



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter VIEWS FROM NOBBYS

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, JESMOND NSW 2299
Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

AUGUST, 2017 : Newsletter No. 182 : 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 10 Aug 2017	Annual General Meeting, Annual Competition and Awards Night
Wed. 16 Aug 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display - up to 6 pages from each member
Sun. 20 Aug 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Thurs 14 Sept 2017	Display by Greg Laidler "AUSTRALIAN PAINTING DEFINITIVES, PART 2 "
Sun. 17 Sept 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 Sep 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Ron Davis "THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS OF GREAT BRITAIN"
<i>Thursday 21 Sept 2017</i>	STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs. 12 Oct 2017	Display by Ron Davis "A WORLD ALPHABET of UNUSUAL COUNTRIES"
Sun. 15 Oct 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 18 Oct 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Howard Fisher – "AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINALIA"
Thurs 9 Nov 2017	Display by Andrew Brockett "RAAF OVERSEAS MAIL DURING WWII"
Wed. 15 Nov 2017	Newcastle Daytime Meeting : 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Paul Storm – "THE GREAT WORLD EXHIBITIONS (EXPOS)"
Sun. 19 Nov 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Mon. 11 Dec 2017	Visit to Maitland Stamp Club (Take along some pages)
Thurs 14 Dec 2017	Display by Tony Walker "GERMAN OCCUPATION OF GUERNSEY"
Sun. 17 Dec 2017	Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m
Wed. 20 Dec 2017	No Daytime Meeting :

A PIECE FROM THE PRESIDENT, August 2017

Hello everyone, Winter and the long colder nights are well and truly upon us. Nice time to cuddle up with a nice glass of red, or maybe even do some work on your stamp collection. This is my last, "piece" as President and so thank you to you all for your kind friendship, advice and encouragement over the past two years. This has especially been the case from the Committee stalwarts, who have continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes and at the forefront of this Society. I am also grateful for their patience, as it has been a period of time well punctuated by my absence with trips away from home in way of family holidays, family visits and even a couple of "emergency" fill in voyages to sea. Times are certainly changing fast, but I think the future of this Society is in very good hands, especially with the arrival of new members to the Committee, who are showing wonderful energy and commitment. My successor in August, Greg Laidler, has these attributes in spades, and I wish him all the best for the next two years - as indeed I wish you all good times and happy hunting for those elusive stamps and covers. Thank you again.

- Best wishes, Tony Walker, President -

*** Birthdays are good for you - the more you have, the longer you live.

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, August 2017

Congratulations are extended to Kim and Kevin Dwyer who were recently awarded a Service to Philately at National Level [SPAN] award by the Australian Philatelic Federation. Kim and Kevin, as you will read in their citation published on Page 10 in this Newsletter, have spent many years as volunteer helpers at exhibitions held in Australia.

On the subject of volunteers we will be looking for help next year with the 2018 Newcastle Stamp and Coin Expo. The key days are the setup day prior to and during the exhibition. In due course we will be putting together a roster of helpers.

Another year Newcastle Philatelic Society wise has passed, a new committee is now in place, a new programme is being put together. As part of our 100th Anniversary celebrations, all activities in the period January-July has a Newcastle theme. A number of members who have fairly extensive collections of material from this area will have the night to themselves to display. The May meeting will be along the lines of a popular choice night, where members will be invited to display up to six pages/items of local philatelic interest.

- John Moore, Secretary -

Auction Report, 25th May 2017.

*A somewhat quieter night ensued with numbers down a little due to several regulars being overseas etc, but we still saw plenty of action from the 36 bidders present. * 364 lots were supplied by 21 vendors and a great result of 188 of these sold making an higher than average. 55% clearance.*

Total sales came out at \$1,412 which is again down a little, mainly due to a sparsity of high value sales.

Best seller of the night was a huge album of many thousands of World stamps which brought \$65. Next came a couple of World Stockbooks that sold for \$38 and \$30. One happy buyer told me of some of the gems he had acquired therein alerting me (and all members who read this) to a need for more careful scrutiny !

Another sale of \$30 was for a nice page of WA Colonial stamps, whilst next came a stockbook of GB stamps that sold for \$26. British Commonwealth was again well represented with two sales of \$25. The first being a lovely KGV Falkland Islands set and the other an early accumulation of British Solomon Islands. Good Stuff !

In general, bags and boxes of used stamps, both Australian and World remained very popular whilst overall the diversity of material offered is a distinct attraction.

It was a busy night for the workers, who received some well deserved applause.

Next Auction is on September 21- but before that we have our Annual Swap and Sale night on July 20th. Whether Buying or Selling or simply Fraternising philatelically, Don't Miss It.

