



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

MAY, 2017 : Newsletter No. 181 : 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 11 May 2017	Don Catterall's Philatelic Quiz
Wed. 17 May 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Roger Eggleton – “AUSTRALIAN POSTER STAMPS”.
Sun. 21 May 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
<i>Thursday 25 May 2017</i>	<i>AUCTION NIGHT Viewing from 7.00pm, Auction starts 8.00pm. (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</i>
Thurs 8 June 2017	Display by Kim Dwyer “EMDEN”
Sun. 18 June 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 21 June 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Ron Davis – “TINY ISLANDS and RIDICULOUSLY SMALL COUNTRIES”
Thurs. 13 July 2017	Display by Tony Walker “BRITISH BORNEO”
Sun. 16 July 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 19 July 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Russell Goddard – “AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL POST”
<i>Thursday 20 July 2017</i>	<i>SWAP and SALE From from 6.30pm, (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)</i>
Thurs 10 Aug 2017	Annual General Meeting and Awards Night
Wed. 16 Aug 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Diana Bridgman – “CZECHOSLOVAKIA”
Sun. 20 Aug 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m

A PIECE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, MAY 2017 ...

Greetings everyone. Most important, I hope you had a great Easter Holiday and that your wishes, hopes and expectations continue to be fulfilled. For Wendy and I, it has been wonderful with the addition of a new Granddaughter called Violet. We have been very lucky, and so it is important that we spare at least a thought for those who have not been so fortunate in a world that faces significant challenges on numerous fronts. “Interesting Times” can be a fertile ground for postal history, but not so good for the people involved. From what I can see though, our hobby appears to be going from strength to strength. The large number of visitors at the recent Melbourne Stamp Show would seem to uphold that, and now work is well under way for us to emulate this at our very own Stamp Show next year to mark the centenary of our Society. Last week we had 18 entries for our Popular Choice competition beginning with the letter “Z”. This was a wonderful effort. Next year we will be looking at all aspects involving Newcastle. It promises to be an exciting year, and I wish you all well in your endeavours.

- Tony Walker, President -

*** **THE BLOOD OF THE KOMODO DRAGON, A HUGE LIZARD FROM INDONESIA, could be developed into a new antibiotic. Scientists believe this could be a step forward in the mission to find new antibiotics. This is needed because antibiotics are becoming resistant to superbugs. The reptile's saliva contains many different types of bacteria, which worked on superbugs in mice.**

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, MAY 2017

This will be very brief – with the Melbourne 2017 wash up, and chasing exhibits for Brazil later this year, as well as putting things in order before going to Russia, things are rather hectic.

Congratulations to all members that entered the recent Melbourne 2017 International Stamp and Coin Exhibition. It was pleasing to see a number of our members at the Exhibition as visitors, as well in various support roles as volunteers.

The results of exhibits from Newcastle Philatelic Society members are :

Lionel Savins Large Vermeil, for NZ 1935 Pictorial Definitives,

John Moore Vermeil, for 1988 Australian Living Together,

Roger Eggleton 81 points [one frame] : Australia: Parcels Post Label P.P.I.,

Greg Laidler Large Silver [Literature], Constant Plate Varieties of the Two Dollar Red Gums of the North,

Greg Laider Large Silver, for Study of the High Value Definitive Stamps depicting Important Paintings,

Kevin Dwyer Silver, for Aubrey Gotley and the first ANARE Antarctic Base, Heard Island 1947-1955

Displays by NPS members to other clubs included

John Moore, to Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club : Australia Living Together and Sporting Definitives ,

John Moore, to Wyong PS : Australia Living Together.

I am putting together next year's programme – if you want to display, please let me know, on moore.john@optusnet.com.au .

- John Moore , Secretary –

AUCTION REPORT, 23 FEBRUARY 2017

Another good Auction Night ensued, at the Mayfield Senior Citizens Hall.

Some regulars were notably absent, but we still had 43 bidders there to wave their cards. There were 395 lots on offer and of these 183 were sold, which works out at over 46% and very acceptable.

23 vendors were offering goodies, and the most successful of these submitted a batch of lots from the late Bob Smith's collection and these cornered the majority of the top selling items.

Total sales were \$1,536 and the highest price of \$70 was paid for a stockbook of pre-decimal Australian stamps which included a couple of £1 Robes. Runner up was an Ice-Cream Tub of KGV one penny and twopenny reds and this fetched \$50.

Next came a Samoa collection which sold for \$46, and then a stockbook filled with various used KGV brought \$42. A scarce set of NT revenues brought \$35, whilst a still-wrapped brand-new 64 page stockbook went for \$34. The Buy of the Night !

