sheets were the subject of Diana's comprehensive display, which covered all the world's continents. A lot of the mini-sheets were commemorative of some event in the country of issue.

The use of maps in stamp designs has been a frequent cause of international disputes, and has even been a contributing cause in the outbreak of several minor wars. For instance, two countries, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, jointly occupy the island of San Domingo in the West Indies, and became embroiled in a bitter border dispute following the issue in 1900 of a set of Dominican stamps. The design featured a map which showed, as part of the Dominican Republic, territory claimed by Haiti.

Another map stamp issued by Bolivia in 1930 is generally believed to have been the final straw which led to the outbreak of the Chaco war between Bolivia and Paraguay. Again, the dispute was over the location of the "border" between the two countries.

For many years, Argentina strongly objected to Great Britain issuing Falkland Islands stamps featuring maps, because the Argentinians themselves claimed ownership of the islands (which they call the Malvinas). Any letters bearing such stamps were barred from the Argentine mails, and similarly barred certain Chilean stamps with map designs showing that part of Antarctica claimed by Argentina. When Argentina invaded and occupied the Falklands in 1982 one of their first actions was to issue Malvinas stamps - an action which the British immediately overturned as soon as they regained possession of the islands.

AND there have been numerous other instances of international disputes and protests over stamps depicting maps.

### **NORTH BORNEO – Display by TONY WALKER, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Tony started collecting Malaya at the age of 11, and got onto North Borneo later. An Orangutan on a stamp in a catalogue caught his attention. Prior to 1881, the reigning Sultan leased out parts of North Borneo, which resulted in civil strife, piracy, and civil wars. The Austrian Baron von Overbeck and brothers Alfred and Edward Dent took out leases, and following general lack of interest in developing the country, Alfred Dent eventually took over. The British North Borneo Company was formed in 1881. North Borneo became a Protectorate of Great Britain in 1888, but its administration was left to the Company. Chinese and Japanese were brought in to run the plantations. In 1941-45, the Japanese army occupied the area, heralding the end of the British North Borneo Company. Australian troops invaded in June 1945, and North Borneo became a British Crown Colony in 1946. It was joined by Labuan and the name was changed to Sabah shortly before it became part of the federation of Malaysia in 1963.

Tony's display was on the big A3 sheets, packed with information, and it wasn't possible for every member to look at all 80 of them, so a re-run display – Part 2 – was arranged for January next year. Material on the Sandakan P.O.W. camp, Sarawak, the British Military Administration Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 1945, and Sabah overprints 1964 were some of the highlights of his display.



\*\*\* You can't lose weight by talking about it. You have to keep your mouth shut.

## The Color-Changing Ability of the Cuttlefish

CUTTLEFISH can change their color and camouflage themselves, becoming almost invisible to the human eye. According to one report, cuttlefish "are known to have a diverse range of body patterns and they can switch between them almost instantaneously". How do cuttlefish do it?

The cuttlefish changes color by using the chromatophore, a special kind of cell found under its skin. Chromatophores contain sacs that are full of colored pigment and that are surrounded by tiny muscles. When the cuttlefish needs to camouflage itself, its brain sends a signal to contract the muscles around the sacs. Then the sacs and the pigment within them expand, and the cuttlefish quickly changes its color and pattern. The cuttlefish may use this skill not only for camouflage but also to impress potential mates and perhaps communicate.



Engineers at the University of Bristol, England, built an artificial cuttlefish skin. They sandwiched disks of black rubber between small devices that function like cuttlefish muscles. When the researchers applied electricity to the skin, the devices flattened and expanded the black disks, darkening and changing the color of the artificial skin.

Research on cuttlefish muscles—"the soft structures that nature is so good at making," according to engineer Jonathan Rossiter—could lead to clothing that changes color in a fraction of a second. Rossiter says that people might wear cuttlefish-inspired clothes for camouflage—or simply for fashion.

**Magnetics in miniature** – The following article was in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1997 (19 years ago). Have you wondered how they get all those gigabytes into a USB stick ??

A NEW substance that could multiply computer memory 100,000 times has been discovered by scientists. The find concerns the behaviour of a molecule-size magnet created from manganese, oxygen, carbon and hydrogen.

If scientists can devise a technology to read and write from the tiny magnet, it will create the basis for a data storage unit one molecule in size, the researchers said.

The announcement was made by researchers at City College of New York, the University of Barcelona, Spain and Xerox Corporation yesterday.

Using magnets the size of molecules, it is theoretically possible to store hundreds of gigabytes of data in an area no larger than the head of a pin, the team said.

\*\*\* Let's talk about out-back travelling. Jack Absalom recommends that travellers carry three cans of beer and keep them in a WARM place. If a fire starts in the car, get out a can, give it a couple of shakes, and pull the ring-top just enough to let the foam squirt out. There is enough carbon dioxide and foam in one of these cans to put out an average-sized fire in a car. A fire could start in the electrical wiring, the carburettor, or upholstery (or in the caravan), but with three cans a skilled operator could cope with almost any fire that might occur while you're travelling. Jack's mate thought his idea was a "beauty", so now when he goes bush he tells his wife he's going down the street to get two dozen fire extinguishers for the trip!