Don Catterall. Auction Convenor. «

GHADAMES - Pearl of the desert

A historic Saharan oasis under French military administration in the 1940s, Ghadames had just one definitive set, but no shortage of collectable varieties

Situated in what is today western Libya, close to the border with both Algeria and Tunisia, Ghadames is one of the oldest oasis settlements of the Sahara Desert. The old part of the town, with its spectacular domestic architecture, is a UNESCO world heritage site, known as the 'pearl of the desert'. For centuries the area was part of the Ottoman Empire, and from 1912 it came under Italian control. Italy's defeat in World War II resulted in the region falling under French military administration, and enjoying a brief spell as a stamp issuing country.

From 1943, the French authorities running Ghadames and neighbouring Fezzan, used various Italian and Libyan stamps overprinted or handstamped "Fezzan". In 1946, there was even a definitive stamp issue inscribed 'Fezzan-Ghadames', but this was in postal use for less than three years. From January 1st, 1948, the region was split into separate military administrative regions, essentially because France had plans to incorporate Fezzan into its colony of Algeria. As a consequence, separate stamp issues were needed.

The one and only definitive issue for the French Military Administration of Ghadames was issued on April 12, 1949.

It consisted of eight recess-printed stamps for surface postage, ranging in value from 4f to 25f, and two for airmail, of 50f and 100f. They shared a single design, depicting what the inscription described as the 'Croix d'Agadem' (Cross of Agadem), although this appears to be a design error by the engraver, Henri Cortot. The engraving is actually of the Cross of Agadez, which the nomadic Tuareg people believe offers protection from evil spirits.

Whilst the Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists only the basic set of stamps, specialist collectors have some interesting material to watch out for. Every stamp in the set can be found imperforate, as well as perforated. Various colour proofs also exist, though they may be hard to find; an example of the 100f, printed in rose-brown and grey, as distinct from the normal purple and brown, recently sold at auction for more than £500.

In 1949, the year the Ghadames stamps were issued, the United Nations declared that Libya should become an independent state within four years. It duly did so in December 1951, and Ghadames has used Libyan stamps ever since.



*** May your life be like toilet paper - long and useful.

PHILATELIC TRIVIA NIGHT, Thursday 11th May 2017

Don Catterall had prepared a set of stamps on stockcards along with questions, which he said went from ridiculously easy to maybe tough, and this proved to be the case.

Everyone recognized Kylie Minogue but not one single person could recall that her character in Neighbours was named Charlene ! So it is True. Philatelists are all very clever people who obviously don't waste their time watching soap operas !

Everyone was stumped identifying the unit on a 1985 Colonial Military Uniforms stamp so it seems our NSW Sudan Contingent has sadly faded into history.

Captain Cook was a "gimme" but when one of our worthies announced that he had met his fate in Tahiti, some hilarity ensued. "A nicer place to die" said the guilty one.

In fact it became quite a fun event with plenty of amusement from such as the above.

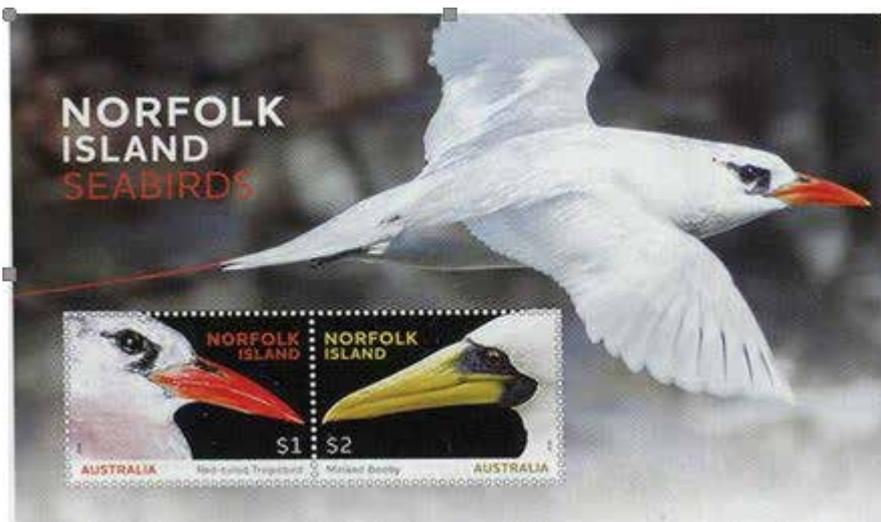
Naming the horse on the KGV Jubilee stamp provoked all sorts of humorous answers, but John Hill alone stood tall and got it correct with "Anzac".

