



## 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)

**FEBRUARY, 2019** : Newsletter No. **187** : EDITOR: **Ron Davis**

### WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30 pm 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 46 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

DATES	DETAILS
Thur 14 Feb 2019	Display by Lionel Savins (Sydney) "1935 NZ PICTORIALS"
Sun 17 Feb 2019	<b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , Pioneer Hall, Wallsend - 10AM to 3PM
Wed 20 Feb 2019	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 46 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Paul Storm- "MISCELLANEOUS <u>BRITISH CINDERELLAS</u> "
<b>Thurs 21st Feb 2019</b>	<b>AUCTION NIGHT</b> Viewing from 7.00pm, Auction starts 8.00pm. (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 14 Mar 2019	Display by Jeff Newman (Sydney) "FEDERATED MALAY STATES"
Sun 17 Mar 2019	<b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , Pioneer Hall, Wallsend - 10AM to 3PM
Wed 20 Mar 2019	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 46 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Bernard Doherty "A MIXTURE of ONE FRAMERS"
Thurs 11 Apr 2019	Members 6 Pages - SOMETHING <u>PHILATELIC</u> STARTING with "A" (Not Australia)
Wed 17 Apr 2019	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 46 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Jim MacDougall- "HISTORY of CANADA, THROUGH its STAMPS".
Sun 21 Apr 2019	<b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> . Pioneer Hall, Wallsend - 10AM to 3PM
<b>Thurs 25th Apr 2019</b>	<b>AUCTION NIGHT</b> Viewing from 7.00pm, Auction starts 8.00pm. (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639)
Thurs 9 May 2019	Display by John Moore - "THE PALM OF LIFE"
Wed. 15 May 2019	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 46 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by MEMBERS - "SIX PAGES PER PERSON"
Sun 19 May 2019	<b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , Pioneer Hall, Wallsend - 10AM to 3PM
Thurs 13 June 2019	Display TBA
Sun. 16 June 2019	<b>WALLSEND STAMP FAIR</b> , Pioneer Hall, Wallsend - 10AM to 3PM
Wed. 19 June 2019	<b>Newcastle Daytime Meeting</b> : 10 am, 46 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton, Display by Ron Davis - "BOUNCING AROUND THE BALTIC"

### THE NIGHT AT MAITLAND STAMP CLUB, 2018

On 10<sup>th</sup>, the second Monday in December, a group of around nine of our members made the annual visit to the Maitland Stamp Club's Christmas night. We got the usual friendly welcome, and when invited we spoke about the small displays that each of us had brought along. John Edwards had brought his KGV display and Don Catterall showed his "K is for \*\*\*". Tony Walker showed early Jamaica mail. Roger Eggleton showed Poster stamps and Greg Wells Oz Covers. Russell Goddard showed PNC Covers and Jim MacDougall, Canadian. Don Rutherford showed NSW cover curiosities and Greg Korsmann sat back and enjoyed it all. The evening ended with the usual excellent supper and some great philatelic chat. Can't wait for next Christmas ! - Don Catterall -

\*\*\* JANUARY is a special month for the Australian sub-species of the Gould's Petrel, a seabird which only breeds off the coast of Port Stephens. After reuniting with their lifelong partner in October, the female petrel lays a single egg on land. The pair takes turns to incubate the egg, which hatches in January in the care of the father.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S PIECE, February 2019**

After the hurly-burly of our 2018 Centenary Expo, we all started to settle back into some normal routine. But our rest period may not last for too long. Our secretary, who is also the President of the Australian Philatelic Federation, has been asked if our Society would host another exhibition in Newcastle. The May 2018 Expo (and national exhibition) was positively received by judges, dealers and visitors. The matter of hosting a re-run was raised at the Committee meeting last October. The Committee members were in favour. At the October monthly meeting, a show of hands of members indicated their support. Now it is back to the organisers of national philately to decide a date and classes for the exhibition.

