



VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

SEPT 2020 Newsletter No. **194** EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

We meet at **2:00** on the **SECOND THURSDAY** and the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month at
MAYFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS HALL, cnr Pacific Hwy & Hanbury St, MAYFIELD

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

SPECIAL AGM ISSUE

PLEASE NOTE NEW NPS MEETING TIMES

Second Thursday of each month at 2:00

Third Wednesday of each month at 2:00

All meetings at Mayfield Senior Citizens Hall

Program for the Remainder of 2020

Wednesday Meetings

SEP 16 – DON CATTERALL – “Postcards”

OCT 21 – DON RUTHERFORD – “Australian Queen Mother One Penny Stamp”

NOV 18 – ED BURNARD – “Great Britain, for the Last Two Years”

Thursday Meetings

OCT 8 – TIM SCHOFIELD – “Moreton Bay”

NOV 12 – GREG LAIDLER – “NSW Commemorative Type Slogan Cancels”

DEC 10 – JOHN MOORE – “Coconuts, Open Style”

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

One of the main functions of the Annual General Meeting is the election of officers for the coming year. It is important to have members willing to step up and take positions of responsibility. We are grateful to the following who will occupy executive positions for 2020-21.

President – Greg Laidler

Secretary – John Moore

Treasurer – Tony Walker

Vice-President – Jim MacDougall

2nd Vice-President – Roger Eggleton

Wednesday Meeting Co-ordinator – Ron Davis

Operations – Don Catterall

Newsletter Editor – Jim MacDougall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we head into our one hundred and second year, we find ourselves in a global pandemic, much like the first years of the society. From 1918 to 1920, our first three years, it was common to see people wearing masks as they attended to their business in public places. Now history is repeating – a different century and a different virus – but our fears and precautions remain the same.

After a short shutdown our society is back in action, albeit different to before. We must observe social distancing, using hand sanitiser and not sharing plates and cups. Our venues have changed to the much larger Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre. Our meetings are now all held in the afternoon, and we all sit the mandatory 1.5 metres apart.

Before the Covid lockdown, the society was active with various meetings, varied and interesting displays, morning tea or supper, and a lively friendly atmosphere. Once the Covid restrictions ease, we will be able to return to these happy times. In the meantime we soldier on as best we can. We also understand that some members are reluctant to venture out, and as a result our numbers are down compared to last year. We respect their wishes and circumstances, but it will be good to see them and chat with them again.

To run a successful society, a good team is needed. I would like to thank secretary John Moore and treasurer Tony Walker for their tireless work, involvement and commitment to the Society. Jim MacDougall has taken on the role of newsletter editor, and has produced most informative bulletins. To all other committee members, and indeed all members, please accept this note as my personal thanks.

We have some members suffering ill health, or have other medical issues. We wish them all our best wishes for a speedy recovery back to full health.

As we all wait for life to get back to normal, we can involve ourselves in our hobby and look forward to better days ahead.

- Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year 2019-2020 started off very much like any of the previous years until most activities and social interaction came to a halt mid-March due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Mindful of the health and well-being of our members and in order to meet public health orders and social distancing, there was no meetings held April, May and June. We recommenced holding meeting in July with our previous night meetings changed to daytime and the previously held Wednesday at 10.00 day meeting being moved to 2.00pm. All meeting are now held at the Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre.

The society currently has 73 members with an average attendance at the main monthly meeting of 19.

The regular auction nights and 'swap and sale' nights continued to attract good numbers of members, with some visitors. Due to Covid 19 there has been no auction or swap and sale nights since February. Thanks go to Don Catterall for his energetic efforts in organising both activities.

The daytime meetings continue to be organised by Ron Davis. Jim MacDougall has taken on the reins of being Newsletter editor and has now produced 4 very interesting issues in a timely manner.

Bernard Doherty continues to maintain the society website, and updates information as it comes to hand. The website address is www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org. Thanks are extended to Bernard for maintaining the site as well as auditing our 2019/2020 financials.

Greg Laidler is publicity officer and when and where possible provides information to the electronic and print media items of interest for publication.

The 2019 Christmas party was held in the Mayfield Senior Citizens Centre. Thanks to all that made this a great night. Suppers (which are currently suspended) are prepared by Roger Eggleton allowing members to socialise after the end of meetings.

During the year some members displayed their collections to members of other clubs. Also some members displayed in exhibitions both in Australia and overseas.

The Doron Trophy was again keenly contested with 7 society members providing displays/activities throughout the year. The winner was Tony Walker for his German Occupation of Guernsey.

The Annual Club Competition is like a mini exhibition with 5 entries in the Experienced section. These entries were judged by Tony Walker and Don Rutherford with the winner being Greg Laidler.

In closing I would like to make special thanks to treasurer Tony Walker for the written financial reports he tables at each committee meeting, and to Greg Laidler who took minutes at times when business commitments caused me to be absent. The biggest thanks go to all the members who make this such a successful society.