A stockbook of butterflies went for \$28 as did a binder crammed with preloved hagner sheets. Finally \$26 was paid for each of three items : a batch of early Norfolk Island, a collection of ASP personalised stamps and lastly a lucky dip box, full of all sorts.

Our thanks go to all who participated. Without our working team these auctions could not happen, and the same goes for the vendors, and of course the buyers.

Our next auction will be held on the 25th of May, venue to be advised, but hopefully at this same location. Hope to see you there!

- Don Catterall, Auction Convenor, phone 4943 5639.

Do you remember, from the early 1960's, the AMPOL petrol promotion ? Twenty million packets of colourful world thematic stamps were given away with the purchase of AMPOL petrol. These packets contained an incredible 70 million world stamps in sets – many of them MUH, and they "entirely excluded cheap definitives", the then late owner of Seven Seas Stamps and a former member of Newcastle Philatelic Society, Bill Hornadge, said. Australia at that time had a population of about 10 million people, so 20 million stamp packets represented about two packets given away for every man, woman and child living in the country. The media went crazy over "rare finds". One feature article reported across the country in the mass media had a 9 year old girl called Lisa Bell of Seaforth NSW, holding up a CTO £2 Roo she found in one AMPOL packet. At one point Seven Seas Stamps in Dubbo were tearing up, packaging and dispatching 400,000 packets a week to meet demand. The then young dealer Max Stern was sent off packing to Europe with a blank cheque book, with orders to buy anything pretty in packet material he could lay his hands on. Kids badgered Dad to fill up only at AMPOL – so they could get the attractive "freeby" stamp packets. The Chairman of AMPOL reported in 1964 that sales and profits had gone up 12% over the year before, and the stamp packets were the specific reason for this upsurge in business. A very inexpensive stamp album was also made available, a massive 300,000 were sold, and again this was the formative spark that attracted many of today's leading collectors and dealers

“AMERICANA” SERIES – by BERNARD DOHERTY, - display on Thursday 9th February, 2017

Bernie assembled this “Americana” collection in the early 1990’s - the definitive series issued from 1975 to 1983. Each of the 26 stamps in the series consisted of an American “artefact” with a curved line of printing – a motto or patriotic statement. There were quite a lot of problems with the printing.

The series was : 1 cent Inkwell and quill (issued 8 December 1977), 2 cents Speaker’s Stand, 3c Ballot box (issued 8 December 1977), 3.1 c Guitar, 3.5c Weaver violins (issued 23 June 1980), 4c Books, spectacles and bookmark, 7.7c Saxhorns, 7.9c Drum (issued 23 April 1982), 8.4c Grand Piano, 9c Dome of Capitol (“Freedom to Assemble”), 10c Statue “Contemplation of Justice”, 11c Freedom of the Press (issued 13 November 1985), 12c Statue of Liberty torch (issued 8th April 1981, “Freedom of Conscience”), 13c Liberty Bell, 13c Eagle and Shield – the first multi-coloured issue, 15c Fort McHenry flag, 16c Statue of Liberty, 24c Old North Church, Boston (issued 30 March 1975), 28c Fort Nisqually, Washington, 29c Sandy Hook lighthouse, New Jersey (issued 14 April 1978), 30c, Morris Township school, 50c Iron “Betty” lamp, \$1 Rush lamp and candle holder, \$2 Kerosene lamp, and \$5 Railway conductor’s lantern.



Misaligned Flame Normal



Kerosene Lamp, issued 16 Nov 1978

The 13 cent coil stamps were available in lots of 100 for \$13-00, 500 for \$65-00, and 3000 for \$390-00. Counter booklets of the 13 cent Liberty Bell sold for \$2-99, and pre-cancelled bulk rates were available in 7.7 cents, 3.5c, 3.1c, 7.9c and 8.4 cents stamps.

Up until September 1978, the Post Office’s city and state name was overprinted between the lines on precancels.

As Davoc (dull) gum was almost invisible, the initial issues were often returned to the Post Office with the complaint that there was no gum. The problem was solved by adding a yellow tint to the gum.

Bernie showed colour varieties, blocks, design flaws, imperforates – the whole philatelic range of this definitive set of stamps.