In the December Committee meeting, I took on the role of Publicity Officer. I have not done a great deal as yet, but you may notice the February 2019 auction mentioned in the free magazines and on radio. I have targeted the notice to readers in the 50-65 age group. These people would newly retired or contemplating retirement, and may have been stamp collectors in their childhood or teenage years. I hope that we can persuade them to take up collecting again, and begin by attending our auctions. It is interesting to note that in our auctions, many bidders are not active members of our Society. It seems that most collectors prefer to collect in isolation rather than join a club or society. It would be good if we could get some of these collectors to become active members in our Society.

Our elections are coming up in a few months. Have you considered a leadership role in our Society? You have a few months to think about it, before you may be asked.

Finally, may I wish all members and their families a healthy and philatelically prosperous 2019. I hope you can find that elusive item you have been hunting for.

Best wishes,  
- Greg Laidler, President -

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**THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS, February 2019**

*Recently the Australian Philatelic Federation granted approval for the Newcastle Philatelic Society to host another part-National Exhibition during 2020. The support to hold another Exhibition has been encouraging. I await confirmation, as it would appear that the various Royal Philatelic Societies around the world will participate. Whilst I will be surprised if some of the minor Royal Societies will participate, it will be a real "feather in the cap" if the major Royals in Melbourne and London enter team exhibits. I would expect that the Exhibition would be held late August or sometime during September, 2020. Dates will be confirmed in due course, as I wish to avoid the Exhibition being held at the same time as other major regional exhibitions - and of course venue availability will be another factor.*

*As always, I need members to "volunteer" to display at our monthly night-time meetings on Thursdays during the period September 2019 to July 2020. Please do not run me down in the stampede with offers!*

- John Moore, Secretary -

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Having been cast adrift by mutineers, denigrated by Hollywood and battered by the Blitz, William Bligh was rescued from his misery by a postage stamp

■ Report by John Winchester **GOVERNOR WILLIAM BLIGH**

**Y**ou have to feel sympathy for William Bligh, the Royal Navy officer who was deposed in the infamous mutiny on HMS *Bounty* in 1789. He rose from humble ship's boy to Vice-Admiral in the Royal Navy, singled out along the way by Captain James Cook to serve on his third voyage to the Pacific. Yet in Hollywood films in 1935 and 1962 (where he was played by Charles Laughton and Trevor Howard respectively) he was portrayed as a brutal tyrant, which made for a ripping yarn but was less than accurate. Following the mutiny in 1789, Bligh and the crewmen who remained loyal to him were cast adrift in a small launch, and he had to lead them to safety across 4,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean. Yet when he got home he was subjected to a court-martial for losing his ship. When he died in 1817 he was buried in the church of St Mary-at-Lambeth in London, in an imposing sarcophagus, only for the church and graveyard to be extensively bombed during World War II and fall into a state of dilapidation. Happily, it was a stamp issue that began to reverse Bligh's ill-fortune. When Fiji decided to mark the 150th anniversary of his death with a commemorative set in 1967, stamp designer Victor Whiteley visited his tomb to make sketches for the 2s 6d value and was shocked by its poor condition. Publicity



ABOVE: Fiji 1967 2s 6d marking the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Admiral Bligh

surrounding the anniversary and the stamp design set in motion a campaign to restore the site. Eventually it would become the setting for the world's first Museum of Garden History, now known as the Garden Museum and newly reopened after a redevelopment project. Here, surely, the poor man can rest in peace at last. ■

\*\*\* Aquaculture : 50% of fish eaten in the world comes from fish farms, due to the decline of world fisheries. (Landline).

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**DOWN SOUTH – a display by DON RUTHERFORD, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

In 1947, the Australian Government sent an expedition to the Australian Antarctic Territory for the first time – and the base was established on HEARD ISLAND, using the Landing Ship LSD3501 on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1947. Heard Island is the most remote of all the Australian Territories, and the Base proved to be so windy and wild that it was vacated in 1955, on year after MAWSON Station was established.

The British established Base A at Port Lockroy, the first Post Office in GRAHAM LAND opening on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1944. The research base closed officially in 1962, but two or three intrepid personnel have kept the base going since for visitors to the Antarctic.