The optimum score was 53 points, and John Hill came first with 37, Greg Laidler second with 35, and John Edwards third with 31. Congratulations to them and to everyone else for their efforts, not forgetting the Convenor. It was indeed a very good night.

- Don Catterall -

Prized Booby to celebrate a philatelic first

Reported at <https://shop.auspost.com.au>



Australia Post has issued its first stamps with the "Norfolk Island" inscription following the cessation of the independent Norfolk Island postal service on 1st July 2016, when Norfolk Island became a regional council of New South Wales.

The stamps feature two seabirds, the Masked Booby and the Red-tailed Tropicbird, with the inscription on the stamps matches the colours of their bills.

The Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra fulagari*) is named for the small black mask around its large yellow or yellowish-green beak. The smaller islands of Nepean and Phillip and the smaller islets off the Norfolk Island coastline are important breeding

habitats for most of Norfolk Island's seabirds.

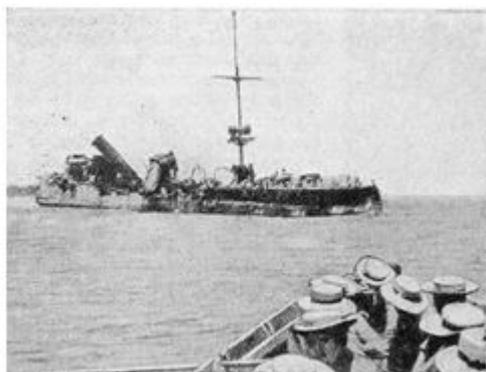
The spectacular Red-tailed Tropicbird (*Phaethon rubricauda roseotincta*) has two bright scarlet tail quills and performs acrobatic aerial courtship displays. The sub-species found on Norfolk Island has its plumage suffused with pink.

*** A BEAR tore off the rear bumper of a car used to deliver doughnuts in Colorado. The bear tried to claw its way through the trunk. "That car just constantly smells like a rolling bakery," Moose Watch Cafe owner Kim Robertson said. "It's like Winnie the Pooh with honey." The cafe sold the treat called "bear claws" to mark the story.

*** When the white missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land. They said "Let us pray." We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land. - Desmond Tutu -

THE GERMAN CRUISER "EMDEN" – by Kim Dwyer

- Thursday 8th June 2017



Emden. The German light cruiser when she had been driven ashore on North Keeling, one of the Cocos Islands, after her battle with the Australian cruiser Sydney

Kim's display was the story of the Australian light cruiser HMAS Sydney – a new ship on her way to Gallipoli, 5400 tons with a crew of 475 – and the German SMS Emden, also a light cruiser, 3600 tons with 361 crew, and a battle off Cocos Island in the Indian Ocean on 9th November 1914.

HMAS Melbourne was the flagship for a convoy conveying Australian troops to England, which had left Albany in Western Australia on 1st November 1914. A message was received : "Strange ship approaching", and HMAS Sydney was sent to investigate. A bigger ship, the Sydney out-gunned the Emden.

Before arriving in the Cocos Islands, the Emden was used as a commerce raider, and had sunk 25 civilian vessels, shelled Madras, blown up oil tanks in India, and destroyed two allied warships in Penang. Their plan was to wreck the pilot radio station on Cocos's Deception Island, cut the cable, and then meet up with a collier to refuel - but they

cut the dummy cable, not the real one. The raiding party was led by a First Lieutenant, who was one of 117 prisoners-of-war who escaped back to Germany over 9-10 months, losing only one man.

The Emden lost 134 officers and men killed, with 65 wounded. The Sydney lost 4 killed and 13 wounded. This was the first actual fighting done by any ship of the Australian navy.

To avoid sinking, the Emden's commander, Kaptain von Müller, drove the ship on to the coral reef at North Keeling Island. The ship slipped off the reef about 10 years after the grounding, and people can dive on it now.

The Emden was loaded with Mexican dollars. The Australian schooner Cadmus removed 6429 Mexican dollars from the wreck. A lot of the silver dollars were made into medallions which were given to the crew and to dignitaries. The rest were sold. There was a Sydney-Emden medal in Kim's display. It was in an auction owned by some people who moved to Ballina. Two people were bidding for it, and eventually Kim got it. Most of the material in the display had been obtained from eBay in Australia and from philatelic auctions. All the photos in the display were prints from the Imperial War Museum in London or the Australian War Museum in Canberra. Kim said that the highlight of her very varied display was a copy of the "Gibraltar Gazette", posted from Gibraltar to Williamstown in Victoria, which contained a lengthy and detailed article about the battle.