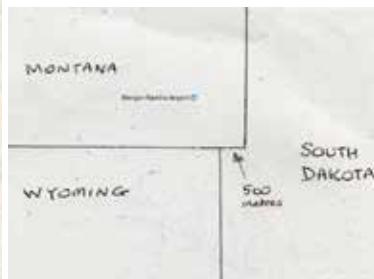
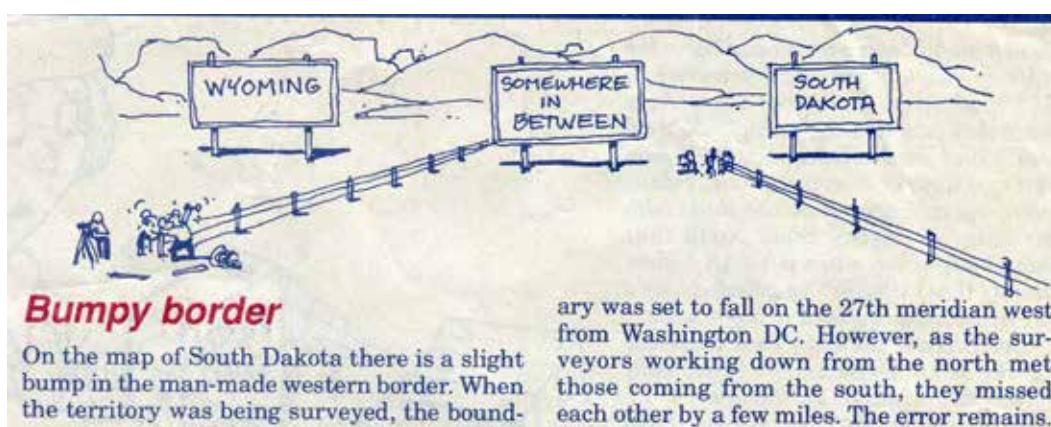
- R.D. -



White Paper



Vertical Imperf
Pair



*** A START-UP COMPANY CALLED JUICERO IS SELLING A \$400 MACHINE FOR MAKING FRESHLY SQUEEZED JUICE. CUSTOMERS BUY THE MACHINE AND THEN THEY GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO SPECIAL JUICERO BAGS OF UNSQUEEZED FRUIT. REPORTERS DISCOVERED THAT SQUEEZING THE BAGS WITH YOUR HANDS WORKS ABOUT AS WELL AS DOING IT WITH THE \$400 MACHINE.

*** How long is a piece of string ?? Cut the ends off, and it's endless.



THE MIDDLE EAST

- display by RON DAVIS, Thursday 9th March 2017



Various countries in the Middle East – particularly the United Arab Emirates, the Trucial States and Yemen – have suffered from the proliferation of stamps in more recent years, at the instigation of philatelic promoter Finbar Kenny, an entrepreneur from New York, who made deals with a number of States in 1964-1970. A lot of the stamps issued never saw their “issuing” country, but went directly to the philatelic trade. However, this is NOT a reason not to collect them – many of the stamps are well produced, even though they have designs with little bearing on the country on the face of the stamps.



Most of the Middle East has a warm desert climate, and is home to several of the world’s largest deserts – the Syrian Desert, the Arabian Desert, and the Sahara Desert across northern Africa reaches into the Middle East via Egypt. The Rub al Khali at the centre of the Arabian Desert is the largest sand-only desert in the world, and receives as little as 30mm or 1.2 inches of rainfall per year. In summer, parts of Iraq and Iran have a “feel like” temperature of 71 degrees Celsius. The average temperature is around 49° Celsius, while winters are somewhat milder. Northern regions of Iran and Afghanistan have cold winters, but very little rain.



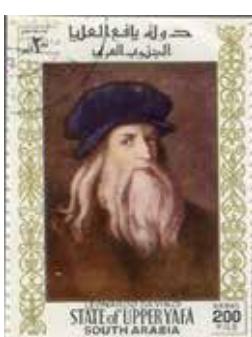
It has the famous Suez Canal and the Nile River. The Dead Sea bordering Israel and Jordan is amongst the saltiest lakes in the world, and is also the lowest point on the Earth’s surface.



The smallest countries in the region are Bahrain, Cyprus, Lebanon and Qatar. The largest countries are Egypt, Iran, and Saudi Arabia – in which the Islamic centre of Mecca is located.



The Middle East is often referred to as “The Cradle of Civilisation” – Neolithic humans transitioned from nomadic life to agriculture about 12,000 years ago. Ancient Sumar was the first civilisation on Earth, followed by the Akkadian, Babylonian and Assyrian Empires – and further west was Ancient Egypt. Persian empires originated in Iran, and the Byzantine Empire in the region of Turkey.



Ron included THRACE in his display - it was occupied by the Ottoman Empire from Turkey, but is now part of Greece since World War I. And missing from his display were Kuwait, Iran, Ille Rouad and the European Post offices in the LEVANT. However, he had something from every other Middle East country – including such hardly-ever-heard-of countries as Upper Yafa, the Kathiri State of Seiyun, the Qu’aiti State of Shahr and Mukalla, the Mahra Sultanate of Quishn and Socotra, Abu Dhabi, Khor Fakkan, Dhufar, Hejaz, and the British Occupation of Mosul.