Stamps of the FALKLAND ISLANDS were overprinted for use there, the overprints continuing to SOUTH GEORGIA (which later had its own stamps), the SOUTH ORKNEYS (the base closed March 1947), and SOUTH SHETLAND Base B. This base was established in February 1944, but fire destroyed the base hut on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1946. The personnel were relieved in January 1947, having survived in tents meanwhile. Since then, Base Z has been established in Halley Bay, and Base W on the Loubet Coast of Graham Land, where the postmarker was used for the first time on 8-2-1958.

On SOUTH GEORGIA, a whaling station was established in 1904, but whaling was abandoned in 1966. Don showed some unusual covers from there, which was incommunicado because of winter closing off all shipping. Postal officials had to bisect some stamps to overcome shortages.

A research station was set up on MACQUARIE ISLAND, using the Landing Ship LSD3510 with 14 men, and it has continued ever since. The island had been occupied by sealers from the U.S.A., who had almost decimated the Elephant Seals, but eventually a ban by the Australian Government saved the seal. There are headstones of dead sealers buried on the island.

Macquarie Island has a one-par golf course – the hole is a bucket within a white circle. This was shown on a 1948 cover.

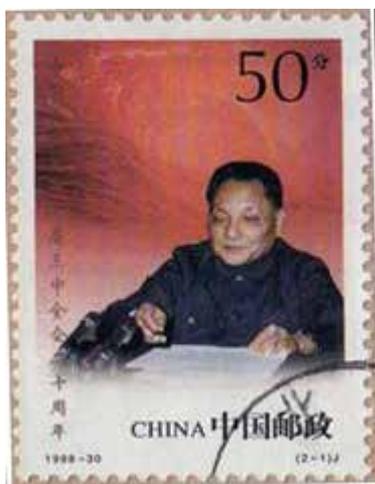
Vermin dogs and cats were eradicated on Macquarie Island in December 2002, and while the fight with rats and mice continues, rabbits were eradicated in 2013.

And Lusitania Bay has the third largest King Penguin colony on Earth, with 70,000 pairs breeding !!

An interesting display, Don.



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**DID YOU KNOW?** Chinese stamps in the modern era are serial-numbered in a way that is simple for western collectors to understand. In the lower-left margin of most stamps is a code in the form of "1998-15", where 1998 is the year and 15 denotes the 15th issue of that year. In the lower right margin is a code in the form of "(3-1)T" where 3-1 denotes the first stamp in a set of three, in ascending order of value, and the letter makes a distinction between different types of issue, with "T" for special stamps and "J" for commemorative stamps.

MARCH 2018 [www.stampmagazine.co.uk](http://www.stampmagazine.co.uk)

**FOR MOTHS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS :** In 1540, a CLOTHES MOTH was brought to trial before Judge Corrector Portillero sitting in Guimaran, a province of Oviedo, Spain. The 'defendant' was charged with having destroyed a tapestry "of a priceless and luxurious weave", valued at 10,000 maravedis. After a formal trial, the moth was found guilty and sentenced to have its throat cut. At the same time, the Judge decreed that the whole moth tribe be forever banished from the kingdom. But the moth was INNOCENT. Moths don't eat cloths or tapestries. The true culprits are the larvae of the moth.

## THE CENTENARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA – THE 1929 RED SWAN - Display by GREG LAIDLER, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019



In August 1829, Perth was the ONLY settlement between Sydney and Capetown in South Africa. This stamp was issued on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 1929, the Centenary of the Settlement of Western Australia.

Greg's display was divided into two sections – Printing Varieties and Flaws; and Postal History and uses of these Stamps.

Designed by G. Pitt Morrison, and printed by John Ash, the 1½d red stamp shows the Black Swan – their State Totem. The plants at the top of the design are the Kangaroo Paw – the State Flower of Western Australia – and at the bottom, eucalyptus flowers and leaves.