After 30 years of collecting, Kim hasn't found anything on this subject for 5 years. And there is sentimental value attached to it. Relics from the Emden were distributed to various Australian cities. The ship's mast was placed at the end of the peninsula at Garden Island, Sydney. Kim's father took on the job of looking after it – maintaining and painting it. It may now be at Bradley's Head. Her father ended up as Chief Technical Officer at Garden Island.

Another German light cruiser, built in 1915, was christened Emden in fulfilment of a promise made by the Kaiser when the first was destroyed, that a new one should sail the seas. This warship was one of those surrendered to the Allies after the armistice, and was allotted to France in 1920.

*** A WILD morbidly obese monkey in Thailand has been captured and forced to diet. Uncle Fat, as he is known, ate too much junk food provided to him by tourists. The chunky monkey was placed on a lean diet of proteins, fruits and vegetables. Most Macaque monkeys weigh 9kg. Uncle Fat tipped the scales at 26kg



Researchers believe that some plants of this species of seagrass have lived for thousands of years

Can Humans Live Forever? A few years ago, researchers reported the discovery of some underwater plants that they believe have been alive for thousands of years—perhaps the longest of any living thing on earth. The plants are of the species *Posidonia oceanica*, a type of seagrass that covers huge swaths of the Mediterranean seabed between Spain and Cyprus.

If plants can live to that amazing age, what about humans? Some scientists who study aging are optimistic about the prospect of an extended life span. For example, a book on the subject is said to delve into "the multitude of cutting-edge scientific developments" in that field. Whether scientific developments will have any real impact on the human life span remains to be seen

*** I've been married to a communist and a fascist, and neither would take out the garbage.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor -

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO 1941 -1945, by Tony Walker - display on Thursday 13th July 2017

There had been lots of Japanese in the North Borneo area from the late 1900's, engaged in agriculture, timber, and fishing.

The North Borneo Chartered Company effectively ruled until 1 January 1942. As well as the British possession of Sarawak and the Sultanate of Brunei, Japanese forces occupied North Borneo from late 1941 to 1945. The British realised they were unable to defend the colony from the powerful Imperial Japanese Navy. The North Borneo Armed Constabulary with only 650 men hardly provided any resistance to slow down the Japanese invasion. They destroyed the airfields, and especially the oil fields there and in Brunei before the Japanese landed on 16 December 1941. The small British forces surrendered. During Japanese military occupation, the Europeans were interned, public services ceased to exist, and there were widespread poverty, disease and malnutrition. In 1943, the Chinese population of about 50,000 rebelled against Japan and seized some towns. They were overwhelmed with many executed. On 10th June 1945, the Australian 9th Division landed in Brunei and liberated much of North Borneo before the end of the war. Japanese forces numbered about 31,000, and held out until October 1945, long after the Japanese Emperor had surrendered. North Borneo was placed under British Military Administration until restoration of civil government on 15 July 1946.



Tony's display showed mail and philatelic items from the 1942 to 1945 Japanese invasion, including a stamp collection assembled by a Japanese official, and a comparison of Japanese single line overprints from Kuching, Jesselton, and Sandakan (which is on these Brunei stamps shown here).



The display included War Tax stamps, Japanese forces outgoing and incoming mails, instructions to relatives as to why mail cannot be sent to a P.O.W., letters to a Punjab regiment re the invasion of Borneo, other official Australian and UK advice regarding addressing and postal instructions to prisoners and civilian internees, the Emperor's Birthday issues of 1943, and Australian advice of the outcome for Sandakan POWs to Australian and United Kingdom Next Of Kin.

Tony had followed two Australians, Captain Donald Yates and Gunner Ronald Killick, through their internment in the various Prisoner of War Camps. There was correspondence from their families trying to find where they were, and later cables, telegrams and correspondence after the camps' liberation in 1945. Captain Yates was evacuated on the Australian Hospital Ship Manunda. Repatriation was mainly to Labuan, and then were airlifted or sent home by ship.

One method used by the Japanese to demoralise the POWs was to withhold mail – one letter to Captain Yates received in April was given to him 8 months later. After the liberation, a huge amount of held-up mail for the prisoners and civilian internees was discovered in a Camp's head office.

Money Order cancellations from Miri and Sibul were used on stamps when Japanese personnel were transferred..

The main P.O.W. camps were at Labuan (which has no known survivors), Batu Lintang, Kuching (to which the officers were transferred) and Sandakan (which held up to 2600 prisoners, mostly Other Ranks, but these were decimated by forced marches across Borneo towards the end of the War. Not many Australians survived).



Mail and telegrams started to flow freely after the liberation, and the "see you soon" messages during repatriation were profuse.

Transferring the former POWs outside Borneo was a problem. In getting all of them back to Canada and the U.S.A. and other countries, hundreds of ships were used.

*** Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted yourself.

*** A 98-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER HAS FULFILLED A LIFELONG DREAM OF SEEING A MALE STRIPPER. BETTY WRIGHT WAS THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE AT THE DREAMBOYS' PERFORMANCE. RYAN MORING, MANAGER OF BETTY'S NURSING HOME IN ESSEX, ENGLAND, ASKED RESIDENTS: "IF YOU COULD DO ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?" BETTY WANTED TO SEE A STRIPPER.

Looking Back Over 40 Years, by John HILL FRPSL

Can it really be 40 years? I realise with a start that it can be, and looking back you remember first of all the people - because it is the people you know and work with that make any organisation worthwhile. The faces come to me out of the past – all fine collectors and lovely people. There was Ron and Dorothy Daley, John Fordham, John Knott, Val Ross and of course the marvellous Don Cox, a mentor and friend to so many. Having lost the friendship and companionship of someone like Don Cox was indeed a devastating loss.

And hasn't our meeting place changed over the years – National Park Street Bowling Club, Merewether High School Library, Diggers at Mayfield and currently in the Mayfield Senior Citizens' complex.

A recent European Symposium claimed that fewer people were collecting stamps these days but they were collecting at a higher level. I think this is true here. There is no doubt that the displays we see these days are more sophisticated than those we saw 40 years ago. Contributing to this trend could be use of the internet which means people at home can canvass the world for items they need. Certainly too, the number of exhibitions



held in Newcastle have contributed to this rise in the standard of excellence.

Our Society continues to be a very lively one with daytime meetings, auction nights, members' participation in overseas exhibitions, swap and sale nights and so on. The prices paid for philatelic material at auctions are holding up although overall the number of collectors is dropping. But it is a worry that 40 years ago we had many more members than we do now. The reality is, as Sean Burke, the Editor of The Rhodesian Study Circle Journal recently commented, "We are in a hobby where most members are in their second innings..."

Perhaps if we can use next years' Centenary Exhibition as a way of attracting younger new members, there might be some of them around to celebrate our sesquicentenary 50 years on. Philatelic fingers crossed.

- an 80 years old John Hill -

**DISCOVERY CHANGES ORIGIN OF OUR SPECIES**

THE UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN ORIGINS HAS BEEN TURNED ON ITS HEAD WITH THE DISCOVERY THAT FOSSILS UNEARTHED IN MOROCCO ARE ABOUT 100,000 YEARS OLDER THAN ANY OTHER KNOWN REMAINS OF OUR SPECIES.

SCIENTISTS DETERMINED THE BONES OF AT LEAST FIVE INDIVIDUALS WERE ABOUT 300,000 YEARS OLD. THEIR DISCOVERY IN NORTH AFRICA ALSO DEFIED EXPECTATIONS.

"THIS MATERIAL REPRESENTS THE VERY ROOT OF OUR SPECIES," SAID PALEO-ANTHROPOLOGIST JEAN-JACQUES HUBLIN.

BEFORE THE DISCOVERY, THE OLDEST HOMO SAPIEN FOSSILS WERE ETHIOPIAN AND DATED TO 195,000 YEARS AGO.

"THE MESSAGE WE WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY IS THAT OUR SPECIES IS MUCH OLDER THAN WE THOUGHT AND THAT IT DID NOT EMERGE IN ... A SMALL "GARDEN OF EDEN" SOMEWHERE IN EAST AFRICA. IT IS A PAN-AFRICAN PROCESS AND MORE COMPLEX SCENARIO THAN WHAT HAS BEEN ENVISIONED SO FAR," HUBLIN SAID

*** SAUDI Arabia was elected to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. But Human Rights Watch said Saudi women were forbidden from obtaining a passport, marrying or accessing higher education without the approval of a male guardian - usually a husband, father, brother or son.

*** A BARGAIN is something you don't need at a price you can't resist.

*** WITH AUSTRALIA POST SLUGGING US AN EXTRA 30 CENTS POSTAGE, INSTEAD OF "SNAIL MAIL", WE SHOULD CALL IT "SLUG MAIL"

*** Twice as many trips are made by bicycle in Melbourne than in Sydney, and the rate of growth is 3 times that of Sydney - much of the difference is attributed to Sydney's hyper aggressive driver attitudes, with Sydney rated one of the developed world's most hostile cities for cycling.

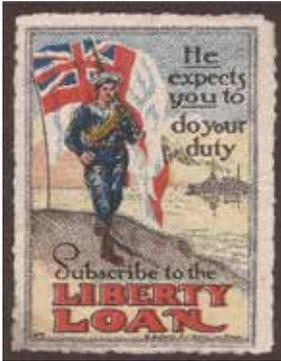
*** *Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the Sun every year.*

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).