Having more money doesn't make you happier.
I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

~ Arnold Schwarzenegger...



APRIL COMPETITION – SOMETHING PHILATELIC STARTING WITH THE LETTER “Z”
Thursday 13th April 2017

There were 18 entries in this year's popular choice competition – which had been considered a “difficult” one!

DON RUTHERFORD – U.S.A's Zip Code – America's equal to our Postcode.

GREG LAIDLER – ZEBRA FINCH : a study on Australia's 1 cent stamp.

RUSSELL GODDARD – ZAMBIA



RUSSELL GODDARD – CHINESE ZODIAC, Part 1

RUSSELL GODDARD – CHINESE ZODIAC, Part 2 : Because there are 12 signs of the Zodiac, Russell had to do two entries to cover all twelve!

WARREN OLIVER – ZAIRE-ZAMBIA-ZIMBABWE – Aircraft on Stamps

RON DAVIS – WESTERN PLAINS ZOO ANIMALS : having lived in Dubbo for 10 years, their Zoo seemed appropriate.



DAVE ROBERTS – FOUR “Z” COUNTRIES – Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, Zaïre, & Zambia.

JOHN EDWARDS – OSSIP ZADKINE – a Russian-born artist, sculptor, painter and lithographer.

SANDRA BAKER – ZODIACS – the Zodiac sign was not the YEAR of birth, but the HOUR of birth !



In 4th place was RUSSELL GODDARD – ZOOS at TARONGA, MELBOURNE, PERTH and ADELAIDE – a variety of ways to see our special wildlife.

In Equal 3rd Place were TONY WALKER – ZAIRE 1971 to 1975 - and RON DAVIS – SIX ‘Z’ COUNTRIES : Zanzibar, Zaratoga, Zil Elwagne Sesel, Zaire, Zimbabwe, and Zululand.



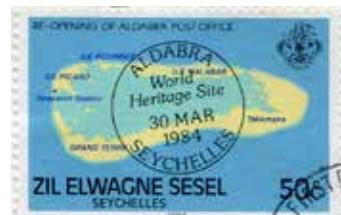
There were FOUR Equal 2nd places (which shows the quality of the exhibits) :

JOHN PUGSLEY – ZIG ZAG – the history of his collecting, from the Penny Black to Egypt to the Boer War.

HOWARD BRIDGMAN – ZERO AND BELOW : understandably, for a climate scientist, relating to freezing temperatures around the world.

CAROL DAVIS – ZYGODACTYL BIRDS : parrots, woodpeckers and toucans around the world with two toes on each foot forward and two toes backwards.

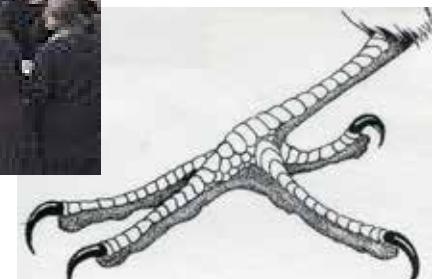
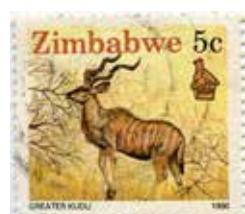
ROGER EGGLETON – Dr. L.L.ZAMENHOF, 1859-1917, the creator of the Esperanto language, an artificial language published in his book in 1887.



And the WINNER, in First Place, was RUSSELL GODDARD, with GRAF ZEPPELIN – Fighting zeppelins and lighter than air machines.



As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind – every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder. ~ John Glenn...



How long a minute is, depends on which side of the bathroom door you are on.

CENTENARY NEWS

The Newcastle Philatelic Society will be one hundred years old in May 2018. It is important that we celebrate this event in style. Later in the year I will call for nominations to help plan the events, such as a Centenary dinner and souvenirs.

A special committee has begun planning for the NEWCASTLE STAMP AND COIN EXPO. The group currently consists of:

John Moore – commissioner and liaison with the Australian Philatelic Federation
 Greg Laidler – secretary and publicity
 Bernard Doherty – computer, webmaster and treasurer
 Tony Walker – accommodation and social
 Ed Burnard – floor manager

The Expo is set down for Friday 25 May to Sunday 27 May 2018. The Expo will include a Half National Exhibition, called the Newcastle Philatelic Society Centenary Exhibition. We hope to have at least ten dealers present, and in excess of 300 frames of exhibits.