The engraver was Frank D. Manley. The engraving technique involves three weeks to engrave the stamp onto a ¼-inch thick copper plate, being engraved back-to-front. A die-proof sample print is taken, which checks the process of engraving. Different colours are used for different proofs. Individual proofs can fetch up to \$20,000 at auction. The copper etching is then transferred to a soft steel die which is then hardened, which is used to make a transfer roller, then a proof sheet is produced. After the stamp is printed, the line perforating machine does 4 sheets at a time, 11 holes per centimetre, each sheet 20 times – 11 times one way and 8 times the other way.

Four Australian postage stamps were engraved before 1929 – the 6d Kookaburra, the 3d Kookaburra, the 1d King George V, and the Canberra 1927 issue.

Western Australian Revenue stamps were also intaglio engraved (the other way of producing them would have been letterpress + typography), in two colours, which required two runs in the press. When printing them, thick ink was used, the plates were wiped, and then pressed onto damp paper. This Long Swan Revenue series of bi-coloured stamps were used from 1904 to 1940. The 1d stamp was red and black, but was changed to red only in 1920.

There were 12 plates of the Centenary stamp, with the numbers 1 to 12 at the top left of each sheet. Greg also showed Printing Varieties, Flaws and Shades. There were roller flaws – 5 stamps on Plate 2 (Nos. 21, 31, 41, 51 and 61). There were minor scratches on a printing plate, from cleaning the plate with rags. There were re-entries, and flaws on the neck of the swan, on the "W" of Western and the "T" of Australia, and lots of other varieties, too many to mention here.

There was a Presentation Pack available at the Post Office – cost £1 (now \$2) – which contained every Australian stamp ever printed. A very comprehensive and well-researched display indeed !!

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### Wordiest Stamps Ever?

A souvenir sheet issued by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) designed to honour a world record might just set a world record of its own. The new, three-stamp souvenir sheet pays tribute to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which is now recognised by Guinness World Records as the world's most translated document. The declaration was drafted on 10 December 1948 and has now been translated into 503 languages.

The sheet contains three stamps, denominated in either US, Swiss or Austrian currency – the home to the UN's three main headquarters. Each stamp has a title in different languages, but includes the entire text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its preamble in English. Malli Hui, of the UN Postal Administration, noted that the document, unofficially, extends to 1778 words. Those words are spread across 60 lines of microprinting on each stamp.

The UNPA issued the sheet on 27 October on the first day of the two-day United Nations Stamp and Postal History Show, UNExpo 17, at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

According to the Guinness World Records website, the current record for words on a stamp is 606 for a 2014 International Women's Day stamp from Belgium in 2014.



### New Zealand's Health series discontinued

New Zealand has announced the termination of its long-running tradition of issuing Health stamps, blaming poor sales in recent years.

The semi-postal series has been issued annually since 1929, raising funds for the health camps set up for vulnerable children. It has included some of the country's most famous designs and become a very popular collectable, but is 'no longer financially viable', according to New Zealand Post.

The September 2016 issue was the last in the series.



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## PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, U.S.A. PRESIDENT -

A display by **GREG LAIDLER**, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Greg introduced his display by giving a very informative insight into the life of JFK and the Kennedy clan, and the countries that issued stamps in commemoration of Kennedy's death, many of which were former French African colonies. Greg's topical display brought back memories of the time of when Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and the events that followed, including the many conspiracy theories that continue to this day.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the 35<sup>th</sup> president of USA, from 1960 to 1963. He is particularly remembered for the Cuban Missile Crisis, for supporting Berlin in the cold war, for initiating the US program to land man on the moon, for starting the Peace Corps program, for the nuclear test ban treaty, and for initiating the Alliance for Peace.

He was also lauded as a war hero, being Captain of the Patrol Boat PT109, and as being the youngest ever president, the first Catholic president, the first to use TV in an election debate, and as having the highest approval rating of a post-WW2 president (80%).

Born in 1917, he was the second born to an influential and wealthy family. He enlisted in WW2, transferred to the navy, was senator for Massachusetts, married Jacqueline Bouvier and had four children - Arabella (born and died in 1956), Caroline (born 1957), Patrick (who died in Aug 1963). and John Jr. (1960-1999) who became the American ambassador to Japan.