AUSTRALASIAN POSTER STAMPS — Roger Eggleton, Wednesday 24 May 2017



Anthony Presgrave FRPSL defined a **poster stamp** as “Any label used to advertise a product, service, cause, event or charity, regardless of whether the label was sold or given away, but excluding stamps issued by phantom countries.” That definition guided the selection of items in Roger’s display. However, poster stamps with purely philatelic intent, such as items for philatelic exhibitions, were omitted, as were items showing a face value, because this tends to dominate the pictorial aspect of the label, distracting from its poster character. Also, items should have some significance as primary source material for social history.

Roger pointed out that this display was “a work in progress”, and so was technically incomplete. He showed poster stamps for the great art and industrial achievements **Exhibitions**, such as expos at Sydney in 1879,



Melbourne in 1880, and at Christchurch in 1907. He showed Poster Stamps of **World War I**, including War Loan and War Chest (including the stamps shown here), Delandre items, Lord Roberts, and AIF Memorial poster stamps.

Commemorative Poster Stamps included sesquicentenaries of Australia and Parramatta and Tasmania, centenaries of Victoria and Melbourne and South Australia, and various regional jubilees, including Bendigo and the Darling Downs. Roger then went on to show poster stamps of **World War II**, including War Loan and Comforts Fund stamps, and poster stamps promoting **Tourism**, such as the Orient Line, Beautiful Australia, and Visit Western Australia.

We were amazed at the range and number of available poster stamps which Roger showed, most of which are very hard to obtain.

TINY ISLANDS AND RIDICULOUSLY SMALL COUNTRIES – Ron Davis, Wed. 21 June 2017



“Where is this Possession Island?” came the query. “You haven’t got a map on the page!” Ron had tried to have a location map on each of the tiny islands and small countries in his display – but obviously missed one! Each of the 7 continents were in the display – including Heard Island in Antarctica. There were the old favourites of Tierra del Fuego and Tristan da Cunha, and some recently completed pages of Bormida in Italy, the Tokelau Islands, and Buenos Aires (which issued its own stamps in the years immediately following World War



II). Nepean and Phillip Islands, off Norfolk Island, were included, as were Maria Island off Tasmania and Rottneest Island off Western Australia, and the Council of Europe stamps (only valid for mail from the one building in Strasbourg, France), and, of course, Vatican City. There were enclaves in Europe and North America, American outposts in the Indian Ocean, British outposts in the Southern Ocean, and minute islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific and around Great Britain. Castelrosso, a tiny island off the southern Turkish coast, is of importance as several families in Newcastle came from there.

AUSTRALASIAN INTERNATIONAL POST – Russell Goddard, Wednesday 19th July 2017

In the year 2000, Australia Post started the issue of International Post stamps. It was all because of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) – Australian mail was subject to the tax, overseas mail wasn’t. If you used International Post stamps on any Australian mail, 10% extra postage was to be added – to make up for the tax. So it has taken Russell 17 years to put his International Post stamps and mail collection together.

Russell also showed issues of the Private Postal Services of New Zealand. For instance, Universal Post in N.Z. dealt with international mail only.

Eye openers were two sheets showing every postage stamp issued for the year (2016) in which the International Post stamps were included. Also of interest were two huge sheets of UNCUT International Post mini-sheets. Where did he get this stuff??



Included in his display were the Rugby World Cup minisheet, the A380 Super-Jumbo minisheet, Soccer in Australia stamps, a minisheet with the 1913 first 10/- note + two stamps, stamps and notes showing Queen Elizabeth’s hats, Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Queen’s Birthday, World Heritage (Australia is home to 28 species of ducks!), and the various International Panoramas. It is ironic that these wonderful landscapes around Australia are reserved for mail overseas and not for local mail – surely Australians would appreciate their own country! Well done, Russell.



*** When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. ~ Prince Philip.

Something fishy from the Faroes

Reported at <http://en.stamps.fo>¹

Faroe Islands latest stamp is fabricated from would you believe, cod skin!

So how does a fish skin stamp work? They were in principle designed as ordinary stamps with texts, values and a small shaded drawing by master engraver Martin Morck. But the similarity stops right there.

Each stamp has a square piece of tanned skin glued onto it. It is not at all grey and dullish - but incredibly beautiful and patterned with almost metallic colour tones, which change depending on the angle it is viewed from. And each one is unique.

The stamps are made with skin of cod caught in Faroese waters, tanned by Atlantic Leather in Iceland and printed by Cartor in France.

The Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) is usually about one metre in length,

but can grow to 2 metres and weigh up to 96 kilos. It lives to 25 years and is found on both sides of the Atlantic.