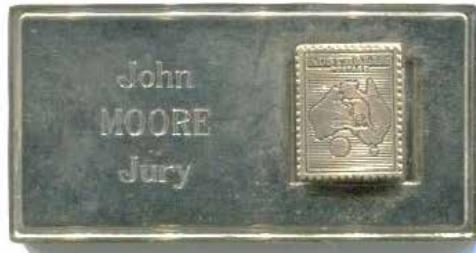
A special section of the exhibition will be a non-competitive display for NPS members. There will be no charge for the frames. (These frames are a different size to the competitive frames, and are currently stored at John Moore's house). The frames hold 15 A4 pages, in three rows of five pages. Any display on any topic up to 15 pages will be welcome. The pages to suit should be 282 mm high, and 210 mm wide. This is an A4 page with 15 mm cut off the top or bottom. I print my pages onto thin cardboard, either 200 gsm or 250 gsm. (Normal printing paper is 80 gsm, gsm means grams per square metre. Higher numbers mean thicker and stiffer paper or cardboard).

Bernard Doherty is busy working on a history of the Society. He needs a helping hand in proof reading and checking the work done so far.

Other events that we could recognise include a CENTENARY DINNER. What are your thoughts? Do we invite the Prime Minister, or the local MP, or no one? What about souvenirs? Many NPS members also collect cinderellas, more recently known as poster stamps. Should we produce a cinderalla stamp/s? What about a commemorative medallion? Is that a good idea?

The EXPO committee is planning souvenirs, which will be sold to help fund the exhibition. These include p-stamps where the tab will be the 3 stamps of the 1947 sesquicentenary issue. The p-stamps will be issued separately, to maintain interest and to serve as a reminder. Special sets of the 1947 stamps will be sold in a souvenir folder. We hope to sell 100 of these.

Other similar exhibitions and commemorative events have produced special medallions. Some of these are shown below. I have a quote of \$933 to manufacture one hundred of the Norpex size medals.



The circular Norpex medal weighs 20.7 grams, the copper Melbourne medal weighs 38.2 grams, and the gold coloured Western Australia Centennial Exhibition weighs 55.2 grams. It is 4 mm thick. All the illustrations are life size.

Similar awards can be prepared for the Newcastle 2018 EXPO. Do we show Nobbys or the NPS logo?

Ideas and designs are needed for the centenary and EXPO awards. Will you design one?

To start everyone thinking about possible medal designs for the exhibition, I have prepared the following :



- Greg Laidler, Vice President -



ON TRIAL: A postie in one of Australia Post's new delivery vehicles. Picture: AAP

POSTIE'S NEW SET OF WHEELS

AUSTRALIA Post has launched a three-month trial of an electric three-wheeler across parts of Hobart, with more pilot programs planned for Victoria, NSW and Queensland in April.

The national postal service is looking for new vehicle options to complement its bike fleet as demand for parcel delivery grows, spokesman Mitch Buxton says.

"Our parcels business generates over 70 per cent of our total revenue. Ten years ago parcels contributed less than 25 per cent of our revenue," he said.

"While letter volumes have nearly halved, this is another example of how Australia Post is looking at ways to keep our posties delivering for Australians."

The e-vehicles - which are already in use in Germany and Switzerland - can hold up to 100 small parcels and 1200 letters, about three times as much as the traditional bike.