At least 50 countries issued stamps commemorating the first anniversary of his death, and later on the tenth anniversary, etc., or commemorating his life. Most of these were in Africa or the Middle East – there were no stamps from Britain or the Commonwealth, except for Malta, Ghana and Nigeria. There were also some British Cinderella stamps and local issues.

JFK is a popular thematic in the U.S.A. and other countries - White Ace albums produces pages for JFK stamps. New issues are still occurring - 2017 was centenary of his birth in 1917.

The early U.S.A. issues - 1964 and 1965 - are valid for postage, and can be found on FDC and on commercial covers.

There are later issues - some of them non-postal (not available in the country of issue, with no gum, and pre-cancelled) from countries with tenuous links to the USA and to JFK, supplying dubious issues to collectors.

Some of the countries which issued John F. Kennedy stamps are Ras al Khaima, Sharjah, Mahra State in Hadramaut, Yemen, Kathiri State, Upper Yafa, Malta (1966), Ghana, Nigeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Panama, Paraguay, Umm al Qiwana, and a whole host of single stamp issuing countries.

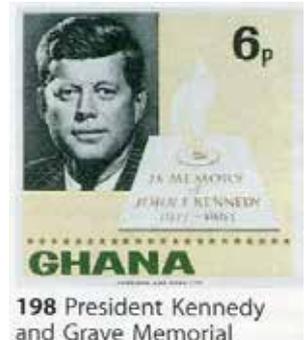
The Philippines issued two sets, unofficial in 1964, and official in 1965.

Bhutan had no links to USA or to JFK, but issued a set with a mini-sheet, but no image, and no text. The reason was Burt Todd, an American, who produced Bhutan stamps while he lived in the Bahamas !!

Greg's display was divided into sections - USA, Africa, South America, Europe, and the Middle East, with brief notes on each issue. The collection was originally purchased from Status Auction for \$40, and has been enlarged, maybe doubled, in size.



670 Pres. Kennedy and "Eternal Flame"



198 President Kennedy and Grave Memorial

## Overprint as Paris wins 2024 Olympics

France celebrated the announcement that Paris will host the Olympic Games in 2024 by reissuing its earlier label sheet commemorating the city's candidature, with an overprint marking its success.

The original stamp carried the inscription 'Venez partager' (come and join in); the overprint in blue includes '13/09/2017' and 'Lima' (the date and venue of the International Olympic Committee Congress), along with sketches of the Eiffel Tower and the Basilica Cathedral of Lima, Peru.

There are no Olympic rings to be seen, although the labels carry the logo of the candidature.

Less than a fifth of the initial printing received the overprint, and the stamps were on sale for only for two weeks, in complete sheets.



**PHILATELIC SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY, 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

There was quite a roll-up at our 2018 Christmas Party in the Senior Citizen's Hall at Mayfield, with catering done by various members. Each of us was asked to bring along something of interest, and we were regaled with Greg Laidler's 1937 pre-decimal King George VI FDC, Howard Bridgman's models of dragons, Diana Bridgman's mother's doll "Sweet Sue", in its original box, Ron Davis's porcupine fish (puffer fish) from Mexico in 1969, Carol Davis's story of being impaled when coming up under the porcupine fish at times as it hung from the ceiling, John Hill's piece of the inner surface of a British Roman Wall, Anna Hill's tiny Roman coin – a "widow's mite" – a Lepton from 104-76 B.C., and Keith Kestel's story about having a dog inside – "Down Chester. Hello Wynn".

Then there was Greg Korsman's 1934 photo of "Faith in Australia" signed by the pilot and crew and the Mayor of Newcastle, Lyn Coleman's shiny lapidary, and a hand-made purse with the old \$5 in it, Margaret Catterall with her 1855 family history, Tony Walker with his father's miniature medals and a WW2 story about a passenger ship steering behind a small cargo ship, which would be the first to be hit by a mine (!), and Don Catterall with a postcard from a 1991 visit to Hong Kong's peak on the railway.