Cod is generally sandy brown, its back and sides are yellowish-green, with grey or brown spots and a white lateral stripe running along its sides. The belly is white or greyish-white. However, it can have other colour variations depending on habitat.

Tanning of fish skin is an ancient art, although it has not been common in the post-war period. The quality of fish leather will of course vary, but properly treated skin of cod, salmon and lumpfish is often stronger than ordinary cowhide.

The size of fish skins have made them especially well-suited for producing smaller items, such as shoes, bags, purses and watchbands. Sewn together, they can also be used in the garment industry and to upholster furniture. Today's designers are getting more and more aware of fish skins' practicality and beauty - and their use is growing.



Israeli Stamp Portrays a Nazi Pilot

In the November 2016 issue of *The Armidale Circle Bulletin* (Issue No. 468), the Israeli stamp shown here was featured as Israel's commemoration of the centenary of the development of aerial warfare in Sinai and Palestine in 1916. It showed a German pilot in front of a German Rumpler C-IV biplane used in the Sinai-Palestine conflict.

Dr Dov Gavsh, Professor of History, at Tel Aviv University, a specialist in military history, has revealed that the pilot portrayed on the stamp is Franz Josef Walz, who was known as the *Eagle of Jericho*. He flew many combat missions over the Holy Land in 1915-17 supporting Germany's ally, Ottoman Turkey.

Later Walz became a member of the Nazi Party in Germany and, during World War II, served as a senior officer in the Luftwaffe. He was captured in Russia and died in a Soviet prisoner-of-war camp in 1945. Obviously the Israeli Post was unaware of Walz's Nazi connections, otherwise, I'm sure, he would not have been shown on the stamp!



HUGE TURKEY DISCOVERED

A FLYING turkey as tall as a kangaroo is among five big extinct birds to have been discovered by South Australian palaeontologists. A team from Flinders University has identified the five species, known as megapodes, after analysing fossils from around Australia. They say the birds lived during the Pleistocene era, between 1.6 million and 10,000 years ago.



A little old couple walked into a fast food restaurant. The little old man walked up to the counter, ordered food, paid, and took the tray back to the table where the little old lady sat.

On the tray was a hamburger, a small bag of fries and a drink. Carefully the old man cut the hamburger in two, divided the fries into two neat piles. He sipped the drink and passed it onto the little old lady, who took a sip and passed it back. A young man at a nearby table had watched the old couple and felt sorry for them. He offered to buy them another meal, but the old man politely declined, saying that they were used to sharing everything. The old man began to eat his food, but his wife sat still, not eating.

The young man continued to watch the couple. He still felt he should be offering to help. As the little old man finished eating, the old lady had still not started on her food.

"Ma'am, why aren't you eating?" asked the young man sympathetically.

The old lady looked up and said politely, "I'm waiting for the teeth"!!!!!!

***** The family of two miniature schnauzers were devastated when the dogs, Charlie and Theo, disappeared in thick fog while on a walk in the hills of Cumbria in England. After four days of searching, the owners decided to grill sausages near the spot where the dogs went missing. The dogs, which loved sausages, soon returned.**

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AND EXPO, REPORT BY GREG LAIDLER

Planning for our Centenary celebrations is well underway, below are some notes to keep everyone up to date.

EXPO

This is the major centenary event. The venue, the Showground Exhibition Centre has been booked and a deposit paid. Ed Burnard is working on a floor plan, once that is finalised we can approach dealers with the size and locations of dealer sites. There is space for 18 dealers in Ed's preliminary design, and some space is not yet allocated which could be allocated to dealers if necessary.

Souvenirs and centenary products will be available. John Moore is finalising the design of a small folder with the set of 1947 Newcastle stamps attached inside it. Each card will be numbered, with numbers 1 to 50 being placed in supporter packs, and numbers 51 onwards available for sale prior to the Expo. Ron Davis is designing possible cinderella stamps which can also be sold. (Shipping seems to be a popular idea for cinderella labels and commemorative envelopes – there is the 'William the Fourth', the 'Pasha Bulker' is still fresh in people's memories, and 2017 is the centenary of the establishment of the BHP shipping fleet.)

Judges for the exhibition will come from the USA (Bob Zeigler), one from New Zealand (not yet selected) and possibly from South Africa and the UAR. This is in addition to Australian judges and apprentice judges. The Chairman of the judges, Geoff Kellow, will work with John Moore to select a panel.

Full page notifications of the Expo have been printed in Philas News, APF News, and the Adelaide Exhibition. Roger has flyers to give out at Philas House, dealers will help spread the word when they book their space in the venue.