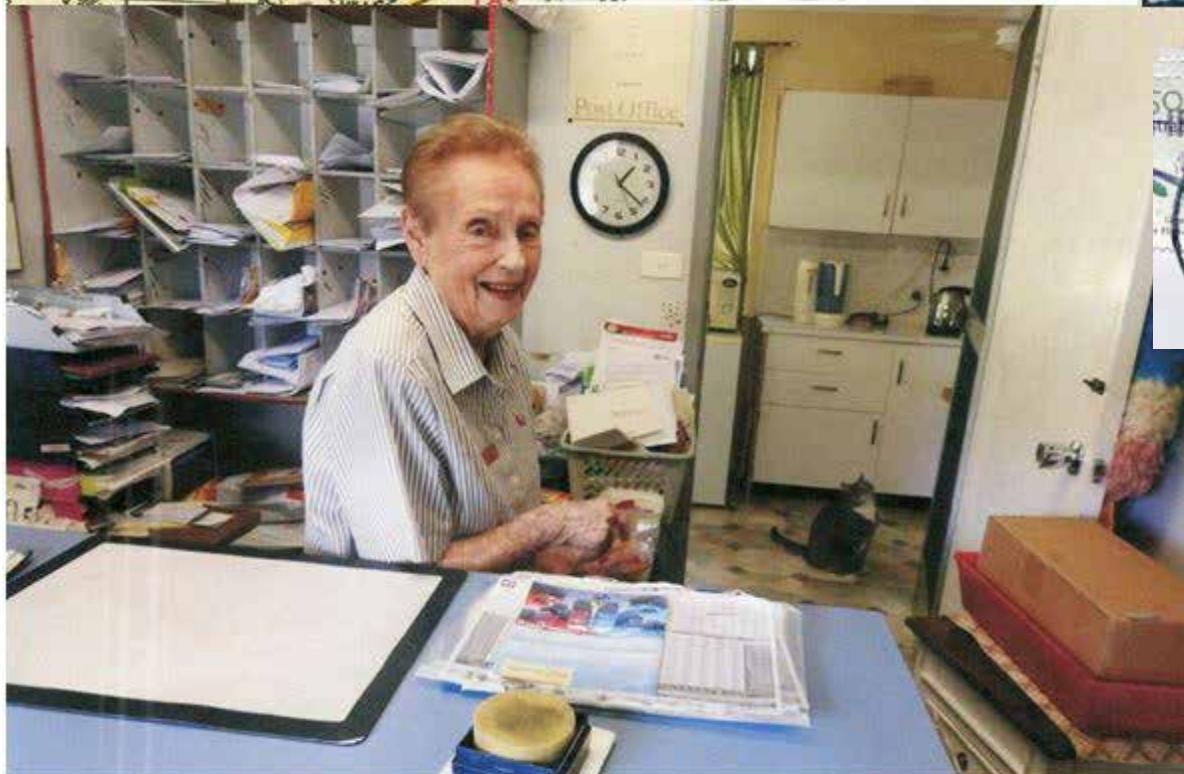
Newcastle Herald, 10 March 2017

*** A MIAMI DEFENSE LAWYER'S PANTS BURST INTO FLAMES LAST WEEK AS HE BEGAN HIS CLOSING ARGUMENTS IN FRONT OF A JURY — IN AN ARSON CASE. THE LAWYER, WHO WAS ARGUING THAT HIS CLIENT'S CAR SPONTANEOUSLY COMBUSTED, HAD BEEN FIDDLING IN HIS POCKET AS HE WAS ABOUT TO ADDRESS JURORS WHEN SMOKE BEGAN BILLOWING OUT HIS RIGHT POCKET, WITNESSES SAID.

Long Flat Postmistress Kath Carey to retire after 70 years



Long Flat Numerical Postmark



Everyone around Long Flat knows Kath Carey, and that's why she's gone on working for so long. Kath has worked in the post office for 70 years, and has decided it's time to retire.

"I have always liked the job and loved the contact

with the people. But I won't miss the early mornings," says Kath, who gets up before 5am and runs the post office from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Born in Taree, she came to Long Flat aged 12 with her parents, who took over the store, which included the post office. As a teenager, Kath boarded at the Presbyterian Ladies College in Sydney, made new friends, but was always glad to come home in the holidays.

"We got the steam train to Wauchope - sometimes it took 12 hours," she recalls.

At 17, she began working in the shop, and ran the manual telephone exchange. Only a few businesses had phones, including the hotel, the number of which was Long Flat One.

Kath married a widower, Lance Carey, when she was 27, and became stepmother to his three sons, who are still her friends. She went on working in the store and post office, and her father took over a bakery in Long Flat.

"My husband died in 1971. My Dad helped me and we were lucky enough to sell the shop. I bought this house in Long Flat and got permission to move the post office here, and I've been here 44 years."

When she retires, the post office will go back to the store in Long Flat. Kath says she's done plenty of travelling so she will stay where she is, and get her home in order.

"I'll do those things I hadn't time for when I was working, and if I don't, well, they won't get done," she says with a smile.

Her cat, Bella, was a stray brought to her by a neighbour 11 years ago, and loves to keep Kath company. Customers often bring her treats. Bella gets a few prawns at Christmas, and she loves oysters.

Kath closed the shop on February 24, 2017.

- Gloucester Advocate - .

Nostalgia rules - Great Britain

Reported at <http://www.independent.co.uk>

Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin have been put on charming stamps to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's birth. Royal Mail's new set features six characters from the much-loved children's author's first book, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit", published in 1902.

Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington, London, on 28 July 1866 and first started selling her drawings aged 23. Peter Rabbit was named after her own pet bunny, and she began self-publishing the story a few months after the rabbit died.

Potter was turned down by several publishers before the book was eventually released and went on to sell over 40 million copies.