Jim MacDougall had an old mathematical book, "Tables of Interest", in poor condition from 1783, Greg Wells had a very small gold coin from the Perth Mint, and Margaret MacDougall with the story of William Cox's 1814 road over the Blue Mountains and Cox's descendant – Margaret's uncle – who got his pardon in 1815. Roger Eggleton showed the shield from the Interclubs Annual Philatelic Competition won by Newcastle Philatelic Society for 2018 (and with the highest personal score by Ron Davis as well), which was sponsored by Sydney's Smithfield Philatelic Society.

It was Central Coast dealer Steve Burton's first Newcastle Christmas Party. Don Rutherford, Val Rutherford, Wendy Walker, and Jean Eggleton were also present, as was visitor Margaret MacLay. Many thanks go to the Walkers, the Catteralls, the Hills, and all those others who brought food and goodies to the Party.

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### **HOTTEST JANUARY ON RECORD**

AUSTRALIA has recorded its warmest January on record, with more than 200 sites across the nation setting records for warmest average maximum temperatures.

The mean temperature in January 2019, averaged across the country, exceeded 30°C for the first time ever for any month, the Bureau of Meteorology says.

The highest temperature recorded in January 2019 was 49.5°C at Port Augusta in South Australia.

However, the highest official temperature ever recorded in Australia was 50.7°C (123.3°F) in Oodnadatta S.A. on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1960, and in the World was 56.7°C (134.1°F) in Death Valley, California U.S.A. on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1913.

## **THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,**

**at 46 Mackie Avenue (next to Studio 48), New Lambton,**

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

### **POT POURRI — display by Don Rutherford, Wednesday 21 November 2018**

It was indeed a “pot pourri” – a mixture of covers and postcards which had been stored for some time, mostly New South Wales, taken out of drawers and boxes. There were some interesting and entertaining pieces amongst them. There was a damaged letter removed from the mail, from Homebush South. A letter with an “Unclaimed at Taree” notice on it. A letter addressed to Day Street, Darling Harbour in 1891, referring to “two trucks of coal”. In 1993 – “Refused at Port Macquarie”. One penny mail in 1933 ....

In 1909, from Cronulla to Ashfield – “Will you send me a PC to tell us how many of our chickens came out and if they are good little chicks.”

Wartime meter cancels of 1941, with the admonition – “Don’t Talk About Ships”.

Various returned letters from the Dead Letter Office, in 1898, 1946, 1953, and so forth (Don had obviously got a whole lot of these).

There were various letters from the Snowy Mountains in the 1950’s – Theiss Village, Sue City, Island Bend, Junction Shaft – all post offices opened to service the workers.

And a letter postmarked from Snowy River House, near Mount Kosciusko – RARE !!

### **POSTCARDS – a display by DON CATTERALL, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

“There are two types of postcards – some have a visual impact, and some are pictorial,” Don Catterall was saying. Don had some of each. Although Newcastle is an exporter of wool, wheat and coal, he concentrated on the low-ash Coal Mines of the Newcastle district, and on Modern Postcards of Newcastle.

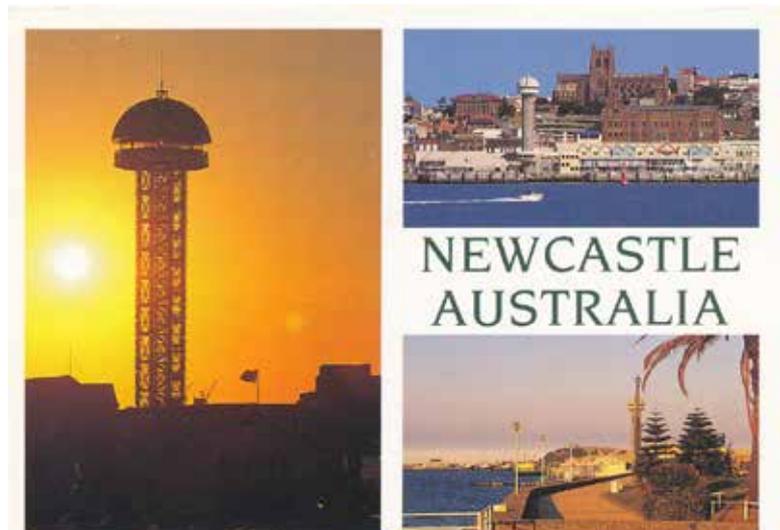
COAL is the basis of Newcastle – we wouldn’t be here but for coal. There were 43 coal mines in Newcastle, 39 in Lake Macquarie, and 29 in the Cessnock area. Some of the mines have quite a history. The Anvil Creek Coal Mine, near Heddon Greta, started off small, but was discovered to be part of the massive Greta Coal Seam.