- John Moore, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

I hope you are all safe and well. A very quiet June (apart from interest) brings to a close the financial year of 2019/2020. This report covers this financial year. The Cheque account covers the day to day running of our Society. Historically, stamp collection donations are paid into our Exhibition account and this year has been no exception. The Exhibition account has also seen heightened activity with our planned Expo for later this year. As you all know this has now been put back 12 months to October 2021 due to Covid 19. Don Rutherford handed over the accounts to me 12 months ago and I am grateful for the sterling work that he did so that the handover was seamless. Thanks to all for your help and wishing you all the best for 2020/2021 as we slowly emerge from the Covid 19 pandemic.

- Tony Walker, Treasurer

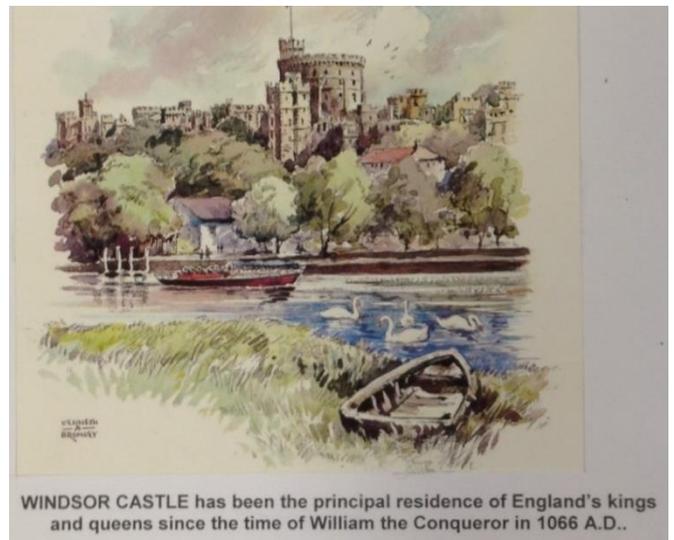
**NEWCASTLE 2020 STAMP AND COIN EXPO POSTPONED:
NOW PLANNED FOR OCT 22-24, 2021
NEWCASTLE SHOWGROUND EXHIBITION CENTRE**

CLUB COMPETITION

The activity for the day was the annual Club Competition. The competition is divided into three sections - Novice, Intermediate, and Experienced. Experienced entries must be 16 pages. This year the number of entries was down because of the Covid virus, however there were 5 entries, all in the Experienced section. These entries were all judged prior to the meeting by Don Rutherford and Tony Walker so that the results could be announced on the day. They also provided feedback to the entrants. We can expect more entries for the 2021 competition.

- **Ron Davis** (*Castles of Great Britain*) - Large Silver

A nice collection of postcards, photos and stamps with commentary on some of UK's many castles. A very informative display.



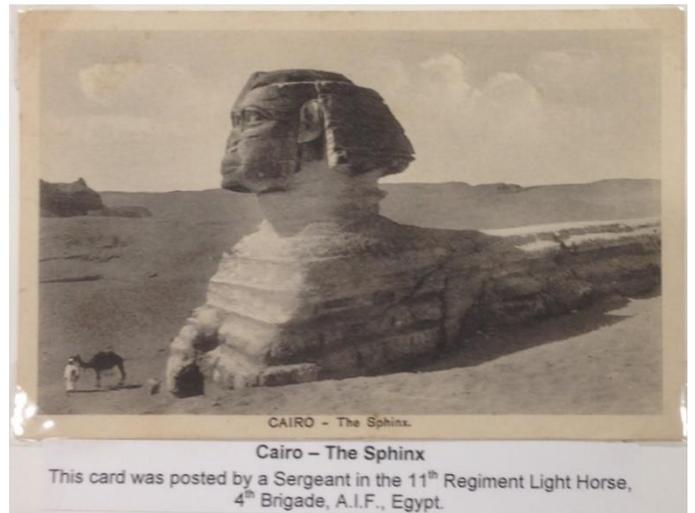
- **Greg Laidler** (*The Life and Career of General William Riddell Birdwood*) - Large Vermeil



Birdwood was the British general in charge of ANZAC forces at Gallipoli and later in charge of the Fifth Army that liberated the city of Lille on Oct 17, 1918. Every year on that date, the city flew the British flag as a sign of gratitude. This letter, mailed on Oct 18, 1922, is from the Mayor of Lille to Birdwood advising him of the fact. Note he is addressed as 'Citizen of Lille'. A unique item. There was some hard-to-find material in this interesting display.

- **Carol Davis** (*Ancient Egypt*) - Vermeil

A very colourful collection of covers and postcards all featuring scenes of pyramids, the sphinx or other ancient Egyptian artefacts. Also stamps from a variety of countries with ancient Egyptian scenes.



- **Jim MacDougall** (*Vimy Ridge 1918 - the Battle and its Memorial*) - Vermeil

The decisive, bloody WWI battle in which the Canadian Army captured Vimy Ridge from the Germans, and the breathtaking Memorial built to commemorate the battle. A coming-of-age event for Canada. These French stamps depict the Memorial.



- **Ron Davis** (*Outposts of the French Empire*) - Silver

Part of Ron's inexhaustible collection of small-never-heard-of-countries, these ones are all French colonies. Many of them are in Africa. Some of the stamps shown are attractive French colonial key-plate designs. There are some really pretty stamps here.