She wrote a further 23 stories about animals with the last, "The Tale of Kitty-in-Boots", set to be published in September 2017 after being discovered in the Victoria and Albert Museum archive recently.



THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,

at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton,

at 10 a.m. on each THIRD Wednesday (except December).

POLISH AIR GRAPHS — display by Geoge Kuszelyk, Wednesday 15 February 2017



George has been collecting Polish air graphs for 2 years. There is little written about them. In World War II, there were 20,000 to 30,000 Polish troops fighting in France. When the Germans invaded France and France was defeated, the Polish troops went to Great Britain. A Polish Government in Exile set up their base of operations in the Hotel Rubens in London in 1940.

After France fell, all mail routes to the Middle East were cut off – in 1941, there were 100 tons of letters that couldn't be moved, and would have taken 3 to 6 months to deliver. So the idea of air graphs came up. An airgraph was a blank sheet of A4 paper. It was written, taken to the Post Office, then to Kodak, where each letter was photographed, ordered, numbered, and sorted for navy, army and air force. 70,000 was the first air graph mail – the first being from King George to the Government of the Middle East. 15,000 per film were reduced to 5 x 4 inches and posted, the original retained by the army Post Office for a period and eventually destroyed. The thousands of Polish P.O.W's and troops in the Middle East and Europe wanted to correspond with friends or relatives in Great Britain – 22 different airgraphs were issued from the Middle East to Great Britain – mostly with hand-drawn designs.

SIX PAGES PER MEMBER – Wednesday 15th March 2017

There were 10 displays at this meeting – everyone had one, which made a very interesting meeting :

RON DAVIS – North Africa, and an accumulation of unused miscellaneous philatelic material;

JIM MACDOUGALL – Newfoundland and Canadian patriotic covers from World War II, 1941-1946;

ROGER EGGLETON – Esperanto material in the 1920's from Russia's pre-Stalin era. It was wiped out by him.

SANDRA BAKER – Irish National Treasures – an ongoing project, which includes some historic items.

TONY WALKER – Czechoslovakia 1980-1982;

DON RUTHERFORD – Swedish postal rates;

DON CATTERALL – Cartoons done by Bruce Bairnsfather, from a British Military Family.

He had a weekly cartoon in the paper, which became popular.

LEANNE TOLLARD – Australian \$10 decimal stamps up to 2013, six in number;

CAROL DAVIS – Xanthorrhaea – Australia's Grass Tree, prepared for the "X" competition.



BELLS – display by Bernard Doherty, Wednesday 19th April 2017

This collection was started with Tony Shields in the 1980's, and his display covered all the aspects of bells – their development, the making and using of bells, religious life, civic duties, national events, bells in daily life, and bells in our environs. Gardens have some flowers with bells – such as Australia's Christmas Bell.

Campania in Italy saw the first use of bells, hence the term "Campanology".



Bells achieved their fame from their location, name or size.

Oriental sound instruments progressed from wooden clappers and skins of hollow timber, but more particularly to cymbals,

gongs and bells. The Indonesian gamelan is an array of gongs or bells.

There are many ways of ringing a bell – ringing a handbell; to clock, drawing a clapper on the inner side; to chime, sounding by swinging the bell in a half circle; to peal or ring, swinging the bell in a full circle; and to strike, striking the bell on the outer surface with a wooden pole.

Tuning a bell in early times was achieved by clipping pieces of metal off the rim. In modern times, a lathe is used to trim the bell and remove metal.

Small metal spheres with a pebble inside were used on horse harness, to warn that an armed person was approaching and also to make opponents fearful of impending battle. Mail carriers also used them.

W. Bell and Co. have a bell perforation for their stamps, but import pianos !



Finger tips tell all

JAPANESE researchers say they have successfully copied fingerprint data from a digital picture of a person flashing a two-fingered "V" or peace sign, raising questions about the potential theft of such information.

"One can use it to assume another identity, such as accessing a smartphone or breaking and entering into a restricted area such as an apartment," said Isao Echizen, a professor at Japan's National Institute of Informatics.

Flashing a two-finger peace sign is very common among Japanese when posing for a photo.

Echizen and fellow researcher Tateo Ogane reproduced an experiment on Friday in which they extracted Echizen's fingerprints from a digital photograph taken at a distance of three metres.

The high-resolution photograph was taken with a 135mm lens mounted on a digital SLR camera.

Fingerprint scanners have found their way into mobile phones, laptops, external hard drives and electronic wallets as an alternative to authentication using passwords or personal identification numbers (PINs).



NTT Docomo, Japan's biggest mobile carrier, said it had not received any reports of misuse of fingerprint data on customers' devices.