In 1905, Stanford Merthyr, near Cessnock, had a major fire in the mine. To contain the methane, the entrance was blocked with a brick wall, but this blew out, and killed the mine manager and five others.

The Richmond Main Colliery is 600 feet down to the coal seam, and it took 15 years to develop it. It was the biggest mine in Australia, and has earned a place in the Museum (the Heritage Railway and Mining Museum) for its railways and infrastructure.

Towns developed around coal mines – for instance Kitchener, Killingworth, etc. Because of the dangerous nature of the industry, mining unions became very strong.

Postcards of NEWCASTLE in the 1880’s usually showed serious pictures. Don showed beaches and sporting fields, and a series of Newcastle views enclosed in a hand. Then there were the more modern shops and streets of Newcastle, the Foreshore, shipping – and the Newcastle Tower, demolished in 2018. 25 pages in all – interesting !



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## A SACKFUL OF CAPE TRIANGULARS

The youthful E. Stanley Gibbons started dealing in stamps across the counter of his father's chemist shop in Plymouth, England. (In 1874 Stanley Gibbons moved to London where he continued his stamp dealing business. On retirement in 1890 he sold his business to Charles Phillips).

One morning in 1863 two sailors entered Edward Gibbons' stamp shop in Treville Street, Plymouth, and enquired, "Do you buy used postage stamps?" Gibbons assured them that he did, and they said that they had some on their ship and would bring them in.

True to their word the two sailors returned, one of them carrying a kit-bag full of stamps over his shoulder. They were taken into the parlour where the contents of their bag were tipped out on to a large round table. To Gibbons' amazement they were all triangular Capes, thousands and thousands of them, some in large strips and blocks of eight or more, Perkins Bacon printings and "Woodblocks" mixed up together. The sailors said that they had won the stamps in a bazaar raffle while on shore leave in Cape Town. They could hardly believe their luck when Gibbons offered them five pounds for the lot and, of course, Gibbons could hardly believe his luck in acquiring such a treasure.



Gibbons found a ready market for the stamps, many in dozen lots as these two extracts from a Gibbons letter copy-book indicate:

To Mr Alex Rosenberg, 16th March, 1864. "I can supply you with Cape of Good Hope 1d, 4d and 6d in any quantity, 10d a dozen; genuine old woodblocks, 3s a dozen. (That is one penny, fourpence, sixpence, tenpence, and three shillings in imperial – "the old money".)

To Mr J. Pauwels, 24th March, 1864. "If I send you any more 1d blue and 4d red woodblocks they will be 4s each, as I am offered that by several dealers. I enclose 4 dozen 1s Capes @ 1s 6d a dozen.

Also, in March 1864 Gibbons, still saturated with Cape triangles, was offering them at 8s a gross, blocks 10s a dozen and, in a letter dated 6th April to Hamilton, Ross and Co., Cape Town, he writes: "Please do not send me 1d. triangulars, unused, as they are no good to me."

To-day many of these triangulars are worth thousands of dollars. Edward Gibbons estimated that he profited from this purchase to the tune of about £500 (back in the 1860's !!).

- The Armidale Circle Bulletin, October 2016 -

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Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The man complained that the work had been completed a year ago, and I still hadn't paid for them.

HHHelloo.....just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy had told me last year... that these windows would pay for themselves in a year.

Hellooooo, it's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot!!!



My wife left me month ago..  
That's her over there..