During the Expo we will sell some products to help pay for it. The most popular suggestion is to sell all the left over souvenir cards, cinderella stamps and memorabilia from previous exhibits, and whatever we can gather from other places. These will be 'sold' for a gold coin donation. Remember entry is free, because we want to attract a large number of visitors to view the exhibits and view the dealer stock.

In the 2018 new year we will publicise the Expo in the local media (print and radio). This will be in addition to the NSW Venue website and flyers at the Growers Market.

The organising committee so far is just John Moore, Ed Burnard, Bernard Doherty, Tony Walker and myself. We each have a different job to do, but as the Expo draws closer we will need other members to fill in important roles. We will need helpers to look after the volunteers at the Expo, put up road side signs in the days before, decorate the venue of the dinner, and gather memorabilia for display at the dinner, and lots of other jobs.

The Committee still has some jobs to do. We still have to design the reverse of the medal to give to exhibitors, and work out what will be in the supporter packs,

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

I invite everyone to participate in the exhibition. A section will be non-competitive, and available only to members of the Newcastle Philatelic Society. If you have not displayed before, and would like to, this is your chance.

Each frame will hold 15 exhibition pages. The simplest method is to mount your collection on A4 pages or thin card, and then cut 12 mm (half an inch) from either the top or bottom. (These pages are 10 mm narrower than the standard international exhibition pages, but nobody seems to notice). A4 pages can be printed easily in a computer printer.

It is best to place the page with the stamps and covers on it in a plastic sleeve. Normal A4 size sleeves are ideal. You can cut the top 12 mm from the top of the sleeve, but it is not necessary as it can be folded over in the display frame.

Writing up your collection is probably the most enjoyable part of collecting. If you need help, or just looking for ideas, there are many members you can approach.

- Greg Laidler, Vice-President -

***** Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.**

THE SEA OTTER'S THICK FUR



MANY aquatic mammals that live in cold waters have a thick layer of blubber under the skin to help them stay warm. The sea otter relies on another insulation method—a thick fur coat.

The fur of the sea otter is denser than that of any other mammal, with some one million hairs per square inch (155,000 per sq cm). When the otter swims, its coat traps a layer of air close to its body.

That air acts as an insulator, preventing the cold water from coming into direct contact with the animal's skin and sapping its body heat. Scientists believe that there is a lesson to be learned from the sea otter's fur.

They have experimented with a number of artificial fur coats, varying such factors as hair length and hair spacing. The researchers have concluded that "the denser and the longer the hairs are, the dryer or the more water-repellent the hairy surface is." Put another way, sea otters can boast a truly efficient fur coat.

Researchers hope that their studies will lead to technological advances in the design and production of novel water-repellent textiles. This may lead some to wonder whether people who have to dive in cold waters may not be better off wearing a hairy wet suit—one similar to that of the sea otter.

CITATION FOR SPAN AWARD TO OUR MEMBERS KIM AND KEVIN DWYER

Kim and Kevin Dwyer have been regular volunteers at State, National and Australian International Exhibitions since the Canberra State Exhibition in 1988. They have always provided the best and fullest support to the Show at which they are Volunteers. For example at the most recent Show in Australia, the FIAP Exhibition, "Melbourne 2017", despite their own considerable health problems, they insisted on helping to set up the frames to meet the deadline for mounting the exhibits.

Kim and Kevin have been regular and strong supporters of exhibitions at State Shows in Australia, at National Shows in Australia and New Zealand, and at International level shows in Australia. At their National Show in 2010 the Canberra Philatelic Society presented Kim and Kevin with a special award in gratitude for their continued support for the Shows in Canberra.

They have helped to add to the range of Exhibition Classes as supporters and pioneer exhibitors in the Open Philately and Polar Philately Exhibition classes. This involvement has strongly contributed to the Polar Philately Class and the Open Philately Class becoming accepted APF National Exhibition classes and to the Open Philately Class becoming an FIP Experimental Class.

As contributors to organized philately they have been long term members of State and National Philatelic Societies and have been executive members of the Australian Society for Polar Philately.

Kim and Kevin Dwyer have always done more than is required as volunteers and exhibitors at National and International Shows and as contributors to Organized Philately at the National level. Their long term and committed contribution to philately at the National level is widely known and highly regarded.

- John Moore -



*** A JUNGLE python that became addicted to methamphetamine has gone through a six-week detoxification programme. The reptile was discovered during a police raid of a methamphetamine lab. It did detox while housed at a wildlife care centre at a prison in Windsor, west of Sydney. The python had absorbed the drug through its skin.

*** A COLOMBIAN woman swallowed about \$7000 in banknotes, after a fight with her husband. The 30-year-old swallowed \$100 notes, which she had saved for a holiday with her husband after selling several electrical household items. Doctors surgically extracted 57 \$100 notes from the woman's stomach and intestines.