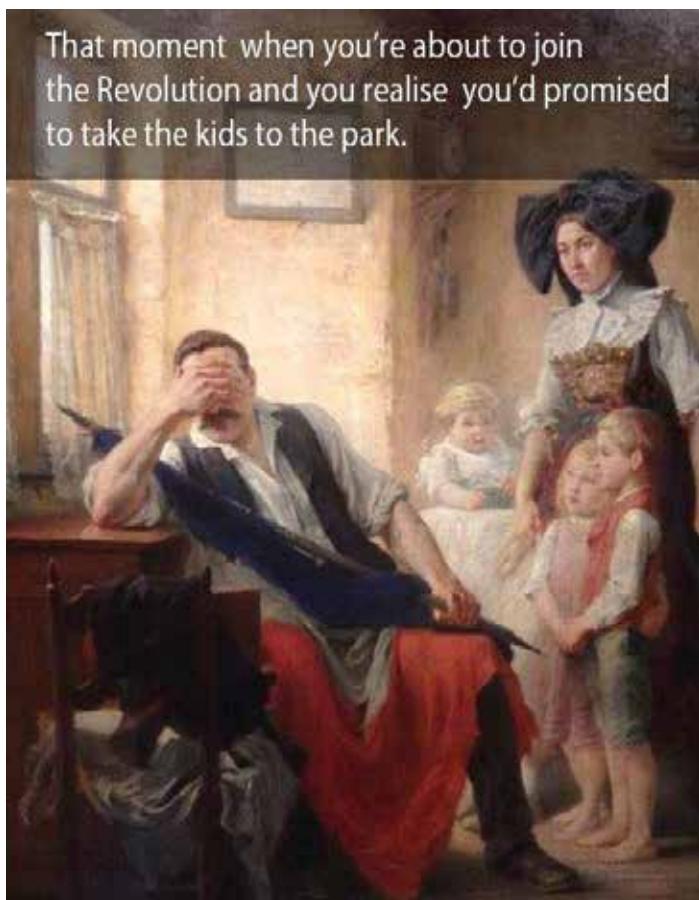
"Fingerprint authentication is used for many purposes, including smartphones, and each manufacturer decides how the authentication process is maintained," said spokesman Yasutaka Imai. "We'll continue to monitor the situation carefully".

Reuters, January 23, 2017 NEWCASTLE HERALD

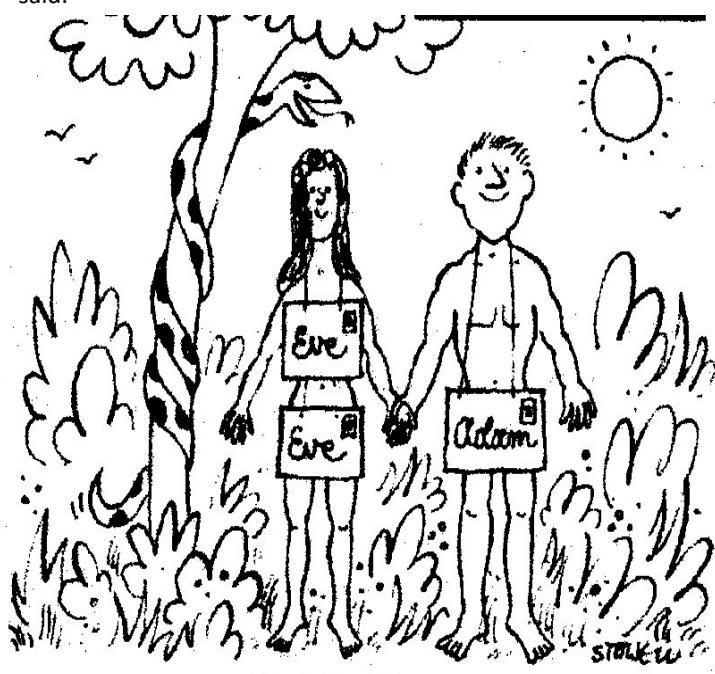


*** It is only in going uphill that one realizes how fast one is going downhill.

*** NORTHERN Territory police received a call from a woman complaining that a drug dealer had ripped her off. "A woman called police to complain about the price of marijuana in her community. If you know a drug dealer who is ripping you off, give us a call, we'd love to help," the police said on Facebook.



- A PAKISTANI man broke a Guinness record when he smashed 43 coconuts on his head in 60 seconds. Rashid Naseem, 30, had been preparing for the record attempt for more than six months. "It took a lot of preparation. I had to work hard on my strength because breaking a coconut by head butting can be painful," he said.



First Day Covers